



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

Department Reference: FOI 047-1718

Mr Jackson Gothe-Snape

Via email: [foi+request-3802-1fec5f7a@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-3802-1fec5f7a@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Gothe-Snape

**NOTICE OF DECISION**

I refer to your request to the Department of Health (Department) of 8 August 2017 seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to:

*'the budgets, menus, expenses, invoices, receipts, credit card statements and reimbursements for the most expensive event attended by a Minister or Assistant Minister in your Department's portfolio area in 2016-17.'*

I am authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests. I am writing to advise you of my decision.

**Decision**

Although the Department is not responsible for arranging and paying for events the Minister for Health and Minister for Sport, Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health or the Assistant Minister for Health may attend and nor is it responsible for reporting on Ministerial event attendance, all reasonable steps have been taken to find documents referred to in your request. This included a thorough and extensive search and consultation with the relevant program area.

For the reasons outlined above, I am satisfied that the documents referred to in your request do not exist.

As a consequence, I refuse access to the documents referred to in your request pursuant to section 24A of the FOI Act.

**Additional Information**

As you may be aware, the Department of Finance reports on Parliamentarians' expenditure at six monthly intervals and these reports are available on the Department of Finance website.

Details of expenditure for Ministers in the Health portfolio, for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016, can be found at:

The Hon Greg Hunt MP

[http://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/P39\\_HUNT\\_Greg.pdf](http://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/P39_HUNT_Greg.pdf)

The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP

[http://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/P39\\_WYATT\\_Ken.pdf](http://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/P39_WYATT_Ken.pdf)

The Hon Dr David Gillespie MP

[http://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/P39\\_GILLESPIE\\_David.pdf](http://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/P39_GILLESPIE_David.pdf)

From 3 April 2017, the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) was established as the independent body with functional responsibility for overseeing parliamentary work and travel related expenses. I understand the IPEA is currently compiling the reports for the period of 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017.

Following review of the publicly available information, you may like to consider contacting the IPEA regarding any additional information it may be in a position to provide.

### **Review rights**

If you are dissatisfied with my decision, you may apply for an internal review or Australian Information Commissioner (Information Commissioner) review of the decision.

#### Internal review

Under section 54 of the FOI Act, you may apply in writing to the Department for an internal review of my decision. The internal review application must be made within 30 days of the date of this notice (or such further period as the Department allows). Where possible please provide reasons why you consider review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by another officer of this Department within 30 days. An application for an internal review should be addressed to either of the following:

Email: [FOI@health.gov.au](mailto:FOI@health.gov.au)

OR

Mail:           FOI Unit (MDP 41)  
                  Department of Health  
                  GPO Box 9848  
                  CANBERRA ACT 2601

#### Information Commissioner Review

Under section 54L of the FOI Act, you may apply to the Information Commissioner to review my decision. An application for review must be made in writing 60 days of this notice (if you do not request an internal review).

The Australian Information Commissioner can be contacted by:

Email:           [enquiries@oaic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@oaic.gov.au)  
Phone:          1300 363 992

More about the Information Commissioner review is available on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) website at <http://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/requesting-a-review>

You may also make a complaint to the Information Commissioner about action taken by the Department in relation to your application. Further information can be obtained from the OAIC website.

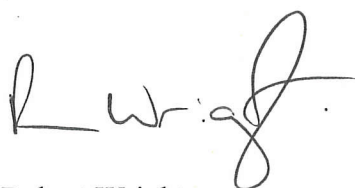
### **Relevant provisions**

The FOI Act, including the provisions referred to in this letter, can be accessed from the Federal Register of Legislation website: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2017C00251>

### **Contacts**

If you require clarification of any of the matters discussed in this letter you should contact the Department's FOI Unit on (02) 6289 1666 or via email [FOI@health.gov.au](mailto:FOI@health.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Wright', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Wright  
Assistant Secretary  
Ministerial, Parliamentary and FOI Branch

| September 2017