

Hi,

I have recently read about the review into data retention, specifically surrounding the use of data in civil proceedings. With the exception of civil cases surrounding acts of violence, I strongly oppose the use of data retained for regulatory purposes by civil litigation.

As a citizen of modern Australia, I am aware of the vast amount of data collected about both myself and my fellow citizens. I have deep concerns about making this data available to any person in any situation that does not involve the safety of my fellow Australians. The misuse of data in a civil case could have profound effects on the citizens involved. Australians are due a fair measure of privacy. This would be denied if civil proceedings were permitted access to data retained for regulatory purposes.

Furthermore, as an IT consultant, much of my work surrounds data retention and access to data for a variety of organizations, including state government departments. Increasing access to data will always increase the risk of a security breach. I am not confident that an adequate controls framework would be in place if the law was amended to permit the use of data in civil proceedings. This heightened risk, combined with the dubious morality of infringing upon citizens' right to privacy, renders access to retained data in civil proceedings unacceptable.

Thank you, and I would like to request that my name and details not be treated as public.