

From: margaret.atcherley@dotrs.gov.au
Sent: Saturday, 29 April 2000 2:20 AM
To: laca.reps@aph.gov.au
Subject: fwd: Privacy Legislation:

Dear Committee Members,

I am adding my voice to those objecting to the introduction of the new privacy legislation allowing the continuation of data mining, albeit under mild restriction conditions. I believe that the proposed legislation is highly undesirable. The mining of data is an invasion of privacy. The resulting information bases might be used for nefarious purposes and the legislation appears to provide for the dubious interests of large and wealthy corporations while apparently all but ignoring the needs of individuals and the more vulnerable members of our society.

I would accept some (limited) data mining under strict conditions that included permission being sought and provided in writing by respondents. This permission would need to be renewed regularly (say every twelve months), also in writing.

I further believe that there should be provision in the legislation to make it illegal for information gathered for one purpose to be used for another purpose unless expressly agreed to by the person or organisation concerned.

I would also like to see provision in the legislation that made it mandatory for those making unsolicited approaches to people to include reference to the source of the information that has enabled the contact to be made.

Further concerns I have relate to information collected that might be either wrong or misleading and the implications for people who do not have access to a particular database so that they might change the data in these circumstances.

Trusting that you will note these objections and recognise that a decision on this legislation would make it harder in the long term to adequately protect society and individuals from the machinations of large business enterprises.

Sincerely,

Margaret Atcherley
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