



Statement from the Privacy Foundation New Zealand

1 December 2020

Commencement of Privacy Act 2020 represents both a milestone and unfinished business

The Privacy Foundation New Zealand today welcomed the coming into force of the Privacy Act 2020 which replaces New Zealand’s quarter century old privacy law.

Foundation Chair, Gehan Gunasekara, commented that:

“The Privacy Foundation warmly welcomes the new privacy rights granted to New Zealanders under the Privacy Act 2020 particularly the rights to be told of serious privacy breaches that affect them and to protection of their personal information if sent off shore.

“Also important are the new powers placed with the Privacy Commissioner to determine access cases and directly enforce compliance with the Act. We urge the Privacy Commissioner to make good use of these new powers to achieve the potential of the new law to speed up processes and step up compliance.

“Last month the Privacy Foundation released a Position Paper on the Privacy Act 2020 highlighting areas for implementation action and, when an opportunity presents, for legislative amendment.

“In particular, we call upon the new Minister of Justice to commence reform work to address shortcomings in the law when measured against the European ‘gold standard’ privacy law. This is essential not only to protect and enhance New Zealanders privacy in the challenges of the digital age but also to ensure we maintain the trade advantage of having our law recognised as providing adequate data protection for processing personal information from companies in the European Union.

Note for editors

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The [Privacy Act 2020](#) and Foundation [Position Statement](#) are both available online.