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Australian
Centre for
Disease
Control

Privacy Policy

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This document was prepared by the Data Strategy and Governance Section. Queries should be directed to cdccdata@cdc.gov.au.

Version	Date	Detail	Author
1.0		New document	Data Strategy and Governance Section

Changes to this document of an editorial nature or to maintain currency by reflecting CDC structural changes will be reflected as a sub-version (e.g. version 1.0 would change to version 1.1) and will not require General Counsel endorsement as they do not reflect a change in policy.

About this privacy policy

The Australian Centre for Disease Control (**CDC, we, or us**) is committed to protecting your privacy. This Privacy Policy explains how we manage personal information, including sensitive information¹, in accordance with our obligations under the:

- [Privacy Act 1988](#) (**Privacy Act**), including the Australian Privacy Principles (**APPs**), and
- [Australian Government Agencies Privacy Code](#) (**Privacy Code**).

About the CDC

The CDC was established on 1 January 2026 under the *Australian Centre for Disease Control Act 2025* (**CDC Act**) to:

- permanently monitor and assess public health risks
- proactively work to prevent them, and
- prepare Australia for when another public health crisis occurs.

The Director-General heads the CDC and is supported by an Advisory Council. The staff of the CDC support both the Director-General and the Advisory Council to perform their roles under the CDC Act.

What information we collect

We collect personal and sensitive information when it is reasonably necessary for, or directly related to, our functions and activities under the CDC Act and under other legislation including the:

- *Biosecurity Act* (**Biosecurity Act**)
- *National Health Security Act 2007* (**NHS Act**), and
- *National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry Act 2023* (**NORDR Act**).

We may collect your personal information if you are:

- an individual whose data we receive from third parties
- a person who enters into an agreement with us to provide information
- a stakeholder who we consult with or provide advice to, such as staff from government entities, international organisations, health professionals or representative bodies
- a contractor, consultant, supplier or vendor of goods or services to us
- a job applicant, an employee, or an Advisory Council member.

We will only collect sensitive information about you if:

- you consent

¹ Office of the Australian Information Commissioner. (n.d.). *What is personal information?* Retrieved December 23, 2025, from <https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/your-privacy-rights/your-personal-information/what-is-personal-information/>

- the collection is authorised or required by law, or
- the collection is permitted under the Privacy Act.

The kinds of personal and sensitive information we may collect include:

Identifying information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name, address, gender, date of birth, contact details
Health information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diagnoses, immunisation status and test results
Other information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Socio-economic and geographic data ○ Racial or ethnic origin including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status
Your interactions with us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Correspondence, feedback and complaints ○ Submissions and consultation responses ○ Job applications and conflict of interest declarations

Protected information under the CDC Act

Additionally, the personal information we collect is protected by ‘secrecy’ laws under the CDC Act and other legislation. These laws strictly control how we handle your personal information and impose serious penalties (including imprisonment and fines) for unauthorised use and disclosure.

Publication of public health advice

Under the CDC Act, we must publish public health advice on our website to promote transparency. However, certain information is exempt from publication. The effect of the exemption provisions in the CDC Act is that personal information is exempt from this publication requirement.

Remaining anonymous or using a pseudonym

Members of the public have the right to contact us without sharing their identity. They can also contact us using a pseudonym (like your initials only or an alias).

Sometimes, we need to know your identity to assist you. We will let you know if this is the case.

How we collect and hold your personal information

We may collect personal information directly from you, such as when you apply for a job, make an enquiry or lodge a complaint.

However, generally, we collect personal information indirectly from third parties to perform our public health information gathering function under the CDC Act. We do this in different ways:

By request or agreement	Third parties including Australian government entities, bodies corporate, international organisations and individuals may give us information on our request or by agreement where the information is required to assist us to perform our functions under the CDC Act and other legislation (e.g. to manage data assets and various national registers).
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By direction	We may require certain third parties to give us information that we need to perform our functions under the CDC Act.
Via designated data service providers	The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing (AIHW) or any other data service providers designated under the CDC Act may collect or generate personal information on our behalf.

Unsolicited information

From time to time, we may receive personal information we did not ask for. If this happens, we will handle this information in accordance with the Privacy Act.

Why we collect, hold, use and disclose personal information

We collect and hold personal information for a variety of different purposes, including:

- performing our functions and activities under the CDC Act and other legislation related to:
 - monitoring, assessing, preparing for, and working to prevent, public health risks
 - providing advice, and consulting on, public health matters
 - supporting the provision of advice by the Advisory Council to the Director General
- handling complaints and public enquiries
- contract management
- employment and personnel functions
- legal compliance and governance activities.

How we use and disclose personal information

Generally, we use and disclose your personal information for the collection purpose, or to perform our public health-related functions where authorised under that CDC Act or other legislation such as the Biosecurity Act, NHS Act or the NORDR Act. This includes:

Data analysis and management	Analysing the public health data we collect, including managing and coordinating public health surveillance data and other public health-related national registers (e.g. managing data related to occupational respiratory diseases as part of the <u>National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry</u>)
Advice and consultation	Providing advice to and consulting with other government entities, and international organisations, health professionals or representative bodies on public health matters
Publication	Publishing information on our website for transparency (e.g. about our Advisory Council members or any directions the Director-General gives to require a person to give us information)
Information sharing	Sharing information with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ state and territory health departments and public health entities to help them carry out public health activities ○ the ABS and AIHW that is relevant to their functions

Additionally, we may use or disclose personal information:

- with your consent
- to lessen a serious threat to public safety, or
- for other specific purposes including where it is in the public interest, for the purposes of enforcement activities and to give information to an oversight or integrity agency.

Disclosure to overseas recipients

Occasionally, we may provide personal information to overseas recipients where authorised under the CDC Act, including where necessary:

- to perform of our functions or activities under the CDC Act, Biosecurity Act, NHS Act or NORDR Act
- in the public interest, or
- to lessen a threat to public safety.

For example, we may need to disclose personal information to:

- an overseas recipient for the purposes of the National Focal Point to comply with Australia's obligations under the International Health Regulations, or
- a foreign government entity or an international organisation so that we can provide advice or consult on, or coordinate a response to, an emerging international public health risk.

Data linkage

Sometimes we share personal information with the ABS, AIHW or another data service provider designated under the CDC Act to link data from multiple sources. This helps us create a richer evidence base for data analysis to inform our public health advice and other public health-related functions.

All data linkage is authorised by the CDC Act and will comply with our Data Release and Access Policy. We apply a range of best-practice safeguards for data handling based on the ABS's [Five Safes Framework](#). This includes de-identification of all personal information prior to analysis, secure data environments and strict access controls. We also adhere to OAIC guidance to ensure privacy and security throughout the process.

Storage, retention and security

We take reasonable steps to protect your personal information from misuse, interference, loss, and from unauthorised access, loss or disclosure, including:

Secure storage	We store electronic and paper-based records securely in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective Security Policy Framework, and • Information Security Manual.
Access restrictions	We restrict data access to authorised personnel who have a need to know.
Auditing	We regularly update and audit our storage and data security systems.
Contractual measures	We take contractual measures to ensure our service providers (including sub-contractors) comply with the same privacy requirements applicable to the CDC.
Destruction and disposal	We manage the storage and disposal of personal information in accordance the <i>Archives Act 1983</i> .

Notifiable Data Breach Scheme

We take any accidental or unauthorised disclosure of personal information seriously and act quickly to address it. We will handle any suspected or actual data breach in accordance with the requirements of the We are subject to the Notifiable Data Breaches Scheme and the Privacy Act.

How to access or correct your personal information

Where we hold your personal information, you have the right under the Privacy Act to access that information, and to ask us to correct your information if it is inaccurate, out of date, incomplete, irrelevant or misleading.

Additionally, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)*, you can:

- request access to documents held by us, and
- make an application for amendments or annotation of a document that we hold that contains your personal if that information is incomplete, incorrect, out of date or misleading and is available for, has been or is being used for administrative purposes.

Sometimes, we cannot give you access or correct your information as requested. If that happens, we will write to you and explain our decision.

You can find further information about requesting access or correction under the Privacy Act or FOI Act on the [CDC Privacy](#) and [FOI pages](#) or by contacting our Privacy Officer (see contact details below) or FOI Unit via FOIapplications@cdc.gov.au.

How to make a privacy complaint

If you believe we have mishandled your personal information, you can lodge a complaint with the CDC. We will respond to your complaint, and work with you to resolve it.

If you are not satisfied with our response, you may contact the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (**OAIC**) by calling 1300 636 992 or by visiting the [OAIC website](#).

Usually, the OAIC recommend you try to resolve your complaint with us first.

Contact Details

Privacy Officer

Australian Centre for Disease Control

Email: privacy@cdc.gov.au

Postal: GPO Box 798, Canberra ACT 2601