

Our reference: **ACTHDFOI21-22.25**

[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 by ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) on **Friday 1 October 2021**.

This application requested access to:

'All correspondence and associated documentation held by ACT Health related the Australian National University's 'enhanced stay-at-home' orders for University residences.'

The FOI Team contacted you by phone and followed up within an email on **Monday 18 October 2021** notifying you they required further clarification of the scope of your application. You responded that same day with a revised scope requesting access to:

"All correspondence and associated documentation held by ACT Health from officers, staff or other representatives or organisations of the Australian National University regarding 'enhanced stay-at-home' orders for University residences."

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 **Monday 22 November 2021**.

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*.

Decisions on access

I have decided to grant partial access to the one document identified holding the information within scope of your access application. The document contains information that I consider, on balance, to be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in Section 17 of the Act as the information contained in the document is partially comprised of personal information.

I have identified that there are no relevant factors favouring disclosure of this information under Schedule 2.1.

This information has not been disclosed as this could reasonably be expected to prejudice the protection of the individual's right to privacy under *Schedule 2.2 (a) (ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004*. The disclosure of a non-ACT Government employees' mobile number would not provide any government information pertinent to your request therefore, I have decided this factor outweighs the public interest factors in the disclosure of this information.

Please note this matter was a policy developed and implemented by the Australian National University (ANU). It was not a requirement of the Public Health Directions at that point in time. ACTHD became aware of this ANU policy after receiving communication from students and parents, who were advised to raise this matter directly with the ANU.

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 and my decision 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Dal Molin', with a small dot at the end.

Vanessa Dal Molin

Executive Branch Manager, Policy and Support Services, COVID-19
ACT Health Directorate

19 November 2021

From: [Smith, Louise](#)
To: [Tracy Smart](#)
Cc: [Huet, Jodie \(Health\)](#); [Edward O'Daly](#); [Nicki Middleton](#); [Susan Helyar](#); [Patricia Teh](#)
Subject: RE: Management of Residences
Date: Tuesday, 17 August 2021 1:31:00 AM

OFFICIAL

Hi Tracy,

This is in line with our discussions today about management of close contact and secondary contacts moving forward to ease the pressure on students, staff and PH.

I have made some comments below in blue.

If you feel that it would be easier for ANU to do enhanced SAHO until Thursday that is a decision for ANU not PH.

Thank you

Louise

From: Tracy Smart <tracy.smart@anu.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 August 2021 3:42 PM
To: Smith, Louise <Louise.Smith@act.gov.au>
Cc: Huet, Jodie (Health) <Jodie.Huet@act.gov.au>; Edward O'Daly <edward.odaly@anu.edu.au>; Nicki Middleton <Nicki.Middleton@anu.edu.au>; Susan Helyar <Susan.Helyar@anu.edu.au>; Patricia Teh <Patricia.Teh@anu.edu.au>
Subject: Management of Residences
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Louise

Thanks for your call today. The purpose of this email is to update you on the current situation and seek your response on the items below via email (but I am also happy to discuss).

To make it easier to respond I ask that you:

1. Endorse our management of our current close contacts in residences
2. Endorse the new approach we discussed on the phone today – “enhanced stay at home”
3. Endorse our proposal to put all dorm style residences into enhanced stay at home until Thursday to minimise risk and increase certainty
4. Endorse our proposal to use Davey Lodge to decant close contacts if a student tests positive.

1. Current close contacts (CC) in Residences

Since we spoke, we have been notified of several more close contacts (CCs) – see attached for this current list. On this basis we have initiated the following:

- All have been put into single self-contained apartments
- Wamburun, Bruce, B&G, Burgmann, and Fenner have been put into the new arrangements we have discussed today, which I am calling “Enhanced stay at home orders (SAHO)” – see below.
- One student is in their own apartment at Lena Karmel and will remain so. We have not elevated this residence to enhanced SAHO as per our discussions last Friday and the approach outlined below

2. New approach

I have attempted to put our agreed new approach to CC management in writing below. Please let me know if you are happy with this (noting a couple of questions/changes below).

- CC in an individual apartment – they quarantine in place for 14 days or until advised.
 - They identify any other rooms they have spent time in, or individuals who have spent time in their rooms – these individuals also have to quarantine but only until negative result is received
 - Rest of residence remains on stay at home orders (SAHO) – ie general lockdown rules
- CC in multi-share apartment – they are moved to a single apartment and quarantine there for 14 days or until advised
 - Housemates remain in apartment but need to quarantine. **Louise – seek your advice but was assuming this might have to be for the full 14 days ie similar to a household. Once the contact is moved out and tests negative post the move they are not required to quarantine.**
- CC in dormitory style accommodation - they are moved to a single apartment and quarantine there for 14 days or until advised
 - Residence goes into **enhanced SAHO** using a living group/bubble/pod approach
 - Bubble groups to be no more than ~25 (note this will vary between residences) (**changed to 25 for practical reasons**)
 - Rules (again must be adapted for each residence with safety in)
 - Stay in their room as much as possible
 - Can use shared bathroom AND kitchen facilities (depending on size and practicality) with their bubble group wearing masks, being COVID-safe, cleaning after use
 - Can potentially use dining halls in bubble group depending on size and practicality
 - May exercise with one other person from their bubble group but must wear a mask and **MUST NOT** interact with anyone else during this time. **Must not interact with those not in their residences**
- Normal SAHO – similar to above but
 - Can go out for other essential reasons (shopping etc)
 - Can do essential work IAW Public Health Directions (we have been advised by our lawyers that we can't stop them)

3. A proposal

Given the current heightened risk level in the ACT and to increase certainty, we are **proposing to put ALL dorm style residences into enhanced SAHO until at least Thursday** and then reassess. Lodges will remain on general SAHO. The logic behind this is as follows:

- It further mitigates risk by reducing exposure of students to the broader community
- It temporarily resolves the essential work concerns (nothing that we will still release anyone who is needed in the broader health effort)
- It gives more certainty for students instead of going in and out of different statuses
- It allows us to better plan logistic and wellbeing support to students
- It simplifies our comms
- It reduces the amount of advice I need to seek from you and thus frees up your workload.

4. Actions if we have a positive case

Yesterday I sent a non-urgent email about our [residence outbreak plan](#) that we will activate if we get a positive case. Just to let you know, we are preparing Davey Lodge in case we need to decant a large number of individuals who are identified as close contacts should we get a case – for example a “living bubble” of up to 25 people. Again – please let me know via this email if you are happy with this.

[Davey Lodge is a good option for close contacts if the cases has been in the residences. I will look at the proposal today/tomorrow.](#)

Cheers

Tracy

Professor Tracy Smart AO
BMBS, MPH, MA, Dip Avmed, FRACMA, FACAsM, FAsMA, FCDSS, FACHSM (Hon)
Air Vice-Marshal (ret.)

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