



# media release



**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICTORIAN PRIVACY COMMISSIONER  
AND THE OFFICE OF THE HEALTH SERVICES COMMISSIONER**

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## **PRIVACY LAWS PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES**

Victorians have new privacy rights. The law now requires State and local government and other organisations to protect the privacy of personal and health information.

A campaign to take this message to Indigenous Victorians was launched today at the Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre. The communication campaign is a joint initiative of Privacy Victoria and the Office of the Health Services Commissioner in co-operation with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO).

In the past, information about Indigenous communities has been taken and used without people being told why this information was needed. That can no longer happen.

Privacy laws mean State and local government and other organisations should tell you what they need personal information for. It has to be accurate and kept secure. They can only use it for the right reasons. You can ask to see the information held about you.

The Victorian Privacy Commissioner, Paul Chadwick, the Health Services Commissioner, Beth Wilson, and the CEO of VACCHO, Jill Gallagher, spoke at the launch. Jill Gallagher acknowledged the complexity of privacy issues in Indigenous communities, 'where you are often working with relatives and everyone knows each other'.

The campaign aims to raise awareness among Victoria's Indigenous communities about privacy laws and about the roles of the Privacy Commissioner and Health Services Commissioner. The distribution of information materials, like brochures, postcards and posters, is the first stage of the campaign. Other stages will see both Commissioners and their staff visiting communities across the state.

Three laws combine to give Victorians better privacy protection. The Information Privacy Act (Vic), covers personal information held by Victorian public sector agencies and local councils, the Health Records Act (Vic) covers health information in Victorian public and private sectors, and the Privacy Act (Commonwealth), covers Federal government agencies and much of the private sector.

**For more information or arranging interviews, please contact Josh Meadows  
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