



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**

**FOI reference number:** FOI 2122-068

**Decision date:** 14 February 2022

**Applicant:** Ms Karen Reynolds

**Sent by email via Kiteworks:** [foi+request-8300-0c072318@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-8300-0c072318@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Ms Reynolds,

**Freedom of Information Request: FOI 2122-049**

I refer to your correspondence received by the Department of Social Services (the Department) on 13 January 2022, in which you requested access to information under the Commonwealth *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)* (FOI Act).

**Decision**

The Department has undertaken a reasonable search of its records and, in accordance with section 17 of the FOI Act, I have made a decision to create and grant access in full to one (1) document that meets the scope of your request.

The document that I have chosen to grant access to is set out in **Appendix 1**.

**Authority to make decision**

I am an officer authorised by the Secretary of the Department to make decisions about access to documents in the possession of the Department in accordance with section 23(1) of the FOI Act.

**Summary**

On 13 January 2022 you made a request for access to a document in the possession of the Department. Your request sought access to:

*I would like the following data -*

*Mortality exits from the following for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021*

- *Carers Payment*
- *carers allowance*
- *disability support pension*
- *jobseeker allowance*
- *Blind pension*
- *age pension*
- *mobility allowance*



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- *youth disability supplement*
- *ABSTUDY*

*In addition, please provide a breakdown for the above of mortality exits due to COVID.*

On 21 January 2022 the Department acknowledged your request and advised that a decision on your request is due by 14 February 2022.

### **Charges**

I have decided not to impose a charge in relation to this request, in accordance with Regulation 8 of the *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019*.

### **Reasons for decision and further comments**

I have decided to **grant access** to the document within the scope of your request. However, please note the following comments regarding the data the Department is able to provide for your request.

Cause of death is not collected for Social Security purposes, therefore the Department is unable to address the last aspect of your request regarding mortality exits due to COVID-19.

Data cannot be provided specifically for the Blind Pension, Youth Disability Supplement and Jobseeker Allowance for the following reasons:

- The Blind Pension is not a payment in its own right, though individuals who are blind may be captured in data counts for the Age Pension and Disability Support Pension.
- The Youth Disability Supplement is not a payment in its own right. Data counts for the Disability Support Pension, ABSTUDY and Youth Allowance may include recipients who also receive a Youth Disability Supplement.
- Jobseeker Allowance is not a payment. Data has been included for the Newstart Allowance (replaced by JobSeeker Payment from 20 March 2020), JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other).

### **Access to documents**

The document released to you in accordance with the FOI Act is enclosed.



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**Information Publication Scheme**

The Information Publication Scheme requires the Department to publish information released in response to individual requests made under the FOI Act, except in specified circumstances.

I am of the view that details of your request should be made available on the Department's FOI Disclosure Log. As such, details of your request will be published and can be accessed at <https://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log> within 10 days of the date of this letter. Please note that the Department does not publish details of FOI applicants, it only publishes details of the FOI request and the documents released in response to the request.

**Your rights of review**

Information about your rights to seek a review of this decision are at **Attachment A**.

Should you have any enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact the FOI team by email at [FOI@dss.gov.au](mailto:FOI@dss.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A. McKenzie  
A/g Director  
Freedom of Information Section  
Government and Executive Services Branch

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**Appendix 1**

**Schedule of documents**

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<b>Document reference</b>	<b>Date of document</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Page count</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Exemption provision</b>
1	21 January 2022	Data – payment cancellations due to death	1	Full Access	N/A