

## **PAW 2014 podcast**

### **Acting Privacy Commissioner – Clare Smith**

In the digital on line world we now operate in, we all want and expect to be able to access people and information anywhere at any time. And this applies equally when we deal with government. We want and expect easier and quicker access to government information and increasingly use online services.

There is always a balance or trade- off to be made between online convenience and possible breaches of privacy. Because there will always be risks associated with engaging with the online world.

When you share your personal information online you may not always have knowledge of or control over where that information will end up and what uses it may be put to.

But these risks can be managed.

Queensland's *Information Privacy Act 2009* provides safeguards for the handling of your personal information by Queensland government agencies and their contractors.

The privacy principles apply to all government agencies including local governments. They allow for the lawful flow of personal information. They also ensure that the agencies' dealings with this information are fair.

The same privacy principles require government agencies when they collect your personal information to explain to you how they will use it and who the information may be shared with. This allows you to make up your own mind as to whether the benefits of online interaction outweigh the potential cost to your privacy.

That is, where possible, you make an informed choice and there are no surprises.

The Office of the Information Commissioner has a broad range of resources informing both government agencies what their responsibilities are, and you,

what your privacy rights are, including the right to make a privacy complaint where their privacy has been breached.

For more information please go to our website at [www.oic.qld.gov.au](http://www.oic.qld.gov.au)