



Interpreting the legislation – *Information Privacy Act 2009*

Key Privacy Concepts - purpose

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1.0 Overview

The Key Privacy Concepts guidelines¹ explain important words and phrases used in the [Information Privacy Act 2009 \(Qld\)](#) (**IP Act**). They are intended to assist in the interpretation and application of the privacy principles in the IP Act.

2.0 IPPs and NPPs which reference 'purpose'

The following Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) and National Privacy Principles (NPPs) include the concept of 'purpose'.

- IPP 1(1)
- IPP 2(3)
- IPP 3(3)
- IPP 5(1)(c)
- IPP 7(1)(b)
- IPP 8
- IPP 9
- IPP 10
- IPP 11(3)
- NPP 2(1), 2(5)
- NPP 4(2)
- NPP 5(2)
- NPP 7(1)(b)
- NPP 9(1), 9(2)(a), 9(3)

3.0 The meaning of 'purpose'

The purpose for which personal information is collected is determined by the intent behind the collection. Personal information may not be

¹ The key concepts are based on and draw from the Key Concepts in the Victorian Privacy Commissioner's *Guidelines to the Information Privacy Principles, volume 2*.



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collected for the sake of collecting it, or against a possible future need. There must be a clearly defined purpose for which it is being collected, required for, or intended to further, a legitimate agency function.

The purpose for collection will need to be articulated where IPP 2 or NPP 2(3) apply. A purpose which is too broad, or which is not sufficiently defined, may not be a legitimate purpose under those privacy principles.

The purpose for which personal information is to be collected – for example, to be used as part of a project, scheme, or review – should be specifically defined before the agency begins to collect it.

The amount of information and the specific uses to which it will be put must be set out as part of the project plan, and only the information essential to that purpose should be collected.

For additional information and assistance please refer to the OIC's guidelines or contact the Enquiries Service on 07 3234 7373 or email enquiries@oic.qld.gov.au.

This guide is introductory only, and deals with issues in a general way. It is not legal advice. Additional factors may be relevant in specific circumstances. For detailed guidance, legal advice should be sought.

If you have any comments or suggestions on the content of this document, please submit them to feedback@oic.qld.gov.au.

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Changes to legislation after the update date are not included in this document