

28 August 2018



Our Ref: 
Matter No 

Dear 

Formal Access Application - Notice of Decision

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

1. "How many women leaving violence spent one or more nights in a hotel, motel or caravan park from 1 July 2017 to 1 June 2018?"
2. "How many women leaving violence spent one or more nights in a hotel, motel or caravan park from 1 July 2016 to 1 June 2017?"

Please be advised that I have liaised with the Department of Family and Community's Insights, Analysis and Research Unit (FACSIAR), which were able to extract the requested information.

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.

In deciding which information to withhold in full or in part, I was required to conduct a "public interest test" where the public interest considerations favouring disclosure of government information were weighed against those factors that do not favour disclosure. The following are a number of public interest factors I considered which favour disclosure of the information requested:

- Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to promote open discussion of public affairs, enhance Government accountability or contribute to positive and informed debate on issues of public importance.

- Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to inform the public about the operations of agencies and, in particular, their policies and practices for dealing with members of the public.
- Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to ensure effective oversight of the expenditure of public funds.
- The information is personal information of the person to whom it is to be disclosed.
- Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to reveal or substantiate that an agency (or a member of an agency) has engaged in misconduct or negligent, improper or unlawful conduct.
- Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to advance the fair treatment of individuals in accordance with the law in their dealings with agencies.
- Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision.
- Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to contribute to the administration of justice generally, including procedural fairness.

I have decided to fully disclose the information extracted by FACSIAR in accordance with section 58(1)(a) of the GIPA Act, which is current as at 31 July 2018. I will now respond to each point of your request:

1. *How many women leaving violence spent one or more nights in a hotel, motel or caravan park from 1 July 2017 to 1 June 2018?*

Answer to Point 1:

During the period 1 July 2017 to 1 June 2018, FACS assisted 2975 women with temporary accommodation due to circumstances relating to domestic violence.

2. *How many women leaving violence spent one or more nights in a hotel, motel or caravan park from 1 July 2016 to 1 June 2017?*

Answer to Point 2:

During the period 1 July 2016 to 1 June 2017, FACS assisted 3378 women with temporary accommodation due to circumstances relating to domestic violence.

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 are receipts for the amount of \$30 and \$75, which represent the fees 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