



Health
Murrumbidgee
Local Health District

**GOVERNMENT INFORMATION
PUBLIC ACCESS (GIPA)
ANNUAL REPORT**

2019/20

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

ANNUAL REPORT

1. Review of proactive release program – Clause 7(a)

Under section 7 of the GIPA Act, agencies must review their programs for the release of government information to identify the kinds of information that can be made publicly available. This review must be undertaken at least once every 12 months.

Murrumbidgee Local Health District's program for the proactive release of information involves a review of information requested via informal access and formal access channels. This includes ongoing or repeated requests for information and working with the executive team to identify information that can be released proactively. The District also reviews the Disclosure Log and websites of other agencies to see the type of information they release proactively.

The most accessible way for the public to access such information is via the Murrumbidgee Local Health District internet website www.mlhd.health.nsw.gov.au.

During 2019/20, the following information was released proactively on the website:

- NSW Health Annual report – 2018/19
- Service Agreement with NSW Health - 2019/20
- Budget – 2019/20
- Budget summary - 2019/20
- Audited Financial statements 2018/19
- MLHD Our Communities, Our Future; Healthier Together strategic plan (2019/21)
- MLHD Operational Plan – 2019/20
- Corporate Governance Attestation Statement 2018/19
- Updated health statistics and demographic information
- Board minutes and Board member information
- Media releases
- Quarterly magazine, *Murrumbidgee Matters Magazine*
- Employment information and positions under recruitment
- Links to performance information via Bureau of Health Information
- Policy and procedure information (linked to external site)
- Contract information (linked to external site)
- Facility Service Plans and Service Statements

Information already publicly available on the site includes:

- Community Engagement Summary and 2017-2021 strategy
- Information on the District's community engagement mechanisms
- Service information including contact details of facilities and services
- Research Innovation and Change Strategic Plan 2017/21

2. Number of access applications received – Clause 7(b)

During the reporting period, the District received a total of seventeen (17) formal access applications, including two invalid applications. This is up from eleven (11) applications received in the preceding 12 months and seven (7) applications received in 2017/18.

Two applications have had two decisions made with a third decision on one of these applications pending

(additional information has been found). Two further application decisions are pending. No informal applications were received.

3. Number of refused applications for Schedule 1 information – Clause 7(c)

During the reporting period, the District has refused a total of 1 access applications under Schedule 1 to the GIPA Act.

4. Statistical information about access applications – Clause 7(d) and Schedule 2

Table A: Number of applications by type of applicant and outcome*								
	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of Parliament	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private sector business	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not for profit organisations or community groups	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (other)	1	3	1	1	1	1	0	0

*More than one decision can be made in respect of a particular access application. If so, a recording must be made in relation to each such decision. This also applies to Table B.

Table B: Number of applications by type of application and outcome								
	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Personal information applications*	4	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0

*A **personal information application** is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of Schedule 4 to the Act) about the applicant (the applicant being an individual).

PLEASE NOTE: The total number of decisions in Table B should be the same as Table A.

Table C: Invalid applications	
Reason for invalidity	Number of applications
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	2
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	0
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	0
Total number of invalid applications received	2
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	1

Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 of the Act	
	Number of times consideration used*
Overriding secrecy laws	1
Cabinet information	0
Executive Council information	0
Contempt	0
Legal professional privilege	0
Excluded information	1
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	1
Transport safety	0
Adoption	0
Care and protection of children	0
Ministerial code of conduct	0
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	0

*More than one public interest consideration may apply in relation to a particular access application and, if so, each such consideration is to be recorded (but only once per application). This also applies in relation to Table E.

Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table to section 14 of the Act	
	Number of occasions when application not successful
Responsible and effective government	0
Law enforcement and security	0
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	1
Business interests of agencies and other persons	0
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	0
Secrecy provisions	0
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	0

Table F: Timeliness	
	Number of applications
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	14
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	1
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	0
Total	15

Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)

	Decision varied	Decision upheld	Total
Internal review	0	0	0
Review by Information Commissioner*	1	0	1
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act	0	0	0
Review by NCAT	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

**The Information Commissioner does not have the authority to vary decisions, but can make recommendation to the original decision-maker. The data in this case indicates that a recommendation to vary or uphold the original decision has been made.*

Table H: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)

	Number of applications for review
Applications by access applicants	0
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	1

Table I: Applications transferred to other agencies under Division 2 of Part 4 of the Act (by type of transfer)

	Number of applications transferred
Agency-initiated transfers	0
Applicant-initiated transfers	0