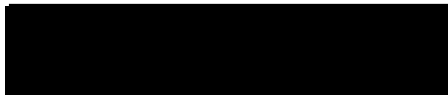




ACT
Government
Community Services

(Ref: 14/19)



Dear 

I refer to your application under the ACT *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the Act), received by the Community Services Directorate on 3 February 2014, in which you requested access to documents relating to the closure of the Women's Information Referral Centre. Specifically, you stated:

'Without limiting the generality of this request, please provide me with:

- 1. Any communications, correspondence, emails, draft documents, signed documents, recommendations and advice but not limited to:*
 - a) The closure of the Women's Information Referral Centre;*
 - b) The plan to close the WIRC;*
 - c) The advice sought on the decision to close the centre;*
 - d) The notice given to the landlord to vacate the premises at 13 London Circuit, Canberra City;*
 - e) The plan outlining the proposed delivery of the courses that were run out of the Women's Information Referral Centre;*
 - f) The financial savings in closing the Women's Information Referral Centre.'*

I am an officer authorised to make a decision in respect of a request for information, under the FOI Act, section 22. I apologise for the delay in providing you with the documents which relate to your FOI request.

Decision

Please find attached schedules of documents identified in relation to your request. The attached schedules list my decisions regarding access to the documents. The terms used are either Full release, Partial release, Not released or Exempt.

Exemptions

The Act allows the Directorate to apply exemptions in circumstances where the protection of certain information is required by law, for example other people's personal information.

All documents referred to in the schedules have been considered with a view to releasing them to you. Where information is considered to be exempt, not released or partial release, a reference is made in the schedule to the relevant section, or combinations of sections of the legislation which apply to the particular information.

Attachment A has been provided as a summary of relevant sections referred to in the attached schedules and excerpts of legislation which have been referenced are provided at **Attachment B**.

Section 35, Executive Documents

Certain documents within the scope relate to the Act, section 35, Executive documents. This section of the Act permits the exemption of information which has either been submitted to the Executive or prepared for the purpose of submitting to the Executive for consideration. I believe the disclosure of the information would involve the disclosure of deliberations of the Executive.

Section 36, Internal Working Documents

Section 36 allows the exemption of internal working documents when disclosure under the FOI Act would not be in public interest. I consider the disclosure of these draft documents would lead to confusion and unnecessary debate documents would lead to confusion and unnecessary debate resulting from disclosure of possibilities considered.

Section 41, Personal information

Certain documents within the scope of your request have been released with deletions in reference to the Act, section 41. Exemptions under this section have been made where the documents within the scope of your request contained personal information relating to other individuals, the disclosure of which I consider to be unreasonable.

Copies

You will note the decision in relation to some documents contain the term 'copy' and refer to the Schedule number and folio number. Such references have occurred to minimise the release of repetitious information.

Information outside the scope of request

Some information in the attached schedules is outside the scope of your request, either that it relates to subjects other than those which you refer to in your request.

Class Campaign letters

During December 2013, a number of class campaign letters (of which there were different versions) were received by government regarding the closure of the Women's Information Referral Centre. For the purpose of this FOI request, my decision is to release de-identified copies of these letters and where applicable to avoid repetitious duplication only one copy has been provided.

Review rights

My decision is appealable under the Act. This means if you are dissatisfied with this outcome you have a right to seek a review under section 59 of the Act. This right of review extends to a review of the adequacy of the search for documents undertaken by the Directorate.

If you wish to seek a review you can write to:

Deputy Director General
Community Services Directorate
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

You have 28 days from the date of this letter to seek a review of the outcome or such other period as the Executive Director permits.

Under section 54 of the Act, if you are concerned about the processing of your request or related administrative matters, you may complain to the Ombudsman, who may conduct an independent investigation into your complaint. There is no fee for this and the contact details are as follows:

The Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

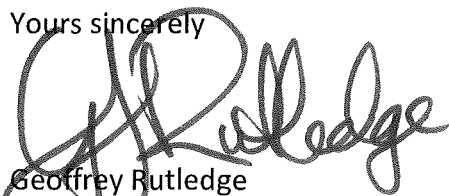
Online FOI Policy

I have assessed your request for information under the ACT Government's Online Freedom of Information Publication Policy and have determined that the documents relevant to your request will be published online. For more information about the ACT Government's Online Freedom of Information Publication Policy, a copy of the policy is available online at:

http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/report/freedom_of_information_online

If you have any queries in relation to the documents provided to you for the purpose of this FOI request (ref: 14/19) please contact me on 6207 9031.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Rutledge', written over the typed name.

Geoffrey Rutledge
Executive Director
Policy and Organisational Services
Community Services Directorate

13 May 2014