



**ACT**  
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and  
Economic Development

## Freedom of Information Disclosure Log Publication Coversheet

The following information is provided pursuant to section 28 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.

Application Details	
Ref. No.	CMTEDDFOI 2025-400
Date of Application	4 November 2025
Date of Decision	16 December 2025
Processing time (in working days)	30
Fees	N/A
Decision on Access	Full Release
<b>Information Requested (summary)</b>	Information pertaining to the decision to remove the role of Coordinator-General in the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Division.
Publication Details	
Original application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Decision notice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Documents and schedule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Decision made by Ombudsman	N/A
Additional information identified by Ombudsman	N/A
Decision made by ACAT	N/A
Additional information identified by ACAT	N/A

# Community Services Directorate Freedom of Information - Access Application - Submission confirmation

Your submission has been successful. Please keep a copy of this receipt for your records.

Date and time

19 Oct 2025 12:14:31 PM

Reference code

Y3NYZ8XS

CSD FOI Team

GPO Box 158  
Canberra City, ACT 2601

CSD.FOI@act.gov.au

## Applicant details

Title

Given name\*

Family name\*

[Redacted applicant details]

Preferred name

[Redacted preferred name]

Contact phone number\*

123456789

Contact email address\*

[Redacted contact email address]

Preferred method of contact\*

Phone

Email

Do you need an interpreter?\*

Yes

No

Preferred method to receive information

Email

Post

Same as contact email address

## Information request

What type of information are you requesting access to?

\*

Other information (fees may apply) ▼

Are you making the request on behalf of someone else?\*

Yes

No

What information are you requesting access to under the Act?\*

Information pertaining to the decision to remove the role of Coordinator-General in the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention division. Why was this position removed? What evidence was considered? What consultation occurred, and what were the results of this consultation?

Do you currently have any other relevant FOI requests with the ACT government?\*

Yes

No

Attach additional documents to support your application (optional)

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## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – NOTICE OF DECISION**

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), transferred to the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) on 4 November 2025.

Specifically, you have sought access to the following information:

*“Information pertaining to the decision to remove the role of Coordinator-General in the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention division. Why was this position removed? What evidence was considered? What consultation occurred, and what were the results of this consultation?”*

### **Authority**

I am an Information Officer appointed by the CMTEDD Director-General under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

### **Timeframes**

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, CMTEDD is required to provide a decision on your access application within 30 days.

Therefore, a decision is due by **16 December 2025**.

### **Decision on access**

Searches of CMTEDD records have identified seven documents within the scope of your request.

I have decided to grant **no access (nondisclosure)** to six documents and full access to one document.

### **Additional information**

The Taskforce Report contains information within the scope of your request, (specifically page 19) which is publicly available via the website below:

<https://www.act.gov.au/open/actps-2025-taskforce-report>

### **Release of documents**

The information being released to you is listed in a schedule provided at **Attachment A**. The material being released to you is provided at **Attachment B**.

## Statement of Reasons

In accordance with section 54(2) of the Act a statement of reasons outlining my decisions is below. In reaching my access decisions, I have taken the following into account:

- the Act
- the information that falls within the scope of your request
- information that is publicly available

As a decision maker, I am required to determine whether the information within scope is in the public interest to release. To make this decision, I am required to:

- assess whether the information would be contrary to public interest to disclose as per **Schedule 1** of the Act.
- perform the public interest test as set out in section 17 of the Act by balancing the factors favouring disclosure and factors favouring nondisclosure in **Schedule 2** of the Act.

## Exemptions claimed

### **Schedule 1: Information taken to be contrary to the public interest.**

My reasons for deciding not to grant access to the information or components of information found within documents are as follows:

- *Section 1.6 - Cabinet Information.*

Under section 1.6(1)(a) of the Act, information *that has been submitted, or that a Minister proposes to submit, to Cabinet for its consideration and that was brought into existence for that purpose* and section 1.6(1)(d) information *the disclosure of which would reveal any deliberation of Cabinet (other than through the official publication of a Cabinet decision)* of Schedule 1 of the Act, is considered Cabinet information and is exempt from release. The purpose of this exemption is to maintain the confidentiality of the Cabinet process and to uphold the principle of collective ministerial responsibility.

This exemption was discussed in *The Commonwealth v Northern Land Council* [1993] HCA 24; (1993) 176 CLR 604 (21 April 1993). Paragraph 6 of the decision, states that:

*... it has never been doubted that it is in the public interest that the deliberations of Cabinet should remain confidential in order that the members of Cabinet may exchange differing views and at the same time maintain the principle of collective responsibility for any decision which may be made.*

Documents 2-7 fall within Schedule 1, section 1.6 of the Act as it is information which has been brought into existence to guide Cabinet in its decision making and assist it in its deliberations. It is reasonable to consider that the disclosure of this material would or could reveal those deliberations.

### **Public Interest Test**

The Act has a presumption in favour of disclosure. As a decision maker I am required to decide where, on balance, public interest lies. As part of this process, I must consider factors favouring disclosure and nondisclosure.

In *Hogan v Hinch* (2011) 243 CLR 506, [31] French CJ stated that when 'used in a statute, the term [public interest] derives its content from "the subject matter and the scope and

purpose” of the enactment in which it appears’. Section 17(1) of the Act sets out the test, to be applied to determine whether disclosure of information would be contrary to the public interest. These factors are found in subsection 17(2) and Schedule 2 of the Act.

### **Schedule 2: Factors to be considered when deciding the public interest.**

Taking into consideration the information within scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within this document is within the ‘public interest’.

#### ***Factors favouring disclosure (Section 2.1)***

- *Section 2.1(a)(i) - promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government’s accountability.*
- *Section 2.1(a)(viii) - reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision.*

Disclosure of the requested information could reveal the reasons for a government decision or provide background and contextual information that informed that decision and promote open discussion on an area of public interest. Noting the information contained, I have weighed this lightly as this is a high-level document regarding the actions to be taken following the ACTPS 2025 Taskforce review and report.

I am satisfied that these factors favouring disclosure carry some weight. However, these factors are to be balanced against the factors favouring nondisclosure.

#### ***Factors favouring nondisclosure (Section 2.2)***

There are no Schedule 2 factors identified within the documents.

### **Charges**

Processing charges are not applicable for this request because the number of pages released to you is below the charging threshold of 50.

### **Online publishing – Disclosure Log**

Under section 28 of the Act, CMTEDD maintains an online record of access applications called a [disclosure log](#).

Your original access application and my decision will be published on the CMTEDD disclosure log. Your personal contact details will not be published.

### **Ombudsman Review**

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is provided to you, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

We recommend using this form [Applying for an Ombudsman Review](#) to ensure you provide all of the required information. Alternatively, you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman  
GPO Box 442  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: [actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au)

## **ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Review**

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal  
GPO Box 370  
Canberra City ACT 2601  
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740  
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Should you have any queries in relation to your request please contact the CMTEDD FOI Team by telephone on 6207 7754 or email [CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au](mailto:CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Emma Hotham

Information Officer  
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

16 December 2025



**ACT**  
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and  
Economic Development

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST SCHEDULE

### WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST

Reference NO.

*"Information pertaining to the decision to remove the role of Coordinator-General in the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention division. Why was this position removed? What evidence was considered? What consultation occurred, and what were the results of this consultation?"*

CMTEDDFOI 2025-400

Ref No	Page number	Description	Date	Status	Reason for Exemption	Online Release Status
1	1-6	<i>Summary of Actions</i>		Full		Yes
2-7		<i>SIGNED 25-267 Cabinet Submission (incl five attachments)</i>		Exempt	Sch 1 1.6	No
<b>Total No of Docs</b>						
7						

# ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING ACTPS 2025 TASKFORCE REVIEW AND REPORT

Following consideration of the ACTPS 2025 Taskforce, the ACT Government will take the following actions to implement changes to the ACTPS. These actions are referenced to recommendations made in the Taskforce Report. The intent for many actions is to effect changes to directorate structures with an effective date of 1 July 2025.

**The Chief Minister, through changes to Administrative Arrangements with an effective date of 1 July 2025 will:**

Number	Recommendation	Actions
1	EPSDD and TCCS come together with Access Canberra and the Better Regulation team from CMTEDD (Better Regulation Taskforce) to form a new Directorate called the City and Environment Directorate. The new directorate should reflect the Principles for Design and Implementation of Machinery of Government Changes set out in Part 2, the Key Attributes set out above and the other recommendations of this Report.	<p>a. Establish a new directorate titled the City and Environment Directorate that incorporates the current Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD), Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS), Access Canberra and the Better Regulation Taskforce. Specific and consequential changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ACT Heritage Library to move to Territory Records Office, Policy and Cabinet, CMTEDD;</li> <li>ii. Library branches (other than the ACT Heritage Library) to move to the Access Canberra stream within the new directorate structure; and</li> <li>iii. Better Regulation Taskforce to be located with strategic policy functions within the new directorate structure.</li> </ul> <p>b. Establish a new directorate titled the Health and Community Services Directorate that incorporates the current Community Services Directorate (CSD) and the ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD). Consequential changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Health Research and Ethics functions moving from ACTHD to Canberra Health Services (CHS);</li> <li>ii. the functions of the Coordinator-General for Mental Health will be transferred to a role within the new directorate structure with existing</li> </ul>
2	Health and Community Services Directorates come together to form a new Directorate called the Health and Community Services Directorate. The new directorate should reflect the Principles for Design and Implementation of Machinery of Government Changes set out in Part 2, the Key Attributes set out above and the other recommendations of this Report.	
3	The Administrative Arrangements to bring the MoG into effect is made as soon as possible with a commencement date of 1 July 2025.	
7	Establishment of a time limited Digital and IT Directorate to manage all Digital and IT functions across the ACTPS	

	<p>commencing on a date to be determined and to be reviewed after an initial two-year period.</p>	<p>work on embedding lived experience and building cross-sector partnerships to continue;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. the functions of the Coordinator-General for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence will transfer to a different role in the new directorate with continuation of existing work;</li> <li>iv. the Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs will transfer from CMTEDD to the Health and Community Services Directorate; and</li> <li>v. the transfer of all infrastructure delivery, with the exception of strategic infrastructure planning, from ACTHD and CSD to Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR), including public housing growth, renewal and maintenance, and the Facilities Insourcing Taskforce.</li> </ul> <p>c. Reflecting the importance of data and digital capability in government Digital Canberra will be established. The new directorate will have a focus on digital and information technology support and the delivery of large-scale digital projects. As a first step Digital, Data and Technology Solutions (DDTS) from CMTEDD and the Digital Solutions Division (DSD) from ACTHD will be brought together in Digital Canberra.</p> <p>d. Update matters associated with directorates in Administrative Arrangements to reflect the alignment of functions as well as consequential changes to other directorates.</p>
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The Head of Service under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994 (PSMA)* will:

Number	Recommendation	Actions
4	The recruitment of Directors-General for the City and Environment Directorate and the Health and Community Services Directorate commence immediately and that there be an open recruitment process to fill the Deputy Director-General positions in the affected Directorates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Commence as soon as possible recruitment for a Director-General and 2 Deputy Directors-General for both the City and Environment Directorate and the Health and Community Services Directorate.</li> <li>b. Undertake an iterative process for the recruitment of a Director-General for Digital Canberra to match the iterative formation of the new directorate.</li> <li>c. Lead detailed planning by the ACTPS prior to 1 July 2025, to implement key principles for the movement of staff and Senior Executive Service (SES) Officers including that staff follow function.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Implementation teams will consult with staff on establishment of new directorates.</li> <li>ii. Final structures for directorates will be confirmed by incoming Directors-General following discussion with relevant Ministers.</li> <li>iii. This means that there will be an effective date of 1 July 2025 for the new directorates as outlined in Administrative Arrangements, but that there will be ongoing work on structures once the incoming Director-General is in place as per the functions assigned to them in the PSMA.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5	Movement of staff and SES Band 1 and Band 2 officers be moved in the new structure in accordance with the following principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the Director-General to be responsible;</li> <li>b) staff to follow function;</li> <li>c) Director-General to match unplaced staff within the new structure;</li> <li>d) SES movements – EBMs and EGMs – to be similarly managed;</li> <li>e) excess SES officers to be managed in accordance with existing procedures; and</li> <li>f) mobility rounds to be offered.</li> </ul>	
6	MoG implementation teams be established in both the City and Environment Directorate and Health and Community Services Directorate as soon as possible and preferably well in advance of the 1 July 2025 effective date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Recruit 2 temporary Deputy-Director General positions for City and Environment and Health and Community Services Directorates that will focus on implementation of the Administrative Arrangements and establishment of new directorates. These DDG positions will be established for 6 months in the first instance and will work with small teams from affected directorates to plan and deliver on implementation tasks required for the 1 July effective date. The temporary positions will be funded from within existing affected directorate resources.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. An expression of interest process will be undertaken for the temporary DDG roles and for staff who may be interested in working on implementation teams.</li> <li>ii. The Health and Community Services Implementation Team will work with CMTEDD on the establishment of Digital Canberra.</li> </ul>
8	The Yarralumla Nursery, Capital Linen Service and Canberra Memorial Parks be transferred to Economic Development in CMTEDD for a program of reform to transform them to 100 percent ACT owned corporate commercial bodies with social enterprise objectives to be pursued with respect to employment of disadvantaged Canberrans.	The incoming Director-General of the City and Environment Directorate will explore the transition of the Yarralumla Nursery, Capital Linen Services and Canberra Memorial Parks to improve commercial agility and support social enterprise objectives such as diverse employment outcomes.
9	An overall principle of driving towards standard processes and procedures, with policies to be adopted to progress the principle of one service, facilitating collaboration and mobility between works units, freeing up staff from the performance of unnecessary administration and improving financial visibility. This process should commence immediately, be service wide and be factored into business planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish and recruit for a central implementation management role from within existing CMTEDD resources working in partnership across government to develop a work program for the implementation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. standard processes and procedures to progress the one service principle and streamline or reduce administration including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) facilitation of collaboration between work units and directorates;</li> <li>(B) recruitment processes for SES and non-SES staff including to allow greater mobility of staff; and</li> <li>(C) whole of ACTPS policies and procedures to avoid duplication of effort.</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. improved financial accountability frameworks;</li> <li>iii. a review of all ACT Government policies, strategies and frameworks to assess continuation, revision or review in line with current ACT Government priorities;</li> <li>iv. review of procurement processes resulting from the procurement reform project in 2023-24;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10	The ACTPS set in a train a program of reform during the course of 2025-26 to achieve greater mobility of staff, reduced administration in recruitment practices and increased ability to respond to operational demands.	
11	The ACTPS move to a standard tool and frameworks for financial accountabilities and reporting for all directorates,0 standard monthly reporting in a template format to be considered by the Strategic Board in an item to be brought by the Under-Treasurer.	

	<p>Confer increased authority on CFOs and strengthen financial accountabilities for financial delegates and require that each report regularly through to their Director-General as the accountable person under the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and enhanced regular reporting to the Treasury.</p> <p>Include in performance agreements and appraisal processes of all officers with significant financial delegations, a requirement that budgets be complied with. This move to be accompanied by increased communications and where appropriate training to assist managers to improve budget discipline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v. review of risk and insurance processes and practices with the ACT Insurance Authority; and</li> <li>vi. consideration of opportunities to standardise and coordinate Freedom of Information processes across the ACTPS.</li> </ul>
12	<p>Each current Government strategy/policy/framework and action plan be carefully considered either as part of a gradual review or as each comes to a conclusion to assess whether the continuation or revision and renewal of that strategy warrants high priority, is capable of being progressed in a timely way (for reasons of budget or capability), will deliver outcomes for the community, and if the staff who would otherwise perform these roles are more appropriately moved to other functions.</p>	
13	<p>Where the establishment of a Coordinator-General or other specific office is under consideration, the better practice would be to provide for a flexible model of engagement with a tenure which is time limited and subject to regular reconsideration. The new offices which are the subject of 2024 election commitments, namely the Government Landscape Architect and the Strata Commissioner should be engaged using the most flexible model possible to as to enable change in the event of changed priorities or circumstances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Work with the incoming Director-General of the City and Environment Directorate to establish an ACT Government Landscape Architect position with a support team from within existing directorate resources;</li> <li>b. Work with the Director-General of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate on actions to be taken regarding establishment of a Strata Commissioner following government consideration of recommendations from the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Legal Affairs Inquiry into the management of Strata properties; and</li> <li>c. Undertake a review of statutory offices to ensure functions and role remain current and resources expended warrant outcomes achieved.</li> </ul>

	<p>A separate review of statutory offices be considered to ensure that the functions and roles remain current and that the resource expended warrants the outcomes achieved.</p>	
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**Future work to be managed by incoming Directors-General with the Head of Service will include:**

- Consideration of the most effective approach to and support for death review functions, specifically the Death Review Coordinator (*Domestic Violence Agencies Act 1986*) and the Children and Young People Death Review Committee function (*Children and Young People Act 2008*).
- Review of public facing phone lines to consolidate community access to government services.
- Development of a citizen centred model for public facing customer service points that brings together functions from outside of Access Canberra wherever possible.
- Review of compliance enforcement ranger delegations across the ACTPS with the aim of greater cross-delegation and collaboration where possible.
- Review of interactions and integration opportunities for the support services for children (including Child Development Service) with services provided across government.
- Consider opportunities for greater linkages between science related functions of the ACT Government.