

Statement of Right to Information Principles For the Queensland Public Service

Information is the lifeblood of democracy. To reach its full potential, a State like Queensland needs citizens who are informed and a government that is open and responsive.

My Government firmly believes that making more information available to the community contributes to informed and useful debate on issues. The free flow of information enables the public to genuinely engage with government in the policy development processes, as well as going some way towards helping the public to better understand how government works.

The Right to Information reforms are about a better way for a modern Queensland public sector to do business and to get the best results for Queensland.

At the heart of these reforms will be a public service that conducts itself in the most open and transparent way possible, because that openness and transparency are fundamental to good government.

The processes of government should operate on a presumption of disclosure, with a clear regard for the public interest in accessing government information. The Queensland public service should act promptly and in a spirit of cooperation to carry out their work based on this presumption.


Government information must be valued as a public resource that contributes to an open and participatory democracy and improves government decision-making.

It is the Queensland Government's expectation that the Queensland public service recognises and respects that

Government is the custodian of information that belongs to the community, and will:

- Maximise the public's access to government information by administratively releasing information where ever possible, so that recourse to the *Right to Information Act 2009* and *Information Privacy Act 2009* is a matter of last resort.
- Recognise, respect and maintain the community's trust in government to appropriately and securely collect, store and use their personal information.
- Act to process requests for information rapidly and fairly, rendering all possible assistance to the community in responding to their requests for information.
- Continually improve systems, processes and skills to maximise access to government information and the protection of personal information.
- Use innovative ways to ensure information is available to all sectors of the community.

These reforms are a significant step forward in public administration in Queensland. I thank you for your assistance in the implementation of the new legislation.



ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND