



Australian Government
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

Angelene Falk
Australian Information Commissioner and Privacy Commissioner

By email: foidr@oaic.gov.au

Disclosure of public servants' names and contact details

Dear Ms Falk

I am writing in response to the discussion paper *Disclosure of public servants' names and contact details* published by the Office of the Australian Information Commission (OAIC) on 1 July 2019.

As the CEO of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (the Agency) my functions include managing the affairs of the Agency, as well as ensuring the Agency is compliant with its statutory obligations such as under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). I also have responsibility under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to ensure the wellbeing of the Agency's staff is not unreasonably put at risk by how the Agency carries out its functions. I understand that the disclosure of personal information about Australian Public Service (APS) employees involves balancing these sometimes competing objectives.

I have had the benefit of reading the 31 July 2019 submission of the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) to the OAIC on this issue. The Agency endorses that submission and supports a policy position which acknowledges that disclosure of personal information of non-SES APS employees under the FOI Act could be unreasonable where the factors in subsection 47F(2) of that Act are satisfied without the additional requirement for agencies to show 'special circumstances' exist. The disclosure of SES employees' personal information which is publicly available would not be unreasonable under the FOI Act.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide my views on what I consider to be an important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Ross'.

Justine Ross
Chief Executive Officer
Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency

9 August 2019