

12 August 2024

Brooke Bickley

By email: foi+request-11611-4f2461a8@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Brooke Bickley

Freedom of Information request - Notification of Decision

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 July 2024, in which you requested access to documents held by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of my decision on your application.

Scope of your request

You have requested access to the following documents:

"I am requesting Research Documents the Technical Advisory Branch have with the following topics:

- *GPS Tracking*
- *Locating OT assessment resources for TAB/AAT cases*
- *Government PBS Safety net considerations*
- *Group based pain management programs*
- *Neurofeedback therapy*
- *Air conditioning*
- *Air conditioning maintenance costs*
- *Power subsidy schemes*
- *Electroconvulsive therapy*
- *Therapy and sensory items (weighted/autism focused)*
- *Partners in recovery program*
- *Self reported functional capacity, perceived disability, and actual functional performance*
- *Recreational supports: barriers to participation (people with a disability vs people without a disability)*
- *SDA Vacancies search*
- *Matrix of entities responsible for authorisation of RRP*
- *Treatments to remedy Depression and chronic anxiety*
- *Evidence based treatments for chronic anxiety*
- *Determining personal care hours for a range of tasks*
- *Alternative funding options for medications not PBS approved*
- *Computer based interactive cognitive training*
- *Cost of meal preparation and delivery*
- *Adaptive behaviour assessment system*
- *Therapy best practice*
- *Dialectical behaviour therapy*
- *Exposure therapy for PTSD*

- *Ratios of direct support*
- *Restrictive practice - NDIS State based information*
- *Common home automations*
- *Long covid*
- *Gym membership in Australia*
- *Take away / Eating out habits of Australians*
- *Efficacy of equine therapy*
- *Sensory based therapy*
- *Pet ownership and mental health*
- *Home modifications and behaviours of concern*
- *Summary of evidence quality of 6 cooking skills related articles*
- *Mainstream and community transport options*
- *Efficacy of transcranial magnetic stimulation on functional outcomes for people with psychosocial conditions*
- *Psychometric scoring properties and criteria for ABAS 3rd edition*
- *Evaluation of CANS, ABAS-3, LSP-16 outcome measures*
- *Air conditioning and thermoregulation*
- *Myalgic encephalomyelitis - chronic fatigue syndrome*
- *Administering medication in Australia”*

Extension of time

On 1 August 2024, you agreed to a 14-day extension of time under section 15AA of the FOI Act, making 19 August 2024 the new date to provide you with a decision on access.

Search efforts

Searches for documents were conducted by the Technical Advisory Branch (TAB) and 37 documents responsive to your application were located. Two documents were also located on the NDIA FOI disclosure log as being previously released; these documents are being provided as part of an administrative release.

I note there are discrepancies in the names of some of them documents requested compared to the documents provided. TAB have confirmed that the documents provided are consistent with your request and I have included both names of the documents, one in brackets, in the schedule of documents at **Attachment A**.

I also note that TAB have confirmed some of the documents requested are part of a single document, namely, *‘Air conditioning’, ‘Air conditioning maintenance costs’, ‘Matrix of entities responsible for authorisation of RRP’* and *‘Psychometric scoring properties and criteria for ABAS 3rd edition’*. Details of which documents they relate to have been provided in the schedule of documents at **Attachment A**.

Decision on access to documents

I have decided to grant full access to 3 documents.

I have decided to grant partial access to all 34 documents.

I made this decision as an authorised FOI decision maker under section 23(1) of the FOI Act.

Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant material deleted

I have identified that Documents 3-5 and 7-37 contain material that is irrelevant to your request. The irrelevant material relates to names and/or contact details of NDIA staff which you have agreed to out of scope from your request, and names and emails of organisations in document 23 *‘Ratios of Supports’*. This means that although I have decided to provide full access to the information requested, the removal of the irrelevant information makes the documents a partial release.

Accordingly, I have prepared an edited copy of the documents with the irrelevant material removed.¹

Release of documents

The documents for release, as referred to in the Schedule of Documents at **Attachment A**, are attached.

Rights of review

Your rights to seek a review of my decision, or lodge a complaint, are set out at **Attachment B**.

Should you have any enquiries concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at foi@ndis.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Patrick

Senior Freedom of Information Officer
Government, Risk & Legal – Complaints Management and FOI
General Counsel Division

¹ Section 22 of the FOI Act.

Schedule of Documents for FOI 24/25-0013

Document number	Page number	Description	Access Decision	Comments
1	1-13	GPS Enabled Tracking Devices (GPS Tracking)	FULL ACCESS	
2	14-16	Footnotes used in the Source Document: INTERFACE MED LEGAL - ADL Report (Locating OT assessment resources for TAB/AAT cases)	FULL ACCESS	
3	17-22	PBS Safety Net (Government PBS Safety net considerations)	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
4	23-35	Group based pain management programs	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
5	36-40	Neurofeedback therapy	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
		Air conditioning		Not a separate document, please refer to document 36 provided
		Air conditioning maintenance costs		Not a separate document, please refer to document 36 provided
6	41-63	Power subsidy schemes	FULL ACCESS	
7	64-73	Electroconvulsive therapy	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
8	74-88	Sensory products/ weighted items for participants with Autism (Therapy and sensory items (weighted/autism focused))	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
9	89-92	Partners in recovery program	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act

Document number	Page number	Description	Access Decision	Comments
10	93-103	Impact of funding on self-reported functional capacity and perceived difficulty Vs actual functional performance (Self reported functional capacity, perceived disability, and actual functional performance)	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
11	104-124	Recreational supports: barriers to participation (people with a disability vs people without a disability)	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
12	125-128	SDA Vacancies search	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
		Matrix of entities responsible for authorisation of RRP		Not a separate document, please refer to document 24 provided
13	129-134	Depression – Evidence based treatments (Treatments to remedy Depression and chronic anxiety)	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
14	135-140	Evidence based treatments for chronic anxiety	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
15	141-147	Determining personal care hours for a range of tasks	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
16	148-152	Alternative funding sources for Rituximab (Alternative funding options for medications not PBS approved)	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
17	153-165	Computer based interactive cognitive training for acquired brain injury (Computer based interactive cognitive training)	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
18	166-173	Cost of meal preparation and delivery	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
19	174-178	Adaptive behaviour assessment system	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
20	179-201	Therapy best practice	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
21	202-212	Dialectical behaviour therapy	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
22	213-219	Exposure therapy for PTSD	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act

Document number	Page number	Description	Access Decision	Comments
23	220-240	Ratios of direct support	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
24	241-277	Guide to Restrictive Practice Processes by state and territory (Restrictive practice - NDIS State based information)	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
25	278-289	Home automation as an everyday living cost (Common home automations)	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
		Long Covid-19		Previously released under FOI, provided as an administrative release
26	290-293	Gym membership in Australia	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
27	294-298	Take away / Eating out habits of Australians	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
28	299-307	Efficacy of equine therapy	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
29	308-321	Sensory based therapy	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
30	322-331	Pet ownership and mental health	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
31	332-344	Home modifications and behaviours of concern	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
32	345-349	Summary of evidence quality of 6 cooking skills related articles	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
33	350-369	Mainstream and community transport options	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
34	370-378	Efficacy of transcranial magnetic stimulation on functional outcomes for people with psychosocial conditions	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act

Document number	Page number	Description	Access Decision	Comments
		Psychometric scoring properties and criteria for ABAS 3rd edition		Not a separate document, please refer to document 35 provided
35	379-390	Evaluation of CANS, ABAS-3, LSP-16 outcome measures	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
36	391-416	Air conditioning and thermoregulation	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act
		Myalgic encephalomyelitis - chronic fatigue syndrome		Previously released under FOI, provided as an administrative release
37	417-425	Administering medication in Australia	PARTIAL ACCESS	Irrelevant material removed under section 22 of the FOI Act

Your review rights

Internal Review

The FOI Act gives you the right to apply for an internal review of this decision.

If you wish to seek an internal review of the decision, you must apply for the review, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

No particular form is required for an application for internal review, but to assist the review process, you should clearly outline your grounds for review (that is, the reasons why you disagree with the decision). Applications for internal review can be lodged by email to foi@ndis.gov.au or sent by post to:

Freedom of Information Section
Complaints Management and FOI Branch
General Counsel Division
National Disability Insurance Agency
GPO Box 700
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

The FOI Act also gives you the right to apply to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) to seek a review of this decision.

If you wish to have the decision reviewed by the OAIC, you may apply for the review, in writing, or by using the online merits review form available on the OAIC's website at www.oaic.gov.au, within 60 days of receipt of this letter.

Applications for review can be lodged with the OAIC in the following ways:

Online: www.oaic.gov.au
Post: GPO Box 5218, Sydney NSW 2001
Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au
Phone: 1300 363 992 (local call charge)

Complaints to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner or the Commonwealth Ombudsman

You may complain to either the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the OAIC about actions taken by the NDIA in relation to your request. The Ombudsman will consult with the OAIC before investigating a complaint about the handling of an FOI request.

Your complaint to the OAIC can be directed to the contact details identified above. Your complaint to the Ombudsman can be directed to:

Phone: 1300 362 072 (local call charge)
Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Your complaint should be in writing and should set out the grounds on which it is considered that the actions taken in relation to the request should be investigated.