



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

LETTER TO EDITOR

The politics of privacy

24 May 2005

How splendid that the Federal Government has discovered the importance of privacy! It is such a convenient scapegoat, suitable for so many occasions.

First it was the privacy of asylum seekers on the Tampa, then Cornelia Rau, now donors to political parties.

This is secrecy, not privacy. One hides corruption, the other exposes it.

Privacy laws are about the transparent and fair handling of personal information by government and business. Perhaps that is why political parties are the only corporations exempt from both the Privacy Act and the Spam Act.

The Australian Privacy Foundation does not support the Government's proposal to increase the threshold amount of a donation to political parties before the donor's identity is made public.

Corruption thrives in the dark, so let's keep the lights on.

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