

# Definition of Personal Information – Quick Guide

## Information Privacy Act 2009

### What’s happening?

The *Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* (IPOLA) amends the definition of personal information.

Commencing 1 July 2025, the definition of personal information for both the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (IP Act) and the *Right to Information Act 2009* (RTI Act) will be in the IP Act (section 12).

### How can agencies start preparing?

Agencies can prepare for the change in definition by updating resources including policies, procedures, decision letters, notices and other templates. In practical terms there is minimal impact for agencies other than updating the definition in documents and training.

To support agencies prepare for the IPOLA reforms, the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) is delivering Guidelines, other resources and a staged training program to build awareness and knowledge.

- Keep across the published Guidelines and training material available via the [IPOLA webpage](#) on OIC’s website. Specific Information Privacy Guidelines include:
  - [Information Privacy Reforms - Quick Guide](#)
  - [Basic guide to changes to the IP Act](#), and
  - [Key privacy concepts - personal and sensitive information](#).
- Keep updated by [subscribing to OIC’s newsletters](#).

### Comparison of the existing and new definition

Below is a comparison of the new and current definition. It demonstrates the limited change in wording, mainly the rearrangement of words and removal of explicit reference to information in a database. The incoming definition of personal information is not a material change in the meaning of the term, nor does it significantly alter the scope of information captured by this definition.

New definition from 1 July 2025	Existing definition up to 30 June 2025
<p><b>Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual or an individual who is reasonably identifiable from the information or opinion—</b></p> <p><b>(a) whether the information or opinion is true or not; and</b></p> <p><b>(b) whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.</b></p>	<p><b>Personal information is information or an opinion, including information or an opinion forming part of a database, whether true or not, and whether recorded in a material form or not, about an individual whose identity is apparent, or can reasonably be ascertained, from the information or opinion.</b></p>

This guide does not reflect the current law. It highlights important changes to the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

This guide does not constitute legal advice and is general in nature only.

Additional factors may be relevant in specific circumstances.

For detailed guidance, legal advice should be sought.

