AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Freedom of Information Act 1989

VARIATION OF DECLARATION AND DETERMINATION OF FEES AND CHARGES SET OUT IN DETERMINATION NO. 132 OF 1995

INSTRUMENT NO. 37 OF 2001

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Subsection 4(6) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the Act) enables the Minister to declare that application fees are payable in respect of a request to access a document under subsection 14(1) of the Act, or to request an internal review of certain decisions under subsection 59(1). Subsection 80(1) enables the Minister to determine fees and charges payable under the Act.

The application fee for accessing a document was originally \$30.00 but reduced by a determination in 1995 to \$15.00. The application fee for seeking an internal review of a decision was originally \$40.00 but reduced in 1995 to \$15.00.

This instrument varies Determination No. 132 of 1995 dated 19 September 1995 and notified in the ACT Gazette No. S242 of 21 September 1995, [as varied by Declaration and Determination No 168 of 1996 dated 21 July 1996 and notified in the ACT Gazette No. S184 of 26 July 1996], by removing these application fees altogether. Other charges such as processing and photocopying charges still remain.

The removal of the application fees ensures easier access for citizens to documents and relevant information under the Act. As such fees are often routinely waived anyway, the revenue/cost implications are not likely to be significant.

Circulated by authority of Bill Stefaniak, MLA Attorney-General