



Dear 

Freedom of Information request 12/16

I refer to your correspondence to the Health Directorate regarding the request made by you for information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the FOI Act) to:

Documents detailing the number of patients in the care of Mental Health ACT or previously in the care of Mental Health ACT who have committed suicide between 2002 and 2012.

The number of people who have died while the subject of psychiatric treatment orders under division 4.4 of the Mental Health (Treatment and Care) Act 1994 between 2002 and 2012.

As Executive Director, Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services, ACT Government Health Directorate, I am an officer authorised under Section 22 of the FOI Act to make a decision in relation to this matter.

After consultation with you on 1 May 2012, regarding the scope of this request and what documents would be provided, it was agreed the Health Directorate would provide to you:

A spreadsheet, created for the purposes of this FOI request, that provides the number of patients in the care of Mental Health ACT or previously in the care of Mental Health ACT who have committed suicide between 2006 and 2012, and

A spreadsheet, created for the purposes of this FOI request, that provides the number of people who have died while subject of psychiatric treatment orders under division 4.4 of the Mental Health (Treatment and Care) Act 1994 between 2006 and 2012.

The spreadsheets will be de-identified and will provide the gender, age and date and cause of death of the patients.

Please note that the definition of suicide that has been applied to this FOI is as follows:
Intentional, self-induced death - the person willingly, perhaps ambivalently, takes his or her own life.

As we discussed during our 1 May 2012 phone call, due to the size of the ACT there is a higher potential that patients will be able to be identified through the de-identified details provided in response to this FOI request.

On advice from the Chief Psychiatrist, I made the decision that the specific date of death and age of the patients would not be provided, instead provided is the year of death and an age range. I made this decision to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of the patient and their family.

In the ACT, the Coroner investigates all reportable deaths and provides findings on the cause of death. Of the deaths the Health Directorate reported to the Coroner as possible suicides, it was my decision to provide to you the deaths the Coroner confirmed the cause of death was suicide.

Please note we have identified three deaths which cross over between the scope of your request. These deaths involve patients on a PTO and the cause of death was determined by the Coroner as suicide. These three deaths have been noted on both spreadsheets.

If you wish to seek a review of this decision you should write to:

The Principal Officer
c/- FOI Coordinator
Executive Coordination
Health Directorate
GPO Box 825
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 Principal Officer/ Secretary permits.

You also have the right to complain to the Ombudsman about the progression of your request. If you wish to lodge a complaint you should write to:

The Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

In accordance with the recent ACT Government policy on open government I advise that all written material made available to an applicant under an FOI will be published online within 15 days.

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact Fraser Powrie, Freedom of Information Coordinator on telephone 6205 1340 or Fraser.Powrie@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Bracher', written in a cursive style.

Katrina Bracher

Executive Director

Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol & Drug Services

16 May 2012

Health Directorate response to FOI 12-16

Number of patients in the care of Mental Health ACT or previously in the care of Mental health ACT who have committed suicide between 2006-2012

No	Gender	Year of death	Cause of death	Age range
1	Female	2006	Carbon Monoxide poisoning	
2	Male	2006	Hanging	
3	Female	2006	Hanging	
4	Male	2006	Hanging	
5	Male	2006	Smothering	
6	Male	2007	Hanging	
7	Male	2007	Hanging	
8	Male	2007	Knife wound	
9	Male	2007	Hanging	
10	Male	2007	Hanging	
11	Female	2007	Drug overdose	
12	Male	2007	Carbon monoxide poisoning	
13	Male	2007	Hanging	
14	Female	2007	Ingestion of caustic substance	
15	Male	2008	Hanging *	
16	Male	2008	Hanging *	
17	Male	2008	Suffocation	
18	Male	2008	Hanging	
19	Male	2008	Hanging	
20	Female	2008	Hanging	
21	Male	2008	Hanging	
22	Female	2008	Drowning	
23	Male	2008	Electrocution	
24	Male	2008	Hanging	
25	Female	2009	Hanging	
26	Female	2009	Hanging	
27	Male	2009	Hanging	
28	Male	2009	Carbon Monoxide poisoning	

No	Gender	Year of death	Cause of death	Age range
29	Male	2009	Hanging	
30	Female	2010	Overdose	
31	Male	2010	Carbon monoxide poisoning	
32	Male	2010	Hanging	
33	Male	2010	Hanging	
34	Male	2010	Hanging	
35	Male	2010	Gun shot wounds	
36	Male	2011	Hanging	
37	Female	2011	Hanging	

Deaths currently with the Coroner

No	Gender	Year of death	Cause of death	Age range
1	Female	2006	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
2	Male	2007	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
3	Male	2008	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
4	Male	2009	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
5	Male	2009	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
6	Male	2009	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
7	Male	2010	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
8	Male	2011	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
9	Female	2011	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
10	Female	2011	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
11	Male	2011	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
12	Male	2011	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
13	Male	2011	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
14	Male	2011	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
15	Female	2011	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
16	Female	2011	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
17	Female	2011	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner *	
18	Male	2012	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	

Note * identifies the three deaths which cross over between the scope of the FOI request

Health Directorate response to FOI 12/16

The number of people who have died while subject to a psychiatric treatment order under the
Mental Health (Treatment and Care) Act 1994 between 2006-2012

No	Gender	Year of death	Cause of death	Age range
1	Female	2003	Heart failure	
2	Male	2003	Asphyxia	
3	Female	2003	Pulmonary thromboembolism	
4	Female	2003	Multi organ failure	
5	Male	2008	Hanging *	
6	Male	2008	Hanging *	
7	Male	2008	Self induced asphyxiation	
8	Female	2009	Metastatic Cancer	
9	Female	2009	Pulmonary thromboembolism	
10	Female	2009	Congestive heart failure	
11	Male	2009	Drowning	
12	Female	2010	Toxic effect of prescription medications	
13	Male	2011	Aspiration pneumonia	
14	Female	2011	Cerebrovascular accident	

Deaths currently with the Coroner

No	Gender	Year of death	Cause of death	Age range
1	Male	2003	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
2	Male	2007	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
3	Male	2010	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
4	Female	2010	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
5	Male	2010	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
6	Female	2011	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner *	
7	Male	2011	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	
8	Female	2012	Cause of death pending finalisation from the Coroner	

Note * identifies the three deaths which cross over between the scope of the FOI request