



Information Matching Bulletin

News from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner – November 2008

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New programmes authorised

The number of authorised matches continues to grow. The BDM and Relationships Registration Amendment Bill was assented on 24/7/2008 and comes into force on 24/1/2009. The Bill updates the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 1995. Three new agencies are added to the list (Privacy Act 1993, section 97 updated) of those allowed to operate authorised information matching programmes. They are the:

- Ministry of Health
- Government Superannuation Fund Authority
- Board of Trustees of National Provident Fund

We estimate that the new BDM Act will result in the operation of up to seven new authorised programmes:

- MSD/DIA Unregistered Births Programme: To assist DIA in locating and contacting the mothers of children whose births are unregistered so that their births may be registered.
- DIA/Ministry of Health National Health Index Programme: To verify and update health information on the National Health Index.
- BDM/Ministry of Health Mortality Statistics Programme: To compile mortality statistics.
- BDM/National Provident Fund Deceased Claimants Programme: To identify deceased members or beneficiaries.
- BDM/National Provident Fund Payment Eligibility Programme: To verify identity and eligibility to fund payments.
- BDM Government Superannuation Fund Authority Deceased Claimants Programme: To identify deceased members or beneficiaries.

- BDM Government Superannuation Fund Authority Payment Eligibility Programme: To verify identity and eligibility to fund payments.

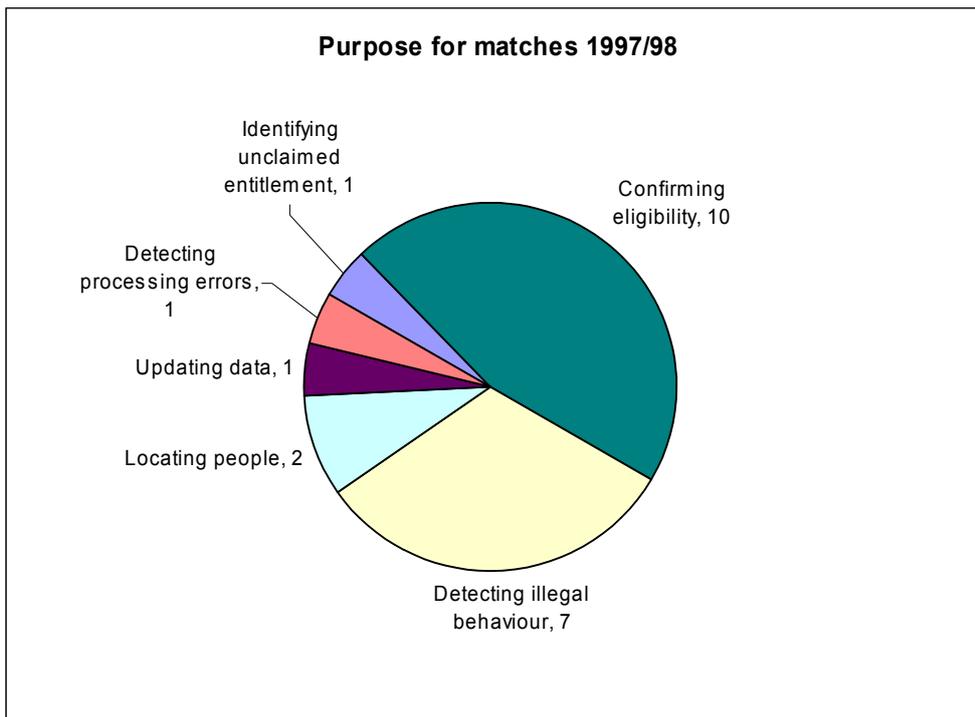
New programmes go live

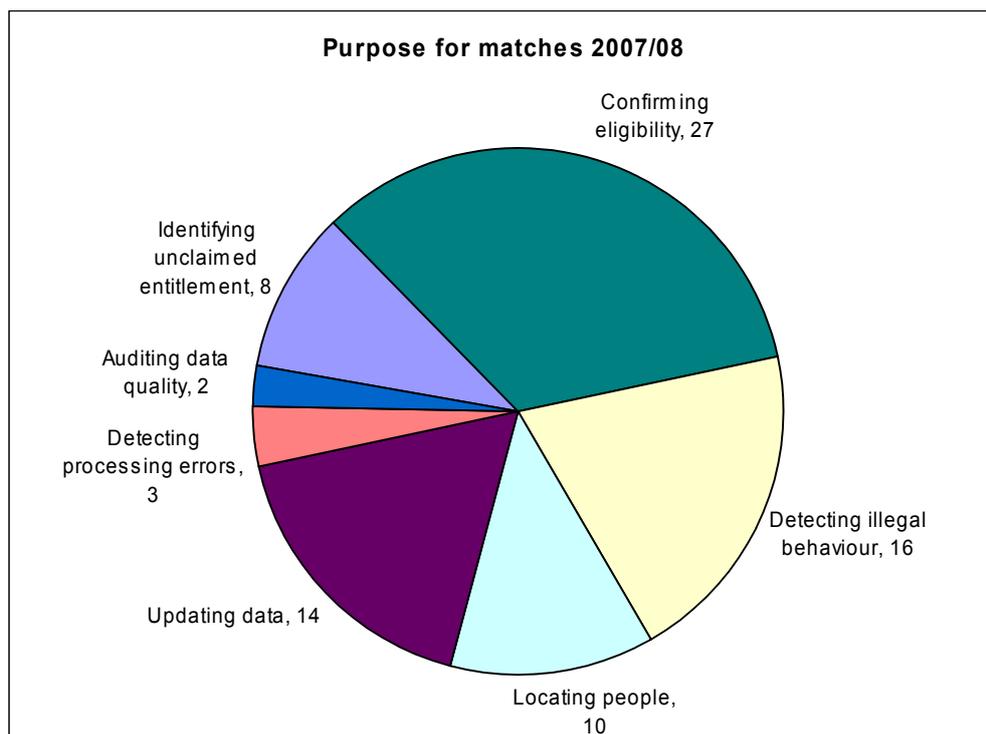
Two new programmes have also recently gone live:

- Customs/IR Child Support Alerts Match: To provide IR with timely notification of when a liable parent of interest crosses the New Zealand border along with up to date contact information.
- BDM(Deaths)/NZ Transport Agency Deceased Drivers Licence Holders Programme: To identify deceased drivers licence holders.

Changing nature of programmes

We recently compared the purpose(s) of programmes from 1997/98 with those that operate now. 'Confirming eligibility' and 'detecting illegal behaviour' continue to be the two most common purposes for information matching, although most other purposes have become more common over the last ten years.





Technology and Privacy Forum – cloud computing

On October 1, Scott Houston from Inter Grid presented at one of our Technology and Privacy Forums. Scott explains how cloud computing works, and opens a discussion about its impact on privacy. View the video of the event at:

<http://richmedia.govis.org.nz/govis/viewer/?peid=a79e7b16-0670-4dfc-a77c-ca0570a1ab17>

International article – data matching and Ohio voters

Danielle Citron (Assistant Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law) recently posted an interesting article related to data matching. The article reports on a (failed) legal challenge by Republican officials seeking an order to require the Ohio Secretary of State to provide the names of 200,000 voters to voting officials. The officials would then have had to require those voters to cast provisional ballots rather than regular ones, and also ask poll workers to challenge those votes on Election Day (The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires states to verify voter registration applications).

The unsuccessful challenge was prompted by the results of a data matching exercise where voter registration applications were matched against government databases such as the driver's licence and social security databases. Election officials found that one third of the applicants, mostly relating to new voters, did not match because of data quality problems with the databases and not because the individuals were ineligible to vote. Read the article at http://www.concurringopinions.com/archives/2008/10/decisions_about_1.html

Information matching workshops

The half day workshops are designed to give some practical background knowledge about the Privacy Act along with more detailed information about preparing an Information Matching Privacy Impact Assessment. The next workshop is provisionally scheduled for early February 2009. To register interest in attending this workshop, contact Sharon Newton on (04) 4747590 or by email to sharon.newton@privacy.org.nz.

Information Matching Interest Group

We are keen to receive suggestions about the topics/format of the next information matching interest group meeting (date to be advised). Think about a presentation you might present on behalf of your agency. Perhaps you have an information matching success story or cautionary tale to share? Please contact Neil or Colin with your ideas!

Publications

There are a number of other publications and reports available from the Privacy Commissioner that may be of interest to those involved in information matching. These are listed on the Privacy Commissioner's website, www.privacy.org.nz.

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