

My request is that the Inquiry specifically address the issues of the Census. This is a classic case of an Agency making an expanded request for personal information (names and addresses) at the same time as being quoted by the Sydney Morning Herald as having in the past have been using names and addresses without informing the subjects and gaining their consent. It would appear that at a minimum they are on the edge of their charter in having behaved that way, but from a public trust perspective most likely well over it. There are new advances all the time in the area of anonymisation but I believe when it comes to the Census and other cases like it, where we are talking about 100% impact on the population, we should not leave it as an internal Agency matter to do a privacy impact study and give an initiative of this significance the green light (I note that there seems to have been a thorough internal process but at the same time there seems to be no built in external review process) . Where is the oversight and where are the technology issues being brought into the open for full transparency and community debate. It might be as a community we are never comfortable with trusting a central data store and anonymisation algorithms with our names and addresses for the Census. Even though probabilistically it might withstand everything but a determined hacker attack OR a willing future Government. This is not to say that there are not good reasons to look for data linkages and longitudinal studies. I believe that the privacy impact study approach is insufficient. I hope the Inquiry will tackle the question of how might the right governance be put in place to make sure that the Australian community is safeguarded.