



2024 Cyber Security Legislative Package

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

Macquarie University thanks the PJCIS for the opportunity to provide feedback on the 2024 Cyber Security Legislative Package.

Macquarie University proactively seeks to ensure resilient and secure research and innovation is pursued in the Australian national interest. Macquarie engages closely with Australian Government departments and agencies on design, implementation and review of research security instrumentation and mechanisms.

Limited Use Obligations

Macquarie University supports the introduction of limited use obligations for cyber incident notifications to the Commonwealth. Macquarie agrees with the Commonwealth view that this should, in principle, build trust between industry and the Government and lead to increased transparency in incident reporting. If there is an increase in incident reporting this will better enable the sharing of that information to those entities which have a business need to patch vulnerabilities prior to them being exploited.

Macquarie University notes that even with these legislative changes, there will be a need for a significant outreach effort by the Commonwealth to communicate what these changes mean to industry, and to build trust in the notification mechanisms so that they are fully adopted across different sectors.

Macquarie's experience of notification processes to date has been that an incident notified via the Department of Defence's Defence Industry Security Program has not then been shared with other members of the Australian Intelligence Community. Macquarie has identified at least four separate incident notification channels that belong to different Commonwealth agencies that could be used by an entity to share incident information with the Commonwealth, depending on the nature of the incident. Macquarie hopes that the limited use obligation changes will assist in enabling entities to be confident that when a notification is undertaken via one channel, all relevant parties within the Australian Government with a need to know will receive that information.

Contact Details

Dr Ross McLennan
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Services), Macquarie University
Co-Chair of the Higher Education Sector Trusted Information Sharing Network

About Macquarie University

Macquarie University undertakes research that benefits Australia and improves the lives of Australians. Secure and resilient international collaboration enables research excellence and Macquarie is committed to partnering with world-leading organisations on advancing learning, teaching and research in Australia. Macquarie University implements a robust Countering Foreign Interference Due Diligence Framework and Research Risk Review Procedure as part of operationalising the University Foreign Interference Taskforce Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector.