



AUSTRALIAN  
COUNCIL  
FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

FACTSHEET

# PRIVACY LAW

## What are Australia's privacy laws?

The *Privacy Act 1988* is an Australian law which regulates the handling of personal information about individuals. Personal information is information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

The Privacy Act includes thirteen [Australian Privacy Principles](#) (APPs) which set out standards, rights and obligations for the handling, holding, use, accessing and correction of personal information (including sensitive information).

## Why they're so important

When your organisation collects information about people, it needs to abide by Australia's privacy laws. This applies when collecting information from contributors (people who share their stories with you) to publish on your website and social media platforms, and in print.

Australia's privacy laws are intended to protect people, and this is especially important when collecting information about people experiencing vulnerability, including children, people seeking asylum, people experiencing poverty and others.

## What does the Code say about them?

The Code requires your organisation to have a privacy policy that meets legislative requirements, as per [Quality Principle 7](#), and for this policy to be published on your website. It **also requires** your EDMF to be consistent with this policy.

---

## Key things you need to know

In relation to storytelling, consider these aspects of Australia's privacy laws:

- **Informed consent.** Contributors must provide free, prior and **informed consent** to the collection and publishing of their personal information and identifying images.
- **Access to personal information.** Contributors must be informed of how to: access their personal information and images; change/amend their personal information; and withdraw their consent. Ideally, they should be given the contact details of your organisation, with instructions on how to access their personal information.
- **Secure storage.** All personal information must be stored securely and treated with **confidentiality**.
- **Withdrawing consent.** Consent can be withdrawn at any time. Contributors must be informed of how to do this.
- **Use and re-use.** Contributors must consent to how their personal information is used and re-used by your organisation.
- **Truthfulness.** Contributors' personal information should be 'accurate, up-to-date and complete' and must not misrepresent them.

---

## Learn more

[Australian Privacy Principles \(APP\)](#)

[Guide to developing an APP privacy policy](#)

[Informed consent factsheet](#)

[Protecting identities factsheet](#)

[Risk factsheet](#)

[ACFID Quality Principle 7 \(Governance\)](#)

[Learn more about EDMFs](#)

---