



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Objective Reference: AHQ/OUT/2021/BQ26792575

DEFENCE FOI 027/21/22 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:

'1. Copies of the Prohibited Substance Testing Program (PSTP) determination Decisions Notice of Positive Test Result (NPTR) in table form of Townsville ADF members for financial year 2019/20, financial year 2020/21.

2. A breakdown of the statistics for the type of drugs detected for these NPTR's over the same period, and a breakdown of the services and regiments in the table format.

3. The number of tests undertaken in Townsville as part of the Prohibited Substance Testing Program (PSTP) for financial year 2019/20, financial year 2020/21.'

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 on this FOI 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)).
- b. producing the written document did not substantially and unreasonably divert resources of the agency from its other operations (section 17(2)).

Decision

4. I have decided to release one 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)
- e. advice provided by Career Management – Army Involuntary Separations, Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Prohibited Substance Testing Program Coordinator and Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Prohibited Substance Testing Program Coordinator.

Context Statement

6. The RAN and RAAF Prohibited Substance Testing Program Coordinators consulted their testing spreadsheet for financial years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. No Notices of Positive Test Results were identified in financial years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 (1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021).

Melanie.Cochbain Digitally signed by
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Date: 2021.08.07 10:40:07
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MP Cochbain
COL
Accredited Decision Maker
Army