

MEDIA RELEASE
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AIIA Welcomes Government Response to Privacy Act Review

In a win for Australian data security protection, the Federal Government has adopted key recommendations put forward by Australia's peak body for innovation technology, the Australian Information Industry Association ([AIIA](#)), in its long awaited response today to the Privacy Act Review.

In its response, the Government has accepted that the Australian privacy regime requires updating to meet the needs of a modern digital economy and society and that no longer should SMEs be excluded from the digital economy, including privacy laws, which was a key recommendation from the AIIA.

The AIIA also strongly supports the recommendation of the review to include the EU's GDPR notion of the controller and processor distinction into the Australian Privacy Act with the government agreeing in-principle to recommendation 22.1. This addition will provide necessary clarity as to where privacy obligations sit in the digital ecosystem.

AIIA CEO Simon Bush said: "The recommendations adopted by the Government are welcomed by the AIIA. Australian businesses big and small hold a great deal of data, it is right that they all are covered under the Privacy Act. Government now needs to provide appropriate support, training and a fair lead time to achieve the required capabilities for SMEs to ensure they comply with the obligations of the Act. This will provide a significant lift in Australia's overall cyber security baseline and improve privacy outcomes for Australian businesses and their customers.

"This review has been underway for more than three years and captures rapidly evolving technology under an outdated act. We want all Australians to be better protected from cyber security threats and the AIIA expects the proposed changes will support this. There is now a greater responsibility to keep information secure and destroy data that is superfluous. Other proposals such as a national Digital ID will provide further opportunities to protect the data and personal information of Australians and are strongly supported by the AIIA.

"Aligning our regulations where relevant with international standards like the European GDPR is a sensible decision that will support businesses and our digital economy including the addition of the controller and processor of data distinction that provides necessary clarity on where the privacy obligation sits. Businesses and organisations will benefit from greater interoperability with global regimes, reducing the cost burden of operating in different markets. This will support continued expansion opportunities for Australian businesses.

"The AIIA looks forward to continuing to work with the Government on its Privacy Act review to deliver outcomes that support strong protections for citizens that don't add greater regulatory burdens to organisations."

The AIIA is a not-for-profit organisation aimed at fuelling Australia's future social and economic prosperity through tech innovation and remains committed to working with all levels of Government to secure Australia's digital future.

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About AIIA

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem. Since 1978 AIIA has pursued activities to stimulate and grow the digital ecosystem, to create a favourable business environment for members and to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We do this by delivering outstanding member value by providing a strong voice of influence; building a sense of community through events and education; enabling a network for collaboration and inspiration; developing compelling content and relevant and interesting information.