

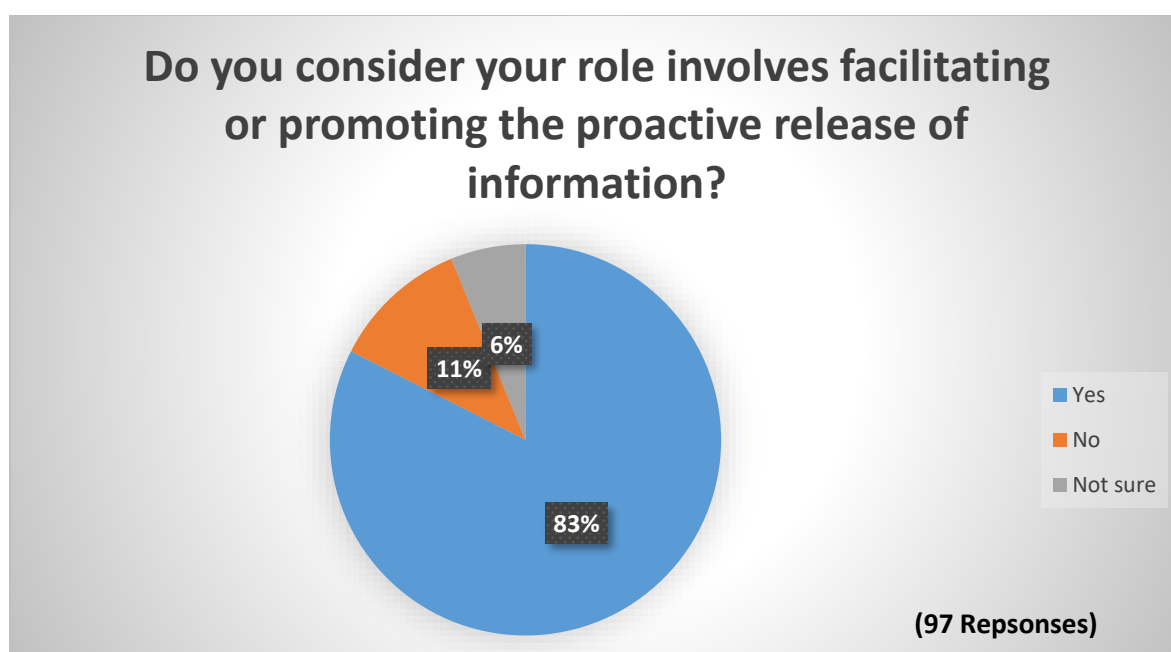
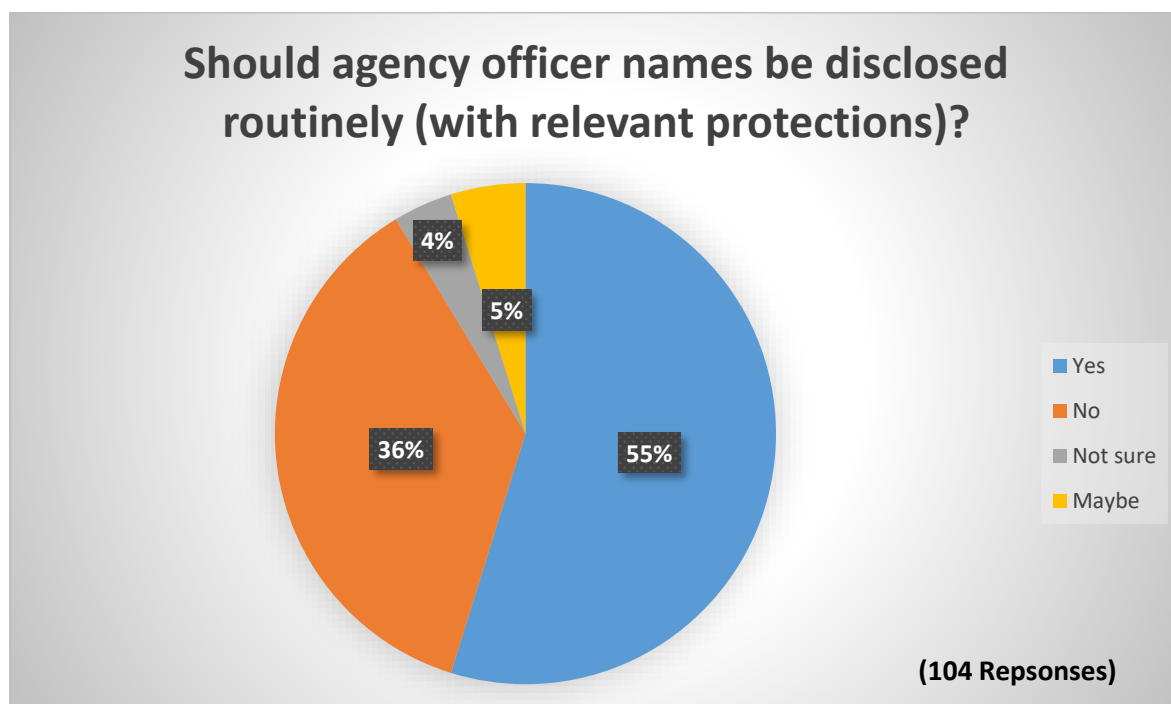


FOI in WA Conference

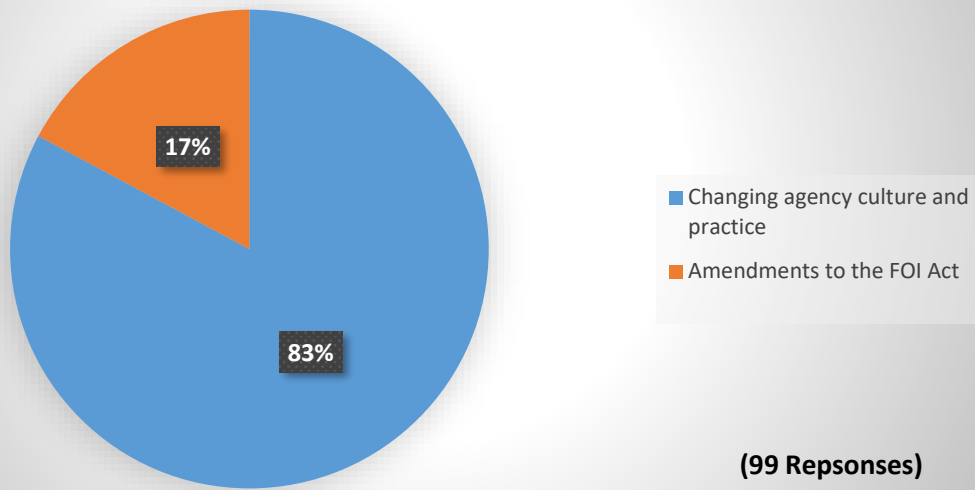
Building Trust

21 November 2019

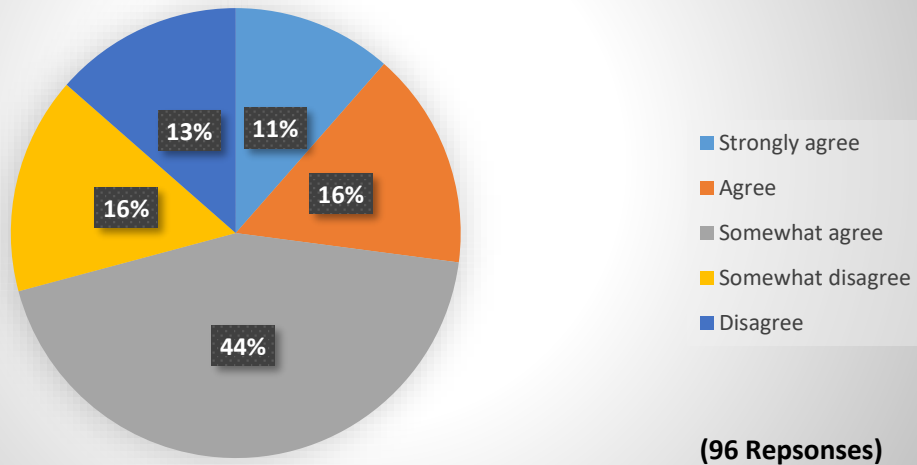
Conference Attendee poll responses



The most effective way to improve access to information is by:



There is a culture of pro-disclosure in your agency



What is the main thing you would change about the FOI Act?

(48 Responses)

- Ability to increase the statutory time limits based on the application size
- Ability to communicate by electronic means only
- Add vexatious clause

- As per Dr Gallops qn poses- addressing conscious obligation for executives to not influence decision makers. Not sure if consequences though are a good thing as decision makers already feel personally burdened by the process
- As per GG recommendation not to have exemptions but reasons for refusal.
- Capacity to refuse vexatious applications subject to meeting legislative criteria.
- Clarity of the role of FOI Officers as decision maker to protect them from undue influence and interference from internal stakeholders (i.e. dept that holds the document)
- Clarity on the grey areas. Exemptions clearer. Public interest has no meaning.
- Clearer definitions of personal information.
- Encompasses social media and the way we communicate today.
- Exclusion of house plans
- External reviews should be conducted by SAT as considered in the previous bill. There is a focus by the OIC to pressure agencies to withdraw exemptions in conciliation rather than actually issuing a decision that can be taken to the Supreme Court.
- Having something clear about determining an applicant as vexatious
- I believe a review is required
- Inclusion of a section regarding vexatious applicants.
- Incorporating more "push" legislation
- Increase process time
- Integration of a standard FOI request solution across all WA government agencies so that the public have a consistent experience.
- Letting applicants know what information is available rather than them trying to guess
- Limit frequent applicants. Limit serial applicants. Review the Act.
- Make it clearer with regards to third party/prescribed/exempt information
- Make it simple and more clear.
- Modernise it to suit "today's" needs
- No change required
- Non disclosure of an officer's name
- Not sure
- Only if I knew everything about this Act.
- People seem to misuse foi and perceive it as ammunition for malicious intent
- Plain English rather than legalese
- Pro disclosure emphasis
- Proactive look exemptions
- Processes at agency level to deal with disruptive and unruly applicants.
- Provide commentary
- Rewrite the Act. The underlying principles are sound although the drafting style is outdated and primarily written in the negative.
- Simplify language, remove negatives

- Specific instruction regarding medical records, and regarding disclosure of names of officers of the agencies.
- The language.
- The understanding of it - the Act itself is a comprehensive guide in many respects but people do not seem to understand it
- The wording- most foi coordinators find it a very difficult document to interpret
- Unsure at this stage. Potentially review personal information exemptions and public interest in light of new Privacy Act being developed.
- Update fees. Clarify consultation requirements with officers. Add protections for agencies with deliberately vexatious applicants
- Update to the Act in its entirety to be relevant to today's current trends & issues re: release/privacy. For agency's to have power re: vexious applicants
- Vexacious applicants
- Vexatious applicant provisions
- Vexatious applicant provisions Longer prescribed period