

## Privacy statement

Sunshine Coast Health Network Ltd. (SCHN) is committed to ensuring that personal and health information is handled in accordance with Australian privacy laws. Under the *Privacy Act 1988*, SCHN's employees, commissioned services and contractors are required to handle personal information in line with the [Australian Privacy Principles](#) (APPs). These 13 principles govern standards, rights and obligations around the collection, use, storage, disclosure, and modification of personal information.

Consistent with these principles, SCHN ensures that the personal information it holds is appropriately and adequately protected. It also ensures that only essential information is collected from people – the information necessary for SCHN and its commissioned services to perform their services safely and accordingly to professional standards and codes of conduct.

When SCHN directly delivers health services – for example, triage and care coordination – it is required to collect identified personal, sensitive, and clinical information from people in order to perform these services safely and professionally. Should an individual choose not to provide the personal information requested, SCHN may not be able to provide the services the individual requires.

SCHN also uses personal information for health planning and policy development activities aimed at improving regional health systems. This includes analysing de-identified data to help target the commissioning of health services most effectively to areas and communities of need.

### Collection of your personal information

SCHN only collects personal information from individuals that is essential for carrying out its business and functions. Where identifiable personal information is not essential to these requirements, SCHN only uses de-identified (i.e. anonymised) information.

#### What information is collected?

The information SCHN collects from individuals depends on their relationship with SCHN and, accordingly, the purpose for which the information is needed. The following table outlines the different relationships individuals may have with SCHN, and the corresponding type and nature of information that SCHN collects.

Individual's relationship to SCHN	Data type	Information collected
Clients of SCHN-commissioned services	De-identified	Including but not limited to: Identifier, year of birth, reason for referral, diagnosis, medications, and consent.
Clinical Council and other advisory stakeholders	Identified	Including but not limited to: Names, addresses, phone numbers and other contact details, bank details where payment for services apply.
Prospective SCHN employees	Identified	Including but not limited to: Names, addresses, phone numbers and other contact details, and information about work history and performance, qualifications, services offered or provided and other relevant details.
SCHN contractors	Identified	Including but not limited to: Names, addresses, phone numbers and other contact details, and bank details for tax and payroll purposes.
SCHN employees	Identified	Including but not limited to: Names, addresses, phone numbers and other contact details, and information about work history and performance, qualifications, TFN and bank details for tax and payroll purposes, emergency contacts.

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Individual's relationship to SCHN	Data type	Information collected
SCHN website users	De-Identified	SCHN does not use IP trackers or have any log-in requirements to access its website. It does not collect cookies but does have links to third-party websites that do collect cookies.
Service providers	Identified	Including but not limited to: Names, addresses, phone numbers and other contact details, information about professional qualifications, information about the services offered or provided and provider numbers.
Stakeholders using SCHN's Engage online platform	Identified	Including but not limited to: Name, gender, IP address, submissions to the site – for example: opinions, voting results (unless anonymous), chat logs, etc.
Stepped Care intake and triage clients	Identified	Including but not limited to: Name, date of birth, address, contact details, next of kin details, carer's details, and referrer details, reason for referral, medical history, diagnosis, medications, and consent.

### Security of your personal information

SCHN takes a range of measures, as required by the *Privacy Act*, to protect personal information and mitigate the risks of data loss, misuse and unauthorised access. These measures are detailed in SCHN's data management and ICT security policies.

SCHN data systems that store client information are cloud-based and hosted externally in Australia where service level agreements uphold the highest IT security standards required to satisfy SCHN security needs.

SCHN's Identity Management Policy holds system owners to a permission model of least privilege, ensuring access to personal information is only available to those for whom access is necessary to provide services.

SCHN's policy is to only use data systems and tools that are hosted in Australia. It may be a contingency of these external service providers to use overseas servers during a system failure. In this case, SCHN's service level agreements require that service providers still abide by Australian privacy laws and standards.

### Use of your personal information

SCHN only collects personal information where it is necessary to perform its services and conduct business activities safely and professionally. The table below summarises SCHN services and activities that require the collection and use of personal information.

In undertaking these services and activities, SCHN takes all legally required and commercially reasonable steps to ensure an individual's personal information is reliable for its intended use – i.e., that it is accurate, complete and current.

SCHN services and activities that require the use of personal information
Administering payroll and human resource management
Clinical service delivery
Compliance for funding

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SCHN services and activities that require the use of personal information
Conducting research (with appropriate ethical clearance and participant consent)
Contract management and performance monitoring
Disseminating relevant information and supports to SCHN stakeholders
Performing administrative operations
Performing IT archiving, systems development and testing
Promoting SCHN services and events
Providing relevant information to SCHN stakeholders
Quality assurance and audit, risk management
Triage and care coordination

### Disclosure of your personal information

In certain circumstances, SCHN may disclose personal information to third parties that provide products and services to or on behalf of SCHN (e.g. service providers, contractors, agents). Consistent with [APP6](#), SCHN will only disclose personal information to a third party with the consent of the individual and for the express purpose for which the information was collected.

The main exception to this rule is when SCHN is compelled by law or duty of care to disclose personal information – for example, when an immediate threat or risk of harm to an individual is identified.

Where an individual chooses not to give consent for the disclosure and use of their information to a third party, this may result in limited access to SCHN services and programs.

The organisations or entities to which SCHN may disclose personal information, with an individual's consent, are noted in the table below.

Organisations or entities to which SCHN may disclose your information
Commonwealth and state government agencies and other funding bodies
External payment system operators
Legal or government entities to comply with a legal request for an individual's personal information – for example, a subpoena or warrant
SCHN agents, contractors and external advisers
SCHN-commissioned service providers for the purpose of service delivery

### SCHN website, social media and web-based applications

#### Website

SCHN's website, [www.ourphn.org.au](http://www.ourphn.org.au), does not collect browsing information that identifies you.

The website is built on Word Press and uses third-party applications that collect information for security purposes called Word Fence. SCHN also uses Google Analytics to collect statistics on pages viewed. Users can change browser settings to limit the information collected when accessing SCHN's website.

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As users do not need to log in into SCHN's website, SCHN does not require the storage of cookies. The site currently does not use comment functions that would collect temporary user cookies. If this changes, SCHN will ensure a pop-up message is used to alert users to the use of cookies.

### *Healthdirect Service Finder*

On SCHN's homepage, there is an embedded search feature linked to an external web application that is not run or managed by SCHN called Healthdirect Service Finder. This application is managed by [Healthdirect](#), a national virtual public health information service funded by state and Commonwealth governments for this purpose. The Healthdirect Service Finder application make records of people's visits and logs the following information for statistical purposes:

- the user's server address
- the user's top-level domain name
- the date and time of access to the site
- pages accessed and documents downloaded
- the previous site visited, and
- the type of browser software in use.

For more information on how Healthdirect uses people's personal information, read their [privacy policy](#).

### *YouTube*

SCHN uses YouTube's Privacy Enhanced Mode for videos uploaded to its website. This avoids website visitors being redirected to a third-party website that may collect user information without their consent.

### **Provider Connect Australia**

Provider Connect Australia (PCA) is a web-based application service provided by the Australian Digital Health Agency. It enables 'publishing' organisations to make available information about their services to 'subscribing' organisations – organisations that have subscribed to PCA to receive information about a publishing organisation.

SCHN is a subscribing organisation and therefore obtains information from publishing organisations via PCA. When an organisation registers as a publishing organisation with PCA and selects SCHN as a subscribing organisation, SCHN collects the following information from system users of the PCA.

- Name
- Job role [optional]
- Speciality [optional]
- Medicare Provider Number [optional]
- AHPRA registration numbers
- AHPRA Profession, Division, Registration Type, Speciality, Field of Speciality Practice
- Healthcare Provider Identifier – Individual (HPI-I) (where the Agency acts as a contracted service provider for the publishing organisation for the purposes of the Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010 (Cth)).

Although not personal information, as defined by the *Privacy Act 1988*, SCHN also collects the following information to link with the personal information collected, referred to above:

- Organisation name
- Organisation Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Healthcare service name

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- Healthcare service address
- Healthcare Provider Identifiers – Organisation (HPI-O).

Information will be held in a variety of ways, including in paper and electronic format, on secure databases that are only accessible by relevant employees.

SCHN will not make available to a third party any personal information supplied by you unless required or permitted by law. This may also occur where you have consented to the disclosure.

### Social media

SCHN uses social networking services such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube to communicate with the public and health professionals about its work. When people communicate with SCHN using these services, SCHN may collect their personal information, but SCHN only uses this information to improve how it communicates with the public. The social networking service will also collect and use people's personal information for its own purposes. The privacy policies for Twitter, Facebook and YouTube (a Google company) can be accessed on their websites.

### Direct marketing

SCHN's newsletters and promotion materials are based on an opt-in subscription model. Individuals can opt out of a subscription easily at any time.

### Solicited and unsolicited personal information

As explained earlier, SCHN does not collect personal information unless it is necessary for performing its services and business functions. If SCHN receives unsolicited personal information, it aims to contain and destroy the information as soon as possible in line with its *Data Breach Policy*.

### Accessing and amending your personal information

Australian privacy law gives individuals the right access and correct the personal information entities like SCHN hold about them if that information is:

- inaccurate
- out of date
- incomplete
- irrelevant, or
- misleading.

Requests to access or amend personal information should be made in writing to SCHN, addressed as follows:

#### Amendments Request

Chief Executive Officer  
Sunshine Coast Health Network  
PO Box 3067  
Maroochydore QLD 4558.

SCHN will acknowledge all requests within seven (7) working days of receipt and aims to provide a decision on requests within 30 days.

Any amendments will be considered subject to [Australian Privacy Principles](#). Valid reasons for refusal include:

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- the organisation believes that giving the individual access may endanger the life, health or safety of any individual, or endanger public health or safety
- giving the individual access would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of other individuals
- the individual's request is frivolous or vexatious, and
- the individual's personal information is part of existing or anticipated legal proceedings between the individual and the organisation.

If SCHN refuses an individual's request to access or correct personal information, it will provide a formal response to them in writing detailing:

- the reasons for refusing to correct personal information
- the individual's right to request that a statement be associated with their personal information, and
- information on how to make a complaint.

Generally, SCHN will not charge fees for giving individuals access to their personal information. However, it reserves the right to charge reasonable fees where requests for personal information contain complications or are resource-intensive to execute.

## Feedback and complaints

Individuals receiving health services who wish to make a privacy complaint should, in the first instance, raise their concerns directly with the service provider.

If the individual is not satisfied with how their health provider responds, they may escalate this to SCHN via one of the methods outlined on SCHN's website feedback page: <https://www.ourphn.org.au/provide-feedback/>

SCHN's Feedback Officer will manage feedback in accordance with SCHN's *External Feedback Management Policy* which can also be found on SCHN's feedback page.

If the individual is not satisfied with how SCHN responds to their complaint, they may escalate the matter to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) by calling 1300 363 992 (local call charge) or visiting OAIC's website [www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au).

For further information about how SCHN handles personal information, please contact SCHN's Privacy Officer at [privacyofficer@ourphn.org.au](mailto:privacyofficer@ourphn.org.au).