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**Subject:** Privacy Laws Submission

**SUBMISSION FOR THE PRIVACY LAWS REVIEW**

Submitted by Steven Mark Cowgill of 38 Alfred St. Mittagong NSW 2575.

I consider that the practice of "Data Mining" is an invasion of individual privacy and all efforts must be made to stop it.

If an individual does not wish their private or lifestyle information to be recorded and handled by private interests in this way, it should not be deemed the individual's responsibility to locate this information and request that it be destroyed after the fact.

If any organisation or person wishes to collect any information about an individual it should seek written consent from that individual beforehand. In its request for consent, the organisation should state how it will use the information.

It should be illegal to use such information for any purpose other than that for which an individual's approval was originally given.

The written consent should be a standard form available from a post office.

It should be possible at any time for an individual to know what information about them is held by any organisation and to have this information corrected as the individual sees fit. The onus should be on the organisation that holds the information to make its access or removal a simple process.

Organisations should not be able to make the provision of their services conditional upon an individual agreeing to the organisation sharing private information about that individual with what the organisation defines as "related organisations".

We must have enforceable legislation to protect the private interests of all citizens.