

The Privacy Act is changing

On 1 December this year, the new Privacy Act will come into effect. Under the new law, the Privacy Commissioner will have more powers to enforce compliance, and there will be stiffer penalties for breaching some aspects of the Act.

For example:

- It will be mandatory to notify the Privacy Commissioner and affected individuals about serious privacy breaches. Organisations that don't report can face fines of up to \$10,000. You can use our new online tool, NotifyUs, to help guide you through the process.
- The Privacy Commissioner can require organisations to give people access to their information.
- If an organisation is not complying with the Act, the Privacy Commissioner can issue a compliance notice to make them do something (or stop doing something) in order to meet their obligations.
- An organisation can be fined up to \$10,000 for destroying someone's personal information when they ask for it.
- You can be fined up to \$10,000 if you impersonate someone in order to see their personal information.

These are just a few of the changes that will come into force on 1 December this year. Before the new law comes into effect, you should get up-to-speed with your obligations and your rights.

- Go to elearning.privacy.org.nz and sign up for "Privacy Act 2020." It's a short training module that gives an overview of the upcoming changes in less than 60 minutes.
- Watch our 4-minute animated video explaining the changes.
- Listen to our six-part podcast series on the key aspects of the new Act.
- Sign up for the Privacy Commissioner's fortnightly newsletter.

All of our resources on the new Privacy Act can be found at privacy.org.nz/privacy-act-2020.