



Milingimbi community, Northern Territory. Courtesy FaHCSIA collection.



Accountability

Freedom of information

In 2010–11 there were substantial amendments to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

More details about the reforms can be found on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's (OAIC) website at www.oaic.gov.au.

Significant changes were made to the Registrar's website to implement OAIC's model webpage, including an FOI disclosure log and the Information Publication Scheme.

Four FOI requests were made to the Registrar between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011. Five requests were finalised. One request was in progress at 30 June 2011 and a decision is under review.

Complaints about ORIC staff

ORIC responds to complaints about its staff and contractors according to policy statement 3: *Complaints about the Registrar's staff and contractors*. ORIC tries to respond promptly, thoroughly and with sensitivity to complaints. During 2010–11, eight complaints about staff and contractors were received. All complaints were resolved.

Commonwealth Ombudsman

In 2010–11 ORIC received two section 8 letters from the Commonwealth Ombudsman under the *Ombudsman Act 1976* in which the Ombudsman requested information to help investigate the complaints. The issues raised in the letters were responded to within the agreed timeframes and the Commonwealth Ombudsman advised that no further investigation was warranted.

Legal services expenditure

Table 13 is a statement of legal services expenditure by ORIC for 2010–11. The legal services expenditure is also included in the annual report of FaHCSIA in compliance with paragraph 11.1(ba) of the Commonwealth’s Legal Services Directions 2005.

Table 13: ORIC’s legal services expenditure, 2010–11

Total internal legal services expenditure (GST inclusive)	\$262,521.87
Australian Government Solicitor	\$72,926.98
Minter Ellison	\$32,610.16
Total professional fees paid	\$105,537.14
Counsel briefs	\$59,672.20
Other disbursements on external legal services	\$4,384.28
Total external legal services expenditure (GST inclusive)	\$169,593.62
Number of male counsel briefed	4
Value of briefs to male counsel	\$59,672.20
Number of female counsel briefed	0
Value of briefs to female counsel	0

