

Open Government

STORY

How much do Queenslanders know about their rights to access government-held information?

What is the Open Government Partnership?

OGP is an international initiative aimed at securing concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens and strengthen governance. It was established in 2011. The Australian Government joined in November 2015.

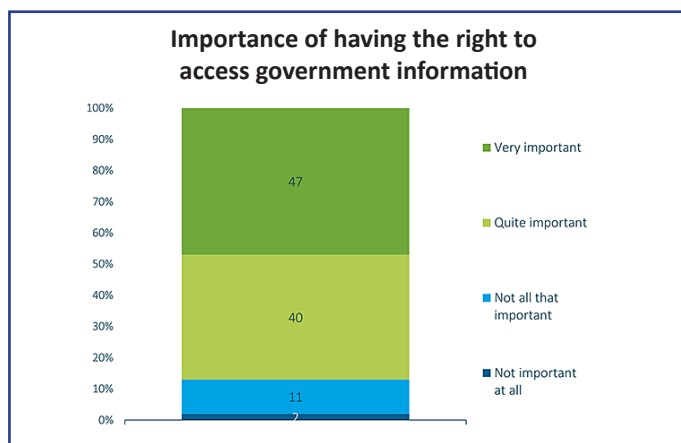
Australia's Second Open Government National Action Plan 2018-20 (NAP2) focusses commitments on new and innovative ways to build greater openness and transparency into citizens' everyday interaction with government.

One of NAP2's commitments is to engage States and Territories to better understand information access. This commitment involves surveys to measure citizens' awareness of the right to access government information, and their experiences and outcomes in exercising that right. When Queenslanders were asked about their rights to access government-held information, there were some interesting results.



Australia's first Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2016-18 promised ambitious action to increase transparency and accountability. Progress has been achieved on some of these actions.

- Queenslanders think the right to access government information is important. 87% of people surveyed said the right to access information held by the Queensland government is 'very' or 'quite' important.



- Around two thirds of people surveyed knew they could access information held by Queensland government agencies (73%), local councils (71%), and hospital and health services (63%). Fewer Queenslanders surveyed knew they could access information from public universities (36%) and Ministers (32%).
- Over a third of respondents had attempted to access information held by at least one Queensland government agency. Pleasingly, Government agencies had encouraged those surveyed to access information in the least formal way possible.

Thanks to our colleagues in the New South Wales Information and Privacy Commission who are leading this work, and Woolcott Research & Engagement who conducted the survey.



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