



1 May 2017

Our reference: LEX 29261

Mr Keith Owen

By email: foi+request-3436-3b0dd8c2@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Owen

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 respectfully request data on the number of suicides and homicides recorded by the Child Support arm of the Department of Human Services for the preceding 12 months.

I respectfully request data on the number of "Termination Events" involving the death of either a payee or a payer recorded by the Child Support arm of the Department of Human Services.

We are aware these statistics are recorded, with particular reference to Suicides and Homicides because the Child Support Arm of the Department of Human Services makes reference to this data being recorded as a result of a "Critical Incident" and treated as separate cases to generally recording the deaths of clients as "Termination Events".'

Your request was received by the department on 22 April 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 22 May 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-3436-3b0dd8c2@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.

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.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte
FOI Registration Officer
Freedom of Information Team
FOI and Litigation Branch | Legal Services Division
Department of Human Services