

## What does the Information Commissioner do?

The Information Commissioner:

- is independent;
- investigates privacy complaints;
- investigates freedom of information disputes;
- answers questions about FOI & privacy;
- gives advice about FOI & privacy;
- audits privacy compliance;
- provides training on the *Information Act 2002*.

Feel free to ring or email us if you have any questions.

## What is the relevant law?

The law about freedom of information and privacy in the Northern Territory is found in the *Information Act 2002*.



**Information  
Commissioner**  
NORTHERN TERRITORY

### For further information

[www.infocomm.nt.gov.au](http://www.infocomm.nt.gov.au)

Freecall: 1800 005 610

Post: GPO Box 1344  
DARWIN NT 0801

Street: Level 6  
22 Mitchell St  
Darwin NT 0800

E-mail: [infocomm@nt.gov.au](mailto:infocomm@nt.gov.au)

## FOI AND PRIVACY

Your  
information  
and the Northern Territory Government



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

## You have a right to know what information the government holds about you

You can apply to government organisations (including Departments, local councils, and other organisations created by the Northern Territory Government) to find out what information they hold about you.

## We all have a right to the government's information

Our government holds information on behalf of the people, and is accountable to the people for its behaviour and decisions.

The law says that you have a right to access the government's information unless there is a good reason not to.

## How to apply

Contact the organisation and tell them what information you want to access. It can help to ask for the 'information officer'. If the organisation doesn't offer an alternative process, make a freedom of information application. Ask the organisation what identification you need to provide, and how best to describe the information you are seeking.

## How much does it cost?

### Application fees:

\$0 for your own personal information.

\$30 for other government information.

### Processing fees:

After you apply for information, the organisation will quote you the cost for processing your application. You will be offered the opportunity to make a deposit or withdraw your application. Processing costs for your own personal information are usually small.

If you don't have much money, or the information you are seeking has great public interest value, you can ask for the fees and charges to be waived.

## What if the organisation doesn't give me the information I want?

The organisation has 30 days to respond to a freedom of information request. If you are not happy with its response (or lack of response), then after 30 days, you write to the organisation and request an 'internal review'. If, after a further 30 days, you are unhappy with their further response, you can complain to the Office of the Information Commissioner. We will independently review the matter and consider whether you should be given access to the information you seek.

# PRIVACY

## What if the organisation is misusing information about me?

Privacy laws say that an organisation must:

- treat your information with reasonable care;
- only collect and use information about you if it's necessary to do its job;
- only use information for the purpose for which it was collected.

## To make a privacy complaint

