

Senate Select Committee on Adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Attorney-General's Department

Hearing date: 16 August 2024

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David Shoebridge asked the following question:

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: It's operated by the Legal Services, but it's been co-developed with an entity called Portable, I think it is, which publicly touts its ongoing role with the platform. Is it a partnership with Portable? Does Portable have an ongoing corporate role in it? Is there another corporate entity that has a role in it?

Ms Priestly: I'll need to take that on notice, Senator.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: It's unclear for me, when I go through the AGs website, where I'm being taken when you go and click on the amica link. It doesn't say it's an external service; it doesn't give any details about what amica is. Are you able to shed any light on that?

Ms Priestly: I'll have to take that on notice and go back and consult my family law colleagues, Senator.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Is the data held in Australia?

Ms Priestly: I'll have to take that on notice.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: You enter a huge amount of personal data on this. You enter details about your family, your children, your date of birth, your properties, your incomes, some of the most incredible amounts of personal data. Is that held by the Commonwealth? Is it shared with the state with a state agency? Is it shared with the state government?

Ms Priestly: I'll need to take that on notice.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Is it shared with a private entity?

Ms Priestly: I'll have to take that on notice, Senator.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Does anyone here do privacy for the AGs?

Ms Fitch: I'm responsible for leading work on privacy reform, but I don't have the detailed answer to your question about amica specifically, about where the data is held. We can find out.

The response to the question is as follows:

'amica' is a jointly funded initiative of the Commonwealth Government and the Legal Services Commission of South Australia. It is sponsored through National Legal Aid and is funded by the Commonwealth until 30 June 2025.

amica is available in all States and Territories and recognised by the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia and the Family Court of Western Australia.

The data is maintained in a restricted environment and only used for the purposes of dealing directly with the user for the purposes of amica. The data is not shared with any other parties, including third parties such as Portable or governments, Commonwealth or State. It is maintained by the Legal Services Commission of South Australia, but cannot be accessed by

the Commission for other purposes, including if the user seeks other legal support from the Commission. Information that is used as part of the quality assurance process within amica is redacted to ensure privacy, remove bias and conflicts of interest.

The use of information is in accordance with the Privacy Statement which identifies when information may be disclosed, for example, to comply with state or Commonwealth laws.

Data is held only in Australia.

The Legal Services Commission of South Australia is the Project Sponsor for this National Legal Aid led project. Portable is the development partner. Portable's current ongoing role in amica is contracted through a Service Level Agreement. No other third parties are contracted to this project.