



AMSRO Privacy Compliance Committee Annual Report December 2009

This report details the activities of the AMSRO Privacy Compliance Committee for the second year of its operations, from November 2008 to November 2009.

1. The Privacy Compliance Committee

The current members of the Privacy Compliance Committee are:

Terry Aulich	Chair
Nigel Waters	Consumer representative
John Sergeant	Industry representative
Jayne van Souwe	Industry representative
Jane Gregory	Secretary

The appointments of the Chair and representatives were for an initial two year period, ending in November 2009. The appointments have been renewed for the period November 2009 to November 2011 by request of the AMSRO Committee.

The Committee meets twice a year and communicates by email and/or phone if issues of interest arise between meetings.

The Terms of Reference for the Privacy Compliance Committee are available on the AMSRO website.

2. Australian Privacy Awards – AMSRO wins Privacy Award

The Committee recommended that AMSRO allow itself to be put forward for an Australian Privacy Award in 2009 on the basis of its commitment to the Privacy Principles, the outcome of the 2007 review and members' record of minimal respondent complaint.

AMSRO won the Community and NGO category of the 2009 Awards. The presentation was made at a dinner in Sydney in November 2009 which was attended by the Committee members.

This award win is a strong endorsement of AMSRO's privacy policies as well as an acknowledgement of the work that went into writing the Market and Social Research Privacy Code.



3. The Market and Social Research Privacy Code

The Committee has been advised of the hierarchy of various Codes, including the Market and Social Research Privacy Code, the AMSRS Code of Professional Behaviour and the NHMRC Code. A summary is available from the AMSRO Secretariat.

4. ALRC and privacy

The Committee has reviewed the response of the federal government to the ALRC privacy report and made the recommendation to AMSRO that it may wish to seek input to the proposed new research guidelines.

5. ACMA and the Do Not Call Register

The Committee monitored the proposed extension of the DNC Register to cover unsolicited calls and faxes to businesses. No action was required by AMSRO.

AMSRO made a submission to the statutory review of the DNC Register in November 2009. The submission was put in jointly with AMSRS.

The Committee was kept informed of the level of complaints received by ACMA concerning a potential breach of the legislation by market and social research companies. The level of potential complaints remains very low.

6. Industry privacy and ethical matters

AMSRO and AMSRS have adopted the same coding system for queries and complaints received by each organisation relating to privacy and ethical matters. A combined report will be provided to the Committee at future meetings for review.

7. Other business

The Committee receives regular updates on other matters including:

- a. Domestic and international developments on privacy and data protection matters
- b. Domestic FOI reforms
- c. AMSRO quality assurance activities which have implications for privacy.

It also provides advice on issues relating to privacy that have been raised within AMSRS or AMSRO and referred to the Committee.

Terry Aulich

Chair
AMSRO Privacy Compliance Committee