



February 18<sup>th</sup> 2005

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**By Email:** [legcon.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:legcon.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretary,

**Re: Inquiry into the Privacy Act 1988**

Bio21 Australia Ltd is a Company of fifteen academic member institutions ([www.bio21.com.au](http://www.bio21.com.au)), namely:

<p>Austin Biomedical Alliance Cancer Trials Australia CSIRO Health Sciences &amp; Nutrition Howard Florey Institute Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research Melbourne Health Murdoch Children's Research Institute Neurosciences Victoria Ltd Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre Royal Women's Hospital St Vincent's Health St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research University of Melbourne Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research</p>
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The Scientific Advisory Council of Bio21 has discussed at various times the impact of the privacy laws on the Australian biomedical research effort and any negative effects that members may have experienced. To ensure these views were put in the context of the broader Australian perspective, Bio21 Australia Ltd and its member institutions participated in the “Comparative stakeholder analysis on the impact of the privacy legislation on NHMRC stakeholders” conducted by Campbell Research and Consulting on behalf of the NHMRC.

**Bio21 writes now to strongly support the submission by the National Health and Medical Research Council to the Inquiry.** This detailed response sets out the impact the “Privacy Laws” have had on our stakeholders and makes a number of recommended reforms which we believe will remove some of the duplication, confusion and impediments without weakening the rights of individuals to protection of their privacy.

We remind the Inquiry that good clinical care automatically involves research and that this linkage needs to be recognised.

We also believe that further education of all involved (Recommendation 4, NHMRC submission) will ensure that the privacy laws are better understood.

Yours sincerely,



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