



## Australian Government

### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT  
BARTON

FOI2012/097

Mr Mark Farrell  
c/o  
Email: [foi+request-14-d06cd042@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-14-d06cd042@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Farrell

Thank you for your email of 15 November 2012 to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in which you made a request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) which we summarise as follows:

- information on the number of written requests and formal representations from citizens and organisations to the Office of the Prime Minister and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet requesting a Royal Commission into abuse of children in institutionalised care since 1990.
- resulting information to be broken down by government and by year.

Your request was received on 15 November 2012. Further information on processing of your request is set out below.

#### **Timeframe for receiving your decision**

The statutory timeframe for processing a request is 30 days from the date upon which your application was received in the Department.

This timeframe may be extended where:

- we need to negotiate with you on the final scope or wording of your request in circumstances where we are unable to process your request in its original form;
- charges are levied as prescribed by the *Freedom of Information (Fees and Charges) Regulations* [the Regulations] (see charges below);
- consultation with third parties is necessary (see consultation with third parties below).

#### **Publication of Documents**

In accordance with the Government's pro-disclosure policy embodied in section 11C of the FOI Act, agencies are now required to publish information which has been released under FOI. Section 11C(6) of the FOI Act requires agencies to publish information released within 10 working days of granting the applicant access to the documents.

The disclosure log requirement does not apply to:

- personal information about any person, if it would be 'unreasonable' to publish the information (s 11C(1)(a))

- information about the business, commercial, financial or professional affairs of any person, if publication of that information would be ‘unreasonable’ (s 11C(1)(b))
- other information of a kind determined by the Information Commissioner if publication of that information would be ‘unreasonable’ (ss 11C(1)(c) and 11C(2))
- any information if it is not reasonably practicable to publish the information because of the extent of modifications that would need to be made to delete information listed in one of the above dot points (s 11C(1)(d)).

If you wish to raise any objections to the publication of any of the documents which may be released to you please contact the Department by email at [foi@pmc.gov.au](mailto:foi@pmc.gov.au). Supporting reasons for any objection would be appreciated.

### **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 Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents, decision making and provision of access (for example, copying and postage).

If the Department decides to charge you in respect of this FOI request, we will send you a preliminary assessment of the charges as soon as possible.

### **Consultation with third parties**

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

The Department will write again when we have further information. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact the department by telephone on (02) 6271 5849.

Yours sincerely



Joanne Jackson  
Access and Administrative Review Section  
Legal Policy Branch

23 November 2012