



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

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Media Release

Australian Privacy Invaders Receive “Big Brother” Awards

12 November, 2009

“The way Automated Number Plate Recognition 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/>. This year APF received 13 nominations for the Awards.

The ‘Orwell’ Awards recognise corporations, governments, individuals or technologies that significantly invaded or disregarded the privacy of Australians. The merits of 5 finalists were debated and voted on at public events held in Canberra and Sydney. The results were:

- **Automated Number Plate Recognition** as implemented by Australian Police Forces in combination with CrimTrac won the “Most Invasive Technology” award for a centralized database of real-time vehicle location throughout Australia which can be linked to other data, including digital images of drivers and related personal data. www.privacy.org.au/bba/2009/BBA09_IT_ANPR.rtf
- **Google’s Street View** was runner up for the “Most Invasive Technology” award for systematically gathering and publishing detailed electronic images of streets and everything on them (including private property), and significantly impacting on privacy. www.privacy.org.au/bba/2009/BBA09_IT_GoogleMaps.rtf
- **The Biometrics Institute** won the “Worst Corporate Invader” award (for a corporation showing a blatant disregard for privacy) for misleading conduct by continuing to promote a Privacy Code that remains largely unadopted and unused. www.privacy.org.au/bba/2009/BBA09_WC_BiometricsInst.rtf
- **Telstra** was runner up for the “Worst Corporate Invader” award for charging home phone line users a monthly fee if they don’t want their personal details published. www.privacy.org.au/bba/2009/BBA09_WC_Telstra.rtf
- The **National Electronic Health Transition Authority** won the “Worst Public Agency or Official” award (for a government agency or official that has shown a blatant disregard for privacy) for failing to address the privacy risks (including disclosure of sensitive health information and identity theft) of adopting a unique personal identifier for all recipients of health care in Australia that must be used by all health and aged care providers. www.privacy.org.au/bba/2009/BBA09_WA_NEHTA.rtf

A special “**People’s Choice**” award was given to the **NSW Government** for its proposal for automatic electoral enrolment based on the use of personal information collected for other unrelated purposes.

The ‘Smith’ Award for Lifetime Achievement for outstanding services to privacy protection was awarded jointly to **Carolyn Bond** (of the Consumer Action Law Centre, Victoria) and **Kathryn Lane** (of the Consumer Credit Legal Service, NSW) for consistent advocacy for the privacy rights of consumers in relation to credit reporting. www.privacy.org.au/bba/2009/BBA09_LA_Bond&Lane.rtf

For further information about the Awards, nomination and judging please refer to our website www.privacy.org.au/bba/. The Australian Privacy Foundation – Australia’s leading public interest voice in the privacy arena since 1987.