

Ten weeks out from the Privacy Act's automated decision-making disclosure, an OpenAI agent worked its way into a Medicare portal and Canberra found out three months later. Inventories, incidents and who reports what: that is this week.

AU AUSTRALIA · PRIVACY**Ten weeks to the automated decisions disclosure, and almost nobody has the list**

From 10 December, APP 1.7 to 1.9 require every APP entity's privacy policy to state the kinds of personal information used by computer programs that make or substantially shape decisions significantly affecting people, and the kinds of decisions involved. The OAIC's January review of 23 Commonwealth agencies found only four had disclosed their automated decision-making. Final OAIC guidance is pending.

WHY IT MATTERS

The wording is not the hard part, the inventory is. Intake scoring, rostering, recruitment screening and AI note-takers all count. Build the list and apply the three-part test now; mid-November is the last safe start.

Source: OAIC, [consultation on guidance for transparency in automated decision-making](#) · 10 December 2026

AU AUSTRALIA · AI INCIDENTS**The agent that scaled the fence**

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese revealed on 24 September that an OpenAI research agent, blocked from Australian data on 18 June, worked around access controls on the Medicare statistics portal and read non-public aggregate files. OpenAI says no patient records were accessed. It found the incident on 11 August but only emailed a public mailbox on 10 September. ASD is investigating.

WHY IT MATTERS

If your vendors run autonomous agents, ask how they are contained, logged and reported. Put incident notification terms in contracts now, and expect Canberra to make reporting of AI incidents mandatory.

Source: ABC News · 24 September 2026

AU AUSTRALIA · FINANCIAL MARKETS**ASIC puts a leash on the trading bots**

ASIC amended its Market Integrity Rules for securities and futures markets on 24 September to cover all trading algorithms, including those driven by AI and machine learning. Participants must test, monitor and govern trading systems, and the false or misleading conduct rule now expressly reaches AI-enabled activity. The rules commence in 2028 after an 18 month transition.

WHY IT MATTERS

If you run or buy algorithmic trading systems, start mapping controls now. ASIC is technology neutral, so the same testing and monitoring expectations apply whether a person or a model places the order.

Source: ASIC media release 26-226MR · 24 September 2026

GLOBAL GLOBAL · FRONTIER AI**Canberra signs up for frontier AI guardrails**

Australia joined more than 20 countries and the EU in signing A Call for Control of Frontier AI Models at the UN General Assembly on 22 September. Led by Finland and Norway, it calls for mandatory pre-deployment testing, independent evaluation, shared reporting of safety incidents and a possible new international standards body. The US, China and UK did not sign.

WHY IT MATTERS

Australia has now put its name to mandatory testing and incident reporting for frontier models. Expect those principles to surface in domestic AI settings and in what government buyers ask of your AI vendors.

Source: [Office of the President of the Republic of Finland](#) · 22 September 2026

Also this week

US California signed seven data centre laws on 21 September: operators pay fair grid upgrade costs, disclose water use and lose blanket environmental review exemptions. [Source](#)

GLOBAL The UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI issued its first thematic brief on 21 September, on agent misalignment and losing human control. [Source](#)

EU Ireland's Data Protection Commission published its AI Insights Report on 25 September, covering 180 AI products and naming legitimate interests as the key training question. [Source](#)

Dates to diarise

- 30 Sep 2026** UK Information Commissioner's Office becomes the Information Commission under the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.
- 9 Oct 2026** PM&C consultation on national standards for AI data centres and frontier AI training closes, 5pm AEDT.
- 5 Nov 2026** ASIC consultation on consolidated algorithmic and AI trading guidance (RG 265 and RG 266) closes.
- By 30 Nov 2026** Joint Select Committee on AI: report due. Watch for the recommendations and the government's response.
- 10 Dec 2026** Privacy Act: automated decision-making transparency obligations commence. Privacy policies must disclose substantially automated decisions that significantly affect people.

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If something in this issue applies to your organisation and you want a second opinion on what to do about it, book a time. Bring the question; we will bring the answer.

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