



Mark Speakman
Attorney General

MEDIA RELEASE

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PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF PRIVACY COMMISSIONER

Attorney General Mark Speakman today announced the proposed appointment of Samantha Gavel as NSW Privacy Commissioner after an independent recruitment process led by the NSW Public Service Commissioner.

“Ms Gavel is a leader in privacy protection who is currently the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner, and was previously the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman for six years,” Mr Speakman said.

“She has extensive experience in raising awareness about privacy rights, investigating complaints, resolving disputes and helping agencies meet their obligations to protect the personal information of individuals.”

Ms Gavel has also held senior policy roles within NSW and Commonwealth government organisations. She is an experienced mediator and an independent member of the Private Health Insurance Code of Conduct Compliance Committee.

In the near future, Ms Gavel’s proposed appointment will be considered by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission.

Mr Speakman thanked Dr Elizabeth Coombs for her work as Privacy Commissioner over the last five years and for acting in the position since her term expired in November.

“Dr Coombs’ impartial advice and advocacy on privacy represents a substantial contribution to this growing area of the law. I thank her for her commitment and passion and I wish her well in her future endeavours,” Mr Speakman said.

“The NSW Government recognises the importance of privacy protection at a time when advancements in digital technology are continually raising new challenges to the security of personal information.

“That’s why the government is now making the Privacy Commissioner a full-time position and, subject to the outcome of the Joint Parliamentary Committee process, I look forward to Ms Gavel applying her considerable expertise for the benefit of this state.”

The Information and Privacy Commission NSW is one-stop shop for independent assistance on privacy issues and accessing NSW Government documents. For more information about the Privacy Commissioner and the IPC, visit: www.ipc.nsw.gov.au

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