



Email media@healthaustraliaparty.com.au

Website www.healthaustraliaparty.com.au

June 9, 2016

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

PRIVACY

HAP believes the privacy of all Australians is slowly being eroded.

Of particular concern are the new mandatory identification requirements on the 2016 Census, and the new data retention laws introduced in October 2015.

Mandatory Identification Requirement – 2016 Census

HAP believes that anonymous Census responses result in more honest and accurate reporting, and that retention of identification details serves no valid purpose to benefit the Australian people. Whilst ABS argues that identification details will be stored safely and securely, any data used usefully can also be used illegitimately. HAP believes no identification details should be collected in conjunction with the Census under any circumstances.

New Data Retention Laws

HAP is very concerned with the intrusion of privacy created by new data retention laws which came into effect in Australia in October 2015. The new retention laws mean all phone calls, text messages, emails, and the location of each photo taken on your phone are now tracked by the Government under a metadata retention scheme. Whilst not mandatory, some ISPs may also record the IP address of websites visited.

We are told that this scheme is being implemented to protect the country against organised crime and terrorism.

Tracking the metadata burden's ISPs and Telcos with massive bills, which the Government paid approximately \$131 million of taxpayer money to set up. After the initial set up, the Telcos are now on their own and will likely pass the cost to consumers.

HAP strongly believes reforms are required to respect and protect the privacy of all Australians, and prevent the erosion of civil liberties in relation to private information.