



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

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21 January 2008

Judge Ken Taylor
NSW Privacy Commissioner
Locked Bag 5111
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Judge Taylor

The Australian Privacy Foundation congratulates you on your appointment as NSW Privacy Commissioner. This is a very important position which has unfortunately been neglected by the State government for the last four years, with a series of temporary acting appointments and significant reduction in resources. As a result, both the visibility of *Privacy NSW* to the community, and the weight which it carries with government agencies, have been seriously reduced.

We hope that your appointment marks the start of a new era of proactive privacy protection in NSW.

As Australia's leading non-government privacy organisation, since 1987, we look forward to a constructive relationship with you and your staff, as we have with your federal and State and Territory counterparts. You will be able to gain an overview of our role and activities from our website at <http://www.privacy.org.au/>.

As a first step, we urge you to consider re-establishing the consultative Round Table which operated successfully for many years until 2003. We were invited to meetings of the Round Table along with a range of other interested parties. No doubt the details are available in the Commission's files. A resumption of these meetings would be valuable to you in at least the following ways:

- as a source of community input 'on tap', particularly valuable where you are formally required by the Act to balance competing public interests, such as in making section 41 Directions;
- as a 'sounding board' to in the development of strategic direction and priorities;
- as a source of ideas for new initiatives in education and training.

We would be pleased to meet with you at an early stage, to discuss both this specific proposal and privacy matters generally. We wish you well in your tenure of this office.

Yours sincerely

Roger Clarke
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