



**Towards an international electronic repository and virtual laboratory of open data and open-source software for telehealth research**

**Comparison of international, Australian and Finnish privacy policies**



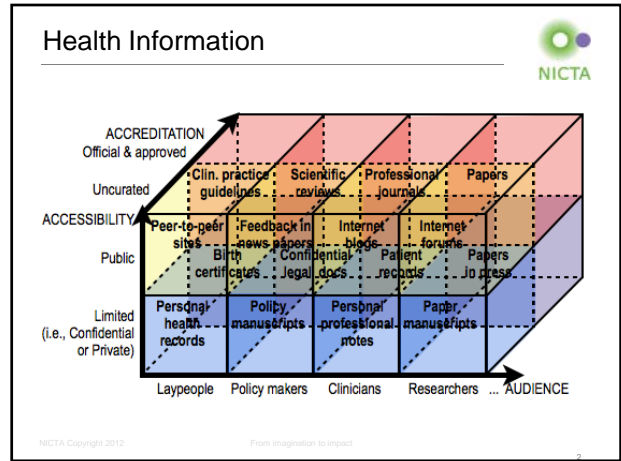
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### International Policies

Timeline of international privacy policies:

- 1940: Individuals' basic right to privacy
- 1946: Nurnberg Code on for Human Experimentation
- 1964: Declaration of Helsinki on Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects
- 1973: 1st eData privacy protection laws in Sweden
- 1980: European equivalents (Es)
- 1979: Belmont Report for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research
- 1989: Lisbon Declaration of the Rights of the Patient
- 1990: OECD Es + transborder movement
- 2000: EU Es
- 2001: APEC Es
- 2010: EU proposal (globalisation, new ICT)

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### Policies in Australia and Finland

World map highlighting Australia and Finland.

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### Process of Getting Data: A

**Initialising the project**  
Initial discussions, research plan, research group, group leader

**Developing the ethical protocol:**

1. Studying the governance, policy, and legal frameworks.
2. Furnishing the proper permissions and following the legislation.
3. Monitoring that the permissions cover all aspects of project.
4. Specifying the purposes of data collection (relevance, amount).
5. Specifying data collection, storage and protection: data access, destruction, use, modification, and disclosure.
6. Preparing user agreements.
7. Educating the data users on research ethics.
8. Answering to questions on research ethics.
9. Monitoring that good research practice is conformed.
10. Intervening in problems.


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### Law

Harmoniser	Commonwealth of Australia	European Union (EU, member since 1995)
Highest national authority	Dep. of Health and Ageing, National Health and Medical Research Council	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
Regional differences	Yes, for states/territories	No
Examples	<p>Australia: Privacy Act (<a href="http://www.privacy.gov.au/law/act">www.privacy.gov.au/law/act</a>)</p> <p>New South Wales (NSW, <a href="http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/">www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW).</li> <li>- NSW Health Privacy Manual, Version 2, 2005.</li> <li>- NSW Health Electronic Information Security Policy, Version 1, 2005.</li> <li>- NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research, 2007, and</li> <li>- Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW).</li> </ul>	<p>The EU directive<sup>13</sup> supplemented by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Act on Electronic Prescriptions 61/2007.</li> <li>- Act on Private Health Care 152/1990.</li> <li>- Act on the National Personal Data Registers for Health Care 556/1989.</li> <li>- Act on the Status and Rights of Patients 785/1992.</li> <li>- Act of Reading Health or Social care client information 159/2007.</li> <li>- Criminal Code of Finland 39/1889, 940/2008.</li> <li>- Decree of Ministry of Social Affairs and Health about Patient Records 298/2009.</li> <li>- Health Care Law 1326/2010.</li> <li>- Law on Medical Research 488/1999, 794/2010, and</li> <li>- Personal Data Act 523/1999 (<a href="http://www.fi.olex.fi">www.fi.olex.fi</a>).</li> </ul>

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### Process of Getting Data: B



**Ethics approvals & research permissions**


1. The study is accepted by chief officers of the jurisdiction.
2. Ethics approvals are obtained from the approving authority.
3. Research permissions are obtained from the jurisdictions (and in some cases from the highest national health-authority).

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### Ethics Approvals

Needed for any health information acquisition or work with patients beyond routine care  
 Except for register studies without connections to invasive studies in Finland


**Authority:** National Health/Medical Research Ethics Committee + site-specific sub-committees  
**Standardised forms:** NEAF/TUKIJA forms  
**Review times:** monthly/fortnightly meetings  
**Review costs:** 0 - 5,000 AUD, depending on commercial sponsorships



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### Informed Consent

From the patient  
 (and healthcare worker in Australia)



Some exceptions (e.g., inability due to the amount of data)

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### Research Permissions in Finland

**Research permissions from each healthcare jurisdiction**

**and if the project...**

- keeps a personal data register
- transfers personal data to outside the EU or the European Economic Area
- launches an automated decision-making system

**Notification of the Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman**

Standardised notification forms available at [www.tietosuojala.fi/27306.htm](http://www.tietosuojala.fi/27306.htm)

**Research permissions from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health**

The Ministry grants permissions in individual cases but only for scientific research purposes and for a fixed period of time. Applications are submitted to the National Institute for Health and Welfare and/or Finnish Medicines Agency (Finmea). Submissions are free of cost and their review may take from three months to a year.

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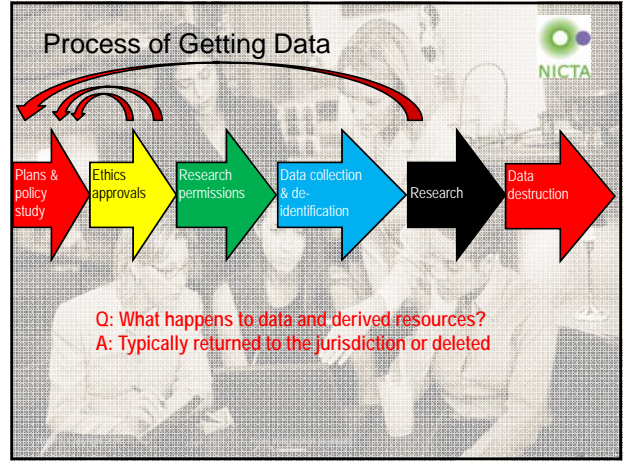


### How to perform international studies? Transborder Aspects

**Australia:** the transferrer remains accountable unless:

1. the recipient is subject to a law, binding scheme or contract which effectively upholds adequate privacy protections,
2. data subjects have been consented for the transfer or
3. authorisation by or under another law.

**Finland:** transfer is possible only if 1, 2, or 3 holds.




## LOUHI '13

The 4th International Workshop on Health Document Text Mining and Information Analysis  
[www.nicta.com.au/louhi2013](http://www.nicta.com.au/louhi2013) Sydney, NSW, Australia 11-12 February 2013

**Keynotes:**  
 A/Prof Pierre Zweigenbaum, LIMSI-CNRS and ERTIM-INALCO, France  
 Prof Jon Patrick, University of Sydney and Health Language Laboratories, Australia

Summer School: 4-8.2    Workshop: 11-12.2    NICTA Techfest: 13.2



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