

Our ref: FOI-2017-50016

09 March 2007

Ms Verity Pane

Via email: foi+request-3185-2e3d8487@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ms Pane

I acknowledge your correspondence dated 4 March 2017 in which you requested access to the following document(s) held by our office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*:

- *I request copy of all notes, records, minutes, and any and all other documents and records in the Commonwealth Ombudsman's possession and/or control that relate to this "consultation with the Commonwealth Ombudsman" that DVA and/or the Minister for Veterans' Affairs or any other Commonwealth official or Minister had with the Commonwealth Ombudsman (whether directly with the Commonwealth Ombudsman or any staff member of the Commonwealth Ombudsman).*

As this matter is being publicly reported and debated in the media, and has generated considerable controversy, this is a matter of public importance and interest, and given these "consultations" are fairly recent events (the subject of Hot Issues Briefs and Question Time Briefs, etc), these records will be well known to OAIC staff and immediately to hand. I therefore argue that it would be contrary to the objects and objectives of the Freedom of Information Act to seek to levy charges for access.

Furthermore, I do not consent to the redaction or obfuscation of the names of Commonwealth officials and elected representatives, in any records that fall within the scope of this FOI request.

There may be multiple identical copies of some documents on our files. Unless you advise us you wish to receive multiple copies, we will only consider and make a decision on one copy of each identical document.

You should expect a decision from us within 30 days of the date we received your request. This 30 day period may be extended if we need to consult third parties, impose a charge or for other reasons. We will advise you if this happens.

If you have any questions, you may contact me using the contact details below.

Yours sincerely



Melissa Hawkins