

Forensic Science Queensland Bill 2023

Submission No: 2
Submitted by: Office of the Information Commissioner
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:
Submitter Comments:

18 December 2023

Committee Secretary
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
By email only: LASC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Forensic Science Queensland Bill 2023

The Office of the Information Commissioner (**OIC**) welcomes the opportunity to make a brief submission to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's (the **Committee**) inquiry regarding the above (the **Bill**).

About the OIC

OIC is an independent statutory body that reports to the Queensland Parliament. We have a role under each of the *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Information Privacy Act 2009 (IP Act)* to both facilitate greater and easier access to government held information and assist agencies to safeguard personal information. The statutory functions of the Information Commissioner under the IP Act include commenting on issues relating to the administration of privacy in the Queensland public sector environment and identifying and commenting on legislative and administrative changes that would improve the administration of the IP Act.¹

OIC's submission

OIC's only submission concerns the definition of 'confidential information' in clause 40(4) of the Bill. OIC submits that the definition should include reference to 'personal information' as that concept is defined in section 12 of the *Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld)*.

OIC suggests that those likely to be subject to the restrictions imposed by clause 40 should be generally familiar with the concept of 'personal information', adoption of which would also help to promote legislative consistency. In this regard, we note that certain bills currently before the Parliament adopt a similar approach – see, for example, the definition of 'confidential information' in schedule 1 of the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023.

Conclusion

Given the limited nature of our submission, OIC does not see a need to appear at the Committee's public hearing on the Bill.

Nevertheless, if the Committee has any queries or requires further information in relation to our submission, please do not hesitate to contact OIC via [REDACTED] or telephone [REDACTED]. Please note that our Office will be closed from Monday 25 December 2023 and will re-open Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Winson
Acting Information Commissioner

¹ Section 135(1)(b)(v) and (vi) of the IP Act.