

Our reference: **CHSFOI25-26.30**

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), received originally by Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) on **Thursday 22 January 2026**, then subsequently transferred and accepted by Canberra Health Services (the Directorate) on **Thursday 29 January 2026**.

This application requested access to the following government information:

'The National Rural Health Alliance (the Alliance) advocates for improved health access and equity for people living in regional, rural and remote areas. The Alliance is seeking expenditure information/documents on the total amount claimed (cost) and amount received (subsidy) on the ACT Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS), specifically broken down by the geographic location of the recipient's primary place of residence (i.e., the location they travelled from), for the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25. This information is not publicly available.

We understand that releasing data at too fine a geographic scale may result in a breach of confidentiality, so we are seeking expenditure aggregated only to an appropriate geographic level.

In order of preference, we are seeking total ACT IPTAS expenditure aggregated by state:

- *Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification, or - Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2), or - Postcode*

The documents we are seeking should therefore include, for each of the above geographic classifications (whichever are available):

- *The total value of ACT IPTAS claims, and total value of subsidies paid to recipients residing within the geographic area;*
- *The geographic aggregation unit used (e.g., MMM category, SA2 name/code, or postcode);*
- *The financial year or month to which the expenditure relates.*

If the expenditure is already compiled in internal reports, datasets, dashboards, or extracts from administrative systems, we are requesting copies of those documents or datasets in their existing form.'

Authority

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 **Friday 13 March 2026**.

Searches and material considered

Thorough searches of records in the Directorate were undertaken, and the information has been extracted into one document holding the relevant information within the scope of your access application. This document was created for the purpose of your request.

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

- your access application dated 29 January 2026;
- the documents containing the information that fall within the scope of your access application;
- The FOI Act;
- the *Human Rights Act 2004*; and
- the *Information Privacy Act 2014*.

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.

Decision on access

My decision is to grant full access to the one document in accordance with section 35(1)(a) of the FOI Act.

For further information regarding the FOI Act please visit the below website

<https://legislation.act.gov.au/View/a/2016-55/current/html/2016-55.html>.

Explanatory note

The Directorate does not have any existing expenditure reports, datasets, dashboards or extracts. Total value of IPTAS claims (cost) is not recorded or readily available. Individual claims would need to be manually reviewed to retrieve the claimed values. The data the Directorate does record within a database, is only the value of subsidies paid.

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 on the disclosure log not earlier than three working days and not later than ten working days after the day the decision notice is provided to you. Please be aware that no personal information will be included in the published information.

You may view the Directorate's disclosure log at <https://www.act.gov.au/open/foi-disclosure-logs/act-health-directorate-and-canberra-health-services-disclosure-logs>.

Review rights**ACT Ombudsman**

My decision on your access application 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

Alternatively you may wish to visit the website <https://www.ombudsman.act.gov.au/accountability-and-oversight/freedom-of-information/foi-complaints-and-reviews>.

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 or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team on (02) 5124 9831 or via email at HealthFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Rosalie Hughes
Chief Finance Officer
Canberra Health Services

24 February 2026

ACT IPTAS Claims		Total Value of Subsidies Paid	
		2023-24	2024-25
Modified Monash Model (MMM) Classification	MM 1 - metropolitan	\$1,083,196	\$1,248,577
	MM 5 - rural	0	\$347
		\$1,083,196	\$1,248,924

Note: figures above are GST inclusive.