

RULE OF LAW

INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

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media release

RoLIA welcomes Senate report on internet privacy

RoLIA welcomed the release of the report into 'The adequacy of protections for the privacy of Australians online' on 7 April 2011. RoLIA made a [submission to the inquiry](#) and especially endorses the Committee's recommendation number 9:

4.74 The committee recommends that before pursuing any mandatory data retention proposal, the government must:

- undertake an extensive analysis of the costs, benefits and risks of such a scheme;
- justify the collection and retention of personal data by demonstrating the necessity of that data to law enforcement activities;
- quantify and justify the expense to Internet Service Providers of data collection and storage by demonstrating the utility of the data retained to law enforcement;
- assure Australians that data retained under any such scheme will be subject to appropriate accountability and monitoring mechanisms, and will be stored securely; and
- consult with a range of stakeholders.

RoLIA CEO, Richard Gilbert, said 'The Committee has flagged that there be five essential steps before any legislation on internet privacy is introduced.

'It is important that longstanding principles of privacy be respected in the internet age, and that if there are to be statutory incursions into privacy these be limited, transparent and accountable', Mr Gilbert concluded.

For further information please contact RoLIA CEO Richard Gilbert on 0417 247 998.