

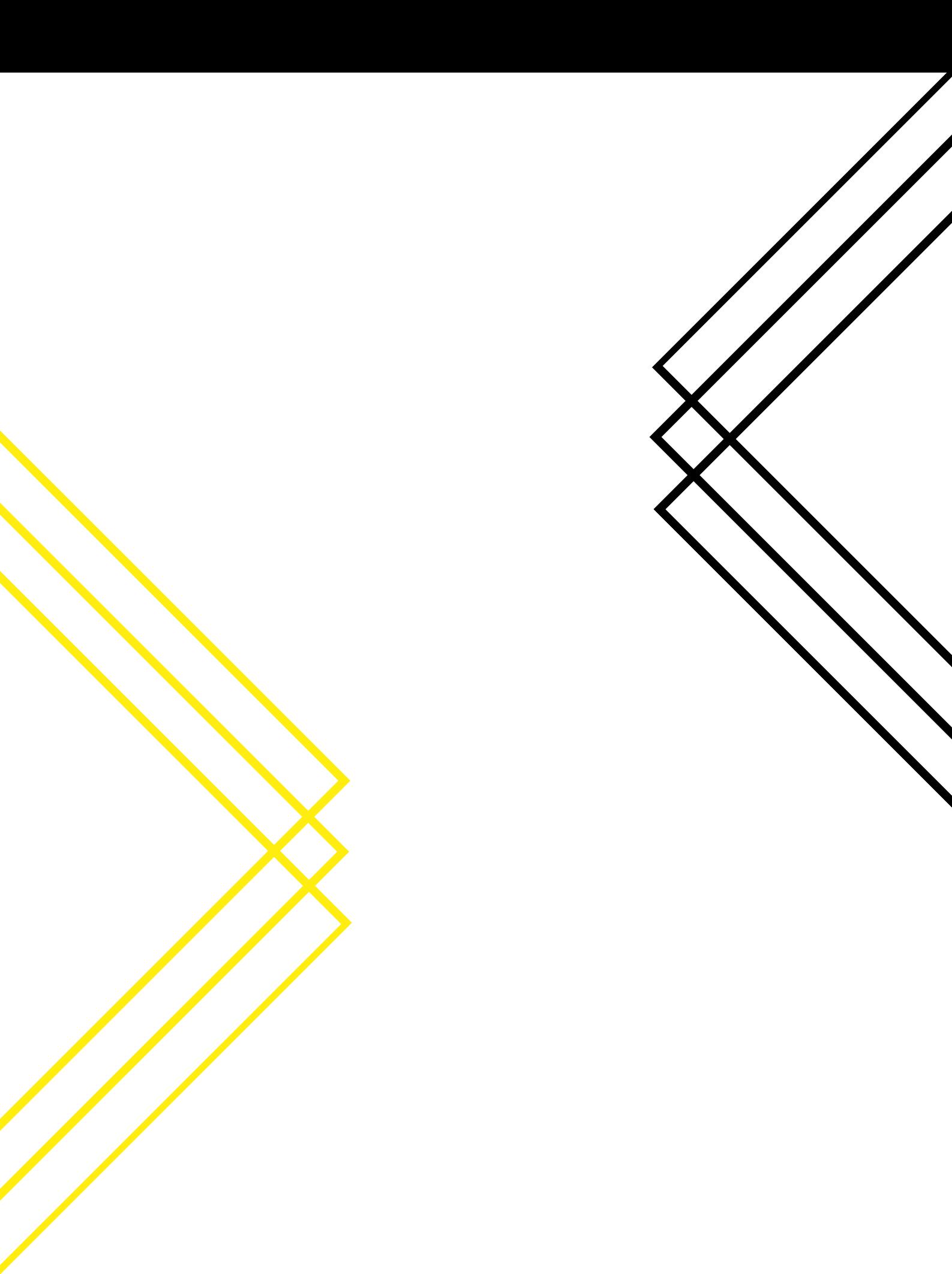
**ANNUAL**

**2023**

**REPORT**



**DIGITAL  
RIGHTS  
WATCH**



0 2

## INTRODUCTION

Our vision is for a digital world where all humanity can thrive, and where diversity and creativity flourishes.

To ensure this, our digital world must be underpinned by equality, freedom and established human rights principles. Its evolution and future must be guided and driven by the interests of all people and the environments we live in.

Digital Rights Watch exists to defend and promote this vision – to ensure fairness, freedoms and fundamental rights for all people who engage in the digital world.

Our mission is to ensure that Australians are equipped, empowered and enabled to uphold their digital rights. We believe that digital rights are human rights which see their expression online.

Digital Rights Watch acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land and community.

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the true custodians of this land that was never ceded and pay our respects to their cultures, and to elders past and present.

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# UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

It's been another big year at Digital Rights Watch. Over the course of 2023 we made thirteen submissions to government inquiries, bills and consultations, have taken part in more than ten roundtables, gave evidence at three parliamentary hearings, and appeared in the media over 80 times.

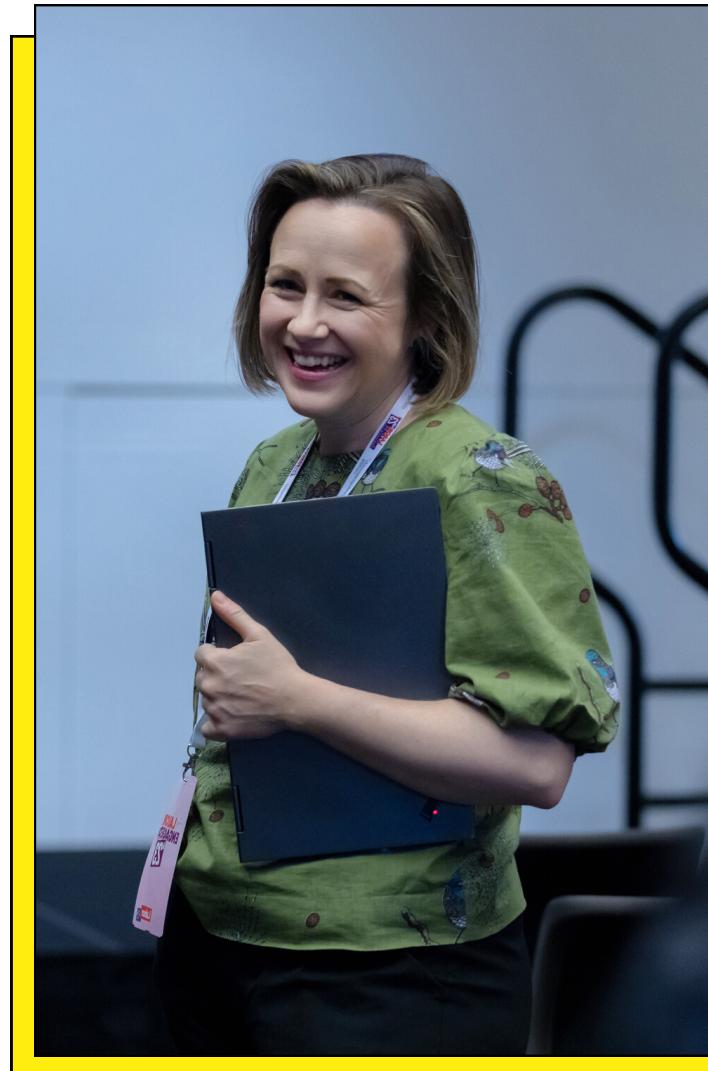
To me, as Chair, the critical importance of this work is self-evident. If we don't fix how our online world is governed, it remains virtually impossible to build functioning community spaces, or a public space to debate difficult problems like climate change, racial injustice and our response to military violence. If we don't improve our privacy laws, generations of kids will be surveilled by predatory businesses that do not have their best interests at heart. If we don't get our approach to online safety right, vulnerable people will be pushed further to the margins.

I remain hopeful that a rights-based approach gives us the best chance at making good policy that puts the power of tech back in the hands of people.

Like many community organisations, we struggle to maintain financial viability and that has meant some tough choices over the last year. However, the future looks bright in this respect and I'm hopeful we can grow in the next 12 months. We are, as always, grateful for the financial contributions made by our supporters and also our donors.

**Lizzie O'Shea**

Chair - Digital Rights Watch



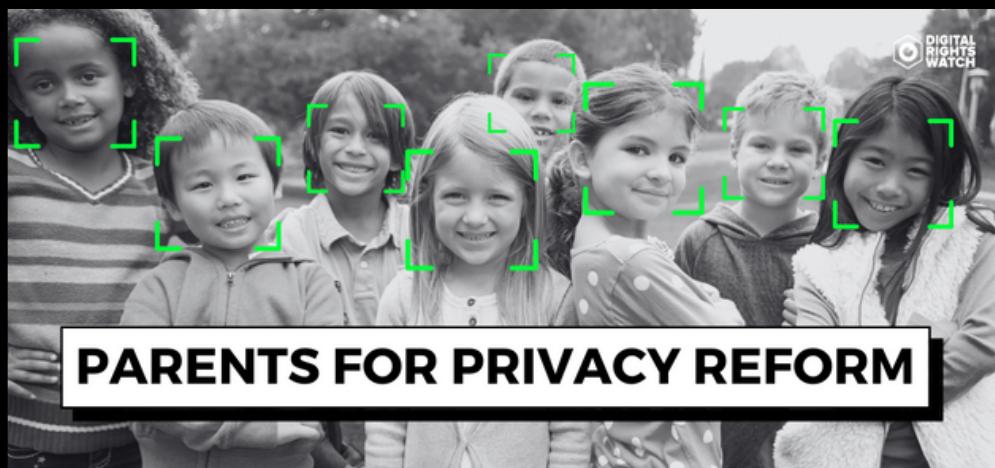
## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

Over 2023 we've been building strong coalitions of organisations and individuals to push for privacy law reform. In particular, we've teamed up with children's rights groups and public health organisations to highlight the ways that protecting privacy is essential to both fields of work, especially in relation to children's rights and well-being.

**Privacy is not just an issue for people interested in technology.**

The way our personal information is collected, used, and exploited impacts everyone and intersects with many social issues. Over the last year, we have sought to demonstrate to the Australian government that there is a broad public mandate for robust privacy law reform. This has been particularly important given we know there are powerful adversaries who want to water down improvements. We are building power across organisations and expanding beyond the regular privacy suspects to ensure that we secure the most meaningful privacy reform possible.

## PRIVACY LAW REFORM



Pictured above: Digital Rights Watch Chair, Lizzie O'Shea on a panel with Jerome Laxale MP, Ed Santow, and Peter Lewis at the Fringe Australian Labor Party National Conference

## RENTER DIGITAL RIGHTS

Digital rights issues often lead to physical world consequences, and the implications of digital tech intermediaries upon renters is a prime example. Over 2023 we have been actively shaping public discussion and understanding of the role that technology is playing with regard to renter privacy and digital security, as well as the impacts of the growing field of 'RentTech'.

Our key areas of focus have been:

- 1) Renter data privacy and digital security
- 2) Bias and unlawful discrimination facilitated by technologies including automated decision making, and
- 3) Regulatory evasion through digital design

Digital Rights Watch has made submissions to federal, NSW, and Victorian inquiries on rental reform, which have drawn the attention of policymakers to the ways that digital technologies and data extractive practices prevalent in the real estate sector are creating dangerous risks for renters. We have been thrilled to see both the Victorian and South Australian governments start to make changes to better protect renter privacy.



Pictured above: Digital Rights Watch Head of Policy, Samantha Floreani, appearing at a public hearing for the Inquiry into the rental and housing affordability crisis in Victoria.



Pictured right: After appearing at a public hearing for the federal inquiry into the housing crisis. From left: Farah Farouque (Tenants Victoria), Samantha Floreani (Digital Rights Watch), Katelyn Butterss (Victorian Public Tenants Association) and Amy Frew (Tenants Victoria).

The Australian Government proposed two legislative regimes associated with digital identity this year, and the contrast was significant.

The process of tabling the Identity Verification Services Bill (the first bill) revealed that the government facilitated hundreds of millions of identity checks in recent times without a legislative framework in place to govern it - making it likely unlawful. To address this, the government attempted to rush through legislation.

The proposed bill contained abysmal privacy protections.

This proposal was also completely out of line with the Digital Identity Bill (the second bill) which was under consultation at the same time as the first bill. The Digital Identity Bill had a significantly better approach to privacy, and to us at least, it seemed obvious that the two regimes should align.

As a result of our advocacy and work of the Human Technology Institute, there were 38 amendments to the Identity Verification Services Bill (which was significant, given that it was a priority for the government). This vastly improved its privacy protections. We still maintain that privacy reform more generally is urgently needed to ensure there are proper protections in place in digital identity regimes.

The screenshot shows a news article from The Guardian. At the top, there's a blue header with a 'Support the Guardian' button and a 'Fund independent journalism with \$5 per month' message. Below the header, the main navigation menu includes News, Opinion, Sport, Culture, Lifestyle, and More. The main content area has a dark background. The title of the article is 'Hundreds of millions of Australian identity checks may have been illegally conducted, Senate hears'. A sub-headline below it reads 'Albanese government is rushing through laws to underpin the ID verification service, say experts who have privacy concerns'. The author's name, 'Josh Taylor', and the publication date, 'Tue 31 Oct 2023 07.52 AEDT', are at the bottom of the article.

## DIGITAL ID AND KEEPING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

## TOWARDS DATA MINIMISATION

Long term followers of Digital Rights Watch might remember that the metadata retention scheme was the catalyst that led to our organisation being founded in 2016. We led a significant campaign against the scheme at the time, and since then have raised concerns about the problems created by over-collection and storage of data, both in terms of privacy and security.

We were pleased in 2023 to see the Federal Government state their intention to reconsider the metadata retention scheme as well as reviewing the other laws that require companies to collect and retain data. While we regret that it has taken many years and several significant data breaches for policymakers to understand that data minimisation is important, we welcome this intention.

In a similar vein, we have campaigned against proposals for mandatory age verification for close to three years, given the significant risks to privacy and security as well as implementation problems with the technology. In 2023 the federal government decided against moving ahead with this proposal. We applaud the capacity of government to reconsider an established policy agenda, and we welcome the instances when policymakers listen to advocates and decide to change course for the better.

The Guardian logo: A decade of making a difference

Support the Guardian Fund independent journalism with \$5 per month [Support us →](#)

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle More

## Labor to reconsider mandatory data retention laws for companies in light of major hacks

New cyber security strategy cites business concerns at having to store large amounts of data for excessive periods of time, increasing breach risk

**Josh Taylor** [@joshgnosis](#) Wed 22 Nov 2023 13.41 AEDT

The Guardian logo: A decade of making a difference

Support the Guardian Fund independent journalism with \$5 per month [Support us →](#)

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle More

## Australia will not force adult websites to bring in age verification due to privacy and security concerns

The eSafety commissioner is to work with industry on a new code to educate parents about how to access filtering software and limit children's access

**Josh Taylor** [@joshgnosis](#) Thu 31 Aug 2023 01.00 AEST

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AGAINST SCANNING

In late 2023, we teamed up with international organisations, Access Now and the General Encryption Coalition Steering Committee to pen a joint open letter urging Australia's eSafety Commissioner against requiring the tech industry to scan encrypted communications and personal file storage in a set of draft industry standards. The letter was signed by 40 organisations, including Proton, Signal, Fight for the Future and Electronic Frontiers Australia. It also received over 560 signatures of support from members of the public.

This is the latest effort in our long-standing work to proactively engage with the eSafety Commissioner and the online safety policy landscape in Australia, to promote a rights-based approach to online safety, and to ensure that Australia does not undermine people's safety in the quest to secure it.

The standards will, among other things, require certain tech companies to scan people's emails, texts, personal file storage to proactively detect illegal material. Proactive detection methods such as 'client-side scanning' (that is, scanning that happens on the user's end rather than at the server) creates the capacity to scan material that might otherwise never leave a device. It fundamentally undermines the promise of secure and private communications.

Security experts, scientists and academics, privacy advocates, legal researchers, and digital rights organisations have all highlighted how this technology is dangerous. Child safety groups have also questioned the utility and risks of the tech. In late 2022, Apple rolled back its own plan to scan users' photos stored in iCloud due to unreasonable privacy and security risks. In 2023, the UK government acknowledged, in relation to a similar proposal to that put forward by the eSafety Commissioner, that it's not possible to scan end-to-end encrypted communications without undermining privacy.

## COMINGS AND GOINGS



### A SAD FAREWELL TO JAMES

Digital Rights Watch faced some serious financial challenges in 2023, leading to the regretful decision to scale back operations and that we could not renew James' contract. This was hugely disappointing for the Board as we had been really proud of the work James had been doing with Digital Rights Watch. We wish him all the best for his future contributions to making the world a better place.

### SAMANTHA FLOREANI

#### **Head of Policy**

Sam joined Digital Rights Watch in May 2020 and has since been an enormous contributor to the successes of the organisation. Sam is a passionate advocate, activist and writer and has been playing an essential role in building the digital rights movement in Australia. Sam has stepped up this year, especially with James' departure, and her new title reflects her seniority and the confidence the Board has in her work.

In 2024 Sam will start a PhD examining technology and housing, which we know will be an excellent contribution to the field.



## SPEECHES, PANELS AND EVENTS

- Lizzie appeared on multiple panels at the **World Science Festival** in Brisbane (March)
- Sam joined a **Code Like a Girl** panel (May)
- Lizzie spoke on a panel for **Multicultural Australia** in Brisbane (June)
- Lilly featured on a panel at the **Vogue Codes Summit** (June)
- Lizzie featured on a panel at the **Fringe for the Australian Labor Party National Conference** (August)
- Sam delivered a keynote address at **PyCon Australia** (August)



- Sam presented the **Derek Fielding Memorial Lecture** hosted by the Queensland Council of Civil Liberties (September)
- Lizzie spoke at **SXSW** in Sydney (October)
- Sam appeared on multiple panels at the **International Association of Privacy Professionals ANZ Summit** (November)
- Lizzie participated in a **Tech Policy Hypotheticals** event hosted by the ANU Tech Policy Design Centre and the Parliamentary Friends of Tech Policy (November)
- Lizzie delivered a keynote address to the **National Transport Commission** (November)

## ARTICLES WRITTEN BY THE DRW TEAM

- **The Guardian** | 'Hey tech billionaires, if you want to talk about radical change, let's abolish venture capitalism' | October 2023
- **The Guardian** | 'Is artificial intelligence a threat to journalism or will the technology destroy itself?' | August 2023
- **Overland** | 'The rhetoric used to harm your digital rights' | August 2023
- **The Guardian** | 'Do we have the same boyfriend? Head to social media and you might find out' | July 2023
- **The Guardian** | 'Yes, you should be worried about AI – but Matrix analogies hide a more insidious threat' | May 2023
- **Crikey** | 'Data-hungry corporations should clean their own messes—instead of asking us to' | January 2023
- **The Guardian** | 'What are we worrying about when we worry about TikTok?' | January 2023

## TV AND RADIO

Our spokespeople featured in nearly 30 stories, including:

- Regular appearances on ABC's The Drum
- SBS Insight episode on 'Identity Theft'
- Channel 7 News, on securing passwords
- SBS World News, on renter privacy
- The Project NZ, on peer-to-peer surveillance on social media
- The Project AU, on targeted advertising
- Lizzie regularly joined ABC Radio National's recurring 'Big Tech' segment
- Sam regularly joined ABC Melbourne's recurring 'Geek Club' segment
- Triple J Hack, on RentTech and renter digital rights
- Life Matters, ABC Radio National, on the challenges of regulating the internet
- Digital Rights Watch regularly spoke with community radio including 3CR (five times), 3RRR (four times), and Disrupt Radio
- Lizzie continued her regular spot with tech policy podcast, Burning Platforms



# OUR EXPERT COMMENTARY FEATURED IN OVER 30 NEWS STORIES, INCLUDING:

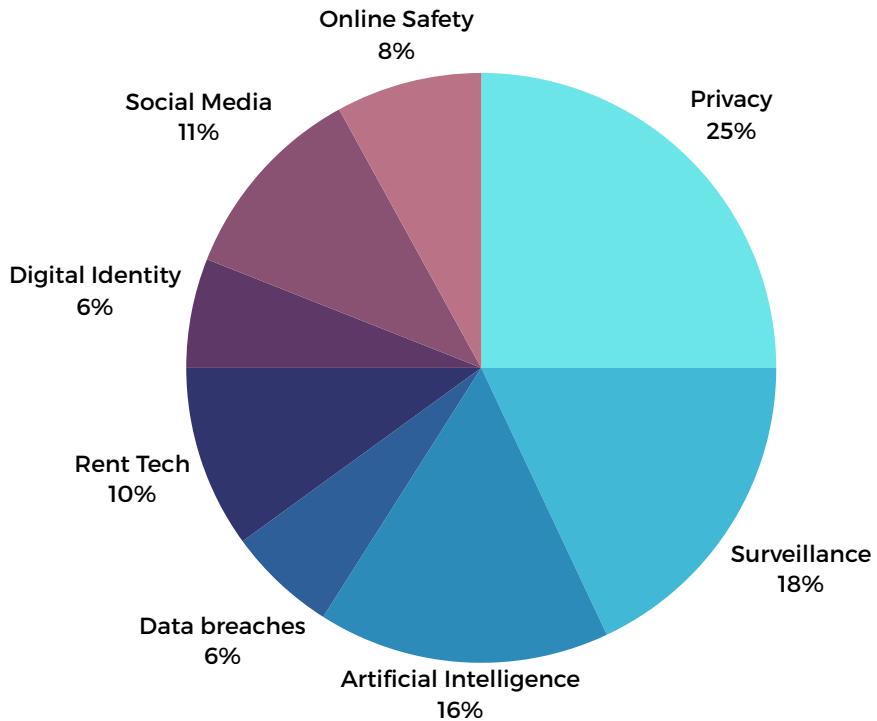
- '[\*\*Australia releases new online safety standards to tackle terror and child sexual abuse content,\*\*](#)' The Guardian, 20 November 2023
- '[\*\*Revealed: Home Affairs paying to access controversial tool tracking mobile phone movements,\*\*](#)' The Guardian, 6 November 2023
- '[\*\*RentTech platforms accused of 'data gouging' and 'exploiting' housing crisis,\*\*](#)' SBS News, 2 November 2023
- '[\*\*Hundreds of millions of Australian identity checks may have been illegally conducted, Senate hears,\*\*](#)' The Guardian, 31 October 2023
- '[\*\*Australian spies are surveilling Pornhub, Fortnite and Tinder,\*\*](#)' Crikey, 26 October 2023
- '[\*\*'Troubling': Face matching law built on outdated privacy framework,\*\*](#)' InnovationAus, 18 October 2023
- '[\*\*Renters at risk of having personal data hacked,\*\*](#)' The Canberra Times, 27 September 2023
- '[\*\*A rise in shoplifting has Australian supermarkets ramping up surveillance,\*\*](#)' The Guardian, 10 September 2023
- '[\*\*AFP calls on public to donate childhood photos in bid to combat child abuse with AI,\*\*](#)' The Guardian, 6 September 2023
- '[\*\*Australian music venues criticised for use of facial recognition technology,\*\*](#)' The Sydney Morning Herald, 5 July 2023
- '[\*\*NSW push to stop climate protesters livestreaming on Facebook labeled 'profoundly anti-democratic',\*\*](#)' The Guardian, 23 June 2023
- '[\*\*Technology is helping child abusers. Do we need to sacrifice privacy to beat them?,\*\*](#)' Crikey, 21 June 2023
- '[\*\*See your identity pieced together from stolen data,\*\*](#)' ABC News, 18 May 2023



## OUR EXPERT COMMENTARY FEATURED IN OVER 30 NEWS STORIES, INCLUDING:

- **'Government urged to build publicly-owned cloud,'** Information Age, 3 May 2023
- **'Labor under pressure to ban use of Israeli spyware in investigations of alleged welfare fraud,'** The Guardian, 6 April 2023
- **'The Latitude hack exposed personal details of millions. Are our data laws too lax?,'** SBS News, 28 March 2023
- **'Victorian Greens secure stronger privacy protections for patients in medical records bill,'** The Guardian, 8 March 2023
- **'Jim's identity was stolen and his bank accounts raided. Now, he says his only option is to change his name,'** SBS News, 27 February 2023
- **"Worse than My Health Record": Vic's data sharing bill passes lower house,'** InnovationAus, 23 February 2023
- **'Surveillance tech that 'predicts crime before it happens' used in 40% of Australian stores,'** Crikey, 22 February 2023
- **'Woolworths expands self-checkout AI that critics say treats 'every customer as a suspect','** The Guardian, 19 February 2023
- **'Digital rights, industry groups respond to privacy review,'** InnovationAus, 16 February 2023

## WHAT WE SPOKE TO THE MEDIA ABOUT IN 2023



## POLICY SUBMISSIONS

- Submission to the Joint Committee on Law Enforcement inquiry into **law enforcement capabilities** in relation to child exploitation (February)
- Submission to the Senate Economics Committee inquiry into the **influence of international digital platforms** (March)
- Submission to the Attorney-General's Department in response to the 2022 Report regarding the **review of the Privacy Act 1988** (March)
- Joint submission with Electronic Frontiers Australia to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights regarding the inquiry into **Australia's Human Rights Framework** (June)
- Submission to the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee regarding the inquiry into the **rental and housing affordability crisis in Victoria** (July)
- Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs regarding the inquiry into the **worsening rental crisis in Australia** (July)
- Submission to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources regarding **Safe and Responsible AI** (July)
- Submission to the Department of Customer Service on **improving NSW's rental laws** (August)
- Submission to the South Australian Committee on **Artificial Intelligence** (August)
- Submission to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources regarding the *Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023*
- Submission to the Senate Legal Constitutional Affairs Committee regarding the **Identity Verification Services Bill 2023**
- Submission to the **Digital ID** Taskforce regarding the Digital ID 2023 exposure draft
- Submission to the eSafety Commissioner regarding the draft **online safety industry standards** (draft Designated Internet Services Standard and draft Relevant Electronic Services Standard for class 1A and 1B material)

**We pride ourselves on  
working in strong  
alliances of collaboration,  
both in Australia and  
across the world.**

- Digital Rights Watch is a member of:
- Alliance for a Safe and Secure Internet
  - Australian Digital Inclusion Alliance
  - Australian Progress Labs
  - Biometric Surveillance Working Group
  - Campaign to Stop Killer Robots
  - CIVICUS World Alliance
  - Fair Copyright Campaign
  - Global Encryption Coalition
  - Save Australian Tech Campaign
  - Save Dot Org Campaign
  - WhyID Campaign
  - #KeepItOn campaign

Access Now  
Amnesty International Australia  
Article 19  
Assembly Four  
The Australia Institute  
Australian Lawyers for Human Rights  
Australian Privacy Foundation  
Australian Progress  
Blueprint for Free Speech  
Castan Centre for Human Rights Law  
The Centre for Responsible Technology  
CHOICE  
Digital Data & Society Consortium  
Economic Justice Australia  
EDRI  
Electronic Frontiers Australia  
Electronic Frontiers Foundation  
Fight for the Future  
Freedom House  
Future of Privacy Forum  
Future Wise  
GetUp!  
Hack for Privacy  
Human Rights Law Centre  
Human Technology Institute  
Internet Society  
The Juice Media  
Liberty Victoria  
National Justice Project  
NSW Council for Civil Liberties  
Open Media  
Privacy International  
Purpose  
Queensland Council for Civil Liberties  
Queensland University of Technology  
Scarlet Alliance  
Thoughtworks

**Digital Rights Watch  
works with a range of  
organisational partners  
in the pursuit of strong  
digital rights.**

## SUPPORTERS

### **Support for Digital Rights Watch continues to grow:**

**1993** donations made to financially support Digital Rights Watch

**6338** active supporters on the Digital Rights Watch mailing list

**9846** followers on social media (+1224 from 2022)

- Twitter/X, 6750 (stable)
- LinkedIn, 1021 (up from 745)
- Instagram, 1640 (up from 1127)
- Mastodon, 435 (new)

## TAKING ACTION

### **People took action with Digital Rights Watch 1708 times over 2023:**

- **364** people participated in a letter-writing campaign to demand privacy law reform in the wake of the Optus data breach
- **515** people signed our open letter calling for privacy protections to better protect the rights, safety and well-being of children
- **159** people attended meetings, workshops and roundtables hosted by Digital Rights Watch to campaign for privacy law reform
- **103** people made submissions to the Privacy Act Review using the Digital Rights Watch template
- **567** people signed an open letter urging the eSafety Commissioner to protect privacy, digital security and end-to-end encryption

## POLICY

### **Digital Rights Watch made a significant contribution to policy discussion and development in 2023, including:**

- **13** submissions made to government and industry consultations and inquiries
- gave evidence at **3** Parliamentary Inquiry public hearings
- participated in **10+** government and industry policy roundtables

## OUTREACH

### **We continued to promote public awareness of digital rights issues and provide critical analysis and commentary with:**

- **80+** media hits including opinion pieces, TV, Radio and news media commentary
- Participated in **16** speaking engagements and conferences
- Hosted **6** workshops, events and roundtables

### PUBLIC AND PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

Digital Rights Watch faced some serious financial challenges in 2023, requiring hard decisions about staffing and project priorities. A key priority in 2024 will be financial stability in order to grow our team and impact.

We are always deeply grateful to members of the public who donate to support the work of Digital Rights Watch. Direct contributions from our supporters allow us to work freely, and to respond to the most critical issues. Over 2023 we received 1993 public donations. A huge thank you to everyone who donated, took action with us, or shared our work. Your enthusiasm and support sustains us!

We would also like to extend a big thank you to the organisations and companies who made significant donations to Digital Rights Watch over 2023: Assembly Four, Oak Foundation, DuckDuckGo, Award Force and Google.

*"We're proud to have Digital Rights Watch as part of our annual program to support organizations that share our vision of raising the standard of trust online. Every Australian using the Internet deserves simple and accessible online protection; Digital Rights Watch is pushing to make that a reality."*

— DuckDuckGo

*"Assembly Four are proud to support Digital Rights Watch and the crucial role they play in protecting and furthering our human rights. In the face of poorly crafted and harmful laws in Australia that endanger our rights in both digital and physical spaces, the legislation enacted in Australia can establish a precedent with global ramifications. Endorsing Digital Rights Watch becomes a fundamental requirement for organisations at home and abroad."*

— Assembly Four

# Balance Sheet

Digital Rights Watch Inc.

As at 30 June 2023

30 JUN 2023

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## Assets

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Bank	
DRW Main Account	13,459.75
DRW Payments Account	7,161.06
Stripe AUD	985.99
Total Bank	21,606.80
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>21,606.80</b>

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## Liabilities

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Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	101.43
Annual Leave Liability	2,454.00
PAYG Withholdings Payable	641.00
Superannuation Payable	425.77
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>3,622.20</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,622.20</b>

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Net Assets	
	<b>17,984.60</b>

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## Equity

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Current Year Earnings	(64,144.21)
Retained Earnings	82,128.81
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>17,984.60</b>

# Profit and Loss

**Digital Rights Watch Inc.**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

2023

**Trading Income**

Donations	57,884.98
Donations - Other	50,000.00
Interest Income	297.72
Merch Sales	7.50
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>108,190.20</b>

**Gross Profit**

108,190.20

**Operating Expenses**

Accounting	1,388.29
Bank Fees	1,827.57
Contractors & personnel	1,100.00
Freight & Courier	72.00
General Expenses	2,127.13
Insurance	3,743.60
Leave Entitlements	(2,873.61)
Printing & Stationery	1,557.08
Registration fees	191.10
Rent	148.00
Subscriptions	2,965.30
Superannuation	14,691.63
Telephone & Internet	124.85
Travel - National	1,078.10
Wages and Salaries	144,193.37
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>172,334.41</b>

**Net Profit**

(64,144.21)



## PRIORITIES FOR 2024

### 1. Continue to campaign for strong privacy law reform

Strong privacy protections are an important line of defense against digital surveillance and expanding corporate power. Attorney General Mark Dreyfus has expressed his intention to reform the Privacy Act, and a draft bill is expected in 2024. This is a vital moment for privacy law in Australia, and we can't afford to waste the opportunity with weak or ineffectual changes.

Among other things, Digital Rights Watch sees privacy reform as a critical ingredient to advancing robust cybersecurity and combatting mis- and disinformation. Privacy reform will also be the foundation for the development of fair and responsible artificial intelligence and automated decision making.

### 2. Defend a rights-respecting approach to online safety

In Australia and internationally, proposals that threaten to undermine human rights are being made and passed under the banner of 'online safety'. This includes threats to end-to-end encryption (or mechanisms to side step it altogether such as client-side scanning), privacy-invasive methods for age verification, processes which undermine online anonymity, and the reliance on increased automated content moderation. Increasingly automation seeks to use artificial intelligence tools like machine learning classifiers to proactively detect, remove, and deter broad categories of content.

We anticipate significant developments in online content regulation in the next 12 months. Digital Rights Watch's advocacy for a rights-based approach is critical to preserve privacy and online security for at-risk users.



## PRIORITIES FOR 2024

### 3. Promote effective, bold regulation of artificial intelligence and automated decision-making systems

Following the consultation on *Safe and Responsible AI* in 2023, we expect more developments in Australia's approach to regulating AI and ADM throughout 2024.

Digital Rights Watch will continue to engage with relevant government and industry bodies, as well as partner civil society and academic organisations, to ensure that Australia's approach is rights-respecting, effective and meaningfully addresses the harms that are already occurring—rather than becoming distracted by speculative futures.

We will also keep a keen eye on material ways that AI and ADM are impacting people's rights and well-being. Areas of interest where this is pronounced include: in social security, in the emerging RentTech sector, as well as online automated content moderation.

### 4. Fight biometric surveillance

Facial recognition, and other biometric surveillance technologies, are an existential threat to privacy and democracy. Digital Rights Watch consistently pushes back against the expansion of this technology where opportunities arise. In 2024 we expect to focus on the impact of police surveillance technology upon the right to protest.

### Other key areas

We expect to participate in public debate and consultation processes in the following areas:

- Digital Identity
- Renter digital rights & RentTech
- Mis- and dis-information
- Information sharing schemes
- Commercial and retail surveillance technologies

## OUR BOARD

**Lizzie O'Shea** | Chair & Secretary

**Tom Sulston** | Deputy Chair

**Lilly Ryan** | Treasurer

**Lucie Krahulcova**

**Mark Andrejevic**

**Piotr S. Dubowski**

## OUTGOING

Travis Jordan and Brooke Arcia,  
thank you so much for your  
contribution and generosity.

## SPECIAL THANKS

For participating in our events, projects,  
working in collaboration, or helping us  
think through policy challenges  
throughout 2023

Aimee Brownbill  
Amber Hawkes  
Amy Denmeade  
Angus Murray  
Anna Johnston  
Carol Bennett  
Chloe Shorten  
Ed Santow  
Eliza Sorensen  
Giordano Nanni  
Hiero Badge  
Jathan Sadowski  
Jennifer Duxbury  
Julia Powles  
Justin Warren  
Kate Bower  
Kathryn Gledhill-Tucker  
Lauren Perry  
Linda Przhedetsky  
Lucinda Nelson  
Peter Lewis  
Rafi Alam  
Sophie Farthing  
Suelette Dreyfus  
Tahlia Davies  
Tim Singleton Norton  
Vanessa Teague  
Zahra Stardust

## CONTACT

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[info@digitalrightswatch.org.au](mailto:info@digitalrightswatch.org.au)

