



Statement from the Privacy Foundation New Zealand

18 April 2020

**Call for immediate release of COVID-19 contact tracing audit report**

Privacy Foundation New Zealand is calling for the independent COVID-19 contact tracing audit report, commissioned by the Director-General of Health, to be released immediately.

The Foundation is very pleased Dr Bloomfield asked Dr Ayesha Verrall of the University of Otago to undertake this audit of the contact tracing process to identify what is working well, and what needs to be improved to ensure more timely contact tracing.

However, we are calling for the immediate release of this report because we believe it is important for our members and for the NZ public to understand the current contact tracing process and begin the discussions on the recommendations Dr Verrall has made to improve it. It is critical the process is fit for purpose to ensure any outbreaks of COVID-19 that emerge after this lockdown period are quickly stamped out.

The Foundation has been watching and participating in the discussion around COVID-19 contact tracing and the access to and use of personal information through digital technology. It is keen to continue and assist with the thinking in respect of manual tracing, use of current technologies, and development of new technologies such as an App for use on smartphones. We will also be assessing the proposed card option, CovidCard.

Please see <https://www.privacyfoundation.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Contact-Tracing.pdf> We will be updating this in due course, with the assistance of the Verrall Report.

**Note for editors**

Contact for media enquiries: Gehan Gunasekara phone 021 0743419 (mob.); or email Gehan Gunasekara – [g.gunasekara@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:g.gunasekara@auckland.ac.nz)