



Media release from the Privacy Foundation New Zealand

28 June 2020

### **Privacy Foundation welcomes new privacy law**

The Privacy Foundation NZ welcomed the new privacy law just passed by Parliament.

Privacy Foundation NZ Chair, Gehan Gunasekara, said:

“The Foundation congratulates the Minister of Justice, Andrew Little, for finally achieving the replacement of the Privacy Act 1993, a task that had eluded his predecessors in the nine years since the Law Commission’s 2011 report.

“We are particularly pleased that Parliament enacted the new Privacy Act with complete multi-party support continuing a tradition for New Zealand privacy law. All parliamentary parties appreciate the importance of legislating for good information handling practice in both the public and private sectors.

“The testing times we are in, with the Covid-19 pandemic, have highlighted once more how essential it is for individuals and society to have secure means of communication and to be able to have confidence that organisations will protect their personal information.

“The Privacy Act 1993 is more than a quarter of a century old and is showing its age. It is no longer sufficient for our digital age and the new privacy law is well overdue.

“The new Privacy Act will bring benefits for New Zealanders. The law will require serious breaches to be notified to both the individuals at risk and to the regulator. It will give the Privacy Commissioner the necessary powers to act promptly and effectively. It will more effectively address risks in cross-border information transfers.”

### **Notes for editors**

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The 2011 report mentioned above is: Law Commission, *Review of the Privacy Act 1993*, NZLC, 30 June 2011.