



**Australian Privacy
Foundation**

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

Secretary@privacy.org.au

<https://privacy.org.au/about/contacts/>

5 April 2021

Mr. Barry Sandison
CEO
Australian Institute of Health & Welfare
GPO Box 570
Canberra ACY 2601

Dear Mr. Sandison,

Re: Request for comment about APF media release concerning consent and PHI and PIP-QI data collections

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) is the country's leading privacy advocacy organisation. A brief backgrounder is attached.

We understand the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare are the National Custodians for the Primary Health Insights Project (PHI) and from the Practice Incentives Program – Quality Improvement (PIP – QI) program.

We are preparing a media release. So we ask:

1. Do you wish to comment on the PHI project as a whole please, touching on its purpose, value, entities that are expected to benefit, how the data may be shared?
2. Would you comment in relation to the PHI data you are purported to have collected?
3. Can you comment in relation to the PIP – QI data you are purported to have collected.?
4. Would you explain how someone whose data is uploaded may withdraw consent and have it deleted?

I look forward to your reply, and would be happy to provide further information, as required.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Juanita Fernando, Chair, APF Health Committee

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Australian Privacy Foundation

Background Information

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) is the primary national association dedicated to protecting the privacy rights of Australians. The Foundation aims to focus public attention on emerging issues that pose a threat to the freedom and privacy of Australians. The Foundation has led the fight to defend the right of individuals to control their personal information and to be free of excessive intrusions.

The APF's primary activity is analysis of the privacy impact of systems and proposals for new systems. It makes frequent submissions to parliamentary committees and government agencies. It publishes information on privacy laws and privacy issues. It provides continual background briefings to the media on privacy-related matters.

Where possible, the APF cooperates with and supports privacy oversight agencies, but it is entirely independent of the agencies that administer privacy legislation, and regrettably often finds it necessary to be critical of their performance.

When necessary, the APF conducts campaigns for or against specific proposals. It works with civil liberties councils, consumer organisations, professional associations and other community groups as appropriate to the circumstances. The Privacy Foundation is also an active participant in Privacy International, the world-wide privacy protection network.

The APF is open to membership by individuals and organisations who support the APF's Objects. Funding that is provided by members and donors is used to run the Foundation and to support its activities including research, campaigns and awards events.

The APF does not claim any right to formally represent the public as a whole, nor to formally represent any particular population segment, and it accordingly makes no public declarations about its membership-base. The APF's contributions to policy are based on the expertise of the members of its Board, SubCommittees and Reference Groups, and its impact reflects the quality of the evidence, analysis and arguments that its contributions contain.

The APF's Board, SubCommittees and Reference Groups comprise professionals who bring to their work deep experience in privacy, information technology and the law.

The Board is supported by Patrons The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG and The Hon Elizabeth Evatt AC, and an Advisory Panel of eminent citizens, including former judges, former Ministers of the Crown, and a former Prime Minister.

The following pages provide access to information about the APF:

- Policies <https://privacy.org.au/publications/by-date/>
- Media <https://privacy.org.au/home/updates/>
- Current Board Members <https://privacy.org.au/about/contacts/>
- Patron and Advisory Panel <https://privacy.org.au/about/contacts/advisorypanel/>

The following pages provide outlines of some of the campaigns that the APF has conducted:

- The Australia Card (1985-87) <https://privacy.org.au/About/Formation.html>
- Credit Reporting (1988-90) <https://privacy.org.au/campaigns/consumer-credit-reporting/>
- The Census (2006) <https://privacy.org.au/campaigns/census2006/>
- The Access Card (2006-07) <https://privacy.org.au/campaigns/id-cards/hsac/>
- The Media (2007-) <https://privacy.org.au/campaigns/privacy-media/>
- The MyHR (2012-) <https://privacy.org.au/campaigns/myhr/>
- The Census (2016) <https://privacy.org.au/campaigns/census2016/>