

Information Publication Plan

Introduction

The High Court of Australia is a prescribed authority and agency under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) ('the Act'). One of the requirements imposed by the section 8 of the Act is that the Court develop and publish an Information Publication Scheme Plan which details what information the Court proposes to publish and how and to whom that information is published. The Act requires that certain specified information be made available on the Court's website.

It should be noted that although the High Court is a prescribed authority for the purposes of the Act, section 5(1) excludes the seven Justices of the Court from the Act and only documents which are of an administrative nature are accessible under the Act (section 5(1)(b)). Certain officers of the Court are also exempt under the Act, namely the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar, the Senior Registrar, the Senior Executive Deputy Registrar, the Deputy Registrars and the Marshal.

This Plan has been drafted having regard to the objects of the Act. It has been approved by the Justices of the Court.

Information required to be published

Under the Act, the Court is required to publish details of the structure of the Court's organisation, details of its functions, appointments of officers of the Court made under the *High Court of Australia Act 1979* (Cth), information in the Court's annual reports, contact details for officers responsible for meeting freedom of information obligations, and certain operational information about the Court. This information is available on the Court's website.

Additional information published

In addition to information required to be published under s 8(2) of the Act, the Court makes available a wide range of other information about its operations. This includes:

- Information on the role, history and operation of the Court
- Court lists, business lists, Court calendars
- The High Court Rules, Forms, Practice Directions and Fees
- The Registry Service Charter
- Parties' submissions in appeals and matters falling within the Court's original jurisdiction
- Summaries prepared by Court staff on appeals and matters falling within the Court's original jurisdiction
- Results of applications for special leave to appeal
- The High Court bulletin, detailing current Court business
- Information about the High Court Library
- Biographical information about current and former justices
- The judgments of the Court
- Judgment summaries
- Transcripts of all hearings

The Court also provides a free subscription based email alert service which allows subscribers to be notified of upcoming judgments to be delivered, judgment summaries and publication of the latest High Court Bulletin.

Administering the Court's freedom of information obligations

The Chief Executive and Principal Registrar of the Court is the officer responsible for ensuring the Court's compliance with the Act. The Chief Executive and Principal Registrar will be assisted by appropriate members of the Court's staff in fulfilling these requirements. The Chief Executive and Principal Registrar will ensure that adequate resources are available to maintain and monitor the Court's freedom of information obligations. The Court will periodically review its website with a view to assessing the currency and accuracy of information and to identify any additional information that might be made available.

How the Court will publish information

The Court facilitates public access to information principally through its website www.hcourt.gov.au. Specific information about freedom of information is contained in a dedicated link on the Court's homepage. A search function is also available. The Court will ensure that information available on its website is easily discoverable and compatible with commonly used web browsers. Where a document is not available in an accessible format on the website or is available only in hardcopy, the document will be made available on request in an appropriate format and the contact details for making such a request will be provided. The Court may charge a person for accessing information which is impracticable to be published on the website to reimburse the Court for reproduction costs. These charges will be consistent with the *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 1982* (Cth). Feedback on the Court's Information Publication Scheme can be directed to enquiries@hcourt.gov.au