



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Ms Julie Middleton

By email: foi+request-5936-33a46155@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ms Middleton

Freedom of Information (FOI) Request No. 19/20-073

1. I refer to your correspondence received by Services Australia on 21 November 2019, in which you requested access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to:

"1. The annual number of DSP recipients from 1992.

2. The annual number of DSP recipients for each state and territory from 1992. Totals for all eight States and Territories will reconcile with the figures in point 1.

3. The annual number of NSA recipients - who have a disability - from 1992.

4. The annual number of NSA recipients - who have a disability - for each state and territory from 1992. Totals for all eight States and Territories will reconcile with the figures in point 3."

2. On 27 November 2019, Services Australia advised you that the request would be transferred to the Department of Social Services (the department).

3. On 28 November 2019, the department advised you by email of the following:

... duplicate documents and non-Senior Executive Service (SES) employees names, contact details and signatures, as well as mobile phone numbers and signatures of SES employees, will be excluded from the scope of your request under s22(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

4. I have decided that there is no charge for processing your request.
5. I am an authorised decision maker under subsection 23(1) of the FOI Act and my decision regarding your request and the reasons for my decision are set out below.

Decision on access

Items 1 and 2

6. Data relating to the Disability Support Pension is publicly available from a variety of sources as outlined below:

- For the period June 2014 to June 2019: <https://data.gov.au/dataset/ds-dga-cff2ae8a-55e4-47db-a66d-e177fe0ac6a0/details?q=disability%20support%20pension;>
- For the period June 2002 to June 2013: <https://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series;>

- For the period June 1994 to June 2001, data can be accessed from library publications 'Income Support Customers: A Statistical Overview'; and
- For the period June 1992 to June 1993, data can be sourced from the department of Social Security Annual Reports.

7. The data has been compiled and is attached to this decision.

Items 3 and 4

8. In accordance with section 17 of the FOI Act, the department produced a report from its database that satisfies the terms of the request. I have decided to release the extracted document to you in full. Please note: Partial Capacity to Work for recipients of Newstart Allowance who have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment and an assessed work capacity of less than 30 hours per week was introduced in 2006, therefore data prior to this date is not available.

FOI Disclosure Log

9. In accordance with the requirements of section 11C of the FOI Act, the department is required to publish details of information released under the FOI Act. Documents will be published on the Disclosure Log within ten working days of receipt by you.

Rights of review

10. I have set out your rights to seek a review of my decision at **Attachment A**.

11. Should you have any enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Judy Lamb

Assistant Director, Freedom of Information and Portfolio Appointments
Strategic Coordination Section
Government and Executive Services Branch
Department of Social Services

20 December 2019

Your rights of review

Internal Review

Section 54 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) gives you the right to apply for an internal review of this decision. The review will be conducted by a different person to the person who made the original decision.

If you wish to seek an internal review of the decision you must apply for the review, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of this letter. No particular form is required for an application for internal review, but to assist the decision-maker you should clearly outline the grounds upon which you consider the decision should be reviewed. Applications for internal review can be lodged in one of the following ways:

Post: Freedom of Information (FOI) Team
Government and Executive Services Branch
Department of Social Services
GPO Box 9820
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: foi@dss.gov.au

External Review by the Australian Information Commissioner

Section 54L of the FOI Act gives you the right to apply directly to the Australian Information Commissioner (AIC) to seek a review of this decision.

If you wish to have the decision reviewed by the AIC you must apply for the review, in writing or by using the online merits review form available on the AIC's website at www.oaic.gov.au, within 60 days of receipt of this letter. To assist the AIC your application should include a copy of this decision and your contact details. You should also clearly set out why you are objecting to the decision.

You can also complain to the AIC about how an agency handled an FOI request, or other actions the agency took under the FOI Act. Applications for review or complaint can be lodged in one of the following ways:

Online: www.oaic.gov.au

Post: GPO Box 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Phone: 1300 363 992 or +61 2 9284 9749 for international

Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au

In person: Level 3
175 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000