



office of the  
information  
commissioner

new south wales

**Your rights to  
government information  
are changing**

[www.oic.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oic.nsw.gov.au)

# New South Wales is set to undergo sweeping reforms to the public's right to access government information.

From 1 July 2010, the new *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act)* will replace the *Freedom of Information Act 1989 (NSW)*, bringing about the biggest change to rights to government information in New South Wales in 20 years.

These reforms will ensure our government is more transparent and accountable. Under the new law, state and local government agencies will proactively release more information than ever before to the public.

The *GIPA Act* applies to all NSW government agencies, including local councils, state-owned corporations, Ministers and their staff.

## **about the OIC**

The NSW Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) is an independent statutory authority.

The OIC promotes awareness of the new law, provides assistance and training to government agencies and the public, and handles complaints.

We have developed a comprehensive range of resources to help members of the public to understand their rights under the new system.

Available on our website at [www.oic.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oic.nsw.gov.au), these resources include fact sheets, e-learning and information presentations as well as responses to frequently asked questions.

## how to access government information

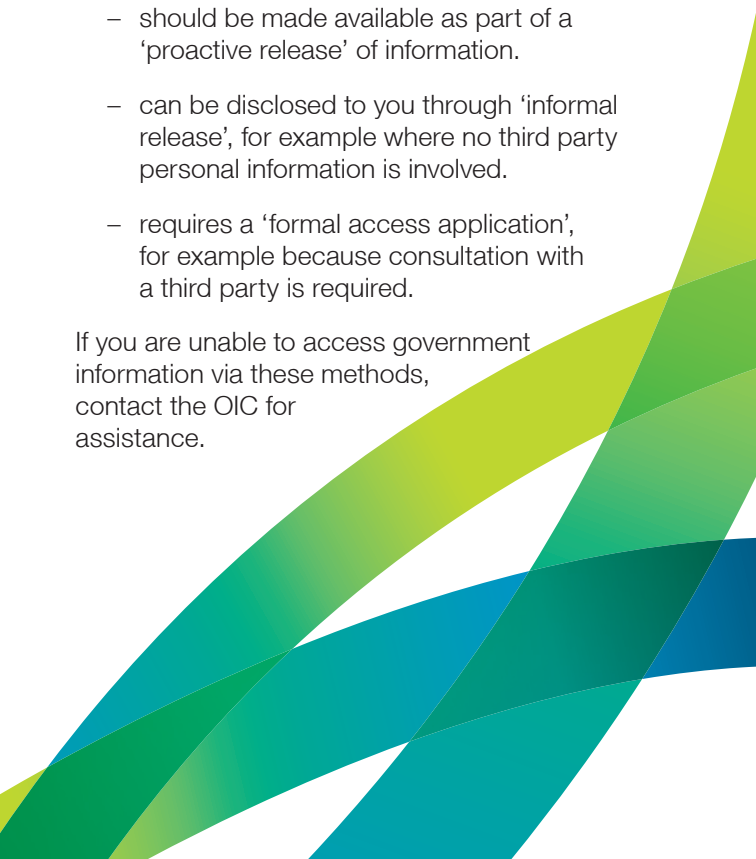
From 1 July 2010, all government agencies will be required to proactively release a range of information on their websites and in other accessible formats.

The right to information reforms mean that formal applications for access to information should be a last resort.

To access information from a government agency:

- search the agency's website, to see if it is already available
- contact the government agency and ask for the information. The agency will decide whether the information you want:
  - is open access information that is readily available. If it is, they should tell you where and how you can get the information.
  - should be made available as part of a 'proactive release' of information.
  - can be disclosed to you through 'informal release', for example where no third party personal information is involved.
  - requires a 'formal access application', for example because consultation with a third party is required.

If you are unable to access government information via these methods, contact the OIC for assistance.





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## find out more

To learn more about your rights to accessing government information, visit the OIC website at [www.oic.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oic.nsw.gov.au) or call **1800 INFOCOM** (1800 463 626) between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

People with a hearing or speech impairment may call through the National Relay Service (NRS) on 133 677. Callers requiring interpreter assistance may call through the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450.

The Office of the Information Commissioner is located at Level 11, 1 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

## promoting open government

Level 11, 1 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000

GPO Box 7011, Sydney NSW 2001

t 1800 INFOCOM (1800 463 626)

f 02 8114 3756

e [oicinfo@oic.nsw.gov.au](mailto:oicinfo@oic.nsw.gov.au)

[www.oic.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oic.nsw.gov.au)