

EDU Ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) REQUEST

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Education Directorate (the Directorate) on 28 January 2022, in which you sought access to:

Any document that sets out, considers, analyses or otherwise has information about, the reasons for the administrative decision to cancel excursions at Lyneham High School for the first five weeks of Term 1, 2022; and if relevant any other period of time. This includes any notes, emails, maps, notations of discussions, risk registers, and/or analysis that considered this issue.

The decision for your request was provided to you by email on 25 February 2022.

As discussed with you on 2 March 2022, the Directorate's email to you on 28 February 2022 sought confirmation that the decision had been received. In your response you queried whether the policy positions referred to in my decision letter were different to the excursions policy that is publicly available. In order to respond to your question, I reviewed the records that had been provided by line areas which I had decided did not contain information relevant to the scope of your request, and the information that is publicly available about the arrangements for the start of the 2022 school year. In this process some information was found that addresses the reasons for limiting excursions, and camps during Term 1 of 2022.

The Act does not provide for a circumstance in which an application can be re-opened after a decision has been made. Section 36 of the Act addresses additional government information found by the respondent after the application was decided; however, this does not meet the definition of additional government information for the purposes of that section. Nevertheless, in accordance with the objects of the Act, set out at section 6, and the principles at section 36 which address how additional government information must be handled, I have decided to make a decision about its release in accordance with section 35 of the Act. My decision is to release the record to you in full and it is provided as Attachment A to this letter. I refer you to the Health Advice section which states:

“Limiting excursions, camps and cross school/intra school sports events during term 1, 2022 supports:

- Continued restricted movement of people in the community
- Minimise activities that bring multiple classes, year groups or schools together”

I trust that the provision of this information is of some assistance to you. Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience caused by this situation.

Online publishing – disclosure log

Under section 28 of the Act, the Directorate maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Information about your request and my decision in response to your access application will be published in the Directorate’s disclosure log between three and 10 working days after a decision on access has been provided to you. Your personal information will not be published.

You may view the Directorate’s disclosure log at
https://www.education.act.gov.au/about_us/freedom_of_information/disclosure-log.

Ombudsman review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the 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 a decision was made, 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

Email: actfoi@ombudsman.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/>

If you have any queries concerning the Directorate's processing of your request, or would like further information, please contact the Directorate's FOI team on 02 6205 0720 or email EducationFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Paula Murray
Information Officer
3 March 2022



Topic:	Excursions and Camps Factsheet – Term 1 2022 UPDATES
Relevant Sector:	Early Childhood Primary High School P to 10 College Specialist
Background:	ACT Health has updated its <i>Health Guidelines for schools and Early Childhood Education and Care (Including OSHC)</i> for Term 1 2022. Advice will be updated as guidelines are updated by ACT Health.
Advice:	<p>Excursion and Camps Camps will not go ahead in Term 1 2022. This will be reassessed during Term 1 2022, as further advice is received from ACT Health.</p> <p>Excursions are only permitted at during term 1 if they are necessary for curriculum purposes, cohorting can be maintained and all appropriate COVID safe practices are in place.</p> <p>Physical activities that require access to ovals adjacent to school grounds for class to occur can go ahead.</p> <p>Outdoor Education camps in the second half of Term 1 2022 may be permitted where it is needed for students studying the BSSS Outdoor Education Course only. Students will need to remain in cohorts and individual sleeping arrangements will need to be in place for all camp participants. Schools should ensure that they are not sharing facilities with groups from other schools or members of the public.</p> <p>Schools will need to seek approval for the Outdoor Education camps from the Executive Group Manager School Improvement Outdoor Education Excursion/ Camp approval form. A risk assessment must be undertaken and a COVID safety plan be in place. The COVID safety plan must cover how to manage a student or staff member who develops COVID-19 symptoms while on camp, including how the student or staff member will be transported back to the ACT/home and isolated from the rest of the group.</p> <p>Schools are not permitted to travel overseas. Schools should not plan any overseas trips for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Swimming and School Sport Swimming carnivals will not go ahead in Term 1 2022. Regional sporting competitions for sporting events will also not go ahead. School Sport ACT has</p>



	<p>further information on how changes will impact access to regional, state and national competitions.</p> <p>The AquaSafe Year 2 Water Safety Awareness program will also not go ahead at the start of Term 1 2022 however this will be reassessed during Term 1 pending further advice received from ACT Health. Whilst participation in practical water safety programs may be temporarily unavailable, Royal Life Saving ACT can still assist with Water Safety Education resources and delivery. Resources to assist with planning for Term 1 can be found using the following links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Life Saving Education webpage: https://www.drowningprevention.org.au/education • AquaSafe Year 2 classroom delivery resources: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B9o-YzheDH7-STICdjBmSnlrUWs?resourcekey=0-Gig9Ef0e7S70IWvotJQkMw&usp=sharing • Royal Life Saving activity sheets: https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/educate-participate/kids-zone/activity-sheets • Other Royal Life Saving resources: https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/educate-participate/education/classroom-resources • When Health Guidelines permit, booking a Royal Life Saving Program Leader to deliver a water safety session at your school: programs@royalact.com.au or call 62605800 <p>School based sporting events must continue to keep students in cohorts (eg. year 7 play and compete with each other).</p>
<p>Health Advice:</p>	<p>Limiting excursions, camps and cross school/intra school sports events during term 1, 2022 supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued restricted movement of people in the community • Minimise activities that bring multiple classes, year groups or schools together <p>All staff and students are required to continue to physically distance where possible.</p>
<p>Implementation strategies:</p>	<p>Schools should cancel or postpone any excursions or camps planned in Term 1. Schools should not book excursions or camps at this time.</p> <p>Before planning an essential outdoor Education excursion or camp, your school must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assess whether it is essential to the curriculum and explore alternative options - ensure students remain in cohorts - seek copies of COVID safe plans from relevant venues, transport providers etc - undertake a risk assessment and prepare a COVID safe plan <p>Outdoor Education camps deemed essential by the school will need prior approval from the Executive Group Manager School Improvement via the Outdoor Education Excursion/ Camp approval form.</p>



**Support or
further advice:**

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School Operations schooloperations@act.gov.au