



DEFENCE FOI 310/24/25

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

1. I refer to the request by [REDACTED] (the applicant), dated and received on 23 October 2024 by the Department of Defence (Defence), for access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act):

“The number of members, classified as other ranks, who obtained financial assistance through Defence Assisted Study Scheme to undertake tertiary study between 2014 to present.”

FOI decision maker

3. I am the authorised officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

Documents identified

4. A document has been generated under section 17 of the FOI Act matching the scope of the applicant’s request whereby:

- the document was produced using ‘a computer or other equipment that is ordinarily available to the agency for retrieving or collating stored information’ s17(1)(c)(i); and
- producing the document did not substantially and unreasonably divert resources of the agency from its other operations s17(2).

Decision



5. I have decided to release, in full, the document created in accordance with section 17 [Requests involving use of computers etc.] of the FOI Act.


Material taken into account

6. In making my decision, I had regard to:
- a. the terms of the request;
 - b. the relevant provisions in the FOI Act;
 - c. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines); and
 - d. information provided by subject matter experts within Defence.

Extra Information

7. The requested statistical data was unavailable for the year 2015 and 2016 for Navy members. Data provided was calculated by using the number of all Navy Ranks supported in those years and calculating the Other ranks/officer ratios from an average from the past 10 years to provide an estimated total Sailor ranks supported in 2015 and 2016.

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by 
Date: 2024.11.19
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Ms 
Accredited Decision Maker
Defence Learning Branch
Defence People Group