Future Focus

Drawing on the 2022/23 reporting outcomes, the following strategies are being implemented by the IPC in response to issues arising in this Report. The IPC encourages agencies to implement specific strategies too that respond to these issues.

1

MANDATORY PROACTIVE RELEASE

IPC strategies

- Engage with agencies on the outcome of the desktop audit of compliance with Open Access information requirements.

- Engage with agencies to request phrasing, consistent with GIPA Act terminology, be used when publishing AIGs. The website scanning tool that the IPC used to assess agency compliance with their Open Access information obligations found that several agencies have AIGs that were difficult to locate on their websites.

- Monitor compliance with the amendment to the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 that requires agencies to publish information on the administration of grants as Open Access information.

Agency strategies

- Apply the guidance set out in the Information Commissioner's Information Access Guideline 6: Agency Information Guides.

- Ensure AIGs are easily located on agency websites, including by consistently describing them as 'Agency Information Guides' and preferably referring to the GIPA Act. These elements will assist users searching for Open Access information and support oversight by the IPC.

- Embed a commitment to proactive publication of information on grants and grants administration as required under the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 (clause 6A).

2

AUTHORISED PROACTIVE RELEASE

IPC strategies

- Analyse and report on agency compliance with the obligation to conduct an annual review of their proactive release program.

- Continue to promote the recently updated agency Self-assessment Tool to assist with the development of agency compliance maturity.

Agency strategies

- Apply a systematic approach to the proactive identification and release of government information.

- Utilise the IPC's Self-assessment Tool.

3

INFORMAL RELEASE

IPC strategies

- Review informal release data received from agencies through the GIPA Tool and consider recommendations to inform guidance and advice on informal release and collection of data in relation to the 2023/24 reporting year.

- Promote IPC resources on informal release and encourage agencies to adopt improved policies and procedures in relation to informal release.

Agency strategies

- Embed and commit to implementing policies and procedures for the informal release of government information, using the resources the IPC has released as guides to develop agency specific policies and procedures.

4

FORMAL ACCESS APPLICATIONS

IPC strategies

- Engage with The Cabinet Office, Premier's Department, Department of Communities and Justice and the Department of Customer Service to explore options for improving the reporting of information by ministers' offices following a change of Government or Machinery of Government changes. One option may be for all ministers' offices to use the GIPA Tool.

- Engage with State-Owned Corporations (SOCs) to address the increase of invalid applications received during 2022/23.

Agency strategies

- Commit to providing improved information on agency websites on the pathways to access government information to minimise the number of invalid applications received by agencies.

What is the GIPA Tool?

The GIPA Tool is a free internet application that is available for all agencies through IPC. It assists agencies to comply with their GIPA Act obligations, including reporting.

The GIPA Tool can be accessed on the IPC website.