



# Privacy Policy

Woolcock Institute of Medical Research Limited

ABN 88 002 198 905

Approved by the Board 27 March 2024

## **1. Background**

Woolcock Institute of Medical Research Limited (the Woolcock) takes very seriously our obligations under the Commonwealth Privacy Act (Privacy Act) to protect your personal information. Under the Privacy Act we are bound by the Australian Privacy Principles. In this Privacy Policy we describe how we will meet our privacy obligations to you.

## **2. Personal Information**

The Privacy Act sets out the information that it protects.

Personal information generally means information or an opinion about a person, where the person is identified or is reasonably identifiable. A person can include a customer, client, patient, staff member, associate or any other person with whom the Woolcock has dealings.

Sensitive information means a person's health information, genetic information, certain biometric information and biometric templates. It also means certain personal information, being an opinion about a person's:

- racial or ethnic origin;
- political opinions;
- membership of a political association;
- religious beliefs or affiliations;
- philosophical beliefs;
- membership of a professional or trade association;
- membership of a trade union;
- sexual orientation or practices; or
- criminal record.

Where in this Privacy Policy we refer to personal information, unless the context requires otherwise, that is a reference to both personal information and sensitive information.

## **3. Personal information collected and held**

The Woolcock collects and holds only personal information that is relevant to, and reasonably necessary for, the medical research and consultations the Woolcock provides to our patients and clients. In addition, if required, we only collect sensitive information if you consent, or in specific circumstances set down in the Australian Privacy Principles.

The Woolcock generally collects personal information such as name, phone numbers, address, email address, date of birth, country of residence, and family health information pertaining to the services related to our research and services. If you provide us with personal information that we have not requested (unsolicited personal information) we will, unless otherwise required or permitted by law, delete or destroy it as soon as possible after receiving it.

#### **4. Consequences of not providing your personal information**

You are not obliged to give us your personal information. However, if you decide not to give us the personal information we request, we may not be able to provide our services to you.

#### **5. How your personal information is collected and held**

The Woolcock must collect personal information only by lawful and fair means. We will usually only collect your personal information directly from you. We may collect your personal information from another person if you consent or parents/guardians in the case of minors, if we are required or allowed by law to do so, or if it would be unreasonable or impracticable for us to have to collect it from you.

When we collect personal information about you, we will tell you why it is being collected, the organisations or the types of organisations to whom we usually disclose that kind of information, any law that requires the information to be collected, and the main consequences for you if the information (or part of the information) is not provided.

We will also give you our contact details and tell you about how you can access the information.

We hold all personal information collected on our Australian office databases.

#### **6. Online tracking**

We use Google Analytics to collect visitor data and analyse traffic on our website. This information helps us understand visitor interests and helps us improve our website.

If you visit the Woolcock's website, your web browser automatically discloses, and our web server automatically logs, the following information: the date and time, the IP address from which you issued the request, the type of browser and operating system you are using, the URL of any page that referred you to the page, the URL you requested, and whether your request was successful. This data may or may not be sufficient to identify you.

Any additional data you provide, such as when you fill out a form on our website, may also be logged. This data may or may not be sufficient to identify you.

Additional data that your web browser automatically provides may also be logged. This will be the case, for example, if your browser stores data on your computer in 'cookies'.

## **7. About cookies**

When you visit our website, you will be prompted to determine how much information you share with us through cookies.

If you accept all cookies, the pages that you look at, and a short text file (a cookie), are downloaded to your computer. The information collected in cookies is for traffic analysis only: it does not contain personal details.

Cookies help us provide you with a better website. A cookie in no way gives us access to your computer or any information about you, other than the data you choose to share with us. Depending on the browser you use, you can set your preferences to block/refuse cookies, and/or notify you before they are placed.

## **8. Links to other websites**

This privacy policy only applies to the Woolcock's own website, [www.woolcock.org.au](http://www.woolcock.org.au) and [www.researchvolunteer.org.au](http://www.researchvolunteer.org.au). It does not apply to parties that may be linked or associated with the Woolcock's website: those website owners are responsible for the privacy of the information they collect and should be contacted directly for details of their privacy policies.

## **9. Social media platforms and online advertising**

The Woolcock engages with its supporters through social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. We also advertise on Facebook and Google.

By interacting with the Woolcock on these channels, you may be providing information that can be recorded and used by those channels – for example, to sell targeted advertising.

You should check your privacy settings with Facebook, Google, Twitter and LinkedIn. The Woolcock is not responsible for your privacy settings with those channels.

Please note that we do **not** use re-marketing: we will not target advertisements to you based on your previous visits to our website.

## **10. How your personal information is used**

Personal information is collected and held so that the Woolcock can provide you with services you request or to undertake the research in which you are a participant. This is known as the "primary purpose" for collecting and holding personal information.

The Woolcock cannot use or disclose your personal information for any secondary purposes unless certain circumstances apply.

We can use or disclose personal information for a secondary purpose where you give us your consent to do so, or where:

- the secondary purpose is related to the primary purpose (where the information is sensitive information, it must be directly related to the primary purpose); and
- you would reasonably expect us to use or disclose the information for the secondary purpose.

We may also use or disclose information where such use or disclosure is permitted by the Australian Privacy Principles. Such disclosures might generally include:

- direct marketing where we have your approval to do so (to provide updates on research, community events etc.), fundraising, volunteering for research;
- government bodies, regulators, law enforcement agencies and any other parties where authorised or required by law;
- other organisations if you have given your express consent; and
- any other organisations identified at the time of collecting your personal information or to which we are legally required to disclose your personal information.

## **11. Data quality and protection**

The Woolcock will take all reasonable steps:

- to make sure all personal information we collect is accurate, complete and up to date at all times; and
- to make sure all personal information we use or disclose is (having regard to the purpose of the use or disclosure) accurate, complete up-to-date and relevant at all times.

We will also take all reasonable steps to protect your personal information from misuse, interference and loss, and from unauthorised access, modification and disclosure. Once your personal information is no longer required by us, we will take reasonable steps to destroy or permanently de-identify that personal information, except in circumstances where we are required by law to retain it.

Despite applying the highest standards, security breaches can occur so, despite the measures we have put in place, we cannot guarantee the security of your personal information. You must take care to protect your personal information (for example, by protecting any usernames and passwords). You should notify us as soon as possible if you become aware of any security breaches.

## **12. Access and correction**

If you think the personal information the Woolcock holds about you is not accurate, complete or up to date, you should inform us. Also please let us know any relevant changes to your personal circumstances as soon as possible.

We will take reasonable steps to correct information where you provide sufficient evidence or we are otherwise satisfied, having regard for the purpose for which the information is held, that the existing information is inaccurate, out-of-date, incomplete, irrelevant or misleading. We will notify the correction to other parties to whom we have previously disclosed the information. If such a party refuses to make a correction we will notify you of that refusal and how you can make a complaint.

If you wish to access the personal information, we hold about you or request correction of it, you should contact the Woolcock's Privacy Officer.

Your request should specify the information to which you require access or which you wish to be corrected. We will keep a record of your request and the manner in which it was dealt with.

We will not charge you for requesting access to or correction of your personal information. However, we may charge you the costs associated with meeting your request for access, for example photocopying and postage costs.

We are required to respond to your request for access or correction within a reasonable period. Our aim is to do so within 5 business days of receipt of your request.

We will provide you with access in the manner you request, if it is reasonable and practicable to do so.

If we cannot meet your request for access or correction, we will notify you by email.

Where reasonable, we will give you our reason and take steps to provide you with access.

We will also tell you about how you can complain about our decision.

If you are not satisfied with our handling of your request, you can contact us to discuss your concerns or complain to the Australian Privacy Commissioner via [www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au).

### **13. Anonymity**

You can contact us anonymously or by using a pseudonym. However, being unable to identify you will limit the services that the Woolcock can provide you with. There may be specific cases where we are prevented by law from dealing with you unless we identify you.

#### **14. Data breach**

Should the Woolcock become aware of a data breach, the Woolcock will notify affected individuals and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) of the data breaches that are likely to result in serious harm within 30 days of the breach event.

The factors which might contribute to a reasonable person thinking “serious harm” might have occurred include:

- The sensitivity of the information;
- Whether the information was encrypted;
- Whether the information was in a secure file;
- How likely it is that the security could be breached; or
- The identity of the person who obtained the information, whether they intend to cause harm to the affected person and the nature of the harm.

#### **15. Complaints and further information**

If you would like further information about how we handle your personal information, please send us an email to [info@woolcock.org.au](mailto:info@woolcock.org.au).

If you wish to make a complaint in relation to privacy, including a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles, please put your concerns in writing to:

The Privacy Officer

Woolcock Institute of Medical Research Ltd

2 Innovation Road, Macquarie Park, NSW 2113, Australia

Telephone: 02 9805 3000

The Woolcock will investigate your complaint and respond to your concerns as quickly as possible and within 45 days.

#### **Policy review**

This policy will be reviewed every two years.