



AAWAA Women <women@womensadvocacy.net>

FOI request: Administration of Patronage Policy

1 message

AAWAA Women <women@womensadvocacy.net>

15 August 2025 at 06:43

To: FOIcontactofficer .ov.au

To: FOI Contact Officer, Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Dear FOI Officer,

I am making this request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth).

I seek access to administrative documents (including, but not limited to, emails and file notes) held by the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor General (OOSGG) that relate to the administration of the "Ongoing Requirements" of the Patronage Policy in connection with the Governor General's patronage of Equality Australia Ltd, for the period 22 February 2025 to the date of processing of this request.

For clarity and reference, the Ongoing Requirements section of the Patronage Policy states:

Patronages are required to update the Office on any change to Conditions 1-4.

Patronages should provide the Office advance notice of any incidents likely to draw significant adverse attention. Particular care – and additional consultation – is required where a patronage seeks to involve the Governor-General in activity that could be construed as fundraising, advocacy or any activity that could be considered beyond the publicly accepted role of the Governor-General.

Specifically, I seek any notifications received from Equality Australia under the "Ongoing Requirements" of the Patronage Policy, as well as any OOSGG documents discussing or considering Equality Australia's compliance in relation to the "ongoing requirements," including in relation to (but not limited to) the following matters.

- a. Equality Australia's [arrangements](#) with Thorne Harbour Health to access DGR tax treatment, enabling tax-deductible fundraising despite the organisation being ineligible for DGR status in its own right;
- b. Equality Australia's [intervention](#) in the politically charged Federal Court case *Tickle v Giggle* - an intervention that attracted adverse attention;
- c. Equality Australia's politically charged [public campaign](#) rejecting "divisive politics," noting that condemning "divisive politics" in a contested policy space is itself a political act;
- d. Equality Australia's publication of a 2025 federal election [voting guide](#), which ranked political parties and promoted the election of preferred candidates.

Note on Section 6A Scope

I am aware that my earlier FOI request (ref FOI2025021) seeking documents about the Governor-General's decision to become a patron of Equality Australia was refused on the grounds that such records related to her substantive powers and functions and were therefore outside the FOI Act under section 6A.

This present request is fundamentally different. It relates only to documents created or received *after* the Governor-General accepted the patronage, and only to the OOSGG's ongoing administrative oversight of Equality Australia's compliance with the "Ongoing Requirements" section of the Patronage Policy. These are not documents in any way preparatory to the exercise of a substantive vice-regal function (the substantive decision having already been made) and are thus matters of an administrative nature within the meaning of section 6A.

Thank you for your time and assistance; I recognise the demands on your office and appreciate your attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Megan Poore
Founder
AAWAA

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