

Ms Telina Webb  
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Dear Ms Webb,

Thank you for your letter to the Attorney General, the Hon Michael Daley MP, received 4 July 2023 regarding the interaction between NSW legislation and the Chatham House Rule. The Attorney General has asked the Department of Communities and Justice to respond on his behalf.

The Chatham House Rule is intended to encourage free and open discussion by providing that when a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

The Chatham House Rule is not legally binding and therefore cannot override the requirements of NSW legislation in any circumstances.

I note that you mentioned the specific example of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIP Act)*, which contains 12 Information Protection Principles (**IPPs**). The IPPs impose obligations on NSW public sector agencies, statutory bodies, universities and local councils in relation to the way they collect, store, use or disclose personal information. I confirm that the Chatham House Rule does not override the PPIP Act or the IPPs.

For more information about the PPIP Act and the IPPs, you can visit the Information and Privacy Commission's website: <https://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/>

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

**Briefings & Correspondence  
Law Reform and Legal Services**

**Date:** 29/08/23