



Australian Government
Department of Defence

DEFENCE FOI 332/21/22 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:

"I am seeking information with respect to:

- 1. The total number of Aboriginal personnel presently serving within the Royal Australian Navy. (RAN)*
- 2. The disposition of Aboriginal personnel presently serving across all specializations within the RAN,*
- 3. A breakdown of all Aboriginals presently serving within the RAN, by rank, and*
- 4. What is the retention rate of Aboriginals within the RAN across the last 20 years.*

I accept that all figures will include Aboriginal as well as Torres Strait Islanders."

FOI decision maker

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

Documents identified

3. One document was generated under section 17 of the FOI Act matching the description of this request. In accordance with section 17 of the FOI Act:

- a. a written document was produced containing the information by using a 'computer or other equipment that is ordinarily available to the agency for retrieving or collating stored information' (section 17(1)(c)(i)); and
- b. producing the written document did not 'substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the agency from its other operations' (section 17(2)).

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 document 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. advice received from Navy Culture, Director General Navy People (DGNP).

Further information

6. The information provided by Navy Culture, DGNP was used to generate a document that captured the scope of the applicant's request.

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Roger Fonhof
Captain, Royal Australian Navy
Accredited Decision Maker
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