



30 June 2020

Our reference: LEX 56047

Mr John Smith

Only by email: [foi+request-6433-dc4438ac@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-6433-dc4438ac@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Smith

### **Acknowledgement of your Freedom of Information Request**

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

'I seek the following information:

- The number of recipients of jobseeker or austudy payments that claim rent assistance
- The number of recipients of jobseeker or austudy payments that don't claim rent assistance
- The average monthly rent that is declared by people who claim jobseeker payments, when they are declaring their average rent for the purpose of obtaining rent assistance
- The average monthly rent that is declared by people who claim austudy payments, when they are declaring their average rent for the purpose of obtaining rent assistance'.

### **Timeframe for processing your request**

Your request was received by Services Australia on 26 June 2020, 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 27 July 2020. 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.

### **Charges**

Services Australia 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 which we can send notices to. You have advised your electronic address is [foi+request-6433-dc4438ac@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-6433-dc4438ac@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**

Services Australia has administrative access arrangements (**arrangements**) for the release of certain documents without the need for a formal FOI request. Unless you advise us otherwise, in processing your request we may provide you with documents under these arrangements where appropriate. 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 Services Australia'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**

Services Australia 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 questions please email [FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@servicesaustralia.gov.au](mailto:FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@servicesaustralia.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

FOI Registration Officer  
Freedom of Information Team  
Employment Law and FOI | Legal Services Division  
Services Australia