

Dear Attorney-General's Department and my MP Michelle Rowland

I am Australian citizen concerned about the collection and retention of individual's metadata in its current legislative state let alone the plan to change the current legislation to allow for the use of the metadata in civil proceedings.

The Australian public was assured that this sensitive data would not be available outside of criminal investigations undertaken by Australian government organisations under the impression that it was essential for the SAFTEY of everyday Australians. Please explain what allowing the use of this metadata in civil cases protects? It certainly doesn't protect my privacy or my personal data.

I'm emailing you in concern for all the Australians who don't understand what metadata is right now or in the future. When considering legislation of this kind one needs to think about the future consequences of it. Right now metadata include names, addresses, the form of communication used, the destination and source of the communication, the start and end of the communication, the location of the equipment used to communicate.

What happens in 5 years time when this data includes the GPS tracker on my smart watch? My bio metric data such as heart rate and GPS from my fitness tracker that shows when and where I slept on April the 22nd? Every financial transaction I make via the NFC chip on my mobile phone, or every time I open the PayPal app? The collection of this data is not a stretch from the current requirements of the bill passed in 2015, which have been mentioned as 'unclear' by a majority of telecommunication providers. This legislature needs to be design for that data that will be collected in 5-10 years time in the interest of privacy and safety of its citizens not in that of civil lawsuits.

Metadata can build a personal profile of someone. This profile will only become more detailed and personal. With easy access to anyone who can afford to press civil charges this data will be accessed frequently, stored in unsafe ways by those who collect it for civil lawsuit cases, it can be used to humiliate, blackmail, and build an incorrect narrative of a person to suit the individual or organisation requesting the access.

My data was not collected and retained under these premises, nor was any other Australians.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my view on what is a very important topic in day of "smart" technology.

Regards  
Larissa Enright