

STATEMENT BY A SPOKESPERSON FOR THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL MARK DREYFUS

“Data breaches are not a new issue as the data from the Office of the Australian Information Commission indicates.

“Regrettably, previous Coalition Governments did not act to strengthen the Privacy Act so authorities could better deal with these data breaches.

“Following the major data breaches last year the Albanese Government acted swiftly to make it clear businesses must take privacy, security and data protection seriously.

“The Privacy Legislation Amendment (Enforcement and Other Measures) Act 2022 significantly increased maximum penalties under the Privacy Act and provided the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner with a suite of new and improved powers to resolve privacy breaches efficiently and effectively.

“The Government is consulting on the final report of the Privacy Act review, ahead of an overhaul of the legislation, to ensure that our private information is safe and secure.”

Provided to the ABC on March 10, 2023.