Australian Government

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

Regional update – Oceania Australia

Australian FOI Commissioner – Alice Linacre

29 September 2026

OAIC

Regional Initiatives

- Association of Information Access Commissioners (AIAC) collaborates to promote proactive disclosure of government-held information in Australia.
- In October 2025, the AIAC agreed to introduce a single, consistent icon for accessing government information.
- Under the Open Government Partnership, the Australian Government is developing its fourth National Action Plan with AIAC members.
- AIAC members joined members of the United Nations for International Access to Information Day on 28 September 2025. This year we will host a hybrid event at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, Canberra on 21 September.



OAIC initiatives and regulatory projects

2 October 2025 – released report from the 2025 Cross-jurisdictional Information Access Study which measures the Australian public's awareness and experiences of their right to access government information.

21 January 2026 – published the Automated decision-making and public reporting under the Freedom of Information Act report following our review of 23 government agencies' websites that use automated decision-making.

27 March 2026 – launched a new FOI disclosure log hub, providing streamlined access to the disclosure logs of over 240 Australian Government agencies.

7 August 2026 – released key findings from the desktop review of 30 agencies' disclosure logs for their compliance with s 11C of the FOI Act.

Freedom of Information statistics

Between 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026:

- Australian Government agencies and ministers received the highest number of FOI requests on record, totaling 46,933 – an annual increase of 8%
- 1,477 applications made for internal review of an FOI decision, 61% more than in 2024-25
- The proportion all FOI requests (5%) that led to applications for internal review was slightly higher compared to 4% in 2024-25.
- Internal reviews that affirmed the original decision occurred in 55% of matters, compared with 62% 2024-25.

Regulatory updates in state jurisdictions

The Information and Privacy Commissioner New South Wales (IPC)

- Report on the Operation of the GIPA Act 2024-25 – Compared to the previous year, valid applications increased by 7%, with Government agencies accounting for the majority, and outcomes for applications that sought partly personal and partly other information increased by 37%.

The Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC)

- Released new guidance on what to know before relying on AI, to educate on key risks and tips for using AI tools.
- On 13 November 2025, the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025* (Vic) became law
- Issued a joint statement with Public Records Office of Victoria on record-keeping and freedom of information obligations.

Regulatory updates in state jurisdictions

The Office of the Queensland Information Commissioner (OIC)

- Commenced new provisions in the *Right to Information Act (2009)* enabling the Information Commissioner to refer or remit certain information access decisions back to an agency or Minister.

- 28 September 2026 – hosting the Solomon Lecture to promote International Access to Information Day.

The Office of the Information Commissioner Western Australia (OIC)

Launching a Queue Management Policy, which aims to better manage the volume of FOI applications.

Developing new guidance about accessing documents through FOI processes and court or tribunal processes.

Regulatory updates in New Zealand

During 2025-26, received 3,166 complaints, 24% annual increase; completed 3,671 complaints, 28% annual increase.

Since July 2025, official information complaints are being resolved quicker with change in approach, due to shifting from a formal investigation-based approach to a resolution-based approach.

New Zealand Ombudsman has recently published four cases note on refusing requests under 18(h) of the Official Information Act 1982 or 17(h) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Questions & Feedback