

FOI Reforms – Information Publication Scheme

Reforms to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) introduce a new Information Publication Scheme (IPS) and require agencies to publish a broad range of information on their websites. The IPS commences on 1 May 2011.

What are we required to publish?

Under the IPS, the Tribunals will be required to publish the following:

- Our information publication plan;
- Who we are (Structure of the Tribunals' organisation and Statutory appointments of officers of the Tribunals);
- What we do (functions of the Tribunals and operational information);
- Our reports and responses to Parliament;
- Information routinely provided through FOI access requests;
- Consultation arrangements for policy proposals for which we are responsible; and
- Our contact details for FOI purposes.

Subject to certain exceptions, the Tribunals will also be required to publish details of information released after 1 May 2011 in response to FOI requests. This publication will be known as a 'disclosure log'.

What information will not be published?

The Tribunals are not required to publish information that is restricted, for example, if a document is exempt under the FOI Act or its publication is prohibited under other legislation. The Tribunals will not publish personal information or information about the business, commercial, financial or professional affairs of a person or other information of a kind determined by the Information Commissioner, if it would be unreasonable to publish.

What is an information publication plan?

An information publication plan shows how an agency proposes to meet the requirements of the IPS. The plan must indicate:

- what information the agency proposes to publish;
- how (generally on its website), and to whom (generally to the Australian community), the agency proposes to publish the information;
- how the agency otherwise proposes to comply with the IPS.

The Tribunals' information publication plan will shortly be published on the Tribunals' website and will be available for public consultation for two weeks. The Tribunals' information publication plan will not be a static document but rather, will continue to evolve.

Charges

The intention of the IPS is that agencies will publish freely accessible information on their website. An agency may charge for making information available in another format. Where charges apply, the details will be published on the Tribunals' website.

Other matters

- Agencies must ensure that information published under the IPS is accurate, up to date and complete.
- Agencies must, in conjunction with the Information Commissioner, review the operations of their IPS every 5 years (if not earlier).
- Anyone can complain to the Information Commissioner about an agency's performance in relation to the IPS.

Need more information?

Please do not hesitate to call the Policy Section at one of the offices of the Migration Review and Refugee Review Tribunals for more information on the IPS.

New South Wales Registry

Phone: 02) 9276 5000

Fax: 02) 9276 5599

Information line: 1300 361 969

Victoria Registry

Phone: 03) 8600 5900

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Information line: 1300 361 969

Further information on the IPS is available from the [Office of the Australian Information Commissioner \(OAIC\) website](#).