



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health**

Department Reference: FOI 3079

Mr Steven Roddis

via email: [foi+request-7868-43035b2f@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-7868-43035b2f@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Roddis

### NOTICE OF DECISION

I refer to your request of 16 September 2021 to the Department of Health (the department) seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the FOI Act) to the following:

I'm requesting a copy of each National Immunisation Program Schedule[1], Childhood Vaccination Schedule, or equivalently named documents that exist historically.

To clarify the website [1] contains documents for 2021, I'm requesting similar documents that exist but for all other years.

I've managed to find a document on school based vaccinations [2] however this does not cover vaccinates given to babies, at doctors and outside school.

No personal information is requested.

I realise some documents may not exist anymore, that is okay.

[1] <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/immunisation-throughout-life/national-immunisation-program-schedule>

[2] [https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-cdi3702-pdf-cnt.htm/\\$FILE/cdi3702j.pdf](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-cdi3702-pdf-cnt.htm/$FILE/cdi3702j.pdf)

### FOI decision

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

I have identified 13 documents falling within the scope of your request. The documents, including my access decision, is set out in the Schedule at Attachment A. I have decided to release all of the documents to you in full.

### **Publicly available information**

Although the department has provided all the relevant documents that could be found in our records, we cannot say with complete certainty that these are the only historical documents that exist. I note that the National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule has not been updated every year. Rather it is updated as required and marked as current from a particular date.

In the process of processing your request, publicly available information that may be of interest to you was located at the following link:

[https://ncirs.org.au/sites/default/files/2021-07/Immunisation-policy-and-practice-Australia-12 July 2021\\_Final\\_0.pdf](https://ncirs.org.au/sites/default/files/2021-07/Immunisation-policy-and-practice-Australia-12%20July%202021_Final_0.pdf)

The archive for the department's immunisation website, which provides point in time captures of the relevant NIP Schedule, and which may also be of interest to you, is available at the following link:

<https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20170306064639/https://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/national-immunisation-program-schedule>

### **Charges**

On 10 November 2021, the department notified you of your liability to pay a charge of \$90.00. On the same date you contested these charges and requested an internal review. An internal review of the charges was undertaken by the department and on 18 November 2021, the department notified you of the decision to uphold the charges in relation to this request. On 1 December 2021, you advised the department that you had paid the charges in full.

### **FOI review rights**

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

#### Internal review

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

In accordance with section 54B of the FOI 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 FOI Act, you may apply to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) for review of my decision by the Information Commissioner (IC).

In accordance with subsection 54S(1) of the FOI 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 IC 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 action 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 IC

Information about making a complaint to the IC 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/>

### Relevant provisions of the FOI Act

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/C2021C00382>

### Publication

You should be aware that where I have decided to release documents to you, the department may also publish the released material on its Disclosure Log. The department will however, not publish information (such as personal or business information) where it would be unreasonable to do so.

For your reference the department's Disclosure Log can be found at:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/foi-disclosure-log>

### Contacts

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

Yours sincerely



Nicholas Stoney  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Immunisation and Communicable Diseases Branch

November 2021

December



## ATTACHMENT A

## SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS - FOI 3079

Doc No.	Date	Description	Decision on access <sup>1</sup>
1	1996, 1998, 2000	National Immunisation Program in 1996, 1998 and 2000 for children	R
2	2000	National Immunisation program from 1 May 2000	R
3	2005	National Immunisation Program from 1 November 2005	R
4	2007	National Immunisation Program from 1 July 2007	R
5	2012	National Immunisation Program from May 2012	R
6	2013	National Immunisation Program from 1 February 2013 to 30 June 2013	R
7	2013	National Immunisation Program from 1 July 2013	R
8	2015	National Immunisation Program for children October 2015	R
9	2016	National Immunisation Program from February 2016	R
10	2016	National Immunisation Program from November 2016	R
11	2018	National Immunisation Program from 1 July 2018	R
12	2019	National Immunisation Program from 1 April 2019	R
13	2020	National Immunisation Program from 1 July 2020	R

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<sup>1</sup> R = Release.