

**From:** Charles Hamilton [chamil@iname.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 May 2000 10:03 AM  
**To:** laca.reps@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Inquiry into the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Bill 2000

Dear Sir/Madam:

I wish to make a brief submission on the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Bill 2000.

I consider it a gross invasion of my privacy for companies to be provided with the ability to compile any information on a database that contains private details about myself or my family. Should any company wish to compile such information about me or my family, I state that it must seek my/our written informed consent.

I consider it the equivalent of someone entering my house without my permission and going through my personal documents and stealing the information without my knowledge. It is exactly the same process as a sneak thief. The difference is that the thief goes to jail and the data mining company is rewarded by the same government and legal system. .

If companies are allowed to compile such information, it is an impossible situation to expect the individual to "opt out". This means that I would have to contact hundreds of organisations and go through a lot of trouble to delete us/me off their databases.

Information on forms filled out for one purpose (credit cards etc) should not be allowed to be used (or sold on) for another purpose. This should be illegal without my/our express written consent.

Legislation that is strong and enforceable is required to protect the interests of citizens in this country. The electronic revolution is making it too easy to ignore supposed self regulation or 'light touch' legislation that panders to corporate interests. Self regulation never works. There are always many individuals/corporations who utilise self regulation for their own self interest. Examples are many and varied while victims of such "regulation" continue to grow in exponential numbers.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate your time in reading and digesting this small submission.

Sincerely  
Charles Hamilton

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