

30 September 2024

Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control  
Department of Health and Aged Care

By email: [submissions@artd.com.au](mailto:submissions@artd.com.au)

## Open submission invitation: Understanding the community's views and perspectives on data use

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The Office of the Information Commissioner (**OIC**) welcomes the opportunity to make a brief submission to the Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control (**CDC**) on its public consultation about how it plans to use health data.

OIC is an independent statutory body that reports to the Queensland Parliament. The Information Commissioner is an Officer of Parliament and is charged with functions under the *Right to Information Act 2009* (Qld) and the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (Qld) to, respectively, facilitate greater access to government-held information and oversee safeguarding of personal information collected, used and held by public sector agencies.

OIC provides in principle support for the privacy and security considerations raised by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (**OVIC**) in its submission to this consultation regarding the CDC's planned use of personal and health data. Specifically, OIC considers issues raised by OVIC in its submission regarding transparency, data de-identification and cross border data sharing require careful consideration to ensure any risks to an individual's privacy are identified and mitigated.

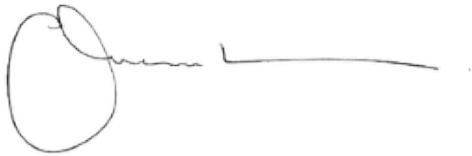
In addition, OIC recommends that in developing effective and ethical data practices, the CDC be guided, at a minimum, by the [National COVID-19 privacy principles](#) developed by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner and state and territory Information Commissioners and Ombudsmen:

- **Data minimisation**—the collection of personal information should be limited to minimum information reasonably necessary to achieve the CDC's legitimate purposes.
- **Purpose limitation**—information that is collected for a specific purpose related to the protection of health of Australians should not be used for other purposes. This will assist CDC to develop trust and confidence in the community.
- **Security**—CDC must take reasonable steps to protect personal information from misuse, loss, unauthorised access, modification or disclosure. In addition, personal information should be stored in Australia. In this regard, OIC welcomes CDC's use of the Five Safes Framework to protect and manage health data. As noted by OVIC in their submission, the CDC may wish to consider how it operationalises the Five Safes Framework, including establishing policies, processes and procedures for adhering to the Australian Privacy Principles and setting up strong privacy and security governance arrangements.

- **Retention/deletion**—personal information should be destroyed once it is no longer needed for the purpose for which it was collected.
- **Regulation under privacy law**—personal information should be protected by an enforceable privacy law to ensure individuals have redress if their information is mishandled. OIC notes any collection, use and disclosure of personal and health information will need to comply with the privacy obligations in the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth).

Should you require further information regarding the above matters, please contact Ms Celica Bojorge at [IC@oic.qld.gov.au](mailto:IC@oic.qld.gov.au) or on (07) 3234 7373. Please note that we will forward a copy of this submission to OVIC for its information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital 'J' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joanne Kummrow  
**Information Commissioner**