



R33598874

FOI 276/17/18 STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

1. I refer to the application by [REDACTED] under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), for access to relating to the mental health status of Australian Defence Force Recruits, specifically:

“documents prepared by, commissioned by, or obtained by the department since 1 January 2015 on the mental health status of Australian Defence Force recruits and rates of illness therein, including any analysis on comparisons with the general population or ADF personnel generally, or discussion of policy implications.”

FOI decision maker

2. I am the accredited officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

Documents identified

3. One document was identified as matching the description of the applicant’s request.

Decision

4. I have decided to release the document in full.

Material taken into account

5. In making my decision, I had regard to:
- a. the terms of the request;
 - b. the content of the identified documents in issue;
 - c. relevant provisions in the FOI Act;
 - d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines); and
 - e. consultation with third parties.

Third Party Consultation

6. The document in question was wholly prepared for the Department of Defence by a third party organisation Phoenix Australia Centre for Posttraumatic Mental health. The forward matter in the document noted that; *‘The material in this report, including findings and interpretations is the responsibility of Phoenix Australia, and are not to be taken as the official opinion or policy of the Australian Government Department of Defence’*. As such I decided that consultation was appropriate.

7. No objection was raised to the release of the document by the third party.

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Accredited Decision Maker
Joint Capabilities Group

March 2018