



**ACT**  
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and  
Economic Development

## Freedom of Information Publication Coversheet

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

FOI Reference: CMTEDDFOI 2023-363

Information to be published	Status
1. Access application	Published
2. Decision notice	Published
3. Documents and schedule	Published
4. Additional information identified	No
5. Fees	N/A
6. Processing time (in working days)	15
7. Decision made by Ombudsman	N/A
8. Additional information identified by Ombudsman	N/A
9. Decision made by ACAT	N/A
10. Additional information identified by ACAT	N/A

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CMTEDD FOI](#)  
**Subject:** FOI Request  
**Date:** Wednesday, 18 October 2023 8:01:14 PM

---

**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear FOI Request Officer,

[REDACTED]

I would like to request the below data for use in an assignment on arts funding.

What did ACT Arts receive in funding from the Federal Government for the financial years:

2020-21

2021-22

2022-23

2023-24

2024-25 (estimated budget, if available)

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) on **18 October 2023**. Specifically, you have sought access to the following information:

*“What did ACT Arts receive in funding from the Federal Government for the financial years:*

- 2020-21
- 2021-22
- 2022-23
- 2023-24
- 2024-25 (estimated budget, if available)”

### Authority

As an appointed Information Officer under section 18 of the Act by the Director General of CMTEDD, I am authorised to make a decision on access or amendment to government information in the possession or control of CMTEDD.

### Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, CMTEDD was required to provide a decision within 30 working days. A decision and response are due on **29 November 2023**.

### Decision on access

Searches were completed for relevant information and the business area has generated table of information containing data within scope of your request. I have decided to grant **full access** to the material within scope. The information being released to you is provided below:

Arts Funding received by ArtsACT from the Australian Government		
2020/21	\$35,255	Regional Arts Funding
	\$98,865	Regional Arts Recovery Boost Funding
2021/22	\$35,631	Regional Arts Funding
2022/23	\$36,382	Regional Arts Funding
2023/24	\$40,000	Regional Arts Funding
2024/25 Estimated	\$78,384	Regional Arts Funding

In accordance with section 54(2) of the Act a statement of reasons outlining my decisions is below.

### **Statement of Reasons**

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, and
- perform the public interest test as set out in section 17 of the Act by balancing the factors favouring disclosure and factors favouring non-disclosure in Schedule 2.
- I did not identify any Schedule 1 provisions as relevant to this request.

### **The public interest information under schedule 2 of the Act**

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 non-disclosure.

Taking into consideration the information found to be within the scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the 'public interest'.

### **Factors favouring disclosure in the public interest:**

*(a) disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do any of the following:*

*(i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability;*

*(ii) contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest;*

*(xvi) contribute to innovation and the facilitation of research.*

I have placed substantial weight on the above factors favouring disclosure. It is reasonable to expect that information about this topic may be of interest to others within the Canberra community and contribute to informed debate about issues of interest. I also note that you have raised interest in this information, as it may aid in the facilitation of your research project.

I did not identify any factor favouring nondisclosure and have decided to release this information to you in full.

### **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. You may view CMTEDD disclosure log at

<https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/functions/foi/disclosure-log-2023>

## **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 published on the disclosure log, 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  
15 Constitution Avenue  
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 me 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  
8 November 2023