



Sophie Huff-Chelsby

Via email to: foi+request-11508-1aeeab8d@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ms Huff-Chelsby

Freedom of Information Request 50775 – Decision on access

I refer to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)* request made to the Department of Social Services (**the Department**) on 11 June 2024. The request seeks access to:

‘..in regard to your funded peak national body, Women with Disabilities Australia.

- 1. How much has WWDA paid for legal services between 1st January 2024 - 30 May 2024?*
- 2. How much has WWDA paid external consultants for the period 1st January 2024 - 30 May 2024?*
- 3. How much of WWDA funds expended on lawyers and external consultants have come from WWDA’s government funding?*
- 4. Has WWDA utilised funds (outside of government funding) to pay for lawyers and external consultants?*
- 5. What staff roles has WWDA advertised and/or what staffing roles have been filled between 1st January 2024 - 30 May 2024’*

I am authorised to make decisions in respect of FOI requests under subsection 23(1) of the FOI Act.

Decision – No documents exist

Section 24A of the FOI Act provides in part that an agency may refuse a request for access to a document if all responsible steps have been taken to find it and the agency is satisfied that it does not exist.

The FOI request seeks the expenditure by *Women with Disabilities Australia* on legal services and consultants for the period 1 January 2024 to 30 May 2024. The detailed financial expenditure reporting you are seeking, being legal services and consultancy expenditure of *Women with Disabilities Australia* is not held by the Department or available within its reporting systems. As such, the Department does not have possession of the documents you are seeking.

Details of grant funding provided to *Women with Disabilities Australia* can be found at [GrantConnect](#).

As a result, we do not have possession of the documents sought by this request and have decided to refuse it under section 24A of the FOI Act.

Review rights and complaints

Information concerning how you may seek a review of this decision or make a complaint about the handling of this request is at **Attachment A**.

Contact

If you would like to discuss any aspect of my decision, please contact me at foi@dss.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah B', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sarah B
Authorised FOI Decision Maker

18 June 2024

Attachments

A – Review Rights

INFORMATION ON REVIEW RIGHTS

You may seek review of this decision via:

- (a) an internal review; or
- (b) the Australian Information Commissioner (**Information Commissioner**).

Internal review

If you apply for internal review, a fresh decision will be made by a different decision-maker within the Department. An application for internal review must be:

- (a) made in writing;
- (b) made within 30 days of receiving this letter; and
- (c) sent to foi@dss.gov.au.

The application should also include the reasons why you think this decision should be reviewed.

If the internal review decision results in you not being provided access to all of the documents to which you have requested access, you have the right to seek a further review by the Information Commissioner.

Information Commissioner review

You can apply for the Information Commissioner to review this decision either immediately or following an internal review decision. You must apply to the Information Commissioner within 60 days of the receipt of this decision letter.

Further details on this process can be found on the Information Commissioner's website at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/>.

COMPLAINTS TO THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

You may also make a complaint to the Information Commissioner concerning actions taken by the Department while exercising its powers or performing its functions under the FOI Act.

Further details on this process can be found on the Information Commissioner's website at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/>.