



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

post: GPO Box 1196  
Sydney NSW 2001  
phone: +61 2 9231 4949  
fax: +61 2 9262 3553  
email: [mail@privacy.org.au](mailto:mail@privacy.org.au)  
web: [www.privacy.org.au](http://www.privacy.org.au)

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**NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR AUSTRALIAN BIG BROTHER AWARDS**

The Australian Privacy Foundation ("APF") today called for nominations for Australia's first *Big Brother Awards*.

The awards are for individuals, corporations, public officials and governments that have shown a blatant disregard for privacy. They have no relationship to the TEN Network TV program.

The awards follow similar annual events now held in twelve other countries.

The call for nominations for these awards from members of the public has been timed to coincide with the 100th birthday, this Wednesday 25 June 2003, of George Orwell, the author of *1984*, the novel in which the omnipresent figure "Big Brother" was first created.

The award also feature a separate category for individuals and organisations who have made a major contribution to protecting Australians' privacy. These awards will be known as "the Smiths", named after both Orwell's rebellious hero, Winston Smith, and the Canberra public servant who stopped the national ID card (the Australia Card) in 1987, Ewart Smith.

Nominations will be accepted from any member of the public and will be received until **Friday 15 August 2003**.

An eminent panel of ten judges will be consider the nominations, and awards will be presented in a ceremony to be held in Sydney on Monday 8 September 2003, just prior to the International Privacy Commissioner's Conference which is being held this year in Sydney.

"Many surveys have shown a growing concern about privacy among Australians over the past decade. This is everyone's chance to get even – if they feel their privacy has been invaded, we want to hear about it. If they want to give someone a guernsey for privacy protection, they should let us know. There are eight categories of award and we welcome all nominations" said Tim Dixon, spokesman for the APF.

"The awards are being run in a spirit of good fun, but they draw attention to a serious issue, that of maintaining the balance between an individual's right to privacy and the pressures of government and business to know more and more about people. We expect to hear from people concerned about a wide range of issues, from increased ASIO powers through to computerized health records, camera-equipped mobile phones and human genetic information."

"Safeguarding the privacy rights of Australians is an increasingly important issue. Increasingly, people feel that they are losing control of what happens with their personal information. These awards will draw attention to some of the worst privacy intrusions and raise awareness of the importance of privacy as a defining human rights issue in the digital information age." he said.

### **Big Brother Awards**

The **categories** for which nominations are sought are as follows:

- Lifetime Menace - for a privacy invader with a long record of profound disregard for privacy.
- Greatest Corporate Invader - for a corporation that has shown a blatant disregard of privacy.
- Worst Public Agency or Official - for a government agency or official that has shown a blatant disregard of privacy.
- Most Invasive Technology - for a technology that is particularly privacy invasive.
- People's Choice- this is decided by popular vote and given to the individual or organisation most frequently nominated by the public.
- Boot in the Mouth- this is for the best quote on a privacy related topic.

### **Positive "Smith" Awards**

Nominations are also sought for:

- Best Privacy Guardian - for a meritorious act of privacy protection or defence.
- Lifetime Achievement - for provision of outstanding services to privacy protection.

The 10 **judges** are:

- Wendy Bacon, Associate Professor in Journalism, University of Technology Sydney; investigative journalist.
- Julian Burnside QC, barrister, Melbourne
- Dr Peter Chen, Centre for Public Policy, University of Melbourne
- Ian Dearden, President, Qld Council of Civil Liberties
- Irene Graham, Executive Director, Electronic Frontiers Australia
- Sean Kidney, Chief Executive Officer, Social Change Online
- Kerrie Murphy, journalist, Australian IT newspaper supplement
- Chris Puplick, formerly NSW Privacy Commissioner
- Nigel Waters, Privacy Consultant, formerly Deputy Australian Privacy Commissioner
- Dr Derek Wilding, Director, Communications Law Centre

Nominations should be sent to [mail@privacy.org.au](mailto:mail@privacy.org.au) before Friday 15 August 2003.

Further details of how to make a nomination can be found at [www.privacy.org.au/bba](http://www.privacy.org.au/bba).

## **APF Background**

The Privacy Foundation was founded in 1987 as a last-ditch stand against the proposed Australia Card national identity system and has continued to be an advocate for privacy issues since that time.

The APF aims to represent the public interest across a wide range of issues including the privacy of people's bodies, homes, health records, email, internet usage, spending habits and communications.

Its objects are as follows:

- To protect the privacy rights of Australians, by means of research, awareness, education, the highlighting of privacy risks in all forms of technology and practices, and campaigns for new laws, regulations, codes, policies and practices, and amendments to existing laws, regulations, codes, policies and practices.
- To focus public attention on emerging issues and technologies that pose a threat to the freedom and privacy of Australians.
- To collaborate with consumer organisations, civil liberties councils, professional associations and other community groups on specific privacy issues.
- To participate in and contribute to other national and to international privacy protection organisations and initiatives.
- To provide information to corporations, associations and government agencies, and to cooperate with them wherever practicable, but to remain independent of them, and to be critical of them where necessary.

The APF's website at [www.privacy.org.au](http://www.privacy.org.au) is a significant resource for any person who has an interest or issue that concerns privacy. It provides useful information and advice about making a complaint about privacy intrusive behaviour. It also includes a comprehensive directory of relevant organisations, membership information, analysis of current privacy issues, APF submissions, catalogues of privacy laws, a list of Board members, a history of the APF and media contact points for various issues.

Members of the public are encouraged to become members of the APF and to contribute to the organisation's activities. This can be done by following the instructions set out at [www.privacy.org.au/Members/Contrib.html](http://www.privacy.org.au/Members/Contrib.html) .

Media Enquiries:            Tim Dixon - Phone: 0411 114 411