

[REDACTED]

From: Information and Privacy
Sent: Monday, 29 January 2024 9:07 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: GIPA23 [REDACTED]; 23 [REDACTED] Your request for information
Attachments: [REDACTED] - GIPA23 [REDACTED]



NOTICE OF DECISION

Good morning [REDACTED]

I refer to your formal access application under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act)* that you lodged with the Department of Communities and Justice (**Department**) for:

- *'For the past two financial years, the number of Children in the care of the Minister that have supervised visits with parents, and/or siblings, plus start date and current agreed frequency of those visits; and the number of requests for those children, per child, to be restored, and over what period of time, Statewide and in the Hunter Central Coast region.'*

The second part of your request is read to be a subset of the first part of your request (i.e. 'the number of requests for those children').

Decision

The information sought is not held by the Department.

Searches

The Department must undertake reasonable searches as may be necessary to find any of the government information applied for that was held by the Department when the application was received, using the most efficient means reasonably available to the Department. On 15 January 2024, a search request was sent to FACSIAR Strategy Policy and Commissioning and FACSIAR Information Management (**IM**) requesting any information falling within the scope of the request. On 16 and 17 January 2024, FACSIAR conducted extensive searches of its systems, and confirmed that it did not hold the information sought. The IM team advised that in order to respond to the request, significant time and resources would be required to create the record. For example, to generate the information, an individual officer would be required to go through all care files from the last two years, analyse any case notes or attachments, to create the information sought, i.e. calculate the numbers, start date, frequency for the specified time periods and locations. Also, the data is not available in any standard extract and would require time consuming coding by a programmer to build the query, extract and test the data (to the extent that such data is contained in any file notes or attachments from a case worker). FACSIAR would then need to review the extracts to assess whether they are fit for use. If the data is usable, there would need to be individuals engaged to manually review each separate record to manually derive a count of actual visits to parents and/or siblings. Based on the information provided, I am satisfied that reasonable searches were conducted.

Nonetheless, while FACSIAR does not hold the information requested, the team is able to provide you with:

- The following public database, which contains DCJ published information:
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/dcj.statistics/viz/ASR2021-22ChildrenandFamiliesThrive-OOHC/ENTRIESOOHCDashboard>.
- The attached document which shows the Children and young people (**CYP**) in out-of-home care who have plan goal of restoration, in Central Coast, Hunter and NSW, 30 June 2021 and 2022 and CYP exited OOHC who were restored, in Hunter, Central Coast and NSW, 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Review rights

If you disagree with the decision in this notice, you may seek a review under Part 5 of the GIPA Act. You have three review options:

- An internal review lodged with the Department's Open Government, Information and Privacy Unit, within 20 working days of the date of this Notice;
- An external review by the NSW Information Commissioner, within 40 working days of the date of this Notice; or
- An external review by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, within 40 working days of the date of this Notice.

Please contact our office at infoandprivacy@dcj.nsw.gov.au if you have any queries regarding this matter.

Kind regards
Katrina

Katrina Lee
Principal Solicitor
Open Government Information and Privacy
Department of Communities and Justice



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present. I also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working with NSW Government at this time.

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It should be noted that the data in Table 2 is not a direct subset of the data in Table 1, that is, the children and young people restored in Table 2 may not be the same children and young people with as restoration goal as per Table 1.

Table 1: Children and young people (CYP) in out-of-home care who have plan goal of restoration, in Central Coast, Hunter and NSW, 30 June 2021 and 2022

District	CYP have plan goal of restoration			
	30 June 2021		30 June 2022	
	Number	%	Number	%
Central Coast	58	5.8%	37	3.8%
Hunter	111	5.2%	100	4.7%
NSW	1,167	7.3%	923	6.1%

Note: The data for non-Aboriginal CYP also includes CYP with Aboriginality status 'Not Stated' or blank.

Table 2: Children and young people (CYP) exited OOHC who were restored, in Hunter, Central Coast and NSW, 2021-22 and 2022-23

District	CYP were restored			
	2021-22		2022-23	
	Number	%	Number	%
Central Coast	19	13.3%	30	19.4%
Hunter	40	12.0%	49	13.3%
NSW	422	15.9%	439	16.9%

Notes:

1. The data for non-Aboriginal CYP also includes CYP with Aboriginality status 'Not Stated' or blank.

Source: ChildStory - CIW Annual data