



**DEFENCE FOI 563/24/25**

**STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982**

1. I refer to the request by [REDACTED] (the applicant), dated and received on 20 January 2025 by the Department of Defence (Defence), for access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act):

*“The number of members, classified as Officer 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 have had regard to:
- a. the terms of the request;
  - b. relevant provisions of 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.

Digitally signed

Date: 2025.02.17

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Accredited Decision Maker  
Defence People Group  
Department of Defence