



14 August 2018



Our Ref: GIPA18/[REDACTED]
Matter No: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Formal Access Application - Notice of Decision

I refer to your Formal Access Application under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (the GIPA Act), that you lodged with the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS). I note that you have requested access to a copy of the following information:

- *"How many beds are available as of 1 January 2018 for women leaving violence in NSW?"*
 - *In women only specialist refuges (NB women's only refuges includes refuges for women and their children).*
 - *In all refuges".*
- *"How many beds were available as of 1 January 2017 for women leaving violence?"*
 - *In women only specialist refuges (NB women's only refuges includes refuges for women and their children).*
 - *In all refuges".*

I have carefully considered your request in view of the objectives of the GIPA Act where you have a legally enforceable right to obtain information, unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the subject information. Further, I have also considered the requirements of section 74 of the GIPA Act, which provides that an agency may delete information from a record to which access is provided if the deleted information is not relevant, or within the scope of the information applied for, or an agency has decided to refuse access to that information.

I have liaised with the Commissioning division within FACS, which has confirmed that the department does not hold point-in-time information relating to the number of beds available at different refuges. Therefore, in accordance with section 58(1)(b) of the GIPA Act, I advise that FACS does not hold information that falls within the scope of your access application.

However, Commissioning has advised that the department conducted a survey in April 2017 of 81 refuges receiving FACS funding to determine the number of beds in each refuge for women and children escaping domestic and family violence. The survey confirmed that there were approximately 1,550 beds that can accommodate at least 1,720 women and children.

The number of people that can be accommodated at any given time will depend on a range of considerations including, the type of bed and the need for flexibility to meet client needs.

As of April 2018, FACS has co-funded the establishment of an additional refuge which increased the number of refuge beds to a total of 1,570.

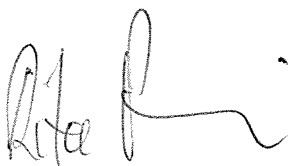
If you are aggrieved by any of the reviewable decisions in this notice of decision, you may seek a review under Part 5 of the GIPA Act, by requesting any one of the following:

- An internal review which must be lodged with the Right to Information Unit within 20 working days of this notice of decision. You must lodge your internal review at the address shown at the bottom of the first page and must be accompanied by the appropriate application fee of \$40.
- Alternatively, a request for an external review may be lodged with either the Information and Privacy Commission, or the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Please note that you must lodge your request for an external review within 8 weeks of this notice of decision.

Further attached is a receipt for the amount of \$30 which represents the application fee for processing your Formal Access Application.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact me on telephone (02) 8753 8386.

Yours sincerely



Rita Peci
Manager
Right to Information Unit
Department of Family and Community Services, Legal