Media Release
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Australian Government Draft Code of Practice Bolsters Consumer Protection of Connected Devices

The Internet of Things Alliance Australia (IoTAA) today welcomed the release of the draft Code of Practice regarding **Securing the Internet of Things for Consumers.**[1]

Matt Tett, Chair of the IoTAA's Cyber Security work-stream said "The creation of a Code of Practice is an important step in setting minimum security expectations with manufacturers and vendors of Internet of Things (IoT) devices and services for use by consumers. It is very encouraging to see the Australian Government taking the initiative to develop this code. This comes closely on the back of the recent **FVEY statement of intent regarding the security of the Internet of Things**[2] and the close of the public consultation by Government on Australia's 2020 Cyber Security Strategy."

"The draft code is voluntary, and as with anything voluntary, the challenge lies in developing compliance incentives for vendors and manufacturers. The most compelling incentive comes from consumers who insist on compliance with the code; but how will consumers know which devices comply? What criteria can consumers use to ensure that compliance statements are true and accurate?"

"In 2017, the IoTAA released its **Strategy for Strengthening IoT Security in Australia**[3], and the second of the eight key elements of the strategy is to develop, implement and promote an IoT product security certification program. A program such as this, which enables consumers to readily identify devices that have been independently tested against their claimed security features and capabilities will enable consumers to have confidence that the devices they're purchasing meet the criteria of the Code of Practice."

Frank Zeichner, CEO of the IoTAA added "We consider providing consumers with simpler ways to identify and choose secure IoT devices and services as an important next step and one that will drive industry behaviour. We look forward to the Australian Government collaborating with us to develop these procedures and methodologies for enhancing IoT security to protect our consumers and businesses."

IoTAA is the peak industry body for IoT in Australia www.iot.org.au. IoTAA's Cyber Security work-stream, and their 150 plus industry members, have developed a range of tools to assist industry participants and businesses and consumers understand and develop good security practices, and they look forward to continuing to work with government to embed security by design into Internet of Things ecosystems. The **IoTAA submission to the Australian Government 2020 Cyber Security Strategy**[4] has been published.

For media inquiries, contact: Matt Tett, matt@testlab.com.au, 0417 399 280

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1. https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-pubs/files/code-of-practice.pdf
2. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/five-country-ministerial-communique/statement-of-intent-regarding-the-security-of-the-internet-of-things
3. https://www.iot.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/IoTAA-Strategic-Plan-to-Strengthen-IoT-Security-in-Australia-v4.pdf
4. https://www.iot.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/IoTAA-Submission-to-Australias-2020-Cyber-Security-Strategy-1.pdf