

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 by ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) on **Tuesday 19 April 2022**.

This application requested access to:

“Number of hepatitis cases in children in 2019 aged:

- 0-4
- 5-11
- 12-17

Number of hepatitis cases in children in 2020 aged:

- 0-4
- 5-11
- 12-17

Number of hepatitis cases in children in 2021 aged:

- 0-4
- 5-11
- 12-17

Breakdowns into each type (A-E), if possible”

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. ACTHD was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Wednesday 18 May 2022**.

The information has been extracted into a table holding the information within the scope of your access application. The table was created for the purpose of your request and captures information sourced from the ACT Notifiable Disease Database for all statistics on cases of hepatitis notified under the *Public Health Act 1997*.

Decisions on access

I have decided to grant full access to the information provided in the table below.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons. 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;
- The views of relevant third parties; and
- The *Human Rights Act 2004*.

ACT Health collect data on notifications of hepatitis, including viral hepatitis infection, received under the *Public Health Act 1997*. Many of the notified cases of viral hepatitis infection will be asymptomatic carriers of a virus and may never have had clinical hepatitis.

We are not able provide data for infections at the granularity requested, as due to the very small numbers, this can risk identification of cases. Under Nationally agreed principles of data release outlined by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, ACT Health is not able to provide numbers smaller than five due to the risk of identification of personal health information. We can provide the aggregated data in the table below.

Table: Notifications for hepatitis in cases aged 0 to 17 years, 2019-2021, Australian Capital Territory.

Year of notification	Hepatitis A infection	Hepatitis B infection (newly acquired)	Hepatitis B infection (unspecified duration)	Hepatitis C infection (newly acquired)	Hepatitis C infection (unspecified duration)	Hepatitis D infection	Hepatitis E infection	Hepatitis (unspecified) *
2019	<5	0	0	<5	<5	0	0	0
2020	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0	0
2021	0	0	<5	0	0	0	0	0
Total	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	0	0	0

* Clinical evidence of hepatitis where there has been laboratory exclusion of hepatitis A, B, C, D and E and other clinically relevant infectious and non-infectious causes of hepatitis.

Further information about viral hepatitis may be found at the Kirby Institute website www.kirby.unsw.edu.au/research/hepatitis

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, ACTHD 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. Your personal contact details will not be published.

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/freedom-information/disclosure-log>.

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 in ACT Health'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
Level 4, 1 Moore St
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



Victor Martin
Executive Branch Manager
Health Protection Services

18 May 2022