



Australian Government
Department of the
Prime Minister and Cabinet

PUBLIC SECTOR DATA MANAGEMENT

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

July 2016

Public Sector Data Management

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Implementation of the recommendations in the Public Sector Data Management report

January 2016 – June 2016

Overview

On 3 December 2015, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) released the Public Sector Data Management Report.

Since then, significant progress has been made to implement the recommendations of the report.

This Implementation Report outlines the outputs and initiatives that have been undertaken to date to meet the recommendations of the report and further the public data agenda.

The Australian Government remains committed to effectively managing, sharing and publishing public data as a national resource for the benefit of the Australian people.

As the lead for public data policy, PM&C continues to work closely with government agencies, states and territories, research organisations, industry and the public to maximise the use and reuse of public data across the whole economy.

Snapshot of recommendations in the Public Sector Data Management Report

1-6 Months: Build confidence and momentum

1. Secretary of PM&C signals data is a priority
2. Commission several high-value projects
3. Build external partnerships
4. Publish readily available non-sensitive datasets
5. Build data and analytics capability
6. PM&C coordinates projects and progresses APS data policies and governance (covering recommendations 7-8)

1-18 Months: Systematise the use and release of public sector data

7. Implement a data policy framework that includes:
 - a. a public policy statement
 - b. a simple governance model for data policy
 - c. a requirement for evidence-based policy
8. Build and maintain public trust
9. Establish a trusted-access model for sharing integrated data
10. Create and publish a searchable whole-of-government data catalogue
11. Develop a Commonwealth Government high-value dataset framework
12. Publish data management standards
13. Establish a consistent and transparent approach to user charging
14. Create a legislative environment that supports data use while maintaining privacy, building on a possible Productivity Commission inquiry
15. Promote innovation in public administration

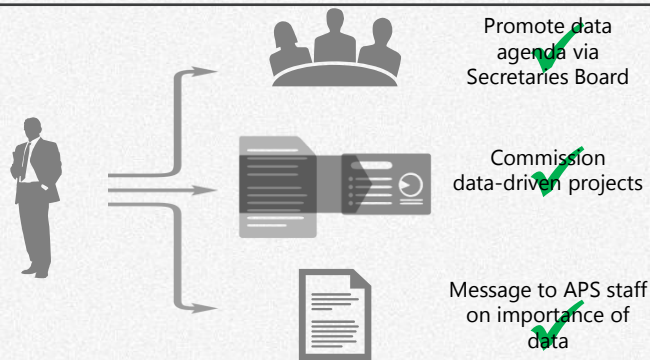
1. Build confidence and momentum

Secretary of PM&C / Secretaries **signal data** is a priority

Recommendation 1

The Secretary of PM&C, with the support of the Secretaries of Finance and Communications, sets a mandate to encourage better use of public sector data, and:

- commissions several data projects (see recommendation 2);
- encourages agencies to take a reasonable interpretation of agency legislation; and
- calls for data champions to be identified throughout the APS.



Encouraging agencies to take a reasonable interpretation of agency legislation

On 29 April 2016, PM&C published **Guidance on Data Sharing for Australian Government Entities**.

The Guidance requires that entities consult responsible expert groups and the Public Data Branch at PM&C when determining the extent of legislative barriers and other risks to sharing data.

On 26 February 2016, the Secretaries Data Group agreed that, through the Deputy Secretaries Data Group and Data Champions, all agencies are to be encouraged to examine whether legislation is being interpreted within a contemporary context when considering if data can be used and reused.

Data Champions

The Data Champions network has been established and comprises senior officials within Commonwealth agencies. The Data Champions promote the use, sharing and reuse of data within their organisations and across the APS.



Next Steps: This recommendation has been completed.

Commission **several high-value projects** focused on key policy questions

Recommendation 2

A coalition of agencies, supported by the Project Office within PM&C, delivers several cross-agency projects within the next several months to build confidence in improving public sector data management and policy innovation.

Cross-jurisdictional projects

Building on existing cross-jurisdictional data sharing and integration initiatives in a range of areas including crime, environment, health, education and transport; jurisdictions are investigating opportunities for further collaboration, particularly in the areas of social policy, health and education.

In addition, the Council of Australian Governments has agreed to enhance transparency by providing Australian citizens with a greater level of real-time data on how government money is spent and on the outcomes and performance of government initiatives.

APS cross-agency projects

Seven projects have been commissioned across the APS to build momentum and address barriers to data sharing. These projects are overseen by the Deputy Secretaries Data Group. Further information about progress to deliver the cross-agency projects is provided at **Appendix 1**.

High Value Project	Lead Agency
Early interventions for troubled families	Human Services
Better targeting of mental health services	Health
Indigenous early childhood interventions	Prime Minister and Cabinet
Better harnessing of environmental data	Environment
Analyse freight company data to help plan road infrastructure	Infrastructure and Regional Development
Analyse productivity in firms and evaluate policy	Industry, Innovation and Science
An online market research tool for SMEs	Australian Bureau of Statistics

Next Steps: Lead agencies will continue to report on progress of projects through the Deputy Secretaries Data Group.

Build **partnerships** to foster private demand for public sector data

Recommendation 3

Building on the findings of the Open Data 500 project and leveraging current relationships and programmes, departments (through their data champions) engage with industry, non-government organisations and state governments on the publication and use of agency data.

This could include:

- participating in high profile annual events, such as GovHack; and
- working with developers to identify how data can be used to create new applications which deliver better services (e.g. integration of government into google search results).

Recommendation 4

Agencies should develop and implement a schedule for the publication of readily available datasets on or through data.gov.au, prioritising data sought by industry, non-government organisations and State and Territory Governments.

Building public-private partnerships

The Commonwealth has been building on the findings of the Open Data 500 to establish relationships with industry, academic and international counterparts.

Examples: PM&C public-private partnerships

Leveraging the relationships developed as part of the Open Data 500, PM&C participates in the **Open Data 500 Global Network** to facilitate peer learning on mechanisms to foster demand and encourage the use of public and private data. The network has six members, including Australia, Mexico, United States, Italy, Korea and Canada.

PM&C supports **Innovate@Locate Hackfest** and **GovHack**. These events bring together people from government, industry, academia and the public to mashup and reuse public data.

On 2 November 2016, PM&C launched **DataStart** – a pilot program that gives Australian startups new opportunities to create data-driven businesses. To support the startups, PM&C partnered with established Australian incubator, Pollenizer, as well as Google, Optus, PwC, Data61, RoZetta and the Australian Information Industry Association.

Schedule for publication of data

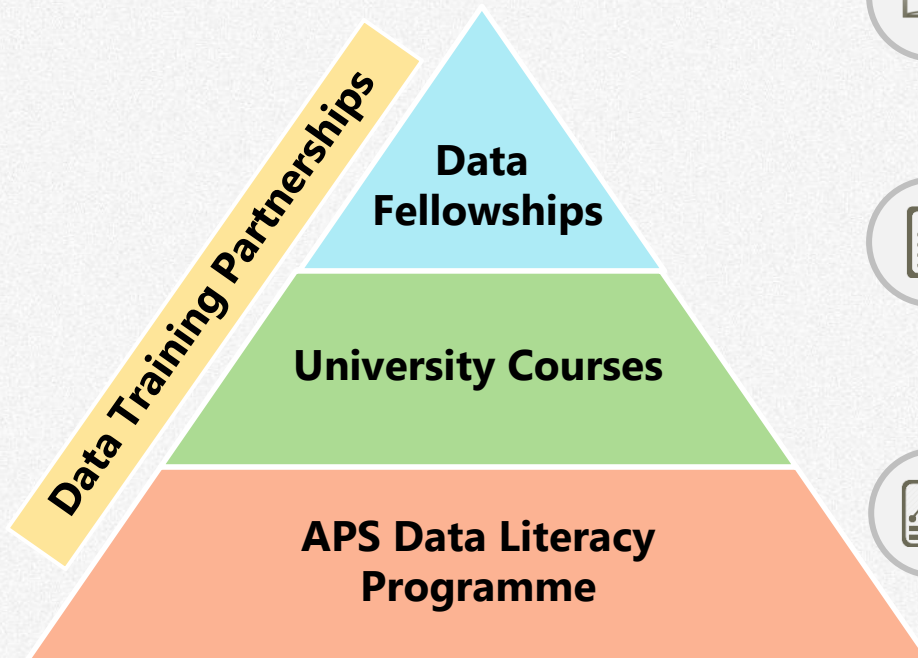
As at 27 June 2016, there were approximately **8,200 datasets available via data.gov.au** (an increase of about 1,200 datasets since the **Public Data Policy Statement** was published in December 2015). In addition, the Coalition's policy for *Better and More Accessible Digital Services* commits to the development of a public registry of significant non-sensitive datasets that are yet to be published on data.gov.au.

Next Steps: PM&C and other Commonwealth entities will continue to build public-private partnerships to foster demand and use of public data. The Public Data Branch will work to implement the Government's election commitment to develop a public registry of non-sensitive datasets that are not yet openly available.

Build data and analytics capability

Recommendation 5

The Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) and others to collaboratively develop a strategy with government, industry, and academia to build data and analytics capability.



Building public-private partnerships

PM&C is partnering with public, private and research sectors to develop a holistic approach to improve data skills and capability across the Australian Public Service.



Data Fellowship Programme

The Fellowship is an exclusive, competitive programme to provide advanced data training to high performing APS data specialists.



University Courses

Specialised data analytics courses and subjects offered by universities across Australia will help the APS improve its technical data analytics capability while boosting the number of future graduates with the required data skills.



APS Data Literacy Programme

The APSC has developed the foundational APS Data Literacy Programme in collaboration with the ABS and the ATO. Once fully implemented, the Programme will offer a suite of initiatives that will build core data literacy skills and will aim to ensure employees across the APS can develop a minimum level of data literacy.



Data Training Partnerships

Data Training Partnerships are an ongoing initiative linking the APS to organisations' training and expertise relating to data and data use. Organisations' training will target all data literacy levels across the APS.

Next Steps: The *APS Data Skills and Capability Framework* will be launched in 2016.

Drive **initial scoping work** through a central agency

Recommendation 6

PM&C work with agencies to:

- develop a draft data policy framework including statement from the Prime Minister, governance structures, and possible cabinet requirements;
- build and maintain trust, engage with the public to understand the benefits to citizens and address privacy concerns on public sector data (recommendation 8 refers); and
- streamline existing APS committee structures.

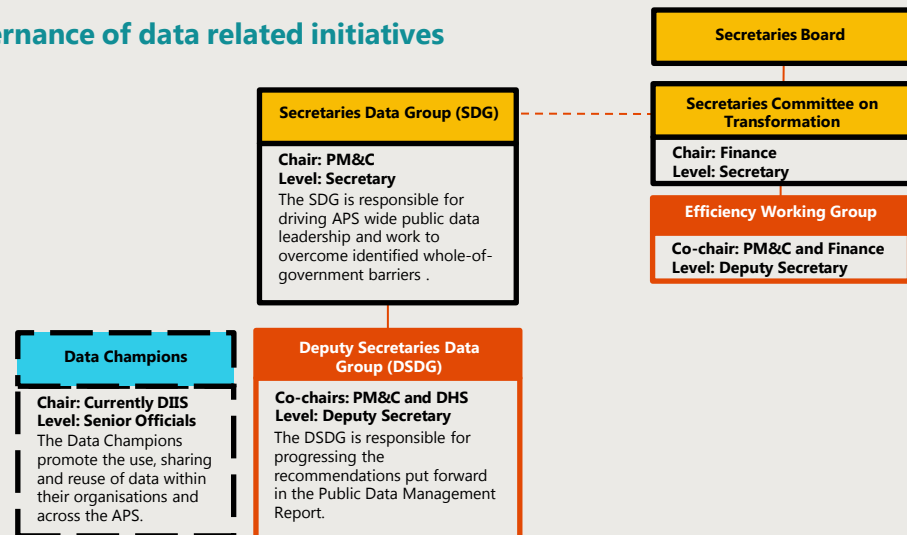


Public data governance

Public data governance has been streamlined across the APS.

The Secretaries Data Group and Deputy Secretaries Data Group provide governance of public data initiatives across Australian Government entities. A network of senior Commonwealth officials, referred to as the Data Champions, promote the use, sharing and reuse of data across entities.

Governance of data related initiatives



Public Data Policy Statement

The Australian Government's **Public Data Policy Statement** was released on 7 December 2015 as part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda.

The Public Data Policy Statement provides a clear mandate for Australian Government entities to optimise the use and reuse of public data; to release non-sensitive data as open by default; and to collaborate with the private and research sectors to extend the value of public data for the benefit of the Australian public.

Next Steps: This recommendation has been completed.

2. Systematise the use and release of data

Implement a data policy framework

Recommendation 7

PM&C seeks agreement on and implements the policy framework, with three actions:

- a. The Prime Minister, with Cabinet agreement, sets a clear mandate by publishing a policy statement on the use, sharing and release of public sector data, including principles for using and sharing public sector data (recommendation 6 also refers).
- b. The Prime Minister appoints a single Minister or Parliamentary Secretary to be accountable for improving the use and sharing of public sector data, supported by a simplified governance structure, with external representation on a public data reference group.
- c. Encourage the inclusion of evidence based on data analytics where relevant for policy proposals presented to the Cabinet.

Evidence based on data analytics for Cabinet proposals

Policy proposals presented to the Cabinet must now include:

- evidence based on data analytics that supports the reasoning in the submission, where relevant; and
- consultation with agencies' Data Champions about how data could be used to support the submission.

Next Steps: This recommendation has been completed.

Guidance on Data Sharing for Australian Government Entities

On 29 April 2016, PM&C published **Guidance on Data Sharing for Australian Government Entities**. The Guidance was developed in consultation with the Deputy Secretaries Data Group. The Guidance encourages sharing data by default between Australian Government entities and seeks to streamline data sharing processes to enable greater efficiencies and improve decision making for policy and implementation processes.

Minister accountable for public data

The **Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP**, maintains high level leadership for public data policy. The **Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation, the Hon Angus Taylor MP**, has responsibility for close oversight of public data policy.



Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation, the Hon. Angus Taylor MP

Engage with citizens and business to **build and maintain trust**

Recommendation 8

Build and maintain trust in the quality, confidentiality and value of public sector data with government, researchers, businesses, and the public.



Tailored approaches to engagement

Australian Government entities are striving to ensure public engagement is responsive, targeted to key age groups and addresses the action being taken. Engagement has involved:

- **a clear narrative and key messages** by Ministers and APS leaders engaging with the public on the purpose, value and role of public data and the importance of maintaining privacy and security;
- **an engagement champion** with both the Prime Minister and Assistant Minister Taylor promoting the benefits and raising awareness of public data;
- **a dedicated website** through data.gov.au and the PM&C website providing a central point of information about the public data agenda, including data-related policies and initiatives;
- **social media** providing key messages through @datagovau, @ANZLIC and @dpmc_gov_au;
- A **blog** on data.gov.au that allows the public to engage with government on public data issues; and
- **presentations on the public data agenda**, including at the Locate16 Conference in Melbourne and the Sydney CeBIT 2016 Conference.

Building confidence through improving practice

On 17 May 2016, the **Office of the Australian Information Commissioner** published the consultation draft of the ***Guide to big data and the Australian Privacy Principles***, which outlines the key privacy requirements for big data projects, including how personal information may be collected, shared and used by entities subject to the requirements of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The guide recognises the potential for big data analytics to bring about enormous social and economic benefits. The guide has been developed to facilitate big data activities while protecting personal information.

On 21 March 2016, the Australian Government tasked the **Productivity Commission** to undertake a public inquiry to investigate ways to improve the availability and use of public and private sector data. One of the areas the Productivity Commission is required to review is ways to **enhance and maintain individuals' and businesses' confidence and trust in the way data is used**.

Next Steps: Building and maintaining trust requires ongoing effort. This will continue to be achieved through tailored communications with stakeholders and the public, as well as improving practices across the APS.

Establish a **trusted-access model** for sharing integrated data

Recommendation 9

Establish a linked Commonwealth dataset with a domain for secure access by government and researchers, providing:

- a collection of linked administrative and survey data that links across time and across sectors;
- data linkage conducted by accredited integration authorities (ABS); and
- streamlined access to aggregate and individual data, while maintaining appropriate protection of individuals' records.

Model for data sharing

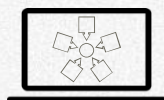
1. Identify key public sector datasets



2. Integrate key public sector datasets



3. Secure access to unlock value



Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP)

The **Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP)** is a collaborative cross-portfolio partnership to improve accessibility to, and maximise use of, public data.

Commonwealth data custodians are working together to establish processes for sharing and safe dissemination of linked data. The MADIP partner agencies include the Department of Social Services, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Australian Taxation Office and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

A 2011 snapshot dataset has been created and is currently being analysed and evaluated by nine partner agencies in-posted to the ABS.

Trusted Access Model

One component of the MADIP is the **Trusted Access Model** for microdata access. This model seeks to enable users outside the ABS, such as researchers, to use the data while maintaining the privacy of individuals represented in the data. A 'privacy-by-design' access approach is used, which aims to build trust in the use of public sector data and balance the need for information with the need to maintain the privacy of individuals.

Data integration and linkage projects

The ABS is working on a number of data linkage projects to produce valuable linked datasets. These projects include the **Expanded Analytical Business Longitudinal Database** and the **Linked Employer-Employee Database**. These enduring, linked datasets combine high value data sources to better support policy development through research and informed discussion.

Next Steps: The ABS has commenced trials of a virtual DataLab with a number of agencies to provide trusted access to microdata. The DataLab is a platform from which to fully implement trusted access in 2016/17.

Improve the dissemination of public sector data

Recommendation 10

Departments and agencies provide input to a searchable online data catalogue that includes details of non-sensitive major datasets (through metadata), to be published on data.gov.au and updated regularly.

Recommendation 11

Develop a framework for high-value datasets in consultation with data users.

Recommendation 12

Publish whole-of-government data standards and principles, drawing on existing (local and international) guidelines.

High-value data made openly available

In February 2016, the Geocoded National Address File (G-NAF) was made openly available on data.gov.au at no cost to end users. The G-NAF is Australia's authoritative address file, containing more than 13 million records for each physical address in Australia.

Next Steps: The transformation of the data.gov.au platform will include improving search and discovery across jurisdictions, agencies and portals, and deliver improvements in data quality and publishing workflow. The Framework for High-Value Data is being developed and work will be undertaken to raise awareness about data standards.

Online data catalogue

Data.gov.au is the whole-of-government data catalogue. PM&C is working with agencies to **assist agencies publish their data and their data catalogues on data.gov.au.**

Some agencies are already working to create and publish data catalogues of their data holdings.

Standards

The *Public Data Policy Statement* commits Australian Government entities to use agreed open standards. A consistent approach to the use of standards is vital to realising the benefits of public data.

Open data standards facilitate data interoperability and accessibility, which further enables government partnerships with public, private and research sectors.

Framework for High-Value Data

PM&C is developing a **Framework for High-Value Data** to assist agencies and data custodians in identifying high value datasets for priority release.

PM&C will consult with data users in the public, private and research sectors before finalising and publishing the framework.

As part of its inquiry into data availability and use, the Productivity Commission has been tasked with identifying the characteristics and provide examples of high-value public sector datasets. This includes datasets that would provide value to the public sector, research sector, academics and the community.

Open Data Toolkit

Toolkit.data.gov.au provides guidance on integrating and publishing data, as well as information on improving published data.



Develop consistent and transparent **user charging** for data

Recommendation 13

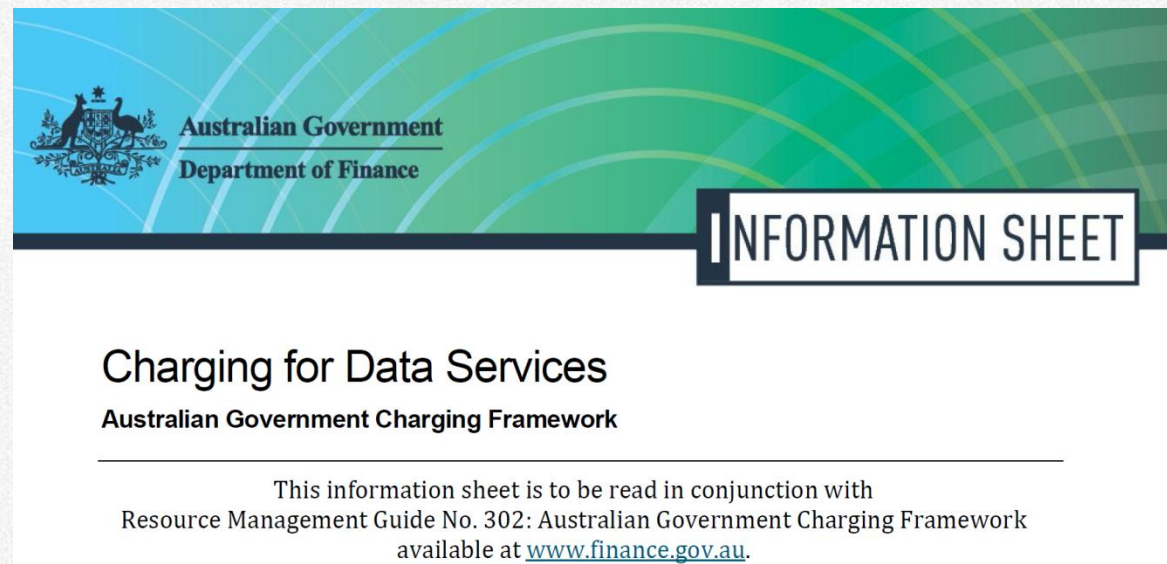
Where Australian Government agencies (non-corporate Commonwealth entities) publish data, it should be at no cost to the user unless there are costs associated with tailoring the data for publication.

Charging for Data Services Information Sheet

On 24 December 2015, the Department of Finance released its **Charging for Data Services Information Sheet** as part of the Australian Government Charging Framework.

The Information Sheet indicates that entities can consider charging for the following data services: specialised data collection; provision of specialised data and data analysis services; facilitating specialised access to data; and data support services.

The Information Sheet also advises that Australian Government entities should be aware of the Public Data Policy Statement's requirement that entities "only charge for specialised data services, and, where possible, publish the resulting data open by default".



Next Steps: This recommendation has been completed.

The legislative environment needs to support the use of data

Recommendation 14

Create a legislative environment that supports the use of data while maintaining privacy.

In the **short-term**:

- staff should be trained on how to interpret privacy and secrecy laws. Guidelines should be published to support this, including guidelines from the ABS given its experience with de-identification protocols.

In the **medium-term**:

- legislation should be reviewed to identify whether privacy and secrecy laws can be streamlined and modernised to enable data to be better used for policy and research, building on a possible Productivity Commission inquiry.

APS Guidance

On 26 February 2016, the Secretaries Data Group agreed that, through the Deputy Secretaries Data Group and Data Champions, all agencies are to be encouraged to examine whether legislation is being interpreted within a contemporary context so that the value of data can be used to its full potential while still maintaining privacy.

ABS Initiatives and Guidance

The ABS has made considerable progress in interpreting legislation in a contemporary context. MADIP is a key exemplar of how the ABS has partnered with other agencies to integrate and share sensitive data in a secure manner that meets partners' needs.

The ABS has also published a series of information sheets on confidentiality which are available on the National Statistical Service website. The information sheets explain and provide advice on a range of issues around confidentialising both aggregate statistics and microdata.

The ABS is also developing further draft *Guidelines for Confidentialising Outputs and Aggregate Statistics* to support Australian Government entities seeking to publish aggregate statistics, whilst protecting the identity and attributes of individuals.

Productivity Commission Inquiry

On 21 March 2016, the Australian Government tasked the Productivity Commission to undertake a public inquiry to investigate ways to improve the availability and use of public and private sector data.

One of the areas that the Productivity Commission is required to examine is legislation or other impediments that unnecessarily restrict the availability of data, including where the costs are substantial. The Productivity Commission is also required to consider options to reduce or remove those impediments.

Legislative Barriers Workshop

PM&C held a Legislative and Other Barriers Workshop on 11 December 2015, where representatives from across the APS met to identify legislative barriers to the release, use and reuse of public data.

Next Steps: The Deputy Secretaries Data Group and Data Champions will consider options for government agencies to interpret legislation within a contemporary context. In addition, the Productivity Commission is due to release its draft report into data availability and use in November 2016.

Promote innovation in public administration

Recommendation 15

Promote innovation in public administration by implementing a suite of mechanisms including:

- Prime Minister's Awards for innovative use of data, providing time and resources to pursue data-driven transformative approaches;
- over time, creating institutional structures with academia, private and public sectors (e.g. leveraging cooperative research centres) to actively support innovation, in line with the UK and NZ;
- shared data laboratory capabilities where innovation can be fostered with minimal outlay; and
- incentivising new ideas for data-driven innovation through grants and/or competitions, with associated funding for trials of new approaches to public administration.



Investment in Data61

As part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda, the Government invested \$75 million in Data61, Australia's largest data innovation group, to:

- use data analytics to connect disparate government datasets and publicly release them on open data platforms;
- improve industry cyber security and develop new cyber security architectures;
- build a Data Research Network that will link businesses with data researchers; and
- deliver data analytics training to businesses.

Promoting innovation

Australian Government entities have been working with the private and research sectors to encourage and incentivise data-driven innovation. For example, PM&C has:



participated in **roundtable discussions** with the University of Melbourne, the Developing the North Geospatial Forum and the NSW Data Sharing Framework Workshop;



provided mentoring at **Innovate@Locate Hackfest** and **GovHack 2016**; and



undertaken **DataStart** to encourage the use of public data by Australian entrepreneurs.

DataStart

DataStart is a public-private partnership to encourage data-driven innovation by Australian startups.

The winning team, **cohortIQ**, is undertaking a nine month incubation to develop and grow their business.

cohortIQ: A health startup that uses hospital and open public data to reduce the estimated 235,000 avoidable hospital admissions each year.

The private sector also chose to award prizes to three other startups:

Mezo Research: A company passionate about ensuring sustainable natural resource management through advanced data analytics.

Gemini3: An online platform that facilitates job sharing to enable greater flexibility, diversity and retention in the workplace.

Complyment: A compliance tool which leverages open government data to assist small business.

Next Steps: In the 2016 policy for *Better and More Accessible Digital Services*, the Government committed to expanding the DataStart program to provide more opportunities for startups to collaborate and partner with government.

3. Additional public data initiatives

Data61 Projects



As part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda, Data61 is delivering the following high-value, transformative data projects:

Project	Description	Lead Agency
Secure API access for the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project	This project will develop software that allows open data platforms to interactively access confidential socio-demographic data from the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project.	Australian Bureau of Statistics
World leading Public Data infrastructure	Data61 will expand the existing data.gov.au and NationalMap infrastructure to maximise the discoverability and reuse of high-value open data by streamlining publishing, improving data quality and enabling better search and discovery. See next slide for further information.	Prime Minister and Cabinet
Open Data Access Infrastructure	This project will develop software and a user interface for use by data researchers to access de-identified social security and family payments at the unit record level and longitudinal data surveys.	Social Services
Synthetic Social Security Payments Dataset	This project will develop algorithms that enable the safe release of a synthetic representation of a dataset covering 15 years of social security and family payments, linked at the individual level.	Social Services
Significantly improving our understanding of Australian firms	This project will improve the Expanded Analytical Business Longitudinal Database, including its scope and accessibility and thereby to provide data for government and private industry to better understand Australian firms and industry.	Industry, Innovation and Science
Regulation as a platform – business tools to reduce cost burdens	This project will develop and maintain an open business regulation platform that acts as an official open database of business regulation, in a format the ICT industry can leverage, to act as a digital platform for next generation business tools and services.	Industry, Innovation and Science

The world's leading public data infrastructure



Australian Government
Department of the
Prime Minister and Cabinet

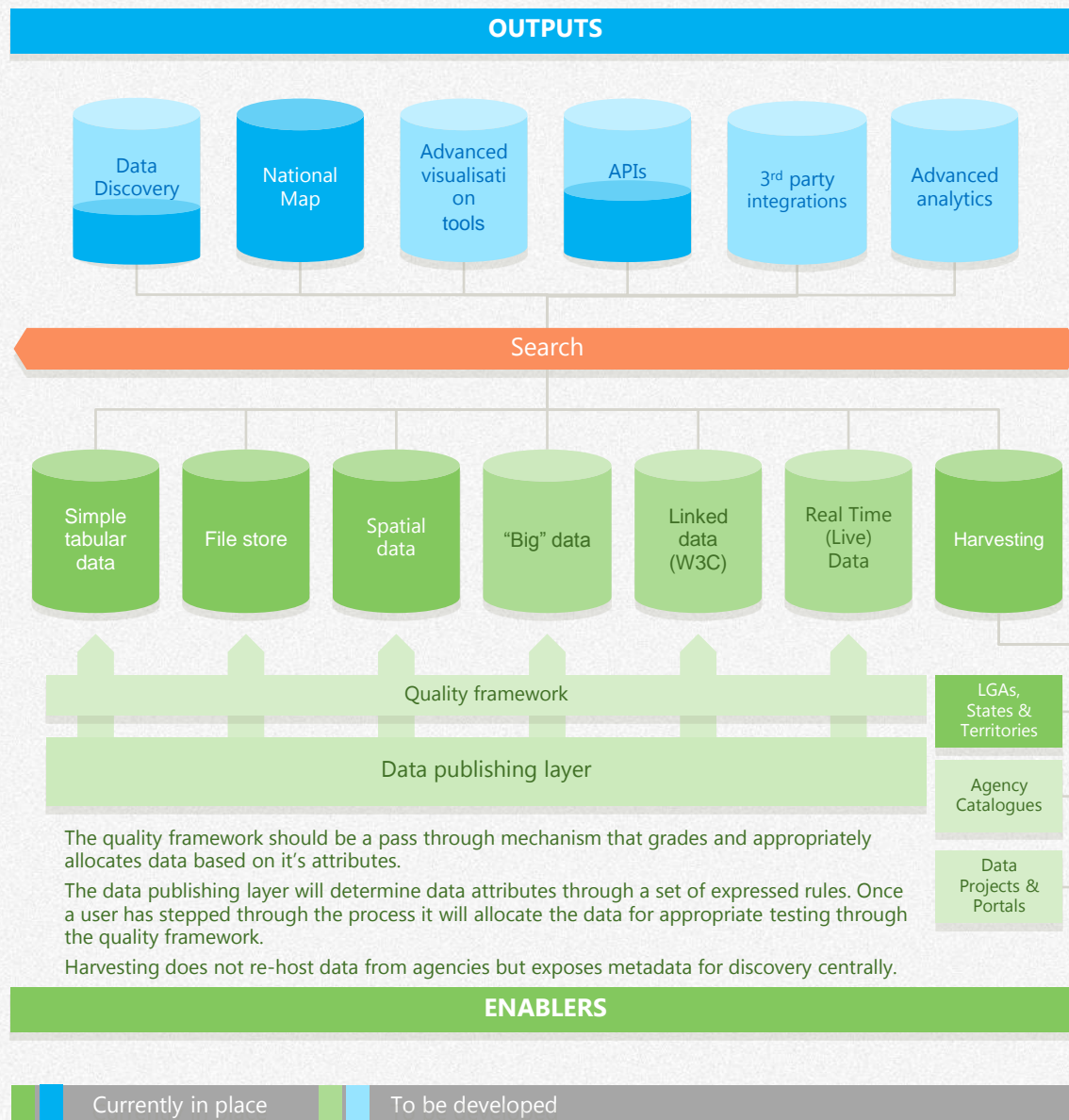


Data61 will expand the existing data.gov.au and NationalMap infrastructure to maximise the discoverability and reuse of high-value open data in government, industry and the community sectors by streamlining publishing, improving data quality and enabling better search and discovery.

The proposed platform is intended to deliver benefits to data publishers and data users at all levels of data maturity and literacy.

The project aims to deliver:

- improved search, discovery and harvesting functionalities across jurisdictions and agencies;
- enhanced data quality, data publishing and API frameworks;
- improved spatial data publishing workflow;
- visual, analytics and NationalMap enhancements; and
- a platform for growth and future capability.



Implementation of the Foundation Spatial Data Framework

The Foundation Spatial Data Framework (FSDF) provides a common reference for the assembly and maintenance of Australian and New Zealand foundation level spatial data in order to serve the widest possible variety of users.

The FSDF groups data in the following ten themes: Geocoded Addressing; Administrative Boundaries; Positioning; Place Names; Land Parcel and Property; Imagery; Transport; Water; Elevation and Depth; and Land Cover.

The FSDF is an ANZLIC sponsored initiative. ANZLIC is Australia and New Zealand's Spatial Information Council which provides leadership in the collection, management and use of spatial information.

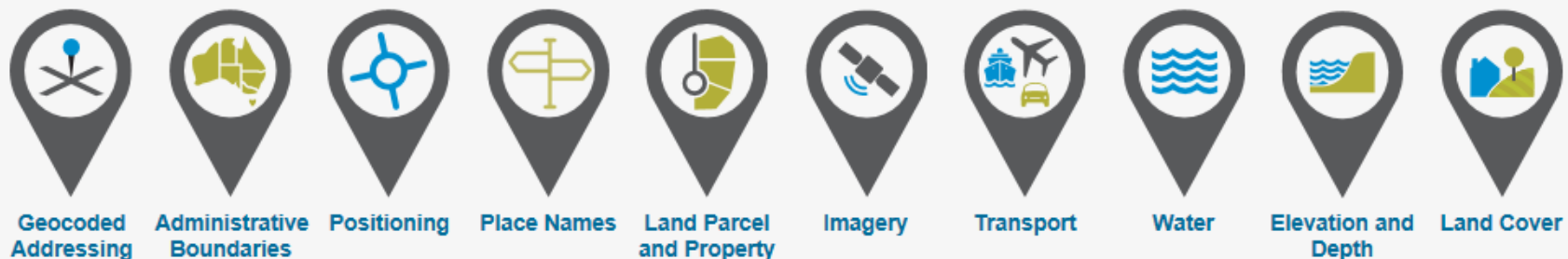


Geoscience Australia is managing implementation of the FSDF and as at June 2016, the **FSDF is being transitioned from a conceptual framework to a single management tool for Australian spatial data.**

The FSDF database now contains the details of over **1,000 state and territory datasets that contribute to the national spatial holdings.**

Information about where and how to access the **spatial data is being collated in a cloud-based system** and a prototype is under development.

This is a **world-leading collaborative initiative** and access to this kind of information in this way is a game changer.



Appendix 1

Cross-agency projects

Implementation of the Cross-Agency Projects



Australian Government

Project	Progress	Lead Agency
Early interventions for troubled families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A literature review was undertaken outlining the scope of complex and disadvantaged populations. Research projects relating to troubled families have been commissioned and are on track for delivery by June 2017, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> testing the utility of the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project through applied research in relation to troubled families; studying intergenerational welfare reliance; and longitudinal tracking of vulnerable and disadvantaged, including refugees, mental health, teenage parents and children leaving the foster care system. A practitioners' guide to using administrative data is due to be released in December 2016. 	Human Services
Better targeting of mental health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Health and the ABS worked together to interrogate linked datasets to identify barriers to accessing mental health services. The Department of Health has prepared a draft report as the basis for ongoing mental health policy and data linkage discussions within government. To overcome data sharing barriers and to facilitate skill sharing, officers from the Department of Health were seconded to the ABS. This arrangement formed a foundation for continuing collaboration on other ABS linked datasets such as the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project. The outcome of this project has been an enhanced understanding of the barriers associated with access to services which has not been available from each of the individual datasets alone, but which now has visibility due to data integration. 	Health
Indigenous early childhood interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM&C is working with the Menzies School of Health and Northern Territory data custodians to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous Australians through better targeting of early childhood interventions. Full ethics approval has been obtained to utilise Northern Territory and Commonwealth linked data to analyse the role of preschool participation on later educational outcomes. PM&C and the Northern Territory Government are working through Commonwealth and NT data integration processes. 	Prime Minister and Cabinet
Better harnessing of environmental data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of the Environment is working to improve environmental decision-making, resource allocation and strategic planning. A review of all environmental data held by the Department of the Environment has been undertaken to identify datasets suitable for release. In March 2016, the <i>Sensitive Ecological Data Management Policy</i> was released to guide decisions on data release for individual species. 	Environment

Implementation of the Cross-Agency Projects cont.



Australian Government

Project	Progress	Lead Agency
Analyse freight company data to help plan road infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and the ABS are working in collaboration to test the suitability of freight vehicle telematics data to identify road infrastructure bottlenecks and inform infrastructure priorities. The stakeholder consultation phase to determine the level of industry support for the project was completed in December 2015 and a report summarising the key outcomes from this phase was released in December 2015. Phase 2 of the project commenced in February 2016, with a successful workshop hosted by Woolworths and the collection of sample data covering May 2016 from a selection of freight companies. This data is being used to develop and test new methodologies to determine the suitability of the data to achieve the desired project outcomes. This phase will be completed in December 2016. 	Infrastructure and Regional Development
Analyse productivity in firms and evaluate policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A prototype Linked Employee-Employer data file has been created. The prototype links 2011-12 personal income taxation data at the employee level and integrates this data with business characteristics (e.g. industry and turnover) from the Expanded Analytical Business Longitudinal Database (EABLD). A number of policy papers have been produced that were informed by EABLD analysis, including on the dynamics of employment in Australia, which revealed that there is a disproportionate contribution of young firms to employment growth. Analysis of EABLD data presented in the 2015 <i>Australian Innovation System Report</i> showed a disproportionate contribution of innovative firms to overall growth in sales (including internet sales) and employment. Feedback from use of the EABLD has been provided to the ABS to inform future EABLD development. Two SME Confidentialised Unit Record Files using the EABLD as a data source were released on 19 and 20 July. These Confidentialised Unit Record Files are for two longitudinal panels covering the periods 2008-09 to 2012-13 and 2009-10 to 2013-14 respectively. 	Industry, Innovation and Science
An online market research tool for SMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ABS and Data61 have developed a prototype online tool, PlaceSME, to make location-based market data readily available to small and medium businesses. It has been demonstrated at high levels across the APS and other groups generating enthusiasm for future development and access to the product. The tool uses public data (Census and Business Register), private sector data (Google and Twitter) and local government data. ABS has allocated resources in 2016-17 to enhance PlaceSME. A beta release to a specific test audience is scheduled for December 2016. 	Australian Bureau of Statistics

