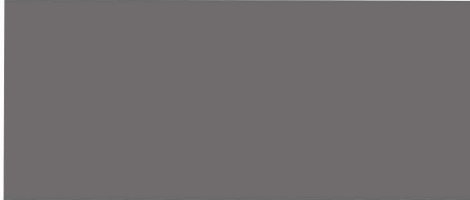




14 November 2018



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* (the GIPA Act) that you lodged with the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) where you requested access to the following information:

- *"I would like to access any available data from FACS regarding ROSH reports within the Canterbury-Bankstown Council area, for the most recent 3 years that the data is available. If this could possibly also be broken down by suburb ..."*

Please be advised that I have liaised with the Department of Family and Community Service'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.
- 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 provide you with a copy of the information requested in your access application in accordance with section 58 of the GIPA Act, with the exception of the names of some suburbs listed in Tab A, as there is an overriding public interest consideration against disclosure under the GIPA Act.

The names of some of the suburbs listed in Tab A have been withheld from disclosure under clause 3(a) of the table to section 14 of the GIPA Act as it is probable that disclosure may identify another individual. The disclosure of the suburb names may lead to the identity of the children or young people who are the subject of risk of significant harm reports, specifically in suburbs where there may be few children or families in the general population. I am of the view that there is an overwhelming public interest against disclosing information that may reveal a child or young person's identity.

Please be advised of the following in relation to the information attached at Tab A:

- The dataset for the financial year is captured in August, which provides a snapshot of information from the Key Information and Directory System (KiDS).
- The information relating to a suburb is not a mandatory field in KiDS, and reflects a child or young person's latest recorded place of residence. Therefore, the information may not reflect the actual suburb that the child or young person resided in, at the time that the risk of significant harm report was made.

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.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rita Peci', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

TAB A

Number of Risk of Significant Harm reports, by suburb, for the Canterbury Bankstown Local Government Area by financial year

Suburb	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
	1	9	7
BANKSTOWN	436	538	510
BASS HILL	114	135	131
BELFIELD	25	20	35
BELMORE	103	110	151
BEVERLY HILLS	30	41	37
BIRRONG	27	20	19
CAMPSIE	130	171	211
CANTERBURY	48	68	81
CARRAMAR	22	31	46
CHESTER HILL	159	166	250
	7	0	0
	5	3	11
CONDELL PARK	99	145	192
	1	7	11
CROYDON PARK	28	27	25
EARLWOOD	86	68	90
EAST HILLS	21	73	41
	0	0	1
GEORGES HALL	99	70	95
GREENACRE	308	250	266
HURLSTONE PARK	22	28	37
KINGSGROVE	33	39	69
LAKEMBA	151	217	213
	1	0	0
	6	9	13
MILPERRA	15	38	21
	4	3	4
NARWEE	10	18	15
PADSTOW	60	143	165
PADSTOW HEIGHTS	19	29	56
PANANIA	122	105	131
PEAKHURST	16	21	24
	2	1	3
PICNIC POINT	50	57	47
	1	1	2
PUNCHBOWL	258	270	343
REGENTS PARK	25	20	27
REVESBY	243	199	242
	9	5	1
RIVERWOOD	32	34	37
ROSELANDS	86	168	248
SEFTON	44	65	81
	2	0	0
VILLAWOOD	58	84	52
WILEY PARK	106	104	125
YAGOONA	275	303	269
Total	3,399	3,913	4,435