

Ref: FOI2025-028

[REDACTED]

24 July 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to our previous correspondence regarding your request for the following information:

*Hello, I would like to make a request under the relevant legislation for any information held at AWE about a medical centre known as the Weapons Research Establishment Hospital which was based at Woomera in South Australia during the period of UK nuclear weapons trials.*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

A search for the requested information within the AWE has now been completed, and we can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

We are able to disclose all of the documents you have requested.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40(2) requires the Department to conduct a balancing exercise which involves balancing the rights and interests of individuals against the legitimate interests in disclosure. This is not the same as carrying out the public interest test associated with certain exemptions under the Act. The balancing exercise is carried out in order to decide whether the absolute exemption in section 40(2) is engaged. In particular, there is no assumption of disclosure in the legitimate interest's test, as there is with qualified exemptions. The outcome of the balancing exercise lay in withholding the third-party personal data identified as being within scope of your request.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled you have a right to request an internal review within 40 days of receiving this letter, by writing to [information.requests@awe.co.uk](mailto:information.requests@awe.co.uk) or our postal address: Information Requests Team, AWE Aldermaston, Reading, RG7 4PR. If you are still unhappy after an internal review has been completed, under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you have the right to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. Please note the Commissioner will generally not consider a complaint until you have exhausted AWE's internal complaints process.

Yours sincerely,

AWE Information Requests Team

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

15 JAN 1957

Telegrams:  
"Rocran" Woomera

Telephone: Woomera West 5

WEAPONS RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT, WOOMERA,

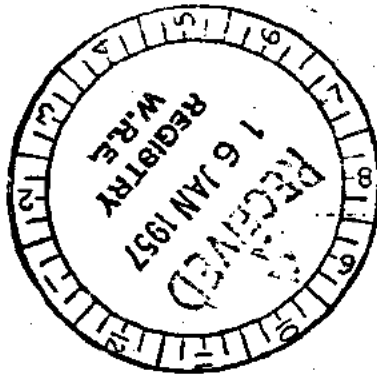
~~LONG RANGE WEAPONS ESTABLISHMENT RANGE, WOOMERA~~

Postal Address:

BOX 1391K, G.P.O.,

ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

56/506



62

15 JAN 1957

Controller,  
Weapons Research Establishment,  
SALISBURY, S.A.

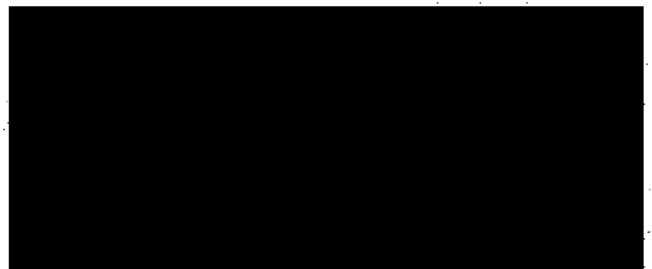
Requests for Medical Assistance:

A message was received this forenoon from the Native Affairs representative at Coober Pedy ( ) requesting that the Native Patrol Officer transport a doctor or nurse from the Woomera Hospital to treat a half-caste woman suffering from a haemorrhage.

(The message was relayed via Bon Bon and ( ) by a party travelling by road from Coober Pedy to Kingoonya).

2. The distance from Woomera to Coober Pedy is more than 200 miles by indifferent graded roads.

3. It is requested that the Protector of Aborigines be asked to inform his agents that it is not the policy, nor is it possible, for Woomera to provide medical facilities beyond immediate neighbouring stations. The medical facilities, which obviously should have been used in this case, are those of the Ceduna Flying Doctor Service - Coober Pedy has an airstrip and is on the Ceduna radio network for this very reason.



UNCLASSIFIED

R 22-004  
11 SEP 1958



11th September, 1958.

The Secretary,  
Aborigines Protection Board,  
Kintore Avenue,  
ADLAIDE.

Dear Sir,

Requests for Medical Assistance to Aborigines.

Further to our memorandum of 17.1.57 in connection with a request from Coorber Pedy for provision of transport to convey a doctor or nurse to treat a half-caste woman, the following is an extract from a memorandum from the Superintendent, Weapons Research Establishment, Woomera:

"Further to my letter No.62 of 15th January, 1957, requests are still being received from time to time for medical assistance from places which are obviously not the responsibility of the Woomera medical services and Hospital.

A request was received yesterday, Sunday 7th September, 1958, from Andamooka Opal Field to bring an aboriginal man to the Woomera Hospital. The caller was reminded that the Opal Field subscribes to the Broken Hill Flying Doctor Service to whom application should be made. The caller, however, stated that application had already been made to the Broken Hill Flying Doctor Service who had stated they could not do anything about it.

An ambulance was therefore despatched from Woomera and returned in due course with an aboriginal suffering from pneumonia."

2. In view of the expense involved to the Department, and of the limited accommodation in the Woomera Hospital, it would be appreciated if you would take the matter up with the Broken Hill Flying Doctor Service, and advise us of the circumstances which precluded assistance being given in this instance and whether such circumstances are likely to recur in future.

Yours faithfully,



15/10/58