



ACT
Government

Chief Minister and Cabinet

Our ref: FOI CMCD 35/11-12

Dear

I refer to your request addressed to the Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate (CMCD), made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the Act). You are seeking cost details for the 2005-06 to 2011-12 financial years of expenditure relating to Canberra's international relationships – including the Sister City relationships as described on the CMCD website.

Decision Maker

I am authorised under section 22 of the Act to make decisions on access to documents held by the Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate (CMCD).

Identification of Documents

I have interpreted the scope of your request, as revised on 21 May 2012, to focus on all expenses associated with Sister Cities (Nara, Japan and Beijing, China) programs from the financial years 2009-10 to 2011-12 (until April) held centrally in CMCD.

Expenditure across the Directorate has been analysed and costs identified as relevant to the above mentioned scope are outlined in the enclosed document.

Decision on access

As noted in my office's letter to you of 11 May 2012, the promotion of diplomacy is a government function exercised by all directorates in the ACT Government and is demonstrated through programs, such as those relating to Sister City relationships, which fall under the diverse range of services the Government provides; conclusively, this information is not centrally stored within CMCD.

I have also partially transferred your request to the Economic Development Directorate under section 15(1)(b) of the Act and they have responded to you directly on the information they possess.

As the data you desire is not held by CMCD in discrete form I have decided to provide you, under section 16 of the Act, relevant costs sourced from an electronic financial database management system.

In responding to your request, I have considered all expenditure identified as relevant and a spreadsheet has been created for the purpose of providing you cost details. The majority of expenditure relating to the Sister Cities relationships was for a commissioned artwork for the Canberra Nara Peace Park, entitled *Toku* by Japanese artist Shinki Kato and costs associated with organising the community event, the Nara Candle Festival.

Your right of review

Internal Review

You are entitled, under section 59 (1) of the Act, to request a review of my decision. This right of review extends to a review of the adequacy of the search for documents undertaken by the Directorate.

You have 28 days after receiving notice of my decision to ask for a review, or a further period as allowed by the Director-General.

Your request should be addressed to:

Director-General
Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Complaints to the Ombudsman

Under section 54 of the Act, you may complain to the Ombudsman about administrative matters relating to the processing of your FOI request. There is no fee for making a complaint. The Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation into your complaint. You can contact the Ombudsman either by telephone on 1300 362 072 or by writing to:

The Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Online FOI Policy

Please be aware that under the ACT Government's Online FOI Publication Policy information released to you in response to your Freedom of Information request may be released on the internet.

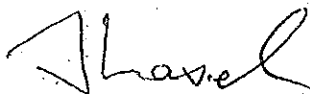
Personal information or business affairs information will not be made available under this policy. If you think the content of your request would contain such information, please inform the FOI Coordinator immediately on (02) 620 50238.

A copy of the policy, with details about what information may be published on the internet, is available online at:

http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/250333/FOI_Web_Release_Policy_-_Final.pdf

If you have any queries concerning CMCD's processing of your request, or would like further information, please contact me on (02) 620 79024.

Yours sincerely



Mr Jeremy Lasek
Executive Director
Culture and Communications

17 July 2012