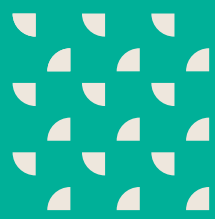


Anonymous or Confidential?



Anonymity and confidentiality are not the same thing, but they are words that are often misunderstood or incorrectly used (as well as being hard to say).

Anonymity focuses on keeping someone unidentified by using technology, an alias or disguise that obscures personal information.

Confidentiality focuses on the protection of the information itself from being disclosed to unauthorized parties, while anonymity focuses on protecting the identity of the person or entity behind that information.

Every now and then you may be asked to fill out an 'anonymous' form, but at the beginning or end it asks you for some personal information, such as your postcode, ethnic background, income status or contact details. That is not keeping you anonymous because whoever receives the form may have some way to identify you.

If an organisation asks you to complete an 'anonymous' survey, but your computer IP address can be tracked or your phone conversation recorded, that is not keeping your identity safe and is why many people are sceptical about how anonymous or private their identity or information would really be.

So how does this relate to Crime Stoppers?

We're interested in what you know, not who you are. You don't have to provide your personal details, and these are not captured or recorded when you make an online report or phone call to us.

We harness technology to provide anonymity. When you make an online report, we use the Tor network to ensure you don't leave a digital footprint. The Tor network ensures your online report passes through at least 3 different global servers, each providing a separate layer of encryption well before your report even reaches us. That means the information being transmitted cannot be intercepted, monitored or read and the source of the report can never be backtracked.

What does this mean for people with information about criminal activity or suspicious behaviour?

It's important to make people feel safe when they're sharing sensitive information. They might be reluctant to make a report in case they're identified, asked to provide further evidence or they risk suffering reprisals as a consequence. 82% of Australians feel safer because of Crime Stoppers, and the WA community have trusted us for over 28 years to safely share information based on what they know, without asking them to be known.