

Subject: Re: FOI 20/21-0660 - Communication - Your request for information [SEC=OFFICIAL]
From: "Bob Buckley (A4 Convenor)" <convenor@a4.org.au>
Date: 14/05/2021, 4:55 pm
To: foi <foi@ndis.gov.au>

Dear Freedom of Information Officer

In relation to points 2 and 3 in our request ...

On point 2, you claim "It is not possible to determine if a submission is 'showing concerns' without manually reviewing all individual submissions and applying a subjective opinion on what constitutes concerns". Since you feel "it is not possible" to process the information you found as requested, we remove the "showing concern" aspect of point 2: please include electronic copies of all the "hundreds of emails [that] have been sent to the NDIA" about the IAC's [Promoting best practice in Early Childhood Intervention in the NDIS](#) advice that you found in your search. I expect we can identify all the ones "showing concern" for ourselves. And we may well find other elements of these communications of interest.

Similarly with point 3: please remove the words "the concerns raised about" from our request.

We think it is unlikely that privacy concerns would protect information in this context. We expect that the normal privacy protection processes for FOI would be applied.

We most certainly do not want to limit the scope to material related to our email of the 15/10/2020. But we are interested in the internal handling of the email you found especially since, until your email below, we have not seen even an acknowledgement of anyone in the associated with the NDIA having received that email.

We agree to a 30-day extension of time for this request.

Bob Buckley

Convenor, Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia (A4)
website: <https://a4.org.au/>

Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia, known as *A4*, is the national grassroots organisation advocating for autistic people, their families, carers and associates. A4 is internet based so that Australians anywhere can participate.

Note for politicians and bureaucrats – *Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia's* policy on unanswered questions is available at <https://a4.org.au/node/1419>.

“The first step in solving any problem is recognising there is one.” Jeff Daniels as Will McEvoy in *The Newsroom*.

On 14/05/2021 2:50 pm, foi wrote:

Dear Bob Buckley

Thank you for your request for information of 15 April 2021.

You have requested access to:

“...In its Mar 2021 [Consultation paper: Interventions for children on the autism spectrum](#), the NDIA cites advice from the NDIA Independent Advisory Council's (IAC) to the NDIA Board, a document called [Promoting best practice in Early Childhood Intervention in the NDIS](#).

1. On or around the 14/10/2020, various members of NDIA Board and NDIA staff received [a document](#) describing concerns about the IAC's advice (above) relating to early intervention for autistic children. Please provide all the information the NDIA has about how the NDIA

processed (or not) the document and the concerns raised in the document about the IAC's advice/document.

2. Please provide copies of documents and information that the NDIA received showing concerns from others about the IAC's advice (above)?
3. Please provide all information the NDIA has about discussions, considerations or actions resulting from, related or relevant to the concerns raised about the IAC's advice (above)?"

Clarification of scope

We are currently unable to identify the documents you are seeking in regard to points 2 and 3 of your request.

Searches have revealed hundreds of emails have been sent to the NDIA regarding the IAC document you identified. It is not possible to determine if a submission is 'showing concerns' without manually reviewing all individual submissions and applying a subjective opinion on what constitutes concerns. This would likely be a substantial and unreasonable diversion of resources.

Additionally, we note that points 2 and 3 of your request, were documents to be identifiable, would largely relate to the information of third parties, and as such may be exempt from release due to privacy concerns.

In relation to point 1, we have identified an email sent by A4 on 15 October 2020 with the subject line '*misinformation and untruths*' that discusses the IAC document.

As such, I am writing to propose the following scope for your request:

1. A copy of the email sent by A4 on 15 October 2020 with the subject line '*misinformation and untruths*' and subsequent internal NDIA correspondence within the email chain

This proposed scope excludes any submissions from third parties, as well as processing correspondence in response to third party submissions.

Extension of time

Additionally, due to a current large influx of FOI requests, we would like to seek your agreement to a **30-day extension of time** in which to process your request.

If you agree to this extension of time, the new due date of your request will be **16 June 2021**.

Please note that if you do not agree to a 30-day extension of time, we may need to seek an extension directly from the Information Commissioner.

Next Steps

Please let us know as soon as possible, but no later than **9:00am Monday 17 May 2021** if you agree to:

- The proposed scope for your request; and
- a 30 day extension of time.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at foi@ndis.gov.au if you have any questions or require help.

Kind regards

Freedom of Information Officer

Parliamentary, Ministerial & FOI Branch

Government Division

National Disability Insurance Agency

Email: foi@ndis.gov.au



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work and pay our respects to the elders past and present.

From: Bob Buckley (A4 Convenor) <convenor@a4.org.au>

Sent: Thursday, 15 April 2021 2:46 PM

To: foi <foi@ndis.gov.au>

Subject: Freedom of Information Request - 15/4/2021

FOI Team
Legal Services Branch
Governance, Legal & Compensation
National Disability Insurance Agency

Dear FOI Team

Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia (A4) hereby requests, under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, information described as follows.

In its Mar 2021 [Consultation paper: Interventions for children on the autism spectrum](#), the NDIA cites advice from the NDIA Independent Advisory Council's (IAC) to the NDIA Board, a document called [Promoting best practice in Early Childhood Intervention in the NDIS](#).

2. On or around the 14/10/2020, various members of NDIA Board and NDIA staff received [a document](#) describing concerns about the IAC's advice (above) relating to early intervention for autistic children. Please provide all the information the NDIA has about how the NDIA processed (or not) the document and the concerns raised in the document about the IAC's advice/document.
3. Please provide copies of documents and information that the NDIA received showing concerns from others about the IAC's advice (above)?
4. Please provide all information the NDIA has about discussions, considerations or actions resulting from, related or relevant to the concerns raised about the IAC's advice (above).

Please provide your response in electronic form; we do not want a paper copy. If you would like clarification of anything in this request or to discuss any matter relating to it, do not hesitate to contact me by email or on 0418 677 288.

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Bob Buckley

Convenor, Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia (A4)

website: <https://a4.org.au/>

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