



24 May 2023
FOI ref: 3348

Julie Middleton
By email: foi+request-10192-44c4c249@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ms Middleton

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – DECISION

I refer to your request to the Treasury on 24 April 2023, for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) to the following:

I am seeking the annual total expenditure provided in grants since 2006 by the Australian government.

GrantConnect has on its website:

The Australian Government provides grants to a wide number of stakeholders for the benefit of all Australians. Each year billions of dollars' worth of grants benefit the public including through:

- *increased social services;*
- *expanded opportunities for businesses;*
- *emergency relief; and*
- *research and innovation.*

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act.

Decision

The Treasury does not hold document(s) containing the '*annual total expenditure provided in grants since 2006 by the Australian government*'. As the Treasury holds no documents within scope of your request, I am refusing your request under section 24A(1) of the FOI Act.

Further information

The GrantConnect website is managed by the Department of Finance. The Department of Finance advised they also do not hold the information you are seeking.

They advised the GrantConnect lists grants for the purposes of the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017* (CGRGs). It provides information on the amount committed, but

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Langton Crescent
Parkes ACT 2600
Australia

P: +61 2 6263 2800

does not include expenditure, nor does GrantConnect include payments that may be considered grants in the broad sense but are not grants for the purposes of the CGRGs.

The Department of Finance further advised if 'grants' means grants for the purposes of the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017 (CGRGs), each agency would need to be requested to provide expenditure amounts.

Rights of Review

A statement setting out your rights of review in this matter is attached.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neena Pai', with a horizontal line underneath.

Neena Pai
Assistant Secretary
Budget Policy Branch

INFORMATION ON RIGHTS OF REVIEW

1. APPLICATION FOR INTERNAL REVIEW OF DECISION

Section 54 of the Freedom of Information Act gives you the right to apply for an internal review of the decision refusing to grant access to documents in accordance with your request.

An application for a review of the decision must be made in writing within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

No particular form is required but it would assist the decision-maker if you could set out in the application the grounds on which you consider that the decision should be reviewed.

An application for a review of the decision should be emailed to FOI@Treasury.gov.au.

OR

2. APPLICATION TO AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION COMMISSIONER (INFORMATION COMMISSIONER) FOR REVIEW OF DECISION

Section 54L of the FOI Act gives you the right to seek a review of the decision from the Information Commissioner. An application for review must be made within 60 days of receiving the decision.

An application for review must be in writing and must:

- give details of how notices must be sent to you; and
- include a copy of the notice of decision.

You should send your application for review to:

The Information Commissioner
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
GPO Box 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001

AND/OR

3. COMPLAINTS TO THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Section 70 of the FOI Act provides that a person may complain to the Information Commissioner about action taken by an agency in the exercise of powers or the performance of functions under the FOI Act.

A complaint to the Information Commissioner must be in writing and identify the agency the complaint is about. It should be directed to the following address:

The Information Commissioner
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
GPO Box 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001

The Information Commissioner may decline to investigate the complaint in a number of circumstances, including that you did not exercise your right to ask the agency, the Information Commissioner, a court or tribunal to review the decision.