

## **Privacy Impact Assessment in practice: Lessons from 20 years experience in Australasia**

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- Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) around as a tool since 1990s
- Still only a recommendation in most jurisdictions (e.g. ICO 2009)
- Not the same as:
  - Privacy by Design
  - Privacy compliance review/auditing
- Analogy with Environmental Impact Assessment – similar strengths and weaknesses
- PIA comes in many different shapes, sizes and flavours, reflecting:
  - a wide range of motives and objectives
  - the identity, status and experience of both the client and the assessor
  - the stage of the subject project at which the PIA is undertaken
  - the involvement of third parties
  - the development and approval process into which the PIA is inserted.
- Wide range of practitioners - no professional standards or certification — peer review
- Client-practitioner relationship critical – inherent conflict of interest
- Using PIA to effect change – all important follow-up, which depends on:
  - Publication or distribution
  - Regulator follow-up
  - Legislative process?
- Some examples:
  - Online authentication for e-government in New Zealand
  - Retention and linkage of Australian census data
  - The Australian financial reporting regime
  - Individual identifiers for e-health in Australia
  - Hong Kong Smart Identity Card
- Conclusion: PIA has great potential, but as yet largely unrealised. Only a tool, not an end in itself – to effect change must be used

*This presentation is based on a chapter in a forthcoming book Wright, David, and Paul de Hert, [Privacy Impact Assessment](#), Springer, Dordrecht, 2012 – the draft chapter is available on line at [www.pacificprivacy.com.au](http://www.pacificprivacy.com.au)*