

Subject: Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill 2014 submission
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As the founder of the National FOI Legislation Campaign in 1976, I have maintained a deep interest in the progress of FOI legislation over the years. The reforms of 2010 promised much, but the failure to provide necessary resources to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, led to the failure of those reforms. In addition, departments and agencies read into the failure to provide these resources, an 'approval' to respond less than diligently to requests in the knowledge that either complainants would become exhausted pursuing their request, or it would be held up, in review, within the OAIC for a long, long time.

Indeed, I have a request, originally made to PM&C in November 2011, and for IC Review in June 2012, that still has not been concluded! I would hope that together with these amendments to arrangements, that both appropriate resources will be given to the AAT, and that a stern message is given to agencies to comply with their obligations under the Act.

Sincerely

John T D Wood AM FRAIA
Director