

Stephanie Mayhew

Senior Associate

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OVERVIEW

Stephanie is a senior lawyer in the corporate group focussing on technology, sourcing, and privacy in the Sydney office.

Stephanie focuses on privacy and data protection, cybersecurity, data breach planning, and breach response. She has been involved with large cybersecurity breaches involving regulators across multiple jurisdictions in terms of both notifications and investigations. Stephanie regularly reviews privacy and data agreements to identify risks and to build and develop organisation's privacy practices to mitigate any potential privacy and cybersecurity risks and to ensure organisations are equipped with the strategies and knowledge to deal with privacy issues. Stephanie also enjoys assisting and advising marketing teams on their communications and spam considerations. Having worked with a number of government agencies, particularly the Home Affairs, Services Australia, and Department of Agriculture divisions, Stephanie has both worked within these agencies on secondments and worked on complex privacy impact assessments and advices involving understanding the complex secrecy provisions relevant to these portfolios.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining K&L Gates, Stephanie worked as an associate at an Australian law firm. This included a secondment to the Department of Home Affairs' Information Law team and Services Australia's Privacy Programmes Branch.

Stephanie has also worked as a regulatory officer (legal) at the NSW Information & Privacy Commission and as an assistant review & investigations adviser (legal) at the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC).

EDUCATION

- Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, College of Law, 2019
- B.A/LL.B, Deakin University, 2018 *(Distinction)*

ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of New South Wales

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- April 2026, Global Data Protection Insights
- 10 October 2025, Australian Clinical Labs fined AU$5.8 Million for 2022 Medlab Data Breach in an Australian First
- 3 September 2025, Age Assurance Technology Reaches Maturity
- 26 August 2025, Australian Privacy Law Reform Tranche 2: The Time for Conversation is Over
- 23 June 2025, Privacy Awareness Week 2025
- 12 June 2025, Pay the Price, Now ‘Fess Up': Reporting Obligations for Ransomware Payments Are Live
- February 2025, Australian CPD Series 2025
- February 2025, Australian CPD Series 2025: Privacy Update – What You Need to Know
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- October 2024, Cyber Day: Session 1–Privacy Regulatory Reform–Ensuring Organisational Readiness
- October 2024, Cyber Day: Session 3–Marketing and Consents in an Increasingly Digital World
- October 2024, Cyber Day: Session 4–Breach Response and Role of a Good Cyber Security Framework–Panel Discussion
- October 2024, Cyber Day: Session 1–Privacy Regulatory Reform–Ensuring Organisational Readiness
- October 2024, Cyber Day: Session 3–Marketing and Consents in an Increasingly Digital World
- October 2024, Cyber Day: Session 4–Breach Response and Role of a Good Cyber Security Framework–Panel Discussion
- 12 September 2024, Australian Privacy Law Reform – The Wait is (Almost!) Over
- 13 August 2024, Australian Privacy Reform Series Refresher: What Are These Reforms?
- 12 August 2024, Disclosure Obligations for Cyber Ransom Payments: A New Cyber Security Act is Coming
- 24 July 2024, ASIC and OAIC's New Information Sharing MoU: What You Need to Know
- 18 July 2024, 9,948,575,739 Reasons to Change Your Passwords now

- 22 May 2024, New Guidance Released for Australian Listed Companies on Continuous Disclosure Obligations During a Cyber Incident
- 21 February 2024, Australian CPD Series 2024
- 21 February 2024, Australian CPD Series 2024: Preparing for Privacy Law Shake-up and Staying Across Cyber Developments: Our Privacy and Cybersecurity in-brief for 2024
- 21 February 2024, Australian CPD Series 2024
- 21 February 2024, Australian CPD Series 2024: Preparing for Privacy Law Shake-up and Staying Across Cyber Developments: Our Privacy and Cybersecurity in-brief for 2024
- 13 October 2023, Australia's Privacy Framework Set to be Revamped Following the Government's Response to the Privacy Act Review Report
- 22 June 2023, Australian Government Contemplates Asimov's Omnibus
- 5 May 2023, Privacy Awareness Week Part V—Return of the Privacy Policy
- 4 May 2023, Privacy Awareness Week Part IV—Privacy Priorities
- 3 May 2023, Privacy Awareness Week Part III—The Importance of Being Privacy Prepared
- 2 May 2023, Privacy Awareness Week Part II—Get in the Know and Get Privacy Right
- 1 May 2023, Privacy Awareness Week Part I—The State of Play
- 27 April 2023, Proposed Cyber Ransom Bans Predicted to Cause "Catastrophic Damage"
- 24 April 2023, Optus Faces the Mother-of-All Data Breach Class Actions
- 21 April 2023, Banks and Hackers: Security Amongst Entities
- 14 March 2023, Facebook's Face-Off With the OAIC to Proceed Says High Court of Australia
- 8 March 2023, Good Report Card but Data Breaches Are Up, With No Sign of Letting Up
- 6 March 2023, Privacy Reform is Here: It's Time to get Your House in Order!
- 3 March 2023, Breaking Down the Privacy Act Review Report #3: Removal of the Small Business Exemption
- 1 March 2023, Breaking Down the Privacy Act Review Report #2: Modifying the Employee Records Exemption
- 27 February 2023, Breaking Down the Privacy Act Review Report #1: More Personal Information to be Captured by the Act
- 16 February 2023, The Wait is Over: The Privacy Act Review Report Has Been Published
- February 2023, Australian CPD Series 2023: Session 5: 'Giddyup!', 'Get Your House in Order' and 'the Best Time to Start was Yesterday': Privacy and Cyber Security Risks are Rapidly Changing

- 14 December 2022, New Privacy Enforcement Act commences in Australia
- 2 December 2022, Australia Passes Privacy Legislation Amendment (Enforcement and Other Measures) Bill 2022
- 25 November 2022, Update From the Australia and New Zealand Privacy Conference and the Changes to Australian Privacy and Cybersecurity Laws
- 29 September 2022, Privacy and Cybersecurity Laws Expected to Undergo a Significant Overhaul in the Wake of Optus Data Breach
- 16 September 2022, Argentina Announces Upgrades to Data Protection Obligations

NEWS & EVENTS

- 11 February - 20 February 2025, 2025 CPD Program–Australia
- 15 October 2024, Cyber Day–Cybersecurity and Proposed Privacy Reforms
- 13 February - 21 February 2024, 2024 CPD Program–Australia
- 7 February - 16 February 2023, 2023 CPD Program–Australia

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Technology Transactions and Sourcing

INDUSTRIES

- Technology

EMERGING ISSUES

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Advising clients in relation to the requirements of the *Privacy Act 1988*, the Australian Privacy Principles (APP), notifiable Data Breaches Scheme and the Australian Government Agencies Privacy Code.
- Drafting privacy policies and collection notices that ensure compliance with the Privacy Act and Australian Privacy Principles.
- Advising clients in relation to privacy case law to enable drafting of privacy prospects advice.
- Providing advice to Australian Privacy Principles (APP) entities on the collection and handling of personal information (and sensitive information) in connection with COVID-19 vaccination status information.

- Preparing evidence and submissions for NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) and Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) reviews of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA) and freedom of information (FOI) decisions.
- Advising and assisting clients preparing a response to an OAIC external review.
- Providing high-quality, pragmatic legal advice and assistance on a range of matters, including relating to complex privacy law issues.
- Developing a detailed knowledge of the interaction of the Privacy Act with secrecy provisions relevant to the Department of Home Affairs' portfolio, in particular the *Australian Border Force Act 2015* (Cth) and the *Migration Act 1958* (Cth) as well as Services Australia's portfolio.
- Reviewing international and domestic data sharing agreements to facilitate the exchange of personal information between agencies and organisations and/or countries to ensure compliance with the Privacy Act.
- Preparing advice on and drafted Public Interest Certificates.
- Providing high level advice to the legal group on potential breaches of the Freedom of Information Act.
- Advising clients in relation to the merits and judicial review processes.