

# Your right to Privacy

## Protecting privacy in the NT public sector

The *Information Act* sets out **Information Privacy Principles** that require NT public sector organisations to protect your privacy.

### Collecting information

They can only collect information about you if it is necessary for their functions. They must collect it in a fair, lawful and not unreasonably intrusive way.

Sensitive information (about things like health, criminal record, ethnic background and sexuality) can only be collected if you consent, or if it is required by law or for legal proceedings.

### Letting you know

They must take reasonable steps to make sure you know why they are collecting information about you, and that you have a right to access the information and correct it if it is wrong.

### Using information about you

They must only use or disclose the information for the purpose for which it was collected, or for the kind of related purpose that you might reasonably expect.

### Taking care

They must take reasonable steps to protect information they hold about you from loss or misuse.

### Getting the balance right

There are exceptions that allow an organisation to collect, use or disclose personal information if it is necessary to protect the legitimate interests of good government or of other people, eg, for certain law enforcement and health and safety purposes.

### Enquiry or complaint about privacy

If you have an enquiry or complaint about your privacy, first contact the NT government organisation that holds the information.

If you are not satisfied with the response, you can complain to the Information Commissioner. The Commissioner can investigate your complaint and order the organisation to stop a practice that breaches privacy, to apologise, or to pay up to \$60,000 compensation for a breach.

For enquiries about privacy in the Australian government or in the private sector, contact the Federal Privacy Commissioner on 1300 363 992.

### Does it cost anything?

There is no fee for making a complaint about a breach of privacy either to an NT public sector organisation or to the Information Commissioner.

For more information, contact the Office of the Information Commissioner.



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