

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

Attorney-General's Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Internet browsing history data – Protecting users

Senator: Senator Rhiannon

Question reference number: 183

Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

What if any action is OAIC, and comparable regulators overseas, taking to address the widespread abuse of internet browsing history data, and what efforts are being made to warn and protect Australian users about the extent of this activity?

Answer:

The OAIC cannot comment on other regulators. However, the Information Commissioner's functions include the function to investigate acts or practices that may be an interference with the privacy of an individual. The OAIC is not aware of any individual complaint about the abuse of internet browsing history data; however, the OAIC will consider any individual complaint about such practices.