



Australian Government

Department of Health

Department Reference: FOI 297-1415

Ms Jess Portas-Hills

Via email: foi+request-1097-869e85c9@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ms Portas-Hills

NOTICE OF DECISION

I refer to your request of 10 June 2015 to the Department of Health (Department) seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to:

“the 2014 budget summary spent in particular on pregnant women in the Indigenous communities in Australia as well as any supporting documentation showing correspondence between the Department of Health and specific hospitals in rural areas or Indigenous communities to take action/implement programs to reduce the incidence of Indigenous death rates during childbirth.”

I am writing to advise you of my decision.

Decision

I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to find the documents referred to in your request including a thorough and extensive search and consultation with the relevant policy and program areas. The Department has been unable to find any such documents.

I am satisfied that the documents referred to in your request do not exist, and as a consequence, I refuse access to the document referred to in your request pursuant to section 24A of the FOI Act.

I have however, provided the following link to the Media Release document from Senator the Hon Fiona Nash, Assistant Minister for Health, which is publicly available and outlines the Australian Government investment in Indigenous maternal and child health. This investment includes the provision of \$94 million to the *Better Start to Life approach* to expand support for Indigenous children to be healthy and go to school.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2014-nash028.htm>

Review rights

If you are dissatisfied with my decision, you may apply for an internal review or Australian Information Commissioner (Information Commissioner) review.

Internal review

Under section 54 of the FOI Act, you may apply in writing to the Department for an internal review of my decision. The internal review application must be made within 30 days of the date of this notice (or such further period as the Department allows). Where possible please provide reasons why you consider review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by another officer of this Department within 30 days. An application for an internal review should be addressed to:

Email: FOI@health.gov.au; or

Mail: FOI Coordinator (MDP 350)
Department of Health
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Information Commissioner review

Under section 54L of the FOI Act, you may apply to the Information Commissioner to review my decision. An application for review must be made in writing 60 days of this notice (if you do not request an internal review).

The Australian Information Commissioner can be contacted by:

Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au
Phone: 1300 363 992

More about the Information Commissioner review is available on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) website at <http://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/requesting-a-review>

You may also make a complaint to the Information Commissioner about action taken by the Department in relation to your application. Further information can be obtained from the OAIC website.

Relevant provisions

The FOI Act, including provisions relevant to your request can be accessed from the ComLaw website at the following: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2004A02562>

Contacts

If you require clarification of any of the matters discussed in this letter you should contact the Department's FOI Unit on (02) 6289 1666 or via email FOI@health.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Alison Killen
Assistant Secretary
Health Programmes and Sector Development Branch
Indigenous Health Division

3 July 2015

