



12 July 2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Notice of decision under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*

I refer to your access application lodged under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* ('**GIPA Act**') with the Department of Communities and Justice ('**Department**') on 28 June 2024. Specifically, you seek access to:

- The number of beds available at refuges for women escaping domestic and family violence in NSW for the years 2019-2024 (**point 1**).
- The number of women leaving violence who accessed temporary accommodation from the Department of Family and Community Services for the years 2019-2024 (**point 2**).

I am authorised by the Department's principal officer, for the purposes of section 9(3) of the GIPA Act, to decide your access application.

Decision

I have decided that the information sought by you is not held by the Department. Nonetheless, the Department has decided to create a record responsive to point 2 under section 75(1) of the GIPA Act, noting that such data can be extracted from the Department's database. My decisions are reviewable decisions under section 80 of the GIPA Act.

Reasons for decision

The Department is required by section 53(2) of the GIPA Act to undertake such reasonable searches as may be necessary to locate any government information sought in an access application.

On 1 July 2024, my team directed search enquiries to Strategy, Policy and Commissioning (**SPC**) to ascertain whether the information sought is held by the Department. On the same day, the Program Delivery and Integration team of SPC confirmed that, in relation to point 1 of your request, the Department does not collect information on the number of beds that refuges have to offer as the configuration can change and does change in order to accommodate different size family groups. The refuges would also be able to use cots and temporary beds for small children if this is required and for these reasons, the Department does not ask providers to report on their bed numbers.

On 2 July 2024, my team directed further search enquiries to Family and Community Services Insights, Analysis and Research (**FACSIAR**) of SPC, to determine whether information sought in point 2 is held by the Department. On 3 July 2024, FACSIAR confirmed that:

- It does collect information on the households assisted with temporary accommodation. These numbers are publicly available at <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/dcj.statistics/viz/ASR2022-23Housingpage2/Housing-tempaccom?publish=yes> and the numbers for 2023/2024 will be available in August this year.

- The proportion of those households being women is not held but can be created. FACSIAR has helpfully created a record by extracting the following statistics from its database. This record is attached. Please note that FY means 'financial year', TA means 'temporary accommodation', HH means 'Household' and DFV means 'Domestic and Family Violence'.

Based on my search enquiries, and the detailed answers provided by senior members of the relevant units, I am satisfied that reasonable searches were conducted.

Review rights


If you are aggrieved by my decision that the information requested is not held by the Department, you may seek a review of my decision. You may request:

- internal review by another officer of the Department who is no less senior than me, within 20 working days of this decision, together with the prescribed internal review fee of \$40.00,
- external review by the NSW Information Commissioner, within 40 working days of the date of this decision, or
- external administrative review by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, within 40 working days of the date of this decision.

Further information

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 9716 2662 or by email at infoandprivacy@dcj.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely


Katrina Lee
Principal Lawyer
Open Government, Information and Privacy | Legal
Law Reform and Legal Services

FY	# HH assisted with TA due to DFV	# of women as household head assisted with TA due to DFV
2018-19	3811	3320
2019-20	3769	3273
2020-21	3634	3098
2021-22	4044	3439
2022-23	3959	3306