

Information Privacy Reforms - Quick Guide

Information Privacy Act 2009

What's happening?

The *Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* (IPOLA) amends the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (IP Act).

The changes will better protect personal information, align the privacy principle framework to commonwealth standards, and promote transparency in the event of a data breach.

Most of the IPOLA provisions commence on 1 July 2025, with the exception of the Mandatory Notification of Data Breach (MNDB) scheme in local councils, which commences on 1 July 2026.

How can agencies start preparing?

There are practical steps agencies can take to be ready to adopt the IP Act amendments. The Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) encourages all agencies to:

- Review the personal information your agency holds or collects.
- Adopt QPPs in internal policies and training.
- Update decision letters, notices or templates.
- Review systems for identification and response in the event of a data breach.
- Review or develop a data breach policy.

To support agencies prepare for the IPOLA reforms, OIC is delivering Guidelines, other resources and a staged training program to build awareness and knowledge.

- Keep across the published Guidelines and training material available via the [IPOLA webpage](#) on OIC's website.
- Keep updated by [subscribing to OIC's newsletters](#).

This guide does not reflect the current law. It highlights important changes to the *Information Privacy Act 2009*. This guide does not constitute legal advice and is general in nature only. Additional factors may be relevant in specific circumstances. For detailed guidance, legal advice should be sought.

What are the key amendments?

IPOLA Change	New – 1 July 2025	Existing
Queensland Privacy Principles (QPPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One common set of privacy principles for non-health and health agencies. • Aligns to the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) apply to non-health agencies. • National Privacy Principles (NPPs) apply to health agencies. • Inconsistent with the APPs.
Mandatory Notification of Data Breach (MNDB) scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An eligible data breach is defined as one relating to personal information and likely to result in serious harm. • Mandatory notification of eligible data breaches to the OIC and particular individuals. • Certain breaches to be published on the website of the agency and OIC for 12 months. • OIC has oversight to monitor the steps agencies take in assessing data breaches, mitigating harm, and notifying affected individuals. • Obligation to notify other affected agencies. • Further information available in the Mandatory Notification of Data Breach Scheme - Quick Guide. 	Voluntary notification of data breaches to the Information Commissioner.
Data Breach Policy and Registers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a data breach policy, which outlines an agency's overall strategy for managing data breaches, including eligible data breaches. • Maintain an internal register of eligible data breaches. 	Data breach policy considered good practice but not required under the IP Act.
Single route of access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simpler process to access or amend information. • Access and amendment applications for personal and non-personal information now managed under the RTI Act. • Free access or amendment of personal information continues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate rights of access. • Access and amendment of personal information under IP Act. • All other information under RTI Act.
Privacy complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject of complaints under the IP Act include an agencies compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ QPP obligations and overseas disclosure of personal information requirements ◦ data breach assessment and notification obligations. • Standard complaint response period of 45 business days continues. Additional time may be agreed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject of privacy complaint under IP Act limited to the way an agency has handled personal information. • Complaint response period of 45 business days.
Definition of Personal Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No material change to meaning or scope of information captured. • Further information available in the Definition of Personal Information - Quick Guide. 	
Internal Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal review protocol guided by the RTI Act. Further information available in the RTI Amendments - Quick Guide. 	Internal review protocol guided by the IP Act.
External Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External review protocol guided by the RTI Act. • Further information available in the RTI Amendments - Quick Guide. 	External review protocol guided by the IP Act.

