

PRIVACY CASE NOTES

Restricting friends from accessing information - IPP 2

The Complainant filed an application for financial remuneration to an NT Government Department. The Complainant personally knew some of the employees of the area which processed those applications, and he requested that the application not be handled by a person he knew. The application contained sensitive personal information about the Complainant. The Department wrote back to the Complainant to advise him that they would 'deal with discretion' with the application. The Complainant was then upset to learn that a person he knew had been involved in handling the application and claimed the Department had breached his privacy. In this matter, the decision-maker determined that there was no privacy breach at law. The privacy principles set out in the *Information Act* require an organisation to use information only for the purpose for which it is collected. The purpose here was to progress an application for financial remuneration and the information was only used for that purpose. In this case, the applicant had no legal right to require the Department to avoid using certain employees to process the application.