

Media Release
Australian Privacy Invaders Receive “Big Brother” Awards
21 April, 2011

“The way technology is used by winners of our “Big Brother” Award for “Most Invasive Technology” systematically invades the privacy of all Australians” said Dr Julie Cameron of the Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) last night. “Technology should not be used as a means of routine surveillance by governments or business. Organizations must adopt safeguards to protect people’s privacy and civil liberties to ensure technology provides social and economic benefit.”

APF runs the Big Brother Awards (BBAs) to highlight intrusions against the privacy of the Australian community (the ‘Orwell’ Awards), and to acknowledge those who have helped protect our privacy (the ‘Smith’ Awards). See <http://www.privacy.org.au/bba/>.

The ‘Orwell’ Awards recognise corporations, governments, individuals or technologies that significantly invade or disregard the privacy of Australians. The merits of finalists for the BBA2011 Awards and their responses were voted on. The results, announced at dinners held in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra last night were:

- **Facebook** won the “Worst Corporate Invader” award (for a corporation showing a blatant disregard for privacy). Facebook erodes the privacy protection of users and does not protect the personal data of its users and third parties who have not given permission for their personal information (including photographs) to be published on the Web. http://www.privacy.org.au/bba/2011/BBA2011_WORSTCORP_Facebook_Published.rtf
- **Biometrics Institute**, a winner in BBA2009, is the runner up for the “Worst Corporate Invader” award. This organisation persists in its misleading conduct by continuing to promote a Privacy Code that remains largely unadopted and unused. http://www.privacy.org.au/bba/2011/BBA2011_WORSTCORP_Biometrics_Published.rtf
- **Queensland Department of Transport – Driver Licensing** and **Victorian Transport Ticketing Authority - Myki Public Transport ‘Smart Card’** are joint winners of the “Worst Public Agency or Official” award (for a government agency or official that has shown a blatant disregard for privacy) for implementing systems that allow people’s travel to be tracked through direct and indirect linkages with personal data. http://www.privacy.org.au/bba/2011/BBA2011_WORSTAGENCY_VicTTA_Published.rtf
http://www.privacy.org.au/bba/2011/BBA2011_WORSTAGENCY_QueenslandDriversLiscence_Published.rtf
- **Full Body Scanners for Airport Security** which is to be implemented by the **Australian Office of Transport Security** won the “Most Invasive Technology” award. The Award is for ignoring the extreme risk to personal privacy posed by full body scanners when alternative measures to protect the security of airline passengers are available. http://www.privacy.org.au/bba/2011/BBA2011_INVASIVETECH_BodyScanners_Published.doc
- **Google’s immediate past CEO, Eric Schmidt** won the “Boot in the Mouth” award for the most appalling quote on a privacy-related topic. When challenged about Google’s collection of WiFi meta and personal information undertaken by StreetView vehicles (runner up in the “Most Invasive Technology Award” for using a privacy invasive technology that randomly and deliberately captured data without permission and without adopting appropriate management, technical and development processes and procedures to prevent error and safeguard privacy http://www.privacy.org.au/bba/2011/BBA2011_INVASIVETECH_GoogleStreetViewWifi_Published.rtf) Schmidt blatantly blamed the collection on a ‘single engineer’ and stated there was “no harm, no foul”; “Who was harmed? Name the person”. http://www.privacy.org.au/bba/2011/BBA2011_BOOT_Google_Published.rtf

The ‘Smith’ Award for Lifetime Achievement for outstanding services to privacy protection was awarded to **Nigel Waters** for consistent and significant contributions to the protection of privacy in a variety of professional and voluntary roles for over 25 years. http://www.privacy.org.au/bba/BBA2011_LIFETIMEACHIEVEMENT_Waters.rtf

For further information about the Awards, nomination, judging and responses, see www.privacy.org.au/bba.