

OAIC supports privacy protections in COVIDSafe contact tracing App

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Abstract:

Following the release of the Australian Government's COVIDSafe contact tracing app, the Australian Information and Privacy Commissioner, Angelene Falk, has given her support to the privacy safeguards developed so far.

The Commissioner welcomed the public release of the Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA), which is available [here](#). "The Privacy Impact Assessment has provided transparency and accountability for the use of personal information, and supports community confidence in the app," Commissioner Falk said.

The Commissioner also pointed to the fact that the Government had:

- accepted the views of other agencies and recommendations provided by Maddocks to improve privacy protections in their PIA Report dated 24 April 2020, available [here](#); and
- made determinations under the Biosecurity Act 2015 to further protect information collected by the app, available [here](#),

These measures ensure the app must be voluntary, and that personal information collected can only be used for purposes related to contact tracing. It also puts important deletion and time limits in place.

Under the Australian Government Agencies Privacy Code, an agency must undertake a written PIA for projects involving the handling of personal information.

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) will have independent oversight of personal information handling by the app and the National COVIDSafe Data Store. It will also review the legislation that is intended to be introduced and monitor the implementation of the PIA recommendations.

Further practical guidance on conducting PIA's is available [here](#).

The OAIC's media release is available [here](#).