

**From:** Tristan Owen [town@mla.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 April 2000 10:14 AM  
**To:** 'laca.reps@aph.gov.au'  
**Subject:** Inquiry into the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Bill 2000

I wish to make a submission for the Inquiry into the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Bill 2000:

I consider data mining a gross invasion of my privacy. If a company wants to compile a database containing private information pertaining to me, it must seek my written informed consent. This is called 'opting in'. Currently, I can only 'opt out' which means I would have to contact hundreds of organisations and go through a lot of hassle to try and get off their databases.

It should be illegal for information given for one purpose (filling out forms, using credit card, etc) to be used for another purpose without my informed written consent.

I demand tough enforceable legislation to protect the interests of citizens, not self regulation or 'light touch' legislation that panders to corporate interests.

The draft Bill fails to satisfy the needs of the public, because it contains large numbers of exemptions and exceptions, and legitimises many unreasonable uses of personal data. As a result, it would actually reduce privacy protections rather than enhance them. The draft Bill also fails to satisfy the needs of the private sector, because it is long and complex, and fails to encourage the confidence of consumers in their dealings with companies. The Bill needs to be very substantially revised, or withdrawn and re-written.

Yours sincerely,

Tristan Owen.

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