

6 April 2009

Privacy & FOI Policy Branch  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
PO Box 6500  
CÁNBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2009**

I support the changes proposed to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and associated regulations.

A further enhancement, I believe, would be to broaden the definition of personal documents not subject to processing fees.

I consider that documents, perhaps best categorised as relating to the "personal interests" and "personal affairs" of individuals, should be added to the existing class of documents containing "personal information".

Such expansion would permit individuals to access, free of charge, documents in government agency possession that relate directly to their personal financial, business or professional affairs or interests. Documents that merely have incidental relationship to an individual (examples being a person claiming some impact simply through being part of the community or a member of an interest group) could be excluded from this concession.

I consider such a measure to be consistent with the Government's stated aim of promoting a pro-disclosure culture across the Government and building a stronger foundation for more openness in government.

Yours sincerely

H.A. Major