



By email: foi+request-1657-8b0d0249@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ms Iliagoueva

Your FOI Request – Request Consultation Process

I refer to your correspondence received by the Department of Education and Training (the department) on 26 February 2016, in which you requested access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to the following documents:

“The documentation regarding the Safe Schools Coalition Australia program (2014) As well as a copy of Malcolm Turnbull's requested review of the program.” [email received at 1.37 pm]

“The documentation regarding the Safe Schools Coalition Australia program (2014) The correspondence between the Prime Minister's office and the Education Minister and/or Education Department concerning the program.” [email received at 4.16pm]

In the absence of clarification from yourself, I have assumed that your intention is that this correspondence, combined, forms one FOI request for:

The documentation regarding the Safe Schools Coalition Australia program (2014) including:

- *a copy of Malcolm Turnbull's requested review of the program*
- *the correspondence between the Prime Minister's office and the Education Minister and/or Education Department concerning the program*

Please note that the department, the Prime Minister's Office and the Office of the Minister for Education are all separate entities under the FOI Act. FOI requests received by the department are processed in relation to documents held by the department.

The purpose of this letter is now to initiate a request consultation process under section 24AB of the FOI Act in order to assist you to revise the scope of your request. This is because the breadth of your request as currently worded has resulted in the identification of a significant amount of material held by the department. You have asked for documentation regarding the Safe Schools Coalition Australia program, which captures all documents in relation to that programme, which has been in operation since 2013. As a result, the department holds a substantial volume of material within scope, including correspondence with the external provider.

I have consulted with departmental officers in the Student Participation Branch regarding the number and nature of documents held by the department which are likely to be relevant to your request, and as to the work involved in processing your request. I am advised that preliminary searches have identified over 7000 documents within the scope of your request.

As a result of the above, I intend to refuse your request as currently worded, under section 24 of the FOI Act because I am satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists under paragraph 24AA(1)(a)(i), in that

processing your request as it is currently worded would amount to a substantial and unreasonable diversion of the department's resources.

I am now providing you with an opportunity to consult with me on your request, and am providing you with some information that may assist you to revise your request so that this practical refusal reason no longer exists.

Information to assist with revising your request

The scope of your request as currently worded is broad, and you may like to consider narrowing it. As a starting point, you may wish to consider requesting:

- documents regarding the Safe Schools Coalition Australia programme for a particular period (eg documents created from 1 January 2016 to the present).

The FOI Act provides that you have 14 days from the day you receive this letter to contact me and advise how you would like to proceed. You can contact me by writing to the following address:

Attention: Lyndal Buik
Schools, Skills and Corporate Legal Branch
People, Communication and Legal Group
Department of Education and Training
LOC: C50MA10
GPO Box 9880
CANBERRA ACT 2601

or by email to foi@education.gov.au.

If you do not contact the department within this period, your FOI request will be taken to have been withdrawn under subsection 24AB(7) of the FOI Act.

If you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6240 7335.

Yours sincerely



Lyndal Buik
Principal Government Lawyer
Schools, Child Care and Corporate Legal Branch
People, Communication and Legal Group

4 March 2016