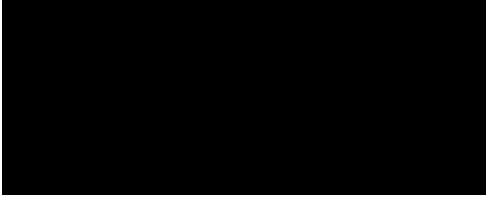


Our reference: CHSFOI23-24.44



DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), received by Canberra Health Services (CHS) on **Wednesday 6 March 2024**.

This application requested access to:

'Any briefs to the Minister for Health, the Director-General of the Health Directorate or the CEO of Canberra Health Services in the last 12 months on the models of care provided by the Canberra Endometriosis Centre and Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT's pelvic pain and endometriosis services, and any other options or currently unmet needs for the treatment of endometriosis in the ACT.'

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of Canberra Health Services (CHS) under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. CHS was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Monday 22 April 2024**.

I have identified one document holding the information within scope of your access application.

Decisions on access

I have decided to grant partial access to one document. My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are provided as Attachment A to this letter.

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- The FOI Act;
- The contents of the documents that fall within the scope of your request;
- The *Human Rights Act 2004*; and
- The *Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997*.

The document is partially composed of medical and health records of an individual, with the attachments accompanying the document entirely composed of medical and health records. Section 12 of the FOI Act specifies that the Act does not apply to information in a health record as defined by the *Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997* (the HR Act).

The HR Act defines a health record as any record containing personal health information. The HR Act defines personal health information as 'any personal information (a) relating to the health, an illness or a disability of the consumer; or (b) collected by a health service provider in relation to the health, an illness, or a disability of the consumer.' A 'consumer' is defined broadly and includes any individual who uses, or has used, a health service.

Partial Access

The document is partially comprised of information that I consider, on balance, to be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act regarding the personal information.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2, 2.1 (a)(i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability; and
- Schedule 2, 2.1 (a)(ii) contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the non-disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2, 2.2 (a)(ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

On balance, the factors favouring disclosure did not outweigh the factor favouring non-disclosure as the redacted information contains the name of a non-ACT Government employee. Therefore, I determined the information identified is contrary to the public interest and I have decided not to disclose this information.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, CHS maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. The scope of your access application, my decision and documents released to you will be published in the disclosure log not less than three days but not more than 10 days after the date of this decision. Your personal contact details will not be published.

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/freedom-information/disclosure-log>.

Ombudsman review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in ACT Health's disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman

GPO Box 442

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au

Website: ombudsman.act.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
Allara House
15 Constitution Avenue
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Further assistance

Should you have any queries in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Coordinator on (02) 5124 9831 or email HealthFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Katherine Wakefield
Executive Director
Women, Youth and Children
Canberra Health Services

13 April 2024

Canberra Health Services

UNCLASSIFIED

To: Minister for Health

Tracking No.: MCHS23/573

Date: 10 November 2023**From:** Dr Grant Howard, Chief Operating Officer**Subject:** Meeting [REDACTED] regarding Acute Pelvic Pain Pathways**Critical Date:** 21/11/2023**Critical Reason:** You are meeting [REDACTED]**Recommendation**

That you note the information contained in this brief.

Noted / Please Discuss

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA/...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback

Background

1. [REDACTED]
2. Ms Suzanne Pilkington, Executive Director, Division of Women, Youth and Children, Canberra Hospital will be attending this meeting.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- Your latest response to [REDACTED] referred to the Acute Pelvic Pathway and Chronic Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis Pathway. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. These are guidelines for staff to determine the management of patient flow and are not for public distribution.

4. Canberra Health Services (CHS) acknowledges and recognises Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain (EPP) as a growing issue and the importance of the Canberra Endometriosis Centre.
5. You may wish to discuss the following:
[REDACTED]
 - The demand on the service
 - What CHS is currently doing to support patients with EPP[REDACTED]
6. CHS is trialling hybrid EPP education, self-screening, physiotherapy, as well as brain and pain workshops from November 2023 for those on the waitlist as an interim measure to allow more patients to be seen.
7. Endometriosis Specialist Nurse Led Clinics have recommenced. The clinic offers appointments across three days.
8. CHS is currently reviewing the gynaecology waiting lists and planning alternative ways to deliver our services more effectively.
9. Collaboration is occurring with Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT (SHFPACT) who are expanding their endometriosis and pelvic pain service in Civic.

Issues

10. A consistent theme [REDACTED]
Canberra Endometriosis Centre is not [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

11. Currently CHS has 1900 referrals for gynaecology in the work queue/clinical portal. Based on analysis prior to the rollout of DHR, it is estimated 25 per cent of these referrals could potential relate to EPP.
12. The CHS surgical waiting list for patients with stage three or four endometriosis is growing at TCH and NCH.
13. Endometriosis and pelvic pain referrals are likely to continue to grow as awareness increases through more discussion on endometriosis in the media. There has also been a significant increase in patients with pelvic muscle tension and myofascial pain. CHS has developed a self-assessment tool for myofascial pain but it would be better delivered online with follow up guidance.
14. The Emergency Department at the Canberra Hospital (ED) receives numerous patients presenting with pelvic and abdominal pain. Meetings have been instigated between [REDACTED] to determine a manageable way forward.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

18. [REDACTED] appears to be seeking improved access to Medicare funded endometriosis treatment in ACT.
 - a. The Commonwealth Government, Department of Social Services governs Medicare and as such CHS does not have any influence on Medicare funded endometriosis treatments.

Financial Implications

19. Not applicable.

Consultation

Internal

20. Not applicable.

Cross Directorate

21. Not applicable.

External

22. Not applicable.

Work Health and Safety

23. Not applicable.

Benefits/Sensitivities

24. Not applicable.

Communications, media and engagement implications

25. Not applicable.

Action Officer: Sue Pilkington

Phone: 47289

Attachments

Attachment	Title
Attachment A	[REDACTED] Correspondence from [REDACTED]
Attachment A	[REDACTED] Correspondence from [REDACTED]
Attachment B	[REDACTED]
Attachment C	[REDACTED]