



ACT
Government

Justice and Community Safety

Our Reference: FOI 13-0072

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your application received on 21 October 2013 to the Justice and Community Safety Directorate relating to your request for access to the Office of Regulatory Services documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the Act). In your email application you advised that you are acting on behalf of [REDACTED]

In your email, you sought access to documents regarding civil partnerships, and particularly access to:

- *“the number of relationships formalised in total from commencement of Civil Partnerships Act 2008 (ACT)”*
- *the number of these revoked or terminated*
- *the number made before a notary and how many used the paper based option*
- *the number same sex, the number opposite sex, and ideally how many of each and;*
- *the number of marriages granted and number of divorces registered for each of the last 5 years”*

I am the officer authorised under section 22 of the Act to make a decision in relation to your request.

Section 16(1)(c)(i) of the Act states that where the agency or the Minister, as the case may be, could produce a written document containing the information in discrete form by (i) the use of a computer or other equipment that is ordinarily available to the agency or ordinarily available in an office of the Minister, as the case may be, for retrieving or collating stored information, the request can be dealt with as if it were a request for written documentation. The information has been retrieved from the ORS database and provided for you as an attachment.

I have decided that the information is to be fully released in accordance with the Act. Under the repealed Civil Partnerships Act 2008, there is no provision that requires partnerships to disclose whether they are the same sex. The ACT Births, Deaths and

Marriages office does not record divorces. These are dealt with through the Family Court of Australia. Please refer to Attachment A relevant to your request.

You may also gather further information from the recent Annual Report 2012-2013 located on our Directorate's website:

<https://justice.act.gov.au/page/view/3583/title/annual-report-2012-2013>

I have assessed your request for information under the ACT Government's Online Freedom of Information Publication Policy and have determined that the information relevant to your request, not including your original application, **will** be published online. For more information about the ACT Government's Online Freedom of Information Publication Policy, visit the link below.

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

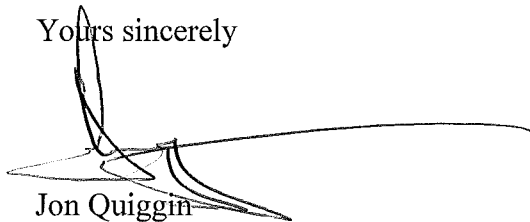
You have the right to seek a review of the outcome under section 59 of the Act within 28 days from the date of this letter, or such other period as the Director-General permits. This right of review extends to a review of the adequacy of the search for documents undertaken by the Directorate. Requests for review should be submitted to the following address:

The Director-General
ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate
C/- Freedom of Information Officer
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

You also have the right to contact the Ombudsman regarding the processing of your request and you may contact the Ombudsman's Office at the following address:

The Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Yours sincerely



Jon Quiggin
Decision Maker
Office of Regulatory Services

8 November 2013