

COVIDSafe privacy safeguards become law

Sources: www.oaic.gov.au; www.aph.gov.au

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Abstract:

Changes to the *Privacy Act 1988* (Privacy Act) to enshrine strict privacy safeguards for the COVIDSafe app data passed both houses of parliament this week.

The *Privacy Amendment (Public Health Contact Information) Bill 2020* makes mishandling of COVIDSafe app data an offence and an interference with privacy.

The new law also provides an expanded regulatory oversight role for the Office of the Australian Information Commission (OAIC) to ensure personal information is handled in accordance with the legislation's requirements. This includes handling of COVIDSafe app data by State and Territory health authorities as well as by the Commonwealth COVIDSafe app and National COVIDSafe Data Store.

Details of the background to the legislation can be found [here](#).

The amending legislation to the Privacy Act can be found [here](#).

The OAIC media release can be found [here](#).