

# Establishment of team-based Data Stewards in a large New Zealand research institute

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## ABSTRACT

Plant & Food Research is one of seven corporatised Crown entities charged with conducting scientific research in New Zealand. With over 700 science staff (scientists, research associates and technicians), 14 locations across NZ, a diverse research portfolio with increasing collaborations and greater amounts of data being generated every year, management of scientific data is becoming increasingly challenging.

As part of a number of solutions to try to address these challenges, Plant & Food Research has recently established the role of Data Steward in science teams across the organisation for the purpose of developing a stronger culture of FAIR data management [1] and reproducible research. Data Stewards work within teams to plan for management of their data and maintain a high-level overview of the data management solutions that exist within the company.

One new organisational position, of Science Data Facilitator, was created and each of the 76 science teams was allocated 0.05 FTE of time (about 10 days per year) to allow an existing team member to attend training and take on the role of Data Steward. Other existing roles within the organisation provide additional support to the Data Stewards, including Application Stewards and Information Management Analysts. In addition, we have created a Science Data Types Catalogue which, over time, will be populated with good practice guidelines for management of the various data types that are generated at Plant & Food; and we are in the process of establishing the use of Data Management Plans for all internally and commercially funded projects.

In this talk I will describe how the Data Steward role was introduced to the organisation through a two year project, the Data Steward training course that was developed, current rewards and challenges, and how we intend to continue to support the large community of Data Stewards at Plant & Food.

## REFERENCES

1. Wilkinson MD, et al 2016. The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship. Scientific Data 3: 160018.