



File: T&F18/0747
A962285

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23 November 2018

Ms Nat Cook MP
Member for Hurtle Vale
967 South Road
MELROSE PARK SA 5039

Sent via email: tristan.rust@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Cook

Freedom of Information – Free screening checks for volunteers

I refer to your application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), received by the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) on 12 October 2018.

Your application specifically requested:

'Since 18 March 2018 [to 12 October 2018], copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding the implementation of free screening checks for volunteers, and a 2018 implementation date of free screening checks for volunteers.'

Under the Act, an agency has 30 days to respond to a freedom of information request. As DTF did not respond to your request within the time frame required, the department is deemed to have refused you access to all documents relevant to your application. However, I have determined to process the request as if the statutory time frame had been met.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of my determination. A total of 3 documents were identified as answering the terms of your application and I have determined as follows:

- I grant you access in full to 1 document, a copy of which is enclosed, and
- I grant you access in part to 2 documents, copies of which are enclosed.

Please refer to the attached schedule that describes each document and sets out my determination and reasons in summary form.

Documents released in full

Document 2

Documents released in part

Document 1

This document contains information which, if released, would disclose details concerning a deliberation or decision of Cabinet. I have therefore determined to exempt this information pursuant to clause 1(1)(e).

Document 3

Sections of this document not relevant to your application have been removed.

Exemptions

Clause 1 – Cabinet documents

(1) *A document is an exempt document –*

...
(e) *if it contains matter the disclosure of which would disclose information concerning any deliberation or decision of Cabinet;*

Please note, in compliance with Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045 - *Disclosure Logs for Non-Personal Information Released through Freedom of Information* (PC045), DTF is now required to publish a log of all non-personal information released under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.

In accordance with this Circular, any non-personal information determined for release as part of this application, may be published on the DTF website. A copy of PC045 can be found at the following address: <http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars> Please visit the website for further information.

Appeal Rights

If you are aggrieved with this determination, you have a right to apply for internal review under subsection 29(1) of the FOI Act. Pursuant to subsection 29(2), your application must:

- be in writing
- be addressed to the principal officer, and
- be lodged at an office of DTF, or emailed to freedomofinformation2@sa.gov.au within 30 days after the day on which you receive this letter or within such further time as the principal officer may allow.

If you require any further information please phone Natalie Haigh on (08) 8429 0839.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Hawkins
ACCREDITED FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

Schedule of Documents

T&F18/0747 - Nat Cook MP - "Since 18 March 2018 [to 12 October 2018], copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding the implementation of free screening checks for volunteers, and a 2018 implementation date of free screening checks for volunteers."

Doc. No.	Date	Description of Document	# of pages	Determination	Exemption Clause
1	9/08/2018	Email - Re: Free Volunteer Checks	2	Released in part	1(1)(e) - Contains information concerning deliberation or decision of Cabinet or Cabinet committee
2	7/08/2018	Liberal Policy Document "Screening of Volunteers"	5	Released in full	
3	14/05/2018	Budget Monitoring System (BMS) Adjustment Journal	8	Released in part	Out of scope

SCREENING OF VOLUNTEERS

**A STRONG PLAN
FOR REAL CHANGE.**



We're ready.

Over the last four years, we've been working hard developing our vision for the future of South Australia.

Not just policies, but a series of achievable milestones that have been crafted for the long-term benefit of our state.

Our focus will be

**MORE JOBS.
LOWER COSTS.
BETTER SERVICES.**

We've got a strong plan for real change.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'St Marshall', set against a background of light blue wavy lines.



WHAT WE'LL DO

If elected in March 2018, a Marshall Liberal Government will abolish all fees payable by volunteers for screening by Department of Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI).

We strongly support background checking but we believe imposing the highest fees in the nation may be a significant disincentive to volunteering for low income earners or income support recipients in

particular.

We will also extend the 'We Do' app which provides a database and rewards program for volunteers and links them with volunteer opportunities.

Many employers support volunteering by allowing time off work.

We will extend the app to provide recognition of the contribution made by employers.

WHY WE'RE DOING IT

In metropolitan Adelaide, about 37% of the population do volunteer work. In our regions it's even higher at 58%.

About 1.76 million volunteer hours are worked every week in South Australia.

Volunteers are a vital part of the non-government and not-for-profit sector and we need to foster an environment that encourages the next generation of volunteers to get involved, particularly the young and new retirees.

Being a volunteer in the community should be a source of pride.

We want to ensure that all South Australians value the work done by our dedicated and passionate volunteers.

It has become necessary to screen volunteers to ensure there is no risk to any particular group or groups of people with which volunteers engage.

This background testing involves obtaining a record of any criminal history to determine whether a volunteer may pose a risk.

The screening is provided through DCSI on behalf of organisations engaging people who offer to work as volunteers.

The DCSI Screening Unit undertakes checks for volunteering in the following categories:

- Child-related employment
- Aged Care Sector Employment
- Disability services sector employment
- Vulnerable person related
- General employment probity

Volunteers have to pay an application fee for the screening.

South Australia has the highest application fee in the nation of \$58.30.

Four jurisdictions – Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory – don't impose any fee for volunteers seeking a working with children check, while Tasmania charges \$18.60, Western Australia \$11 and the Northern Territory \$6.



STEVEN MARSHALL MP

State Liberal Leader

www.strongplan.com.au

Phone: 08 8363 9111

Email: steven@stevenmarshall.com.au

Scarfo, Raquel (DTF)

From: Rogers, Nancy (DHS)
Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2018 2:10 PM
To: Chooi, Angela (DHS)
Cc: Kraus, Liesel (DTF); Thompson, Andrew (DHS); Cerna, Michael (DHS); Wilson, Andrea (DHS); Hill, Cathy (DTF); Scarfo, Raquel (DTF); Boswell, Lois (DHS)
Subject: RE: Free Volunteer Checks

Can we put in 'planning is underway for an anticipated commencement date of 1 January 2019'.

Nancy Rogers
Director, Office of the Chief Executive
Department of Human Services

Phone 841 38125
Mobile 0401 714896

From: Chooi, Angela (DHS)
Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2018 1:54 PM
To: Rogers, Nancy (DHS)
Cc: Kraus, Liesel (DTF) ; Thompson, Andrew (DHS) ; Cerna, Michael (DHS) ; Wilson, Andrea (DHS) ; Hill, Cathy (DTF) ; Scarfo, Raquel (DTF)
Subject: RE: Free Volunteer Checks

Hi Nancy, can you please assist here with "flexible wording"?

Thanks

Angela

From: Hill, Cathy (DTF)
Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2018 1:49 PM
To: Chooi, Angela (DHS) <Angela.Chooi@sa.gov.au>; Scarfo, Raquel (DTF) <Raquel.Scarfo@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Kraus, Liesel (DTF) <Liesel.Kraus@sa.gov.au>; Thompson, Andrew (DHS) <Andrew.Thompson@sa.gov.au>; Cerna, Michael (DHS) <Michael.Cerna@sa.gov.au>; Wilson, Andrea (DHS) <Andrea.Wilson3@sa.gov.au>; Rogers, Nancy (DHS) <Nancy.Rogers@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Free Volunteer Checks

Thanks, but have confirmed we will need to put in a date, even if its anticipated date – as no doubt this will be a question and it's hard to put a budget measure in without the basic detail. The funding implies it applies from 1 July 2018. But like I said you could put in "flexible wording".

We are due to get these (draft form) to Treasurer's office 3pm today.

From: Chooi, Angela (DHS)
Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2018 1:37 PM
To: Hill, Cathy (DTF) <Cathy.Hill@sa.gov.au>; Scarfo, Raquel (DTF) <Raquel.Scarfo@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Kraus, Liesel (DTF) <Liesel.Kraus@sa.gov.au>; Thompson, Andrew (DHS) <Andrew.Thompson@sa.gov.au>; Cerna, Michael (DHS) <Michael.Cerna@sa.gov.au>; Wilson, Andrea (DHS) <Andrea.Wilson3@sa.gov.au>; Rogers, Nancy (DHS) <Nancy.Rogers@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Free Volunteer Checks

Hi DTF, **Clause 1(1)(e)**

and after discussions with the Chief of Staff, DHS propose that this measure remain unchanged (ie without the extra sentence proposed by Tammie), noting that even with a delayed start there are potentially implementation costs.

Regards

Angela Chooi

Director, Strategic Finance

Finance and Business Services

Department of Human Services

Tel: 8415 4434 | Fax: 8415 4477

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Detailed Coversheet and Journal Report



Government of South Australia
Department of Treasury
and Finance

3

For the Budget Year: 2018

COVERSHEET

Reference Number: J_8727
Category: BUDG_MEAS
Owner: i. Complete
Issue Type: Election Commitments
Title: Volunteer Screening Checks and Address delays **Out of scope**
Description: There are three key components of the election commitment for Screening:

1. Volunteer Screening Checks (\$1.4 million indexed per annum)

The policy costing document recognised \$1.55 million per annum (indexed). Based on current DHS modeling it is estimated that revenue foregone associated with this initiative will be around \$1.4 million per annum (indexed). Note, students are not included in this commitment.

An additional once off cost in 2018-19 of \$0.2 million for the employment of a Policy Officer (ASO7) for 12 months to undertake and implement the legislative and policy changes has been included in the revised DHS costing.

Out of scope

Agency Comments:

1. Volunteer Screening Checks (AWSM4266)

Abolishing all fees payable by volunteers for screening (Valuing our Volunteers) to streamline the screening process enabling people to become volunteers. The costing assumes nil impact on any staffing requirements or changes to the volume of screening checks; only that volunteers will receive this service for free (estimated at \$1.4 million per annum from 2018-19). Students are not included in the commitment.

Additional once off cost in 2018-19 of \$0.2 million for the employment of a Policy officer (ASO7) for 12 months to undertake and implement the legislative and policy changes.

Out of scope

Entity: 0192 Department of Human Services
Minister: Minister Lensink
FundingSource: Deposit Account

Detailed Coversheet and Journal Report

For the Budget Year: 2018



Government of South Australia

Department of Treasury
and Finance

Net Operating Balance

Journals	Impacts	17/18 \$K	18/19 \$K	19/20 \$K	20/21 \$K	21/22 \$K	TOTAL
AWSM4266		-	(1,355)	(1,389)	(1,423)	(1,459)	(5,626)
DTF13719		-	678	-	-	-	678

Out of scope

Net Lending

Journals	Impacts	17/18 \$K	18/19 \$K	19/20 \$K	20/21 \$K	21/22 \$K	TOTAL
AWSM4266		-	(1,355)	(1,389)	(1,423)	(1,459)	(5,626)
DTF13719		-	678	-	-	-	678

Out of scope

Net Debt

Journals	Impacts	17/18 \$K	18/19 \$K	19/20 \$K	20/21 \$K	21/22 \$K	TOTAL
AWSM4266		-	(1,355)	(2,744)	(4,167)	(5,626)	(5,626)
DTF13719		-	678	678	678	678	678

Out of scope

Budget Impact Analysis

Impact Analysis	Code	17/18 \$K	18/19 \$K	19/20 \$K	20/21 \$K	21/22 \$K	TOTAL \$K
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Out of scope

FTE Impact

Budget Year	Entity	Reference
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Detailed Coversheet and Journal Report

For the Budget Year: 2018



Budget Measure Information

Total Investing Project Cost:	0	New Legislation Required	Requires Agency Attention		
Regional Impact:	Not Regional	Headline Jobs Number	0		
Jobs Across Forward Estimate	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Requires Agency Attention	0	0	0	0	0
Implementation Plan / Requirements:	NA				

Created:	TREASMcLauS01	14-May-2018 11:01
Last Changed:	TREASHalikV01	15-Aug-2018 10:24
Sent:	wilsoa01	24-May-2018 15:58
AM Approved:	TREASMcLauS01	26-Jul-2018 11:37
CP Approved:	Not Approved	
CB Approved:	Not Approved	
Rejected:	Not Rejected	

Detailed Coversheet and Journal Report



Government of South Australia

Department of Treasury
and Finance

For the Budget Year: 2018

JOURNAL

Reference Number: AWSM4266

Journal Status: Valid

Category: BUDG_MEAS

Program: 3490

Description: Volunteer Screening Checks - abolish all fees payable by volunteers for screening

Entity: 0192 Department of Human Services

Account	Project Desc		Other	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	TOTAL	
				\$K	\$K	\$K	\$K	\$K		
Journal Totals				0	0	0	0	0	0	
53950.NSAG	Other Regulatory Fees	0	NA	NONE	0	1,355	1,389	1,423	1,459	5,626
58100.GG	Approp from Govt-Operating purposes	0	NA	NONE	0	(1,355)	(1,389)	(1,423)	(1,459)	(5,626)

Notes

Detailed Coversheet and Journal Report



Government of South Australia

Department of Treasury
and Finance

For the Budget Year: 2018

JOURNAL

Reference Number: DTF13719

Journal Status: Valid

Category: BUDG_MEAS

Program: 9999

Description: Policy/parameter j_8727 - POLICY Volunteer Screening Checks - abolish all fees payable by volunteers for screening for part year 2018-19 impact.

Entity: 0192 Department of Human Services

Account	Project Desc	Other	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	TOTAL
			\$K	\$K	\$K	\$K	\$K	
<i>Journal Totals</i>			0	0	0	0	0	0
53950.NSAG	Other Regulatory Fees	0 NA	NONE	0	(678)	0	0	(678)
58100.GG	Approp from Govt-Operating purposes	0 NA	NONE	0	678	0	0	678

Notes

Detailed Coversheet and Journal Report

For the Budget Year: 2018



Government of South Australia

Department of Treasury
and Finance

JOURNAL

Out of scope

Detailed Coversheet and Journal Report

For the Budget Year: 2018



Government of South Australia

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Out of scope

Detailed Coversheet and Journal Report

For the Budget Year: 2018



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Out of scope