

Privacy Policy

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1 About us

headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation Ltd (headspace, we, us, our) supports young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health), alcohol and other drug services, as well as work and study support. With a focus on early intervention, we work with young people to provide support at a crucial time in their lives – to help get them back on track and strengthen their ability to manage their mental health in the future.

2 About this Privacy Policy and our Approach to Privacy

headspace is committed to protecting your privacy.

This Privacy Policy sets out how we collect and manage personal information and the steps we take to protect it.

We will handle your personal information in compliance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (**Privacy Act**) and the Australian Privacy Principles (**APPs**) in the Privacy Act.

We will also handle your personal information in compliance with relevant State and Territory health records laws, the *Spam Act 2003* (Cth) in relation to emails and other electronic messages, and all other applicable privacy laws.

When we change the type of personal information we collect or the method for collecting it, or the way we use, disclose, store or delete, destroy or permanently de-identify it, we will consider whether or not to conduct a Privacy Impact Assessment (**PIA**) of the implications for the privacy of individuals of that change, in addition to any other assessments we undertake, including general risk or security assessments. Depending upon the nature of the change and identified risk, a PIA may be informal or formal. Where we undertake a formal PIA we will keep records of the PIA and any measures implemented to mitigate or manage identified risks, and periodically review our processes and systems to ensure that all measures implemented to mitigate privacy risks remain active.

3 Definitions

3.1 What is 'personal information'?

'Personal information' means information or an opinion, whether true or not and whether recorded in a material form or not, about an individual who is identified or reasonably identifiable. Examples of personal information are an individual's name, address, phone number and date of birth.

'Sensitive information' is a type of personal information that generally has greater privacy protections under the Privacy Act. It includes 'health information' (which is defined below), and information about an individual's race or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or practices, and criminal record.

'Health information' includes information about the health or a disability of an individual, an individual's wishes about the future provision of a health service to them or a health service provided to them, and other personal information collected to provide or in providing a health service to an individual.

References in this Privacy Policy to personal information include sensitive information and health information.

3.2 What is a 'health service'?

A 'health service' includes the following activities:

- a. assessing, maintaining or improving an individual's physical or psychological health;
- b. diagnosing an individual's illness or disability;
- c. treating an individual's illness or disability or suspected illness or disability; and
- d. recording an individual's physical or psychological health for the purposes of assessing, maintaining, improving or managing the individual's health.

4 Collection of personal information

4.1 Why do we collect personal information?

We collect personal information for the following purposes:

- a. to provide our services to you (including health services)
- b. to manage our relationship with you
- c. to facilitate your participation in online communities
- d. to maintain the clinical quality of our services
- e. to respond to enquiries, complaints, and feedback
- f. to process donations and fundraising activities
- g. for our administrative, security and risk management, and internal record keeping purposes
- h. to manage our employment or business relationship with you
- i. to promote our services and other activities
- j. to conduct research and analysis, and improve our services
- k. to evaluate and report on how well headspace is providing health services to young people
- l. to comply with legal and regulatory obligations
- m. as otherwise permitted or required by law, or
- n. for other purposes with your consent, unless you withdraw your consent.

4.2 What types of personal information do we collect?

The type of personal information we collect about you depends on the type of dealings we have with you. You provide most of your personal information directly to us and for a specific purpose.

If you are a client, in order to provide you with health services and other services, the information we collect from you may include your name, date of birth, contact details, medical history and other health information, gender identity, sexual identity, and whether you are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. The information we collect will depend on the type of services you are seeking.

Specifically, if you create a headspace account using the headspace website, you will be able to obtain access to services (such as eheadspace counselling services), and other tools and resources to help you manage your mental health. In those circumstances we will collect your email address and mobile phone number, date of birth, postcode, and general details about your gender identity, sexual identity, whether you

have visited a headspace centre, and whether you are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. It is not necessary for you to provide your name to use the headspace website or eheadspace counselling services.

If you are a person other than a client, such as a service provider, job applicant, emergency contact, or a user of the headspace Learning Management System (**LMS**), the personal information we collect from you will depend on the way in which you are engaging with us, and we will only collect the information needed for you to engage with us.

4.3 How do we collect personal information?

When we collect your personal information, we will whenever practical collect the information directly from you. We may collect personal information from you face-to-face, when you interact with us online, or when we speak with you over the phone. We will also take reasonable steps to notify you (through this Privacy Policy and otherwise) of the details of the collection, such as the purposes for which the information was collected, any organisations that we may share the information with, and that this Privacy Policy contains information on how you may access and correct your personal information and make a privacy complaint.

We will only collect and record personal information when you:

- a. send us a message (e.g. where you contact us through the headspace website);
- b. ask us to provide you with services – including as a client, online or by phone; ;
- c. make a comment on a headspace webpage;
- d. make a donation;
- e. ask to receive newsletters/updates;
- f. ask to obtain resources such as promotional materials;
- g. complete a feedback form;
- h. provide a specific submission to the site (e.g. stories, tips, art work, questions etc.);
- i. participate in a publicity photo shoot or other audio visual activity;
- j. apply for a job with us;
- k. supply goods / services to us.

We sometimes collect your personal information from persons or sources other than you. For example:

- a. If you are a client, to provide you with health services, we may need to collect your personal information from your family or guardian, or your other health service providers. We will only do this with your consent or where it is otherwise permitted under the privacy laws. One such permitted circumstance where we would not seek your consent, is where it was unreasonable or impracticable to obtain your consent, and we needed to collect your personal information from someone else to prevent a serious threat to your life or safety, or that of any other person.
- b. We may collect information from third parties if you are a potential supplier or service provider to headspace.
- c. When you apply for a job with us, we collect information about your qualifications and we may ask you

to undertake certain tests and provide certain consents for further information collection, as part of our recruitment process.

4.4 What happens if I do not provide my personal information?

If you do not provide the personal information requested, we may not be able to provide you with the information or services you require, or a receipt for your tax deductible donation. Similarly, you may not have the opportunity to provide us with your goods or services.

5 Use and disclosure

5.1 How do we use and disclose your personal information?

We will generally only use or disclose your personal information for the main purposes for which it was collected. For example, if you are a client who has provided your information to receive health services from us, we will generally only use your personal information to provide you with health services.

We will only use or disclose your personal information for other purposes where:

- a. you have consented;
- b. we use or disclose it for purposes which are related (or if the information is sensitive information, directly related) to the main purpose for which the information was collected, in circumstances where you would reasonably expect this to occur; or
- c. it is permitted or required by law.

If you are a client, with your consent, we may use or disclose your personal information in the following ways:

- a. the information you provide will be used by staff at the headspace centre(s) you visit and other headspace programs and services (including digital services) you engage with, to help them provide you with an appropriate service;
- b. we will use the information you provide to evaluate and report on how well headspace is providing health services to young people. The information you provide may also be shared with the headspace centre(s) you visit and with other headspace programs and services you engage with, to help them plan the services they provide to you;
- c. we are required to provide our funding bodies (such as Government Departments and Primary Health Networks) with information about headspace clients and services for their monitoring, evaluation and service planning purposes. The information provided to these funding bodies will include your date of birth, gender and details about the types of services you used, however it will not include your name, address or Medicare number.

We will not otherwise disclose your personal information to any third parties without your consent unless this is permitted or required by law.

For example, we are permitted under law to disclose your information where it is unreasonable or impracticable to obtain your consent and we reasonably believe disclosure is necessary to lessen or prevent a serious threat to your or any other person's life, health or safety, or to public health or safety. If your

communication with us raises safety concerns, we will try to contact you to check that you and/or others are safe. If necessary, we may need to pass on your contact information (if you have supplied it) to authorities who can help protect you and/or others, such as a crisis service or the police. Where possible we will work with you openly, letting you know if our concerns reach the point where we need to involve other services. We are obliged to try to protect you and/or others if the information you submit tells us that:

- a. you are being seriously hurt by someone else;
- b. you are thinking of seriously harming yourself;
- c. someone else is being, or is likely to be, seriously hurt by you or another person.

We sometimes undertake and/or engage partners to conduct evaluation, research and reporting activities using information we provide. The information disclosed by headspace to these partners for their evaluation, research and reporting purposes will be de-identified – this means the information provided will not include your name and will not identify you as an individual.

5.2 LMS Users

If you are an LMS user, personal information you provide will be used, made accessible and disclosed in the following ways:

- a. your personal information will be made accessible to you, so you can monitor your training progress and update that information to record changes in circumstances e.g., change of roles, work location or personal details and to correct any inaccuracies;
- b. if you are engaged by headspace or the lead agency of a headspace centre, your personal information will be disclosed to headspace or the lead agency of the relevant headspace centre, so they can track completion of training and compliance with headspace benchmarks for education and training. headspace / the relevant lead agency will only be able to access the personal information of their employees / contractors;
- c. if you are an external learner, such as a GP or persons from schools, or corporate partners, your personal information will be disclosed to your organisation or workplace, or to continuing professional development program (CPD) administrators (such as the RACGP for GPs), for purposes related to your learning and development. For example, your information may be disclosed to confirm your compliance with training or assign CPD points;
- d. your personal information will be used by relevant headspace personnel, such as personnel involved in training for corporate partners, GPs or schools. Your personal information will be used by these personnel to track completion and compliance with headspace benchmarks for education and training, to develop and offer to users needs based and tailored training programs, and to fulfil our operational and legal obligations related to training and compliance, such as reporting obligations as a training provider, or to confirm your compliance with training.

6 Dealing with us anonymously or using a pseudonym

6.1 General

In some circumstances you can deal with us anonymously or by using a pseudonym (a fictitious/made-up name), for example, if you are enquiring about our services generally.

However, we will need to identify you if it is not practicable for you to remain anonymous or use a pseudonym when you deal with us.

6.2 Website use without registration

If you wish to access the materials on the headspace website without registration as a website user, you will be able to do so anonymously.

6.3 Clients

When you register with headspace as an interactive website user or to use the eheadspace counselling service, you have the option of not identifying yourself or using a pseudonym. However, you will be required to supply other personal information when you use the headspace web site and services, such as your email address or mobile number.

In other cases, it will not be possible for headspace to provide services on an anonymous basis e.g. where eheadspace counselling services are provided as a part of the Early Youth Psychosis Service, or for LMS users.

7 Quality and security of personal information

7.1 General

We hold personal information in a number of ways including electronically and in hard copy paper files.

7.2 Data quality

We take reasonable steps to ensure that the personal information we collect and handle is accurate, current, complete, relevant and not misleading. You can help us keep your information up to date by letting us know about any changes to your contact details.

7.3 Protection of personal information

We take steps as are reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that personal information we hold is protected from misuse, interference, loss, and from unauthorised access, modification and disclosure.

7.4 Retention of personal information

Your personal information is only kept while it is required for the purpose for which it was collected, for a permitted secondary purpose or as required by law. For example, as a health service provider, headspace is required to keep health information for minimum time periods under certain State and Territory health

records laws. After we have kept personal information for the required time periods according to these laws, we will securely dispose of your personal information.

7.5 Credit card information

We do not store any credit card information on our servers.

8 Overseas disclosure

We will comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act and APPs when disclosing personal information overseas.

We may use a third party software services provider located in New Zealand who will have access to personal information for the limited purposes of diagnosing and resolving software issues. These disclosures will only be to the extent necessary for these purposes, and we will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the third party services provider handles your personal information in accordance with the APPs.

If you are a client, it may also be necessary to disclose your personal information to an overseas recipient in certain circumstances, for example, if you have moved overseas would like to seek ongoing health services from an overseas provider.

We will only disclose your personal information overseas if we would be lawfully permitted to disclose it to a recipient in Australia, and:

- a. we have taken reasonable steps to ensure that the overseas recipient of your personal information does not breach the APPs; or
- b. the overseas recipient is subject to a law, binding scheme or binding contract that provides substantially similar protection to the APPs which you can access and enforce; or
- c. if the disclosure overseas is otherwise required or authorised by law.

9 Marketing communications

If we intend to provide you with any marketing communications, for example, to provide you with information about headspace services and resources you may wish to access, we will only send you such communications if you have previously consented to this, and in accordance with any marketing communication preferences that you have notified to us.

All marketing communications will include the option for you to opt-out of receiving these communications and our contact details.

10 Access and correction

You have a right to access to your personal information, as well as to seek its correction if it is inaccurate, out of date, incomplete, irrelevant or misleading, subject to some exceptions permitted by law. If you wish to have access to your personal information or ask that it be corrected or deleted, please contact us using the contact details provided in this Privacy Policy. We will generally respond to access and correction requests within 30 days.

We may deny your request in some circumstances, but only if we are legally entitled to do so. We will give you a written explanation for any denial of an access or correction request. We will also explain how you can complain if you are not satisfied with our explanation.

11 Website privacy

If you provide your personal information through our website, for example when you create a headspace account and enter your registration details, or if you contact us through the website, this Privacy Policy will apply to the handling of any personal information you provide.

We use "cookies" and "tracking pixels" on the headspace website.

Cookies help us understand how people use our website by identifying and tracking traffic coming into and out of the site. Cookies enable our web server to collect information back from your device's browser each time you visit the headspace website.

Tracking Pixels are provided by third parties and implemented in the HTML code used to create our website pages on your device. When a website is loaded from the internet and run on your device's browser your browser will communicate with the tracking pixel provider's servers and provide them with information about your device. Depending on your device's settings (including if you have opted in to the tracking pixel's provider's data association settings) this may include personal information (including sensitive information) about you or other people whose information is stored on or accessed via the device.

We place tracking pixels on our website so that we can better understand:

- a. how users interact with our website and social media channels;
- b. how people use our booking, donation and other forms;
- c. how people use and take advantage of user accessibility features; and
- d. the effectiveness of our social media and other advertising at reaching people who may need or benefit from our services.

When you visit the headspace website, the cookies and tracking pixels may record and log your visit with the following information:

- a. the device's server address;
- b. the device's top level domain name (for example, .com, .gov, .au, .uk etc);
- c. the duration, date and time of the visit to the site;
- d. the pages accessed, buttons and links clicked and documents downloaded;
- e. account creations, logins and failed login attempts;
- f. the search words and referral sites used;
- g. the type of browser used;
- h. booking form completions, submissions and abandonments.

headspace will only use information and statistics obtained from cookies and tracking pixels to ascertain and follow website usage to enable improvements, updates and maintenance of pages of the website and to improve the advertising to and discovery of our services by people who are likely to find them useful..

We don't have the ability to control what the providers of tracking pixels do with the information they may obtain, but no attempt will be made by headspace itself to identify individual website users except:

- a. where we have obtained consent from the individual user to do so; or
- b. where we have a legal obligation to do so, for example if a law enforcement agency executes a warrant to inspect logs or other records.

12 Complaints

If you have a complaint about how we have collected or handled your personal information, please contact our Privacy Officer (see contact details below). We will investigate your complaint and communicate the outcome of our investigation within a reasonable time.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of our investigation, or if you do not wish to contact us directly, you can refer your complaint to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (**OAIC**) using the following details:

- Website: www.oaic.gov.au
- Telephone: 1300 363 992
- In writing: Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, GPO Box 5218, Sydney NSW 2001

In some instances, you may also be able to refer your complaint to another applicable regulator such as the statutory body in your State or Territory responsible for health complaints.

13 Contact us

If you wish to access or correct your personal information, or if you have a privacy related complaint or any questions about our Privacy Policy, please contact privacy@headspace.org.au or phone (03) 9027 0100 and ask for the Privacy Officer.

14 headspace employee records

The Privacy Act does not apply to headspace's handling of employee records where it is directly related to a current or former employment relationship, and this Privacy Policy will not apply in those circumstances. Instead, workplace laws prescribe the personal information to be held in employee records and the way in which employees may access their personal employee records.

Where State or Territory health privacy legislation applies, headspace is still required to protect the privacy of employee health information. This Privacy Policy will apply in those circumstances.

15 Availability and review of this Privacy Policy

The current version of this Privacy Policy will be made available on the headspace website. This Privacy Policy will be made available to all staff on the headspace National intranet. All policies are made available to all new staff at induction with headspace.

The Privacy Policy is reviewed every three years or as changes are required. This Privacy Policy and any amendments to this Privacy Policy will require approval of the Executive and Board of headspace National.

16 Document history

Document information

Category	Current document details
Document owner	Privacy Officer
Current author/s	Privacy Officer
Status	FINAL
Timeline for revision	Triennial
Storage	harold/Policy Centre

Revision history and document approval

Issue date	Version	Summary of changes	Approved by	Date
December 2014	2.0	Review of Existing Policy	Finance Audit and Risk Committee	10/12/14
February 2015	2.1	Amendment to para 8 Removal of specific reference to New Zealand	Executive	
June 2015	2.2	Amendments to paras 1, 5, and 8 Minor changes advised by HealthLegal		
April 2019	2.3	Amendments to para 6.7 re browsing	Privacy Officer	24/4/19
January 2020	2.4	Amendments to para 7.1 re provision of information to partners for evaluation, research and reporting activities	Executive	28/1/20
May 2023	2.5	Review and update for currency of existing policy in full by Health Legal	Privacy Officer Chief Operating Officer	05/10/23
May 2025	2.6	Update for PIAs (para 2) and Tracking Pixels (para 11)	Privacy Officer Chief Operating Officer	8/5/2025
Sept 2025	2.7	Update to para 5.2 for headspace Campus online learning platform within LMS	Privacy Officer	15/09/2025
Jan 2026	2.8	Update to section 4.1, 10 and 11 as recommended by PIA report	Privacy Officer	9/02/2026

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