

[REDACTED]
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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 Canberra Health Services (CHS) on **Monday 29 August 2022**.

This application requested access to:

- *'Statistics relating to patients within the Canberra Midwifery Program (variously called the CMP, birth centre, CMCS) at Canberra Hospital and Calvary Hospital (providing the continuity of care model) over the years 2017-2022. Including – what percentage of eligible applicants are accepted? What is the success rate of applicants who have already birthed (second or third time) through the CMP program compared to those who have not?*
- *Information comparing demographic details of patients accepted into the CMP program compared to those who are not accepted (sexual orientation, marital or relationship status, ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status, educational attainment level)*
- *Information regarding frequency of acceptance into the CMP program of those considered high risk (e.g. IVF pregnancy). How many patients were accepted into the CMP who did not meet all criteria?*
- *Information on outcomes for patients in the CMP program compared to the Antenatal Clinic, including information regarding the birth outcomes for mothers and babies in each model of care'.*

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of Canberra Health Services (CHS) under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. CHS was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Wednesday 19 October 2022**.

I have identified a table holding some relevant information within the scope of your access application. My access decisions are detailed further in the following statements addressing each part of your application.

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 full access to the table provided below containing data from January to June 2022 that holds information relevant to the scope of your access application.

2022	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Allocated CHWC Continuity waitlist	63	64	68	76	74	71
1st choice CHWC Continuity at CMOS appointment	146	122	136	122	136	118
% of women allocated to their preferred MOC waitlist	43%	52%	50%	62%	54%	60%
Allocated CPHB Continuity waitlist	23	25	29	32	35	27
1st choice CPHB Continuity at CMOS appointment	71	87	91	91	96	91
% of women allocated to their preferred MOC waitlist	32%	28%	31%	35%	36%	30%

CHS does not hold documents relevant to the remaining parts within the scope of your access application in accordance with section 35 (1)(b) of the Act. Information regarding each section is provided as follows;

Part a

Statistics relating to patients within the Canberra Midwifery Program (variously called the CMP, birth centre, CMCS) at Canberra Hospital and Calvary Hospital (providing the continuity of care model) over the years 2017-2022. Including – what percentage of eligible applicants are accepted? What is the success rate of applicants who have already birthed (second or third time) through the CMP program compared to those who have not?

Canberra Health Services (CHS) does not routinely record what percentage of eligible applicants are accepted on the Canberra Midwifery Program (CMP). In addition, CHS does not record success rate of applicants who have already birthed through the CMP program compared to those who have not. Identifying consumers that have previously birthed would also require going through Health Records and under section 12 of the FOI Act outlines that this Act does not apply to information in a health record.

There is currently no requirement or system for tracking this information.

Part b

Information comparing demographic details of patients accepted into the CMP program compared to those who are not accepted (sexual orientation, marital or relationship status, ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status, educational attainment level)

CHS do not record comparative demographic details of patients accepted into the CMP program or those who are not accepted.

Part c

Information regarding frequency of acceptance into the CMP program of those considered high risk (e.g. IVF pregnancy). How many patients were accepted into the CMP who did not meet all criteria?

The CMP is a low-risk model of midwifery care with defined eligibility criteria. Women who do not meet the eligibility criteria are not able to be accepted into the CMP and will be referred to an all-risk model of care. The CMP eligibility criteria is at [Attachment A](#) for your information.

Part d

Information on outcomes for patients in the CMP program compared to the Antenatal Clinic, including information regarding the birth outcomes for mothers and babies in each model of care.

CHS do not record comparative data on CMP program against other all-risk models.

CHS benchmark statistics on birth outcomes for Midwifery Group Practice and Maternity Care to Women's Healthcare Australasia. These statistics are reflective of Maternity Services as a whole and are not held in a format that are broken down further.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, CHS 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 application 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

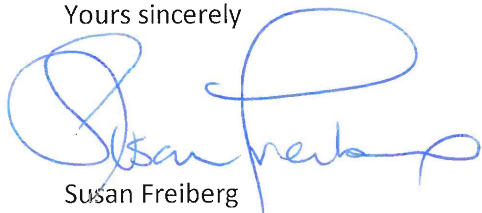
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740

<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



Susan Freiberg

Executive Director

Division of Women Youth & Children

Canberra Health Services

19 October 2022