



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health**

Department Reference: FOI 2308

Alan Ashmore

via email: [foi+request-7159-863e4ecb@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-7159-863e4ecb@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Ashmore

**NOTICE OF DECISION UNDER SECTION 24A  
OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982**

I refer to your request of 18 March 2021 to the Department of Health (the department) seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the Act) to the following:

*I am seeking all documents from 1 August 2016 to 30 June 2017 from the Department of Health to the respective State Coroners and from the respective State Coroners to the Department of Health regarding this veteran suicide prevention trial in Townsville.*

*Documentation to include all internal emails within the Department of Health and minutes of meetings as it pertains to this Veteran Suicide Prevention trial.*

**FOI decision**

I am authorised under subsection 23(1) of the Act to make decisions in relation to Freedom of Information requests. I am writing to notify you of my decision in response to your request.

Appropriate steps have been taken to find the documents referred to in your request including consultation with relevant departmental officers and searches of departmental file management systems.

I am satisfied, on the basis of the consultation undertaken and the searches conducted, that the department does not hold any documents referred to in your request.

As a consequence, relying on section 24A of the Act, I cannot provide access to the documents you requested.

## FOI review rights

If you are dissatisfied with my decision, you may apply for a review.

### Internal review

Under section 54 of the Act, you may apply for internal review of this decision.

In accordance with section 54B of the Act, an application for internal review must be made in writing within 30 days after the day you are notified of this decision (or such further period as the department allows). To assist in the internal review process, please provide reasons you consider the review of my decision is necessary.

The internal review will be carried out by another officer of this department within 30 days of receipt of your application.

An application for an internal review should be addressed to:

Email: [FOI@health.gov.au](mailto:FOI@health.gov.au)  
Mail: FOI Unit (MDP 516)  
Department of Health  
GPO Box 9848  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

### Information Commissioner review

Alternatively, under section 54L of the Act, you may apply to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) for review of my decision by the Information Commissioner.

In accordance with subsection 54S(1) of the Act, an IC review application in relation to a decision covered by subsection 54L(2) (access refusal decisions) must be made in writing within 60 days after the day you are notified of this decision (if you do not request an internal review).

More information about Information Commissioner review is available on the OAIC website at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews/>

The OAIC can be contacted by:

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

## Complaints

If you are dissatisfied with actions taken by the department, you may also make a complaint.

### Complaint to the department

Complaints to the department are covered by the department's privacy policy. A form for lodging a complaint directly to the department is available on the department's website:

<https://www.health.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/complaints>

### Complaint to the Information Commissioner

Information about making a complaint to the Information Commissioner about action taken by the department is available on the OAIC website:

<https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/make-an-foi-complaint/>

### **Contacts**

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

Yours sincerely



Liz Dowd  
Assistant Secretary  
Suicide Prevention and Digital Branch

14 April 2021