

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Attorney General's Department

Program: Office of the Australian Information Commission

Question No. BE17-205

Senator Watt, Murray asked the following question on 18 August 2017:

Senator WATT: Thanks. I've got a few questions for Senator Brandis as well. Senator Brandis, the government introduced the Privacy Amendment (Re-identification Offence) Bill 2016 on 12 October 2016. You'll probably recall that it was in response to a high-profile privacy breach by the Department of Health.

Senator Brandis: Yes.

Senator WATT: And, among other things, that bill would make it a criminal offence to reidentify or deidentify data that's published by government agencies. Is there a reason that bill hasn't been brought back on for debate in the parliament?

Senator Brandis: Let me take that on notice. It's a question of, obviously, the sequencing of the government's legislation program. The government certainly hasn't decided not to proceed with it. So it's just a sequencing issue. But let me take it on notice and I will see if I can give you any more information.

Senator WATT: Thank you.

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

The Privacy Amendment (Re-identification Offence) Bill 2016 will be brought on for debate when the Government's legislative priorities permit.