

13 March 2017



Our Ref: HOGIPA16/

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:

- *“A breakdown of the characteristics/demographics of residents in social housing properties in the Waterloo area slated for renewal or replacement under the proposed Central to Eveleigh project. The type of information a breakdown of demographics could be expected to include is:*
  - *the total number of residents in these properties*
  - *their age: i.e. how many residents are in each age group eg 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, 90-99, etc.*
  - *any ethnic background they identify with, eg the number of people who identify as ATSI, Russian, Cantonese, Australian etc*
  - *their length of tenure in social housing properties in the area: i.e. less than five years, or more than six years, more than seven years etc.”*

In order for me to source the information, I was required to liaise with the Corporate Governance and Performance Unit (CGP), FACS, who were able to extract the relevant data/information from the department’s information technology systems. It should also be noted that I liaised with New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation, FACS, who provided information in preparation for my notice of decision.

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
- The information is personal information of the person to whom it is to be disclosed
- 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.

On this day 13 March 2017, I have decided to provide you with full disclosure of the data/information requested in your access application in accordance with section 58(1)(a) of the GIPA Act.

The data listed below is current as at 31 January 2017, and refers to public housing and Aboriginal Housing Office residents who reside in properties subject to the proposed Central to Eveleigh project in Waterloo. I will now respond to each part of your request in turn:

**1. “The total number of residents in these properties”**

**Answer to Point 1:**

There are a total of 2630 residents.

**2. “Their age: i.e. how many residents are in each age group eg 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, 90-99, etc.”**

**Answer to Point 2:**

Age of resident (years of age)	Number of residents
less than 10	129
10 to 19	160
20 to 29	137
30 to 39	150
40 to 49	287
50 to 59	456

Age of resident (years of age)	Number of residents
60 to 69	550
70 to 79	464
80 to 89	259
90 to 100	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2630</b>

**3. “Any ethnic background they identify with, eg the number of people who identify as ATSI, Russian, Cantonese, Australian etc”**

**Answer to Point 3:**

FACS does **not** hold information on a person’s ethnic background. In relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI), our records indicate that 283 residents identify as ATSI.

**4. “Their length of tenure in social housing properties in the area: i.e. less than five years, or more than six years, more than seven years etc.”**

**Answer to Point 4:**

Tenure length	Number
Less than 1 year	154
1 to 2 years	191
2 to 5 years	440
5 to 10 years	320
10 to 20 years	570
20 years and over	273

Further attached are receipts for the amounts of \$180 and \$180 that represent the fees for processing your Formal Access Application.

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, Legal 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**