



Speech By
Martin Hunt
MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2025

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (3.03 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee Report No. 15, 58th Parliament, *Oversight of the Office of the Information Commissioner*, tabled on 5 September 2025.

I rise today as chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to speak to our oversight responsibilities for the Office of the Information Commissioner and tabled report No. 15 of this 58th Parliament. I extend my thanks to my fellow committee members for their considered contributions and to our secretariat for their tireless professionalism in supporting the committee's work. The committee further acknowledges the Information Commissioner, Ms Joanne Kummrow, the Acting Privacy Commissioner, Ms Susan Shanley, and the Right to Information Commissioner, Ms Stephanie Winson, together with their dedicated staff, for their assistance in the committee's examination.

The parliament has tasked this committee with oversight of the Office of the Information Commissioner. Our functions include monitoring the commissioner's performance, examining annual and other reports, reviewing the handling of information access and privacy matters and reporting to the House on issues for attention. In conducting our oversight the committee examined the commissioner's annual report and we held a public hearing on 19 February 2025.

Under section 130 of the Right to Information Act, one of the key responsibilities of the Information Commissioner is to investigate and review decisions made by agencies and ministers. This includes ensuring that reasonable steps have been taken to identify and locate documents sought by applicants. The committee's examination of the annual report shows that this function continues to be carried out with independence, timeliness and fairness.

During the reporting period the office received 696 applications for external review, which is an increase of 68 on the previous year, and finalised 664 of them. That is representing a very high completion rate of 95 per cent. Importantly, the average time taken to resolve matters was 147 days, which is meeting the target of 150 days. Of those reviews finalised, 90 per cent were resolved informally without the need for a written decision. That exceeds the target of 75 per cent—well exceeds that target—and demonstrates the office's commitment to efficient and practical resolutions.

The Queensland Police Service continues to represent the largest share of review applications, accounting for 26 per cent of the total. Despite the challenges, satisfaction among those who did provide feedback improved significantly, with 75 per cent of applicants reporting satisfaction with the conduct of reviews. That exceeded the 70 per cent target and is up 17 per cent from the previous year.

On the privacy front, the office finalised 110 complaints, with a number successfully mediated to achieve compensation for affected individuals. While complaint numbers have eased slightly compared with the previous year, the underlying demand remains at the high end of the historical experience. The committee also noted the increased workload in consultations and submissions, reflecting both legislative reform and heightened community expectations around privacy and transparency.

A number of emerging issues came into focus during our hearing. The implementation of the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023 represents a significant reform. The office has stood up a dedicated project team to guide agencies through this transition, providing training and resources across the state. Feedback from agencies has been very positive.

The committee examined the risks posed by new technologies, particularly artificial intelligence. The Information Commissioner emphasised the need for conducting privacy impact assessments before adopting such tools. The committee also discussed a serious privacy breach concerning the QPRIME police database uncovered under the previous Labor government where sensitive victim details were inadvertently shared. We were assured that the office is investigating this matter under its statutory powers and that transparency to parliament and the public will be maintained.

Finally, the committee considered the broader demand on the office's services. I thank the Information Commissioner, her fellow commissioners and all staff for their professionalism and dedication and I commend the report to the House.