

24 June 2020

Mr Bob Buckley
Convenor
Autism Asperger's Advocacy Australia

By email: convenor@a4.org.au

Dear Mr Buckley

Your Freedom of Information request — Decision

Thank you for your correspondence of 17 February 2020, in which you requested access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to documents held by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a decision on your request.

I apologise for the delay in responding.

Scope of your request

You have requested access to information about a review of the Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) tailored pathway. Specifically, you requested access to:

“...all information relating to:

1. the terms or reference and/or purpose of this "review to consider and identify enhancements to the ECEI tailored pathway",
2. the conduct and process of this review,
3. communicating outcomes of this review a) to NDIA staff, b) government, and
- c) the community,
4. policy, plans and funding to implement the "outcome of the review", and
5. monitoring, measurement, analysis and reporting of "enhancements to the ECEI tailored pathway" resulting from this review."

In order to meet the requirements of section 15 of the FOI Act, your request must provide enough information about the document(s) you are seeking to enable us to locate them. Based on the description you provided, we were initially unable to locate the documents you are seeking. However, during our conversation with you on 28 May 2020, you provided additional information regarding the documents you are seeking which enabled us to locate them. Your request was therefore taken to meet the requirements of section 15 of the FOI Act from that date.

Decision on access to documents

I am authorised to make decisions under the FOI Act. My decision on your request and the reasons for my decision are set out below.

I have identified **one document** which falls within the scope of your request. The document was identified by consulting with relevant NDIA staff who could be expected to be able to identify the documents you are seeking.

I have decided to grant access to that document in full.

In reaching my decision, I took into account the following materials:

- your correspondence outlining the scope of your request;
- the nature and content of the documents falling within the scope of your request;
- the FOI Act;
- the FOI Guidelines;
- consultation with relevant NDIA staff; and
- the NDIA's operating environment and functions.

Access to edited copies with irrelevant material deleted (section 22)

The document you are seeking contains material that is irrelevant to your request. The irrelevant material relates to names and contact details of NDIA staff and other information that is not relevant to the subject matter of your request.

In accordance with section 22 of the FOI Act, I have considered whether it is possible to delete the irrelevant material from the document and have concluded that it is reasonably practicable to do so. Accordingly, I have prepared an edited copy of the document with the irrelevant material removed.

Release of document

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

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



Matthew Curtis

Director, FOI
Parliamentary, Ministerial & FOI Branch
Communications & Engagement Division

Schedule of Documents for FOI 19/20-1047

Document number	Page number	Description	Access Decision	Comments
1	1-14	Project Review and Closure Report <i>Undated</i>	FULL 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. The review will be conducted by a different person to the person who made the original 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
Parliamentary, Ministerial & FOI Branch
Communication & Engagement 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.