

Our reference: **CHSFOI25-26.02**

Dear [REDACTED]

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), submitted to Canberra Health Services (the Directorate) on Monday 28 July 2025 and formally accepted **Thursday 12 August 2025**.

This application requested access to:

1. *Number of children born in Canberra public health facilities (including Canberra Hospital, Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, and others under Canberra Health Services / previously ACT Health) from January 1, 2020 to the present:*
 - *Where at least one parent (mother or father) is recorded as being of Nepalese origin or born in Nepal.*
2. *If available, please also include:*
 - *Year of birth (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)*
 - *Suburb of residence of the parents at the time of birth (can be generalised for privacy, e.g., Gungahlin, Tuggeranong, Belconnen, etc.)*
 - *Total number of such births per year and per suburb (if possible)*

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Directorate under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. The Directorate was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Thursday 18 September 2025**.

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; and
- The *Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997*.

Decisions

The information has been extracted into one document holding the information within the scope of your access application. The document was created for the purpose of your request, and I have decided to grant full access to this document. I further note that the Directorate only holds data up to the year 2023.

As the scope of the request related to birth records, the Directorate engaged with the City and Environment Directorate (CED) to determine if they could assist with your request as they manage birth registrations in the ACT. CED confirmed that if they hold this information, it is accessible for a fee and would not be released under FOI and refused the transfer of the application. Section 43(1)(d) and 45(g) of the FOI Act specifies that an application may be refused when government information is already available to the applicant for purchase.

CED have confirmed that you can write to their Births, Deaths, Marriages team via email at BDM@act.gov.au if you wish to access the information.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, the Directorate 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.

Please be aware that no personal information will be included in the published information all other information will be published on <https://www.act.gov.au/open/foi-disclosure-logs/act-health-directorate-and-canberra-health-services-disclosure-logs>.

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 on the Directorate'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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stevenson' with a stylized initial.

Nicole Stevenson

Senior Director

Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Canberra Health Services

3 September 2025

Number of births in public health facilities by area of residence, for women born in Nepal, ACT residents, 2020 to 2023

	Year of baby's birth			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Canberra central includes North Canberra, South Canberra and Canberra East	10	15	15	5
Weston Creek and Molonglo	9	30	33	30
Belconnen	26	31	52	56
Gungahlin	36	58	76	76
Tuggeranong	10	24	32	38
Woden	14	29	36	34
Total	105	187	244	239

Source:

ACT Maternal Perinatal Data Collection, unpublished data

Notes:

No information is available for country of birth of fathers

These results are based on maternal country of birth

Subdivisions have been combined due to small numbers