

Our reference: CIT2022-010

[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

### DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your access application made under the Freedom of Information Act 2016 (FOI Act) received by the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) by email on 24 June 2022. In your application you requested CIT provide you with the following information:

*“a copy of the Canberra Institute of Technology’s staff surveys conducted between 2016-2019. I would like my request to also include any analysis of the survey results.”*

On 28 July 2022, a CIT representative contacted your office to advise that CIT conducts staff surveys every two years. No surveys were conducted in 2016 or 2018. Clarification on the scope of your request was also sought at this time. In accordance with that conversation, only final copies of survey summaries, analysis and copies of the questions asked with outcomes are included in this release.

#### **Authority**

I am a Senior Executive officer appointed as a CIT Information Officer to make decisions about access to government information, in accordance with section 18 of the FOI Act.

#### **Decision**

I have identified 4 documents containing information that is within the scope of your access application. This information is enclosed as **Attachment A**. I have also provided a Schedule of Documents which is enclosed as **Attachment B**. I have decided to grant full release to 4 documents.

### Statement of Reasons

In reaching my decision, I have taken the following into account:

- Your original access application dated 24 June 2022.
- The documents containing the information that fall within the scope of your access application.
- The FOI Act.
- The ACT Ombudsman FOI Guidelines.

#### Information that would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act.

The FOI Act has a presumption in favour of disclosure. As a decision maker I am required to decide where, on balance, public interest lies. As part of this process, I must consider factors favouring disclosure and non-disclosure.

Section 17(1) of the Act sets out the test, to be applied to determine whether disclosure of information would be contrary to the public interest. These factors are found in subsection 17(2) and Schedule 2 of the FOI Act. Taking into consideration the information contained in the documents found to be within the scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the 'public interest'.

#### Factors favouring disclosure in the public interest:

- a. disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do any of the following:
  - i. promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability.

The information contained within the documents requested provide information about the operations of CIT, identifying from a staff perspective the positive aspects of working at CIT and areas which could be improved. The survey is a useful mechanism for driving improvement within the organisation. I consider that Schedule 2, 2.1 (i) applies as the information contained in these documents may promote open discussion on the operations of CIT. I consider this factor holds significant weight.

I have not identified any factors favouring non-disclosure in relation to this application.

Accordingly, I have decided to release all the documents within the scope of this request in full.

### Charges

Pursuant to Freedom of Information (Fees) Determination 2018 processing charges are not applicable for this request because the total number of pages to be released to you is below the charging threshold of 50 pages.

### Disclosure log

Section 28 of the FOI Act requires publication of access applications and any information subsequently released on CIT's disclosure log at:

[https://cit.edu.au/about/freedom\\_of\\_information/disclosure\\_log](https://cit.edu.au/about/freedom_of_information/disclosure_log).

This request will be published within 10 days from the date of decision. Your personal information will not be published.

### Review rights

You may apply to the ACT Ombudsman to review my decision under section 73 of the FOI Act. An application for review must be made in writing within 20 days of my decision being published in the disclosure log on 17 August 2022.

You may submit a request for review of my decision to the ACT Ombudsman by writing in one of the following ways:

Email (preferred): [actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au)  
Post: The ACT Ombudsman  
GPO Box 442  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

More information about ACT Ombudsman review is available on the ACT Ombudsman website at:

<http://www.ombudsman.act.gov.au/improving-the-act/freedom-of-information>.

Yours sincerely



Steven Wright  
A/g Executive Director, Corporate Services &  
Information Officer

29 July 2022