

# Building a foundation of trust: benefits of aligning Research Data Management and Research Integrity

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# Differing views of Research Data Management

- Management of research data is complex
  - **Institutional** objectives include
    - compliance
    - governance
    - storage, including retention/deletion/archiving
    - security
    - reporting
    - building a culture of trust around data
  - **Researchers'** objectives include
    - IP generation
    - collaborating
    - publishing
    - sharing/accessing
    - contributing to corpus of knowledge



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# Not a universal approach

## 1. eResearch depts/units

- Typically in Research Office, or IT
- PVCRI led
- Library functions are often separate

## 2. Different teams in different depts

- Library
- Research Office
- IT

### *Both approaches tend towards silos*

- Vertically separated functions, duties, responsibilities



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# Our approach at Sydney – Research Data Governance team

- **1. Re-frame RDM focus**
  - change focus of RDM team to Research Data Governance
  - maintain RDM functions, build new Governance capability
  - move into Research Integrity and Ethics dept
  - “data underpins integrity – integrity underpins data”
  
- **2. Establish a Research Data Advisory Group**
  - include major stakeholders (chaired by PVCR, reporting to DVCR)
  - academic and professional staff across all faculties, depts
  - forum to discuss initiatives, identify gaps, develop strategy
  - lead culture change within research and admin communities

# 1. Re-frame RDM focus



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# Re-framing RDM focus – why Research Integrity?

“The *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018* (the 2018 Code) establishes a framework for responsible research conduct that provides a foundation for high-quality research, credibility and community trust in the research endeavour.”

- Authorship
- Management of Data and Information in Research
- Peer Review
- Disclosure of Interests and Management of Conflicts of Interest
- Research Supervision
- Collaborative Research
- Publication and Dissemination of Research
- Research Integrity Advisors



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# Aims of the Research Code

“The Code represents the core behaviours that characterise the responsible conduct of research”

## Principles

Honesty  
Rigour  
Transparency  
Fairness  
Respect  
Recognition  
Accountability  
Promotion

## Expectations: individual researchers and institutions

High quality research  
Credibility (=accountability)  
Community trust

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## Examples of breaches of the Research Code (ARC Research Integrity Policy 2023) involving research data

- Fabrication, falsification, misrepresentation of research data or source material
- Failure to appropriately maintain research records
- Inappropriate destruction of research data and/or associated records, source material
- Inappropriate disclosure or access of research data, associated records, source material
  
- Supervision
- Authorship
- Peer review
- Conflicts of interest
- Plagiarism
- Not meeting required research standards (e.g. ethics, licences, use of funds, breach concealment)

# 'Research with integrity' culture

*roof*  
*(supported)*

Reproducible research  
Data sharing FAIR  
Sensitive data mgmt.  
Privacy  
Collaborations  
Data security  
IP protection

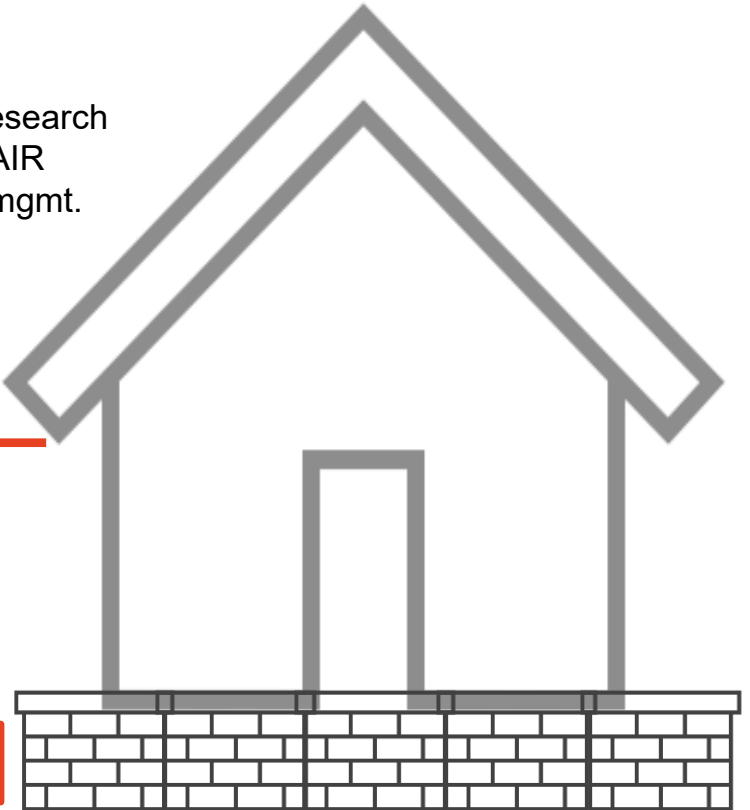
*walls*  
*(support)*

training  
support  
policies  
infrastructure, systems  
governance processes

*foundations*  
*(underpin)*

accountability + trust + quality

Research integrity values



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## Practical approach - current

The Research Data Governance team works closely with Research Integrity and Ethics teams (in same dept), and other research support teams

- **1. Aligned/combined training, outreach, resources for researchers**
  - Presentations, orientations, training/information sessions
  - Training materials (e.g. online modules)
  - Guidelines for Generative-AI
- **2. Integrated support functions between teams**
  - Complex issues that involve data, ethics, integrity
  - Design and commissioning of new Ethics and Research Admin systems
- **3. Liaison / training / resources with**
  - HRECs (Human Research Ethics Committees)
  - RIAs (Research Integrity Advisors)

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## Practical approach - future

Research integrity, research data governance and management **values & processes** embedded in:

- Design and implementation of new governance processes
  - 5 Safes, new research partnerships
- Response to emerging technologies
  - Generative-AI
- Commissioning of new systems/tools
- Policy revision



## 2. Establishing a Research Data Advisory Group



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# Introducing RDAG – Research Data Advisory Group

*The purpose of the Research Data Advisory Group is to develop and determine long-term strategies to optimally manage the university's research data assets (the digital inputs and outputs from all research projects)*

- Will identify new processes, roles and systems required to improve the university's governance and oversight of research data
- Will align with strategic plan, divisional initiatives
- Comprises senior academic and professional staff representatives, led by PVC
- RDAG will consult broadly, large pool of stakeholders

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## RDAG focus areas



### **Data accessibility**

Sharing and publication of research data



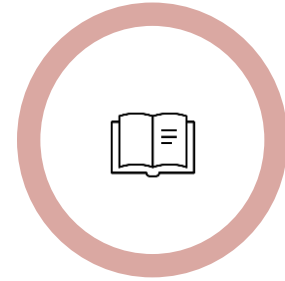
### **Tools and platforms for RDM**

Identify, advise on systems for data collection, analysis, storage, interoperability



### **Risk management**

Identify & mitigate/ address risks posed by poor RDM e.g. around emerging technology, security



### **Regulatory changes**

Governance and compliance requirements

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## RDAG is WIP

- Early days
  - Generative-AI guidelines, data strategy development, research admin systems refresh
- Resourcing is uncertain
- Aspirational, and cultural
  - Break down silos, open up conversations
  - RI and RDM values are embedded in processes, systems, culture
    - 'Privacy by design'
    - 'Research Integrity by design'
    - 'Data by design'
- Will report back next year



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