



7 January 2020

Our reference: LEX 50220

Ms Julie Middleton

By email only: foi+request-6051-7f43de31@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ms Middleton,

Acknowledgement of your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request

Thank you for your request for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)*. You requested access to:

'1. The annual number of Newstart recipients from 2007 with an assessed work capacity of under 30 hours per week, who have been sent for an independent medical assessment. That is, a Disability Medical Assessment, with Sonic HealthPlus or other service provider.

2. Statistics for the annual number of Newstart recipients from 2007, who have been assessed under the Centrelink Impairment Tables as having a:

- a) mild impact (5 points)
- b) moderate impact (10 points)
- c) severe impact (20 points); or
- d) extreme (30 points) impact

The figures of the above, will reconcile with the annual totals in point 1.

3. The annual number of Newstart recipients from 2007, who have been assessed as having 20 or more points from the Impairment Table, who:

- a) have been actively participating in a Program of Support (POS); and
- b) have a Mutual Obligation Requirement to attend compulsory appointments with Centrelink every 12 weeks. This would be an exemption from being in the POS'.

Timeframe for processing your request

Your request was received by the department on 1 January 2020 and the 30 day statutory period for processing your request commenced from the day after that date.

Due to the department's reduced activity period over December and January, during which many business areas of the department have end of year shut down or reduced staff, we are seeking your permission to extend the processing time by an extra 15 days to allow us to process your request. Can you please confirm by **10 January 2020** if you agree to an extension of time of 15 days under the FOI Act (s 15AA).

Charges

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. No charge is payable for providing a person with their own personal information.

Your address

The FOI Act requires that you provide us with an address to which we can send notices. You have advised your electronic address is foi+request-6051-7f43de31@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

The department has administrative access arrangements (**arrangements**) for the release of certain documents without the need for a formal FOI request. You have indicated in your request that you agree to have documents provided to you under these arrangements. The arrangements do not extend to information or materials of third parties. You will be notified when documents are released to you under the arrangements.

Disclosure log

Please note that information released under the 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 staff details

The department is working towards ensuring that all staff 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 FOI questions please email FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@humanservices.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Registration Officer
Freedom of Information Team
Employment Law and Freedom of Information Branch | Legal Services Division
Department of Human Services