

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Attorney-General's Portfolio

Department/Agency: Attorney-General's Department

Outcome/Program: 1.1.4

Topic: Data security breach notification obligations

Senator: Senator Rhiannon

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Question:

What consideration has the government given to introducing mandatory data security breach notification obligations in Australia, and as an interim stage, to oblige federal agencies and contractors to set up mechanisms for notification of affected individuals?

Answer:

In its 2008 report, *For Your Information*, the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) extensively examined the issue of data breaches and recommended the introduction of mandatory disclosure laws where data breaches have occurred (rec 51-1). The Government has indicated it is considering the ALRC's 295 recommendations in stages and that ALRC's recommendation on mandatory data breach notification will be considered in due course.