



Dear Mr Swain

Re - Freedom of Information Request: No. 2014-15 017

I refer to your request to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) for any information held by NHMRC in relation to the 2010 NICNAS report titled *Scientific Review of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity: Identifying Key Research Needs*, and its recommendations.

Timeframe for receiving your decision

The statutory timeframe for processing a request is 30 days, starting from the day after the day on which your application was received by NHMRC. Therefore, the due date for a decision on your request is 17 April 2015.

This timeframe may be extended where:

- charges are levied as prescribed by the Freedom of Information (Fees and Charges) Regulations 1982 (the FOI Regulations)(see charges below);
- consultation with third parties is necessary (see consultation with third parties below).

Charges

Agencies may decide that an applicant is liable to pay a charge in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set by the FOI Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents, decision making and provision of access (for example, copying and postage).

If NHMRC decides to charge you in respect of this FOI request, we will send you a preliminary assessment of the charges as soon as possible following retrieval of any documents that may be relevant to your request.

Consultation with third parties

NHMRC may be required under the FOI Act to consult other parties (third parties) where information relating to third parties arises in documents sought by your request. The FOI Act prescribes a further 30 days processing time for NHMRC to undertake this consultation. You will be advised as soon as possible of any requirement to consult with a third party.

Finally, please note that s 11C of the FOI Act requires agencies to disclose documents released under the FOI Act in a disclosure log, which is made publicly available. There are exceptions to this requirement, such as where release of the documents or parts of them would involve the unreasonable disclosure of your or another person's personal or business information. You may choose to express a view on this issue and to identify personal or business information that in your view would be unreasonable to publish. However, you should be aware that s 11C of the FOI Act embodies a pro-disclosure policy which agencies are required to follow, subject to any exceptions provided for under the FOI Act.

If you have any queries throughout the process please contact the FOI office on (02) 6217 9406.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zoe Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'Z'.

Zoe Thomas

FOI Coordinator

18 March 2015