



3 February 2017

Our reference: LEX 26195

Mr Rodney Malone

By email: [foi+request-2998-ad6a4181@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-2998-ad6a4181@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Malone

### **Acknowledgement of your Freedom of Information Request**

I refer to your request for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**). I have taken your request to be for:

'I would like to retention period of medicare billing (in paper or electronic format) sent by doctors and hospitals when a person opts for bulk billing services when seeing a doctor at a private clinic or at the emergency department of public hospitals.

Is a history being maintained that person in question has been to a particular clinic/hospital and the services sought or is the information deleted once the claim has been processed? Upon expiry of the retention period, is the information archived in any form? Is there any other evidence in any form whether electronic or paper including archived copies that seek to establish when the person has used his medicare card to seek medical assistance? if so their complete retention times.'

Your request was received by the department on 30 January 2017 and the 30 day statutory period for processing your request commenced from the day after that date. You should therefore expect a decision from us by 1 March 2017. The period of 30 days may be extended if we need to consult third parties or for other reasons. We will advise you if this happens.

The department will advise you if a charge is payable to process your request and the amount of any such charge as soon as practicable.

### **Your Address**

The FOI Act requires that you provide us with an address which we can send notices to. You have advised your electronic address is [foi+request-2998-ad6a4181@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-2998-ad6a4181@righttoknow.org.au). We will send all notices and correspondence to this address. Please advise us as soon as possible if you wish correspondence to be sent to another address or if your address changes. If you do not advise us of changes to your address, correspondence and notices will continue to be sent to the address specified above.

### **Administrative Release of Documents**

A number of the documents you are seeking may be generally available to you without the need for a formal FOI request and can be released through the department's administrative

access arrangements ('the arrangements'). Unless you advise us otherwise, in processing your request we may provide you with documents under these arrangements where appropriate. The arrangements do not extend to information or materials of third parties. Where documents are released to you under the arrangements we will advise you in our decision letter.

### **Disclosure Log**

Please note that information released under FOI Act may be published in a disclosure log on the department's website. Section 11C of the FOI Act requires this publication, however it is subject to certain exceptions, including where publication of personal, business, professional or commercial information would be unreasonable.

### **Exclusion of junior department employee details**

The department is working towards ensuring that all employees have a choice about whether they provide their full name, personal logon identifiers and direct contact details in response to public enquiries. Where such details are included in the scope of a request, this may add to processing time and applicable charges as it may be necessary to consider whether the details are exempt under the FOI Act. On this basis, unless you tell us otherwise, we will assume that these details are out of scope of your request and they will be redacted under section 22 of the FOI Act.

### **Further assistance**

If you have any questions please email [FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@humanservices.gov.au](mailto:FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@humanservices.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

FOI Practitioner  
Freedom of Information Team  
FOI and Litigation Branch | Legal Services Division  
Department of Human Services