

With the Chair's leave I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Committee's role and in doing so provide a brief opening statement outlining the important work of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC).

I appear today with the assistance of the FOI Commissioner, Ms Toni Pirani and with the Chair's leave the Privacy Commissioner, Ms Carly Kind appearing via link and Ms Ashleigh McDonald, Executive General Manager, Information Rights.

Supported by our new organisational structure we are better positioned to operate as a contemporary and proactive regulator. Some of our recent initiatives and outcomes demonstrate our future direction. We have:

- commenced preliminary enquiries into the privacy impacts of connected vehicles
- commenced the development of a children's on-line privacy code
- developed a public facing dashboard to ensure that agency FOI data is reported and presented more effectively
- We will shortly deliver a report examining the use of messaging apps by Australian govt agencies
- We are building our strategic intelligence capabilities.

To deliver a proactive and contemporary regulatory approach to benefit the Australian community, agencies and industry alike we will also focus on building staffing capabilities through an investment in new ways of working

established our expectations of the regulated community. In doing so we are upholding the rights of privacy and information access enshrined in statute by the Australian Parliament and better serving the values and expectations of the Australian community.

I wish to acknowledge the significant work and expertise of the OAIC leadership in taking forward this major change program and recognise with gratitude OAIC staff for their dedication and commitment as we secure the fundamental human rights of privacy and information access in an increasingly complex environment.