



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

---

mail@privacy.org.au

<http://www.privacy.org.au>

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**18 August 2013**

### **Tweedledum and Tweedledee\* Hostile to Privacy**

"A vote for Labor, the Liberals or the Nationals is a vote for privacy-invasive government and weak privacy protections", says public interest advocacy group, the Australian Privacy Foundation (APF).

APF identified 18 topical areas of privacy policy and assessed the parties' platforms.

"The results are a big embarrassment for the major parties", said APF Chair Roger Clarke.

"Out of a possible 100, Labor scored 22, the Liberals 11 and the Nationals 13".

"Even issues-based parties with only a few policies relevant to privacy scored at that level".

The Greens coverage of the area was commendable, with a score of 89 /100.

"The biggest surprise to us was that the Pirate Party, which only completed its Policy Statement after the campaign began, scored differently from the Greens, but reached the same total score", said Clarke.

"This demonstrates that parties that are in touch with their constituencies – in the Pirate Party's case the digitally literate, and for the Greens the broader electorate – can produce proposals that are practical, and that balance privacy needs with economic and social objectives".

The 18 topics are attached, and at:

<http://www.privacy.org.au/Papers/ECF-2013.html>

The analysis is attached, and at:

<http://www.privacy.org.au/Papers/ECF-2013-Scores.html>

Contact: Roger Clarke – [chair@privacy.org.au](mailto:chair@privacy.org.au) – (02) 6288 6916

\* For the relevance of Tweedledum and Tweedledee, see:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Library/Publications\\_Archive/CIB/cib9596/96CIB14](http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/Publications_Archive/CIB/cib9596/96CIB14)

# Australian Privacy Foundation's Election Challenge 2013

## Where Do the Parties Stand on the Main Privacy Issues?

April 2013

The APF invites Parties and candidates participating in the 2013 Federal Election to make clear their positions on the following matters:

### Privacy Processes

1. Does your Party commit to requiring the conduct of **Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs)** on all projects that have significant potential to negatively impact people's privacy?
2. Does your Party commit to the creation of a **privacy right of action** within the first year of the new Parliament?
3. Does your Party commit to requiring every organisation to establish and maintain **information security safeguards** commensurate with the sensitivity of the data?
4. Does your Party commit to a mandatory notification scheme for **data breaches**?
5. Does your Party commit to ensuring that **the Privacy Commissioner's decisions about complaints** are subject to effective appeal to the judicial system?
6. Does your Party commit to an independent Review of the **performance of the Privacy Commissioner's functions**?

### Privacy Protections – Against Unreasonable Government Activities

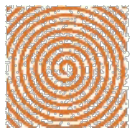
7. Does your Party commit to the repeal of the many unnecessary and unjustified features of post-2001 **counter-terrorism legislation**?
8. Does your Party commit to sustaining freedom from surveillance of people's online behaviour, communications and reading habits, by rejecting the recent proposals relating to **'data retention'** and to the **'filtering' of Internet traffic**?
9. Does your Party commit to the withdrawal of the power of the Australian Bureau of Statistics to impose **mandatory participation in ABS surveys**?
10. Does your Party commit to the conduct of a meaningful evaluation of **Body Scanners in Australian airports**?

### Privacy Protections – Against Unreasonable Activities by Corporations

11. What commitments is your Party making in relation to the regulation of **privacy-intrusive behaviour by social media services** such as Google and Facebook?
12. Does your Party commit to the establishment of effective protections against **abuses of privacy by the media**?

### Privacy Protections – Against Unreasonable Activities in All Sectors

13. Does your Party commit to ensuring that all **visual surveillance** (such as CCTV, Automated Number Plate Recognition and through the use of drones) complies with the key principles of Justification, Proportionality, Transparency, Mitigating Measures, Controls and Audit?
14. Does your Party commit to implementation of Law Reform Commission recommendations in relation to **substance abuse testing**, within the first year of the new Parliament?
15. Does your Party commit to regulation of the use of **biometrics, including genetic data**?
16. Does your Party commit to ensuring that clear and effective protections exist for all **personal health care data**?
17. Does your Party commit to preventing the **export of personal data** to data havens that provide less protection than Australia does?
18. What commitments is your Party making in relation to the regulation of **mobile device tracking**?



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

**The association that campaigns for  
privacy protections**

**Election 2013**

[POLICY](#)

[STATEMENTS](#)

[Research](#)

[Resources](#)

[What  
Can I  
Do?](#)

[About](#)

[APF](#)

[Contact](#)

[APF](#)

[Media](#)

[Campaigns](#)

[Big Brother](#)

[Award](#)

[Submissions  
in Date Order](#)

[Submissions  
by Topic](#)



[Join  
APF](#)



Search

[Click here for Advanced Search](#)

## [Election Challenge – 2013](#)

### **Scoresheet**

#### **Background**

In April, the main 13 of the 58 Parties contesting the 2013 federal election were invited to make their positions clear on [vital privacy issues of the time](#). (Note that the list of issues was finalised before the Snowden revelations about the uncontrolled and wildly excessive surveillance of telecommunications traffic by the NSA).

The Parties' positions were scored, based on (a) their responses and (b) their public platforms. Where answers were not apparent from the response or the platform, the party's stance was interpolated from (c) its other policies, (d) media reports on its stances, and (e) its behaviour in the past. Scores were assigned only to those parties whose policies on relevant matters are reasonably apparent.

A mark of up to 5 points was awarded for each of [the 18 topics](#), plus 5 each for Discoverability (D – the ease of finding the information) and Response (R – the quality of any response provided).

A brief summary of the results is below. The results are then presented for those parties whose policies in relation to privacy matters were stated or could reasonably be interpolated, followed by brief comments on the findings in relation to each of the other parties.

#### **Summary**

- 1. Labor, the Liberals and the Nationals** are hostile to human rights generally and privacy in particular. To vote for them is to vote for privacy-abusive laws, and against privacy protections.
- 2. The Greens** remain close to the people who they represent. They have long had, and retain, an enlightened set of policies. They scored a highly commendable 89/100.
- 3. The Pirate Party**, despite being a newcomer, has a remarkably comprehensive platform, which is very positive on human rights and privacy issues in its heartland area of the digitally literate. They scored remarkably high, also adding up to 89/100.
- 4. The Wikileaks Party** and **The Sex Party** do not have comprehensive platforms, but have at least some policies that are significantly supportive of privacy.
- 5. The other parties** have limited platforms, which contain little or nothing on human rights generally, let alone on privacy. The latter-day Democrats are a pale shadow of the Democrats of the Natasha Stott-Despoja era.

#### **Assessment of Parties with Platforms**

[Labor's Platform](#) contains [short statements in relation to consumer rights and discrimination](#), but nothing on any other aspect of human rights.

[The Liberals' Platform](#) contains a brief mention of a pro-media / anti-privacy position, and support for freedom of speech, but is otherwise devoid of any content relating to human rights, or indeed consumer rights.

[The Nationals' Platform web-site](#) contains nothing whatsoever relating to human rights or consumer rights. [Its brochure](#) contains a little on consumer rights, but its only position relevant to human rights is opposition to a Charter.

[The Greens' Platform](#) is comprehensive, and has [a specific segment on human rights](#), and the Party provided [specific and positive responses to the APF's Election Challenge](#).

[The Pirate Party's Platform](#) includes specific segments on [civil liberties](#), including [privacy](#), and the Party provided [specific and positive responses to the APF's Election Challenge](#).

[The Wikileaks Party's Platform](#) includes strong pro-privacy positions on [whistleblowing protections](#) and [telecommunications surveillance](#). (The invitation was sent late, and hence the scoring is provisional).

[The Sex Party's Platform](#) includes a number of policies on human rights matters, and it has been consistently pro-privacy over the years. (The invitation was sent late, and hence the scoring is provisional).

Party	Score		D	R		<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">8</a>	<a href="#">9</a>	<a href="#">10</a>	<a href="#">11</a>	<a href="#">12</a>	<a href="#">13</a>	<a href="#">14</a>	<a href="#">15</a>	<a href="#">16</a>	<a href="#">17</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Labor</a>	22		2	0		1	2	1	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	2	2	0
<a href="#">Liberals</a>	11		1	0		1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
<a href="#">Nationals</a>	13		3	2		1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
<a href="#">Greens</a>	89		5	<a href="#">5</a>		5	5	5	5	3	3	5	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	3	5	4	5
<a href="#">Pirate Party</a>	89		5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	3	3
<a href="#">Wikileaks Party</a>	21		5									5	5					3				3	
<a href="#">Sex Party</a>	25		5				5	3	3				5					4					

## Assessment of Other Parties

[The Democratic Labor Party's Platform](#) includes a short segment on [Constitution and Democratic Rights](#), opposing any form of compulsory id card or system, but also opposing a Bill of Rights.

[The Australian Democrats' Platform](#) contains a policy on [sexuality and gender](#), but nothing else about human or consumer rights.

[Katter's Australian Party Platform](#) contains very little about human or consumer rights.

[One Nation's Platform](#) contains very little about human or consumer rights (although some of its policies are anti-privacy).

[Family First](#) appears not to have a Platform.

[Palmer United](#) appears not to have a Platform.

APF thanks its  
site-sponsor:



This web-site is periodically mirrored by  
[the Australian National Library's Pandora Archive](#)

