

# Records Disposal Freeze for records relating to Antisemitism and Social Cohesion

## Notice of Records Disposal Freeze for records relating to the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion

The purpose of this document is to notify public sector organisations, which may be in possession of records relevant to the scope of the Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion (the Royal Commission) that a disposal freeze has been placed on records which may be required for the inquiries of the Royal Commission or related legal actions or investigations.

### Background

The Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion was announced by the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia on 9 January 2026.

The Letters Patent and Terms of Reference establishing the Royal Commission were issued on 9 January 2026 by Her Excellency the Hon Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General. The Hon Virginia Bell AC has been appointed as Royal Commissioner and will make recommendations about any policy, legislative, administrative or structural reforms.

The Royal Commission is to inquire into and report on the circumstances surrounding the antisemitic terrorist attack that took the lives of 15 innocent people at Bondi Beach on 14 December 2025, and will consider and make recommendations directed at tackling antisemitism and other religiously and ideologically motivated extremism and strengthening social cohesion in Australia.

The Royal Commission will be independent and supported by all state and territory governments.

The Royal Commission's Terms of Reference form part of the Letters Patent and will require the Royal Commission to look at:

1. Tackling antisemitism by investigating the nature and prevalence of antisemitism in institutions and society, and its key drivers in Australia, including ideologically and religiously motivated extremism and radicalisation.
2. Making recommendations that will assist law enforcement, border control, immigration and security agencies to tackle antisemitism, including through improvements to guidance and training within law enforcement, border control, immigration, and security agencies to respond to antisemitic conduct.
3. Examining the circumstances surrounding the antisemitic Bondi terrorist attack on 14 December 2025.
4. Making any other recommendations arising out of the inquiry for strengthening social cohesion in Australia and countering the spread of ideologically and religiously motivated extremism in Australia.

The aim of the disposal freeze is to avoid the risk of losing crucial evidence for the Royal Commission or related legal actions.

## Authority

The Archives Service and the Records Service issue this disposal freeze in accordance with section 136B of the *Information Act 2002*. Destruction of records covered by a disposal freeze is considered illegal disposal under section 145 of the *Information Act*.

## Agencies affected

The disposal freeze applies to all public sector organisations which may hold (as defined in section 5 of the *Information Act*) records relevant to the scope of the Royal Commission, in particular the:

- Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
- Northern Territory Police Force
- Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services
- Department of Corporate and Digital Development
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Children and Families
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development
- Department of People, Sport and Culture
- Department of Treasury and Finance
- Attorney-General's Department
- Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment
- Ombudsman's Office.

## Records affected

In broad terms, this freeze covers records which may be required by the Royal Commission such as records relating to:

- interaction and engagement between public sector organisations and Jewish organisations
- critical violent life incidents towards Jewish people
- investigations into and response to critical violent life incidents towards Jewish people
- security arrangements for the Jewish community, improvement of protective security for Jewish places of worship, major sites, educational and cultural facilities, public events and community leaders
- antisemitism in the treatment of Jewish people by public sector organisations
- antisemitism in the management and staffing of public sector organisation facilities, including care facilities

- antisemitism in services provided by public sector organisations, including (but not limited to) health care and education
- policies and procedures concerning antisemitism, social cohesion and racial discrimination
- antisemitism, religious and ideologically motivated extremism and radicalisation in public sector institutions, including but not limited to educational institutions and correctional facilities
- government responses to antisemitism, religious and ideologically motivated extremism and radicalisation
- collection of data identifying Jewish people
- training of law enforcement to respond to antisemitic conduct, religious and ideologically motivated extremism and radicalisation
- information sharing between Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies with the organisers of the Chanukah event at Bondi Beach on 14 December 2025
- information sharing between Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies in response to a terrorist attack
- the government's emergency response to a terrorist attack.

The disposal freeze applies to all relevant records under any functional or general disposal schedule, with the exception of [Records Disposal Schedule No. 2013/6, Disposal of Digital Source Records that have been Migrated](#). This should continue to be used to destroy digitised source records in accordance with that schedule.

The disposal of records not covered by a disposal schedule is an offence under section 145 of the Information Act.

The disposal schedules likely to be affected are listed in Schedule B.

The disposal freeze also covers control records which may identify relevant records such as registers of files, card and electronic indexes of files and records, metadata identifying specific records in databases and other digital business systems.

The disposal freeze covers records in all formats, including paper files and documents, microfilm and magnetic tapes, audio and visual recordings, photographs and records created and stored digitally (including information in relevant current and legacy databases and digital business systems).

All records in digital formats, including information in databases and other digital business systems, must be maintained with all the metadata necessary to support retrieval and access to authentic and reliable information.

In practice, the freeze should only affect those records due to be destroyed within the period of the freeze, not the total quantity of records that fit the description of records. However, it is incumbent on public sector organisations to evaluate all records due for destruction and assess their likely relevance to the Royal Commission investigations.

Schedule A details the categories of records subject to the records disposal freeze.

## Duration

This disposal freeze will take effect immediately and will be in force until further notice.

## Action Required

Public sector organisations must:

1. notify all staff and other relevant parties (including third party service providers) responsible for the disposal of public records that a disposal freeze has been issued
2. withhold from destruction any records within the scope of the records disposal freeze
3. retain the records identified in the disposal freeze for the duration of the freeze or until further notice.

The preparation for sentencing of records affected by the disposal freeze can continue. However, the records must be set aside and retained for the period of the disposal freeze. The records should be retained by the organisation; they will not be accepted for transfer to the Archives Service. Organisations have the option to either identify and set aside the particular records covered by the disposal freeze, or to implement a broader freeze on all records likely to contain relevant material.

This disposal freeze does not apply to records sentenced as permanent against an authorised records disposal schedule.

## Impact

The costs relating to the management and storage of an agency's temporary records covered by a records disposal freeze is the responsibility of that agency.

## Further Information

For further information please refer to:

[Records Disposal Freeze Policy for NT Public Sector Organisations](#)

[Records Disposal Freeze Implementation Advice for NT Public Sector Organisations](#)

[Letters Patent and Terms of Reference](#)

## Enquiries

For information and advice, please contact:

Records Service  
Department of Corporate and Digital Development  
GPO Box 2391  
Darwin NT 0801

Email: [NTG.RecordsPolicy@nt.gov.au](mailto:NTG.RecordsPolicy@nt.gov.au)

Telephone: 08 8999 1746

Website: <https://dcdd.nt.gov.au/government-records>

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Authorisation	Archives Service	Records Service
<b>Signature:</b>		
<b>Name:</b>	Tracy Puklowski	Kate Stevenson
<b>Position:</b>	Senior Director, Library & Archives NT Department of People, Sport and Culture	A/Executive Director Information Services and Fines Recovery Unit Department of Corporate and Digital Development
<b>Date:</b>	9 March 2026	6 March 2026

## Schedule A: Categories of records subject to the records disposal freeze

The following categories of records have been identified by the Archives Service and Records Service as those most likely to contain relevant records subject to this disposal freeze. The examples provided are for guidance only and other categories of records not listed below may contain information relevant to the inquiry:

### 1. Advice records, such as

- Formal advice received from or sent to Ministers, other government bodies, non-government organisations or individuals.

### 2. Complaint and grievance management records, such as

- Formal or informal complaints and enquiries
- Internal investigations
- Mediation
- External investigations

### 3. Committee and meeting records, such as

- Agendas and minutes
- Reports and presentations
- Includes internal and external, significant and routine, committees, sub-committees, and meetings

### 4. Policy and procedure records, such as

- Development, implementation and review of policies and procedures
- Development, implementation and review of codes of conducts
- Development, implementation and review of standards

### 5. Service and Program Delivery Records

- Planning and development
- Reviews, assessments and audits
- Incidents and investigations
- Complaints

## 6. Court and prosecution records, such as

- Prosecution files
- Opinions
- Reports and reviews
- Orders
- Complaints and investigations
- Proceedings
- Mediations

## 7. Housing records, such as

- Admissions and allocations
- Appeals and disputes
- Complaints

## 8. Patient records, such as

- Medical treatment files
- Complaints
- Incident reports
- Reviews

## 9. Police records, such as

- Investigation files
- Intelligence gathering and information sharing
- Relations with members of the community including community policing
- Security arrangements
- Planning
- Reports and reviews
- Inquiries and complaints

## 10. Student and education records, such as

- Complaints and investigations
- Curricula including planning and development
- Incident reports
- Reviews and audits

## Schedule B: List of records disposal schedules affected

This disposal freeze applies to records that are due to be destroyed under a Northern Territory Government Records Disposal Schedule. In practice, the freeze should only affect those records due to be destroyed within the period of the freeze, not the total quantity of records that fit the description of records.

The records disposal schedules listed below have been identified as those likely to contain relevant classes of records and are provided here for guidance only. However, it is probable that records disposal schedules not listed below may also contain relevant classes of records.

Public Sector Organisation	Records Disposal Schedule
All agencies	<a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Administrative Functions of Northern Territory Public Sector Organisations, 2026/1</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule of Common Activities of Northern Territory Public Sector Organisations 2026/02</i></a>
Local Authorities in the Northern Territory	<a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Local Authorities in the Northern Territory, 2018/3</i></a>
Darwin City Council	<a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Darwin City Council, 2010/5</i></a>
Department of Health	<a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Mental Health Services, 2015/8</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Patient and Client Medical Records, 2022/003</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Pensioner and Carer Concession Management, 2015/3</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Hearing Services, 2015/25</i></a>
Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities	<a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Local Government and Community Development, 2006/5</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Indigenous Housing, 2006/9</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Indigenous Community Support, 2006/10</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Tenancy Management, 2006/12</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Housing Provision Records, 2007/2</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule: Aboriginal Interpreter Services, 2006/11</i></a>

Public Sector Organisation	Records Disposal Schedule
Department of the Attorney-General and Justice	<a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Health and Community Services Complaints Management, 2016/9</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Courts and Tribunal Services, 2025/0001</i></a>
	<a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Public Prosecutions, 2015/14</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Anti-Discrimination Services, 2015/12</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule Community Visitor Program Management, 2016/7</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Custodial Services, 2016/20</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Adult Guardianship, 2016/17</i></a>
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	<a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Redeployment Management, Redundancy Management, 2000/5</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Organisational Capability Assessment, 2001/11</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Risk Review Services, 2006/4</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Public Sector Appeals Management, 2013/1</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Public Sector Grievance Review Services, 2013/2</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Public Sector Workforce Planning and Development, 2013/8</i></a>
NT Police Force Fire and Emergency Services	<a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Policing and Crime Detection, 2020/10</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for All of Government Emergency Management Arrangements, 2025/003</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Northern Territory Emergency Services, Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, 2023/001</i></a>
Office of the Ombudsman of the Northern Territory	<a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Complaint Management, 2004/14</i></a>
Department of Education	<a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for School Regulatory Services, 2017/9</i></a>

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Public Sector Organisation	Records Disposal Schedule
	<a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Scheule for School Management, 2018/10</i></a>
Charles Darwin University	<a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Student Administration, 2016/13</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for University Governance, 20016/14</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal Schedule for Higher Education Teaching and Learning, 2017/17</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Records Disposal schedule for Vocational Education and Training Services, 2018/19</i></a>

