

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

PM&C Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Mental Health Commission
Outcome/Program: National Mental Health Commission
Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 88

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Has the Department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?

How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?

How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?

Answer:

The National Mental Health Commission has received one Freedom of Information (FOI) request since its establishment on 1 January 2012 and seeks advice as required on FOI matters.

The Commission is a small agency that is establishing a range of internal systems and processes, including those to support FOI processing and train staff. The Commission has not processed the FOI request within the times outlined in the FOI Act but is in communication with the applicant in this regard.

No conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date.