



Nosey Rosey

By email: [foi+request-12584-35173191@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-12584-35173191@righttoknow.org.au)

24 January 2025

Dear Nosey,

***Freedom of Information Request No. FOI 009 2024***

Thank you for our earlier correspondence about your request for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act).

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (the Institute) has undertaken preliminary searches that have uncovered a broad range of documents.

I believe that the work involved in processing your request in its current form would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the Institute from its other operations, due to the size and scope of your request. This is a 'practical refusal reason' (section 24AA of the Act).

As previously mentioned in the email dated 13 January 2025, I would need you to revise the scope of your request in order for the Institute to be able to process your request.

We have found documents that are likely within the scope of your request that we have grouped under the following headings:

- ethics applications
- project proposals
- technical papers
- documents about technical data supply
- memorandums of understanding
- other agreements.

With the exception of the category for ethics, it is likely that I would be able to process documents in one of these categories noting that the timeframes that have been used for a sample search appear to be relevant from 2020 onwards. I note that as these are sample



searches, it would be worth agreeing to a refinement of scope for the request together to ensure that the request is indeed able to be processed.

Going back to your original request, you could also narrow your scope by limiting your request to a category of documents that is specific to a category noting that information about what data is held by the Institute is further detailed on our website here:

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/population-groups/veterans/aihw-dva-strategic-partnership>.

If you provide me with some information about a refinement of scope, I can liaise with the relevant experts to suggest a revised scope that can likely be processed with the relevant timeframe.

If we cannot reach an agreement on a scope within the 14-day timeframe, I intend to refuse this request.

On this basis, I am providing you with the opportunity to revise your request. This is a 'request consultation process' in accordance with section 24AB of the Act. You have 14 days to respond to this notice in one of the ways set out below.

### **Why I intend to refuse the request**

I have decided that a practical refusal reason exists because:

- Searches conducted to date of your request have identified at least 250 documents that may be within the scope of your request.
- Key word searches of the Institute's mail system and record storage data bases for the other parts of your request have not yet been completed. I consider the search results for those matters would also significantly increase the number of documents captured by the scope of your request. I would need to examine each of these records individually to determine the documents within the scope of your request, potentially consult with another person or body in relation to the request, make a copy or an edited copy of the document, and redact exempt material from the documents; and
- Searching, reviewing and indexing these documents would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the Institute from its other operations.

### **Consultation period**

This consultation period is for 14 days, commencing the day after you receive this notice.

You have an opportunity to revise your request to enable it to proceed. Before the end of the consultation period, you must do one of the following by written notice:

- withdraw the request; or
- make a revised request; or
- indicate that you do not wish to revise the request.

### **Potential revision of request**

Reducing the scope of your access request may involve limiting your access request for a specific document or documents. This suggestion is offered as guidance only. Should you decide to revise your request, this does not guarantee that the practical refusal reason will no longer apply. If it does no longer apply, there is no guarantee that documents will be released without exemptions applied. These decisions are made when any documents that are subject of the revised request are assessed.

During the consultation period, you may contact me by email at [foi@aihw.gov.au](mailto:foi@aihw.gov.au). If you revise the request in a way that adequately addresses the practical refusal grounds, I will recommence processing it. Please be aware that the time taken to consult you regarding the scope of your request is not taken into account for the purposes of the 30-day time limit for processing the request.

If you do not respond in one of the 3 ways indicated above during the consultation period, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

Yours sincerely

**Clare**

FOI Officer

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

