s22

Section 42 - Legal professional privilege

From: CLARKE, Avinash <Avinash.CLARKE@Health.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 January 2026 4:34 PM
To: s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>
Subject: Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks s47E( ) Very helpful as my TRIM is down.

Comfortable from my end.

A

Avinash Clarke
02 5132 1436

OFFICIAL:Sensitive//Legal-Privilege

From: s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 January 2026 4:21 PM
To: s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>
Subject: Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

[redacted]

Attaching the web statement for clarification just in case people don't have access to TRIM.

s47
E( )

OFFICIAL:Sensitive//Legal-Privilege

From: s47E(c)
Sent: Wednesday, 21 January 2026 11:41 AM
To: CLARKE, Avinash <Avinash.CLARKE@Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>
Subject: Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

Hi all

Apologies, the TRIM link to the web statement should be D26-285391.

The previous one was incorrect.

Thanks for the pickup s47E(c)

Avi, if you could look at the updated TRIM link and confirm you're happy with the content.

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Subject: RE: Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

Thanks Avi – will get the team to de-identify all letters and associated screenshots.

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Subject: Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

s47E(- I do want you to consider de-identifying all letters (include the one to Veganics – also involving names in screenshots being redacted). I understand this is allowable under our policy. Given the nature of the many statements made by the sponsor in question on public forums, de-identifying decision makers/signatories seems a prudent step.

Avi

Avinash Clarke
Assistant Secretary
Complementary and Over the Counter Medicines Branch

Therapeutic Goods Administration
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
T: 02 5132 1436 | E: avinash.clarke@health.gov.au

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Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

s47E(c)

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Cc: s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>; CLARKE, Avinash <Avinash.CLARKE@Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>

Subject: Veganic / s47G - Action items following 12 January 2025 MQB/ s42 /COMB meeting - LEX 29503 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi all

Thank you for your time a short while ago. As discussed, I have set out below my understanding of the action items arising from our meeting this morning. Please reply all if I have missed or mischaracterised any actions, and forward to anyone I might have missed.

Action items – 12 January 2026 – Meeting regarding Veganic / s47G

- s42
  - s42
- COMB Action items:
  - LCS will review historical records to ascertain whether COMB had previously identified or s42
  - LCS will update the meeting invite list (e.g. to include s47E( ) from RCB, remove Recalls as agreed, any other necessary updates).
  - s42
  - LCS will continue reviewing the information provided by Veganic in response to the s 31 notice sent last year (if not yet complete).
  - s42
- MQB Action items:
  - s42

s42

- MQB/s47E( ) will set up a Teams chat with attendees [this task is outstanding from December – perhaps we can discuss in our next meeting if this is still something that the group would find useful]

Look forward to discussing further at the next meeting.

Kind regards

s47E(c)
Senior Lawyer

Legislation, Advice and FOI Branch
Regulatory Legal Services Division | Health Products Regulation Group
Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
T: s47E(c) | E: s47E(c) @health.gov.au
Location: 27 Scherger Drive
PO Box 100, Woden ACT 2601, Australia

Please note that my working hours are 8.30am – 5.30pm Monday and Wednesday – Friday and 9.00am – 12.30pm on Tuesdays

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

OFFICIAL

From: s47E(c)
Sent: Monday, 15 December 2025 10:55 AM
To: s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; CLARKE, Avinash <Avinash.CLARKE@Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>;s47E(c) @health.gov.au>
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- MQB Action items:
  - s42
  - MQB/s47E(s37(2)(b) s47E(
- s42
- COMB Action items:
  - s42 .
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Look forward to discussing further at the next meeting.

Kind regards

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Senior Lawyer

Legislation, Advice and FOI Branch
Regulatory Legal Services Division | Health Products Regulation Group
Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
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Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

File note – Veganic meeting – 10:30am 22 December 2025

Present: s.47E(c) [redacted], s.47E(c) [redacted]

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

- s37(2)(b) [redacted]:
  - s37(2)(b) [redacted] s.22 [redacted]
  - s37(2)(b) [redacted]
  - [redacted] s.22 [redacted] s37(2)(b) [redacted]
  - [redacted]

- s37(2)(b)
-
-
- s47E(team will look at going back - s.22 early next year, unsure about Veganic timing

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

From: s47E(c)
Sent: Thursday, 18 December 2025 12:36 PM
To: s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; CLARKE, Avinash <Avinash.CLARKE@Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @health.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Veganic / s.22 - Action items following 15 December 2025 MQB/ RLSD/COMB meeting - LEX 29503

Hi all

By way of update on the below highlighted action item:

- s47E(c) of RCB (copied) has kindly indicated that she would be happy to join these meetings moving forward (COMB, grateful if s47E(could be added to the list).
- s47E(has indicated that RCB does not current hold any information regarding the corporate relationships between Veganic, s.22 and any related entities, but that she will make enquiries on this front within RCB.

Kind regards

s47E(c)
Senior Lawyer
Legislation, Advice and FOI Branch
Regulatory Legal Services Division | Health Products Regulation Group
Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
T: s47E(c) | E: s47E(c) @health.gov.au
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Action items – 15 December 2025 – Meeting regarding Veganic / s.22

- MQB Action items:
  - Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]
  - MQB/s47E s37(2)(b) s.22
  - MQB/s47E(will set up a Teams chat with attendees.

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

- COMB Action items:
  - Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]
  - COMB will set up weekly meetings with attendees.

Look forward to discussing further at the next meeting.

Kind regards

s47E(c)
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Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

From: s47E(c)
To: s47E(c)

Cc: s47E(c) ; CLARKE, Avinash; s47E(c)
Subject: Veganic / s.22 - Action items following 12 January 2025 MQB/ RLSD/COMB meeting - LEX 29503
Date: Monday, 12 January 2026 12:02:40 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image004.png
image007.png

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Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

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From: s47E(c)
To: CLARKE, Avinash; s47E(c)
Cc: s47E(c)
Subject: RE: CM: Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]
Date: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 8:15:29 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image004.png

OFFICIAL:Sensitive//Legal-Privilege

Thanks Avi

In response to your first question, my preference is to refer to the white label entities as 'third party suppliers' (or words to that effect) and avoid referring to them as sponsors so as to distinguish them from sponsors of goods on the ARTG.

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

s47
E( )

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Sent: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 4:32 PM
To: s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c) @Health.gov.au>
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Subject: Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive//Legal-Privilege

Thanks s47E(Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

One question I have – either for you or s47 – is what the status of the white label entities are? If they are not the sponsor of the goods as listed in the ARTG – how are we designating their involvement? Supplier?

Also – related to the white label entities – the letter looks good though I do wonder if we can plain language it a little more (without diluting content of course) given the potential range

of recipients.

And happy to chat.

A

Avinash Clarke
02 5132 1436

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Subject: Re: Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive//Legal-Privilege

Hi Avi

LCS will soon be ready within the week or so to dispatch the letter to Veganic and the white labelling entities as the first phase of this investigation.

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

Hoping to get your confirmation of whether you are comfortable as well before we dispatch anything.

s47E(c)

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

[redacted]

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Subject: RE: CM: Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege

Thanks s47E(Very helpful as my TRIM is down.

Comfortable from my end.

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02 5132 1436

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Subject: RE: CM: Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

[redacted]

Section 42 of the FOI Act - Legal Professional Privilege [redacted]

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Avi

Avinash Clarke
Assistant Secretary
Complementary and Over the Counter Medicines Branch
Therapeutic Goods Administration
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
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[redacted]

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