

e-mail: foi+request-13961-bbccac5d@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Applicant,

RE: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - FOI2025 26-20

I refer to your requests submitted 02 November 2025 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) in which you asked the ABS for:

any documents about the Labor Government's previous election commitment to introduce whole-of-government standards for measuring Australia's diversity that outline how the Australian Bureau of Statistics could potentially expand data collection with an emphasis on expanding ethnicity data collection and associated health metrics.

Purpose of this letter

I am an officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

I am writing to notify you that a practical refusal reason exists under Section 24AA(1)(b) of the FOI Act, as not enough information has been provided in your request to enable the ABS to identify a document as per section 15(2)b.

Grounds for a practical refusal of your request

I have decided that a practical refusal reason exists because the scope of your request is broad and lacks sufficient detail to enable a defensible search of documents. As currently worded, the request refers to a general government commitment and does not provide enough information for the subject matter areas to identify and locate the documents you are seeking. It also requires the ABS to search a considerable number of corporate and personal holdings across the organisation and includes draft and duplicate documents, which significantly increases the amount of material needing to be processed.

Request for a consultation process

Before I make a final decision to refuse access, you have an opportunity to revise your request to enable it to proceed. Therefore, I am requesting a consultation process as set out under section 24AB of the FOI Act.

The consultation period runs for 14 days and starts on the day after the date on this letter.

Before the end of the consultation period, you must do one of the following in writing:

- make a revised request
- withdraw your request
- tell us that you do not wish to revise your request.

If you do not do one of the three things outlined above during the consultation period or you do not consult the ABS FOI Contact Officer during this period, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.



Making a revised request

Revising your request may include providing more specific detail or further clarification on the information you are seeking, for example,

- narrowing the scope of your request to seek specific information
- specifying a time period
- specifying document types such as briefings, meeting minutes or emails
- excluding draft and duplicate documents
- limiting the search to documents held by specific staff, such as Directors and above.

During this period, you are welcome to seek assistance from the ABS FOI team to revise your request. If you revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the practical refusal grounds outlined above, we will recommence processing it.

Please note that the time taken to consult you regarding the scope of your request is not taken into account for the purpose of the 30-day time limit for processing your request.

Contact Person

If you would like to revise your request or have any questions, please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at: freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Annette Kelly
Program Manager
Census Data Operations
Australian Bureau of Statistics

12 November 2025