



## MERGA Privacy Policy

---

MERGA is committed to providing quality services to you and this policy outlines our ongoing obligations to you in respect of how we manage your Personal Information. We have adopted the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) contained in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) (the Privacy Act). The APPs govern the way in which we collect, use, disclose, store, secure and dispose of your Personal Information. A copy of the Australian Privacy Principles may be obtained from the website of The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/>

### What is personal information and why do we collect it?

Personal Information is information or an opinion that identifies an individual. The Personal Information we collect in from our members includes:

- name
- email address
- postal address
- membership level

Optional information we collect only if volunteered by our members includes:

- title
- phone number
- Early Career Researcher (Y/N)
- Research Demographic Information
- Area of Research Interest
- Research Methods

We collect your Personal Information for the primary purpose of providing our services to you, providing information to our members, such as the member e-newsletter and MERJ journals. We may also use your Personal Information for secondary purposes closely related to the primary purpose, in circumstances where you would reasonably expect such use or disclosure. You may unsubscribe from our mailing/marketing lists at any time by changing your communication preferences in the membership portal.

When we collect Personal Information we will, where appropriate and where possible, explain to you why we are collecting the information and how we plan to use it.

We also collect website analytics from our MERGA membership accounts, website, Facebook and X accounts. These are anonymized statistics about how many people use our website features, membership portal and follow our social media accounts. These statistics help us understand how our users, as a group, engage with our organization. The volume and frequency of users for our products and digital platforms are otherwise not linked to specific individuals. By commenting on, or posting on our platforms, you are consenting to your name of your account being publicly displayed.

### How we store and protect your information

We receive and store information you enter on our website or give us in any other way from time to time. Individual profile and company details are not used for any other purpose. We respect the privacy of our online visitors. We will use all reasonable means to protect the confidentiality of your personal information while in our possession or control. We will not knowingly share any of your Personal Information with any third party other than our service providers who assist us in providing the information and/or services we are providing to you (for example, Stripe, Springer, Oxford Abstracts, and other event organisers). To the extent that we do share your personal information with a service provider, we would only do so if that party has agreed to comply with our privacy standards as described in this privacy policy. Some of our service providers may be overseas and may not be subject to Australian Privacy Laws. Please contact us if you require specific details.

Any non-personal information, communications, and material you send to this website or to us by email, or which we obtain from third parties without promises of confidentiality, may be kept, used and disclosed by us on a non-confidential basis, such as in the e-newsletter or for promotional purposes on our website. Where possible we will endeavour to seek your permission to use this information, including your image.

### How and when we disclosure of your information

We may from time to time need to disclose certain information, which may include your basic personal information, to comply with a legal requirement, such as a law, regulation, court order, subpoena, warrant, in the course of a legal proceeding or in response to a law enforcement agency request. Also, we may use your personal information to protect the rights, property, or safety of MERGA, our members or third parties.

### Access by members

Members have the right to request access to their personal information. This right is subject to some expectations that are set out in the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000. In order to ensure the privacy and security for its members and other associates, MERGA requires any request for information to be made in writing and include your full name, address and phone number. This will help us to speedily verify your request. Email MERGA's VP (Communications) [vp.communication@merga.net.au](mailto:vp.communication@merga.net.au)

### Cookies and Pixels

A cookie is a small file placed in your web browser that collects information about your web browsing behaviour. Use of cookies allows a website to tailor its configuration to your needs and preferences. Cookies do not access information stored on your computer or any personal information (e.g. name, address, email address or telephone number). Most web browsers

automatically accept cookies, but you can choose to reject cookies by changing your browser settings. This may, however, prevent you from taking full advantage of our website.

Our website uses cookies to analyse website traffic and help us provide a better website visitor experience. In addition, cookies and pixels may be used to serve relevant ads to website visitors through third party services such as Google Adwords and Facebook Adverts. These ads may appear on this website or other websites you visit. Google Privacy Policy can be found [here](#).

### Third parties

We do not and will not sell or deal in personal or customer information. We will never disclose your personal details to a third party except the necessary information required by providers of products or services you have purchased or to protect the rights, property or safety of merga.net.au, our customers or third parties or if required by law.

We may however use in a general sense without any reference to your name, your information to create marketing statistics, identify user demands and to assist it in meeting customer needs generally. In addition, we may use the information that you provide to improve our website and services but not for any other use.

### Links

Our website and social media accounts may contain links to other websites. These links are meant for your convenience only. Links to third party websites do not constitute sponsorship or endorsement or approval of these websites. Please be aware that we are not responsible for the privacy practices of such other websites. We encourage our users to be aware, when they leave our website, to read the privacy statements of each and every website that collects personally identifiable information. This privacy policy applies solely to information collected by this website.

### Change in Privacy Policy

As we plan to ensure our privacy policy remains current, this policy is subject to change. We may modify this policy at any time, in our sole discretion and all modifications will be effective immediately upon our posting of the modifications on this website.

### Questions or concerns? Contact us!

If you have any questions or concerns at any time about our privacy policy or the use of your personal information, please [contact us](#) via [admin@merga.net.au](mailto:admin@merga.net.au).