



M.K

Via email to: foi+request-12239-79839ee4@righttoknow.org.au

Dear M.K

Freedom of Information Request LEX 52027 – 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 [DATE]. The request seeks access to:

I would like all estimates held or created by the Department of either:

- *the total number and dollar value of historical social security debts (both fully recovered or outstanding) potentially affected by unlawful income apportionment decisions OR*
- *the total number and dollar value of historical social security debts (both fully recovered or outstanding) related to earnings from employment.*

I am only seeking documents created since the release of the Commonwealth Ombudsman's report on 4 December 2023 recommending Services Australian and DSS "develop an overarching strategy to manage remedies for customers affected or potentially affected by unlawful income apportionment decisions."

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

Decision

Pursuant to section 17 of the FOI Act, I have made a decision to create one (1) document in response to your request. Furthermore, I have decided to grant access to this document in full.

The document is described in the Schedule of Documents at **Attachment A**.

Requests involving the use of computers (section 17)

Under section 17 of the FOI Act, if a request seeks access to a document that could be produced by using a computer ordinarily available to the agency for retrieving or collating stored information, the Department is required to deal with the request as if it was a request for written documents.

As such, the relevant business area collated information which was stored electronically to create a document that contains the material in scope of your request. That is, by extracting the relevant material into a new document.

I note that the extraction of this calculation and figures have not been altered when creating this document.

Publication

Section 11C of the FOI Act requires agencies to publish details on how to access documents released in response to FOI requests on their website within 10 days of release unless except where that publication would be unreasonable.

The document released in response to this request do not contain any information that would be unreasonable to publish. As a result, details on how to access it will be published on the Department's disclosure log within 10 days of this decision.

Contact

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

Yours sincerely



Sarah B
Authorised FOI Decision Maker

27 November 2024

Attachments

A – Schedule of Documents

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

Doc No	Description of document	Decision
1.	Document created under section 17 of the FOI Act	<i>Release in full</i>