

# **DECODING RESEARCH DATA GOVERNANCE AT MONASH UNIVERSITY**

## **The journey of operationalising the DATA Scheme**

**Komathy Padmanabhan, Director Digital Research & Data Strategy**  
**Angeletta Leggio, Senior Research Data Coordinator**  
**Kristol Pyke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Strategy and Delivery Branch - Office of the National  
Data Commissioner (ONDC)**



**MONASH UNIVERSITY** recognises that its Australian campuses are located on the unceded lands of the people of the Kulin Nations, and pays its respects to their Elders, past and present.





Australian Government  
Office of the National Data Commissioner

**ONDC**

# The DATA Scheme

## eResearch Australasia 2024


**Kristol Pyke**  
**a/g Assistant Secretary**

October 2024


# Unlocking the value of data


The Productivity Commission's 2017 public enquiry into *Data availability and use* found several key barriers to the sharing of public sector data. The Data Availability and Transparency Act was established in response and is further supported by the Australian Government's Data and Digital Strategy sets the vision for delivering simple, secure and connected public services through world class data and digital capabilities.


## Barriers to sharing public sector data:

 Complex and ad hoc data sharing and release arrangements


 Legislative barriers and complexity


 Culture of caution


 Concerns about personal information and lack of trust


 Lack of standardisation and transparency


## How the DATA Scheme overcomes these barriers:

 Safe, consistent and streamlined data sharing


 Legislative override provisions


 Improving data capability and promoting culture of best practice

 Transparent and trusted


 Standardised and transparent


## World class data and digital capabilities

 Delivering for all people and business

 Simple and seamless services

 Government for the future

 Trusted and Secure

 Data and digital foundations

# Data Availability and Transparency Act Scheme



## Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022

Provides a legislative authorisation and override with appropriate safeguards.



National Data Commissioner



National Data Advisory Council

## DATA Scheme Safeguards

### Data Sharing Purposes

Sharing of Australian Government data must be in the public interest, and for one of three purposes:

- government service delivery
- informing government policy and programs
- research and development.

Data cannot be shared for the purpose of enforcement or compliance.

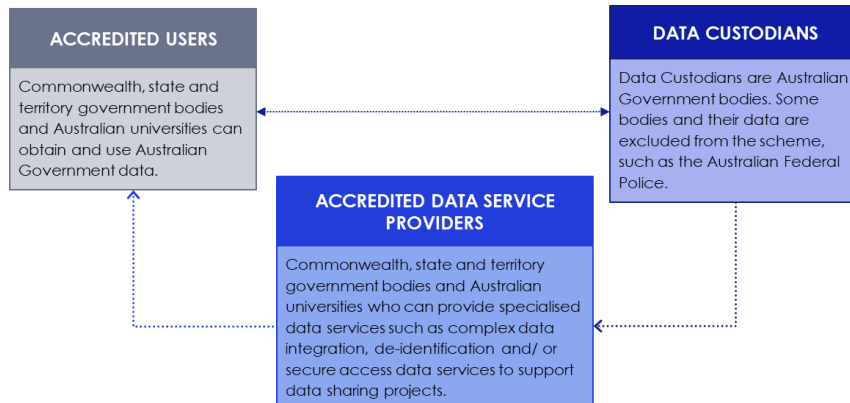
### Accreditation

- Commonwealth, state and territory government bodies and Australian universities can be an Accredited User or Accredited Data Service Provider.
- The Minister or National Data Commissioner may grant accreditation.

### Data Requests

- Data Custodians have no duty to share but must provide reasons to Accredited Users if refusing a data sharing request.

## DATA Scheme Operation



### Data Sharing Principles

- Data Sharing Principles must be applied to all data sharing.
- The Principles manage data sharing risk by applying controls on the project, people, setting, data and output.

### Privacy Protections

- The DATA Scheme works with the *Privacy Act 1988* to protect personal information.
- The privacy protections minimise the sharing of personal information, prohibit the re-identification and storage of data or access of personal information outside Australia.
- Express consent is always required to share biometric data.

## DATA Scheme Safeguards

### Regulation and Compliance

- National Data Commissioner handles complaints, conducts monitoring and assessment activities and investigations.
- National Data Commissioner can issue directions and seek civil and/or criminal penalties.

### Transparency and Reporting

National Data Commissioner must:

- Keep public registers of Data Sharing Agreements, Accredited Users and Accredited Data Service Providers.
- Prepare an Annual Report on participation and operation of the DATA Scheme.

### Data Sharing Agreements

- Arrangements, including the application of the data sharing principles, must be documented in a Data Sharing Agreement.
- Agreements that meet scheme requirements must be registered by the National Data Commissioner to take effect.



### Data Discovery

Supporting agencies to develop data inventories and build an Australian Government Data Catalogue to help users find data



### Dataplace

A digital platform for scheme participants and others to manage data requests and support administration of the DATA Scheme

# Why use the DATA Scheme?

The purpose for sharing data must be in the **public interest**



Being an accredited entity shows you are **trusted** to receive data



Custodians aren't obliged to share, but must provide **reasons** for not sharing



The Scheme applies **best practice** data sharing principles



It works alongside the *Privacy Act 1988* to **protect** personal information



A public register of all data sharing activities provides greater **transparency**



Our **regulatory practice** support complaints, monitoring, assessment and education



# Why use the platforms supporting the Scheme?

The Australian Government Data Catalogue makes it easier to **find** data



Once found, Dataplace makes it easy to **request** data



Have greater **visibility** over your organisations data sharing requests and agreements



**Manage** who in your organisation can request data



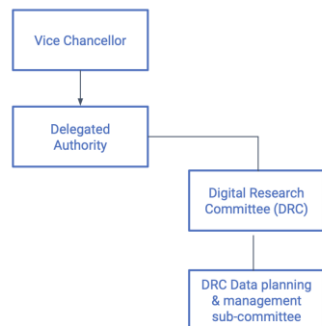
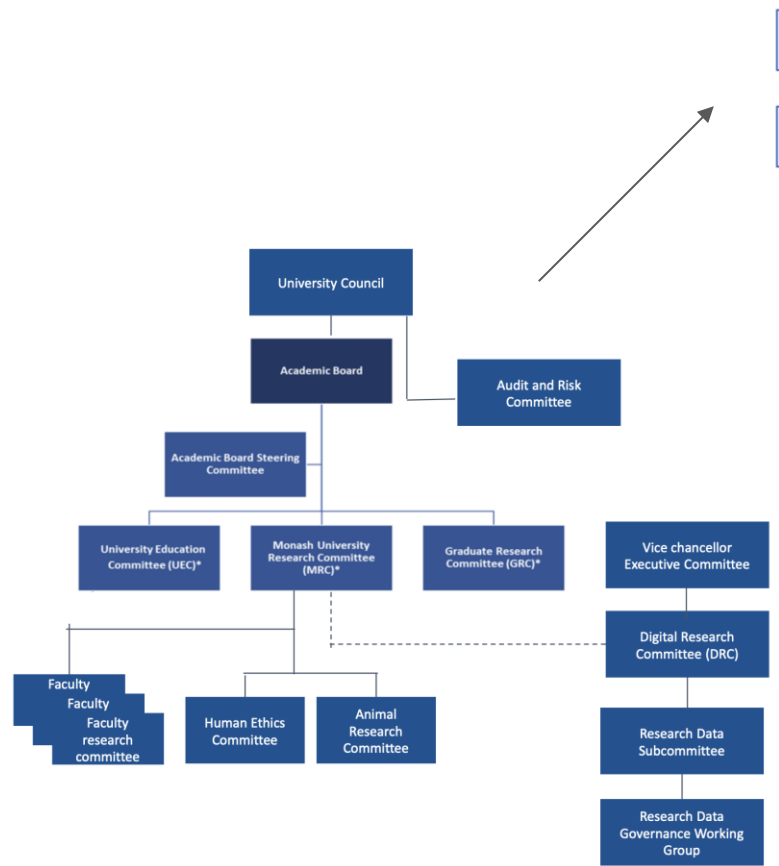
**Develop** and **manage** data sharing agreements with best practice principles built-in



Easily **report** on your data sharing activities



# Untangling data from myriad of governance



## Faculty Research Committees

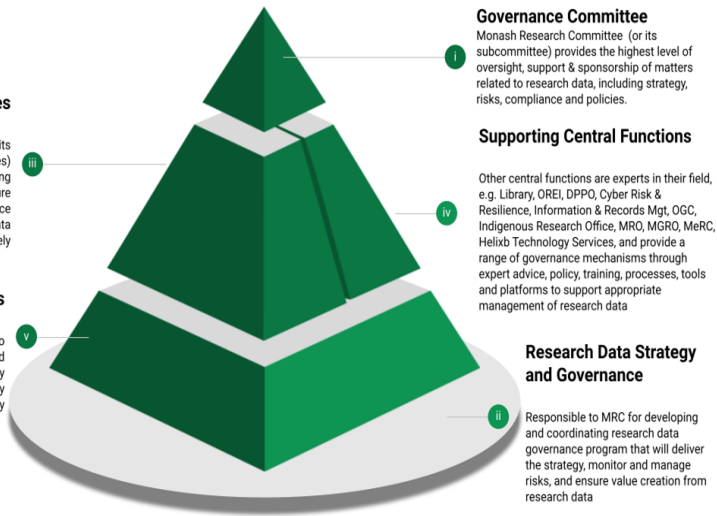
Faculty Research Committees (or its delegates such as ADRs, School Committees) are responsible for identifying and managing Faculty/ School level risk and ensure appropriate support and controls are in place for researchers to manage their data appropriately

iii

## Researchers

Researchers are primarily responsible to ensure that their research data is managed appropriately in line with all obligations by effectively utilising the capabilities provided by the University

v



# An opportunity seized..



1

## Research Data Catalogue

Where is the Research Data and is it being handled appropriately?

## CoRDS

2

Whose Research Data is on this system/ service?

### Catalogue of Research Data Systems/ Services (CoRDS)

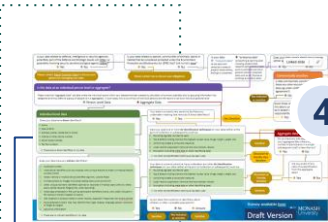
#	System Name	Form	Provider	Description
000000	RDS: Market	Digital	MaRC	Market is a storage service that leverages object storage for storage. Metadata is collected via the Data Vault.
000000	RDS: Vault	Digital	MaRC	Vault is a storage service that leverages object storage for storage. Metadata is collected via the Data Vault.
000000	RDS: MURDA	Digital	MaRC	MURDA is a storage service that leverages object storage for storage. Metadata is collected via the Data Vault.
000000	RDS: Object	Digital	MaRC	Object is a storage service that leverages object storage for storage. Metadata is collected via the Data Vault.
000000	RDS: Compute	Digital	MaRC	Compute is a storage service that leverages object storage for storage. Metadata is collected via the Data Vault.
000000	M3 HPC	Digital	MaRC	M3 HPC is a storage service that leverages object storage for storage. Metadata is collected via the Data Vault.
000000	MonARCH HPC	Digital	MaRC	MonARCH HPC is a storage service that leverages object storage for storage. Metadata is collected via the Data Vault.
000000	Store Monash (MyTardis)	Digital	MaRC	Store Monash (MyTardis) is a storage service that leverages object storage for storage. Metadata is collected via the Data Vault.
000000	MBI-XNAT	Digital	MBI	MBI-XNAT is a storage service that leverages object storage for storage. Metadata is collected via the Data Vault.
000000	MaRC-XNAT	Digital	MaRC	MaRC-XNAT is a storage service that leverages object storage for storage. Metadata is collected via the Data Vault.
000000	Nectar	Digital	MaRC	Nectar is a storage service that leverages object storage for storage. Metadata is collected via the Data Vault.



3

## Plan for Research Data

Where is your Research Data?



4

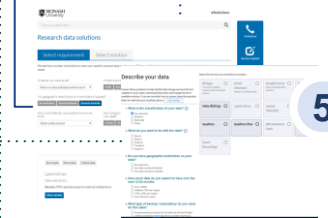
## Research Data Classification Tool

What Classification is your Research Data?

5

## Research Data Solutions

What are the solutions available for my Research Data, given my needs?



6

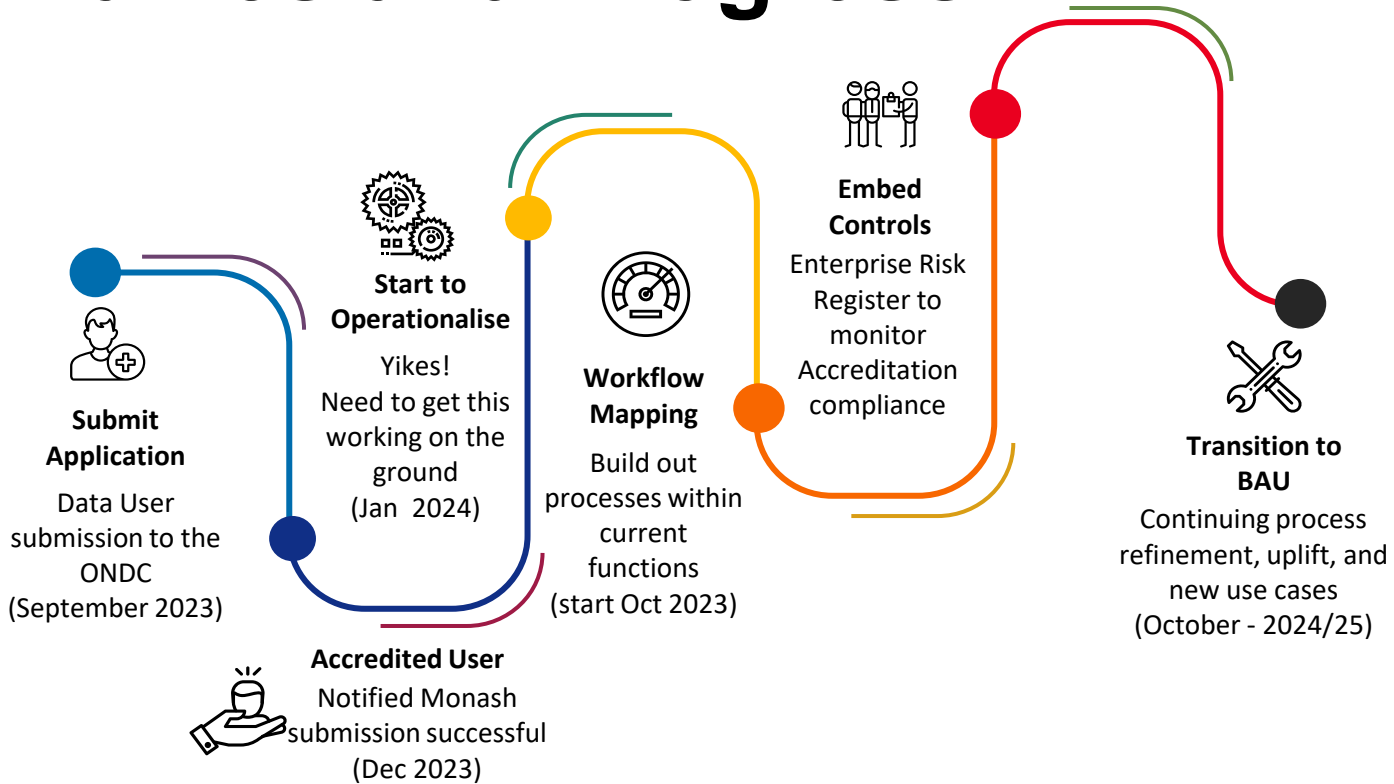
## Comms Strategy

Development of PVC-RI intranet site for research data governance

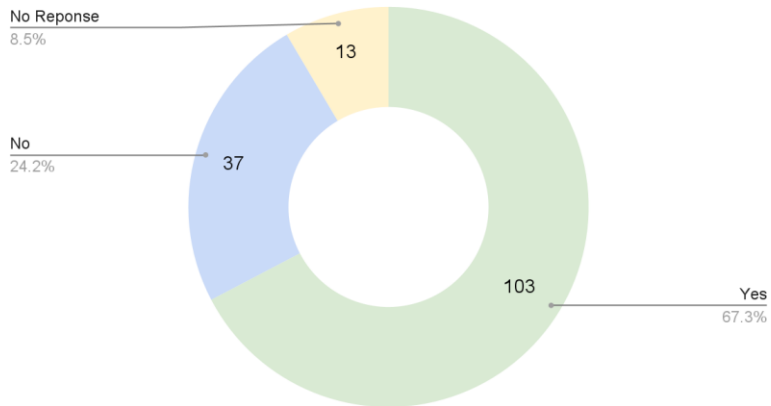




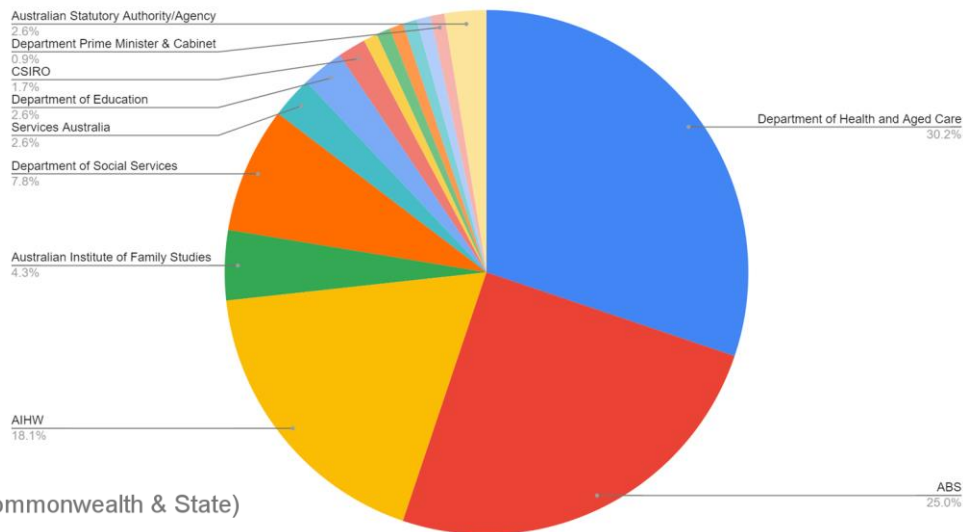
# Timeframes and Progress



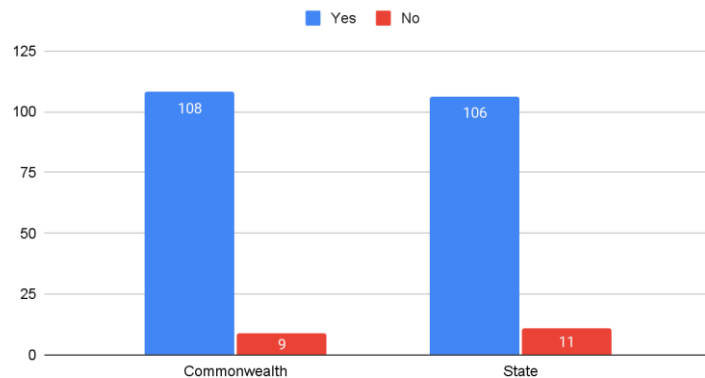
## Used Commonwealth/State Government Data



## Requested Commonwealth Government Data



## Want Access to Government Data (Commonwealth & State)



# Operational Reality

## Processes

1



Communications Plan  
Worked With What We Knew  
Identified Stakeholders  
Collaboration with the ONDC

Collaboration

2



Decentralised Operations  
Internal & DATA Scheme  
Workflow Mapping  
Processes and Documentation

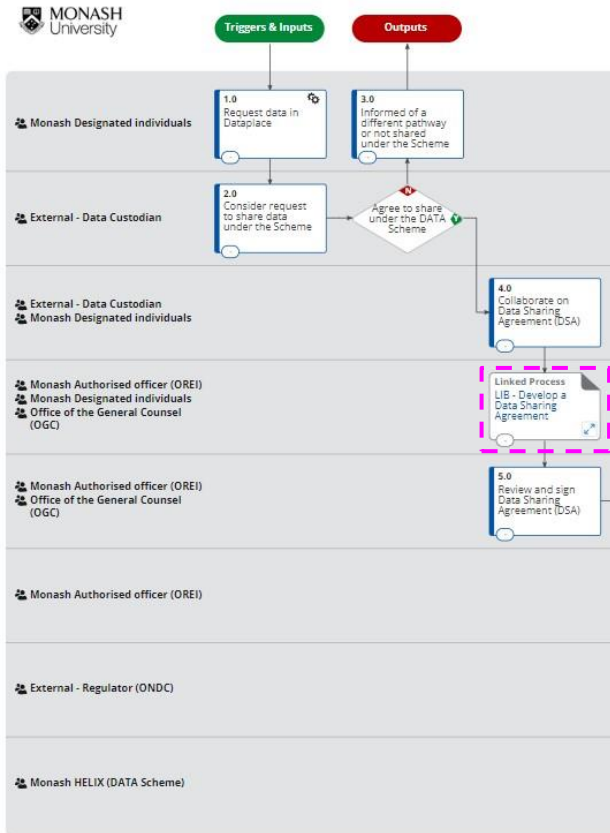
3



Roles & Responsibilities  
Controls for Compliance  
Establish Secure Environment  
Training Audit & Gap Analysis

Risk & Governance

# Nintex Promapp Workflow & Processes



## Procedure

### 1.0 Request data in Dataplace

Monash Designated individuals

- > **NOTE** Monitoring requests
- > **NOTE** Acknowledgement of Request
- > **NOTE** Designated individuals of the DATA Scheme

a After determining data not openly available submit request in Dataplace

 **WEB LINK** Dataplace portal

 **GoogleMail**

Outputs

### 2.0 Consider request to share data under the Scheme

External - Data Custodian

- a Consider request by Data Custodian (Commonwealth Agency) to determine if data will be shared in principle.
- b Notify Requestor (Monash designated individuals) via Dataplace of in principle agreement to share data.
  - > **NOTE** Data custodian may decide to share data via another pathway and not under the DATA Scheme.

### ◆ Agree to share under the DATA Scheme

External - Data Custodian

- YES ..... Continue
- NO ..... **NEXT ACTIVITY**

### 3.0 Informed of a different pathway or not shared under the Scheme

Monash Designated individuals

- a Data custodian responds via Dataplace that data won't be shared under the DATA Scheme.
  - > **NOTE** Response in Dataplace

# Learnings and Benefits



- Strong engagement and support across Monash
- Improved governance for research data; Roles & R's
- Scheme new for the ONDC and data custodians
- Requests led to engagement with data custodians
- Practical insights; use cases to understand data custodian processes (DoHAC, AIHW, ABS)

# DATA Scheme Challenges

In April 2024, the ONDC established a working group with representatives from Commonwealth and state government agencies to identify and address issues impeding uptake of the DATA Scheme.

<b>Overarching</b>	The role and value proposition of the DATA Scheme is unclear
<b>Scope</b>	There are restrictions on direct participation for certain entities
<b>Accreditation</b>	The value of accreditation is not consistently recognised Accreditation process requires great time & effort, and the basis for assessment is not understood
<b>State and Territory data sharing</b>	States and territories do not have equivalence with their Commonwealth counterparts in Scheme projects, which can impede two-way data sharing and parity in joint data sharing projects
<b>Projects</b>	The data sharing project boundary can be limiting
<b>Data sharing agreements</b>	Data sharing agreements are long complex
<b>Exits and outputs</b>	Managing the exit of output from the Scheme is unclear
<b>Interaction with other legislation</b>	Lack of clarity on how the DAT Act override interacts with other secrecy provisions and privacy legislation
<b>Systems</b>	There are already existing systems and processes in place for data sharing requests, leading to underutilisation of Dataplace
<b>Definitions</b>	DAT Act terms and definitions do not align well with current data sharing practices and their use in other legislation

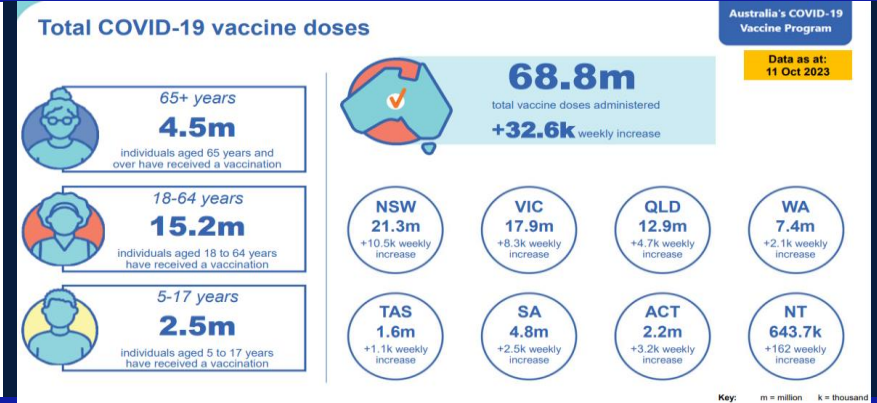


# DATA Scheme Opportunities – better outcomes

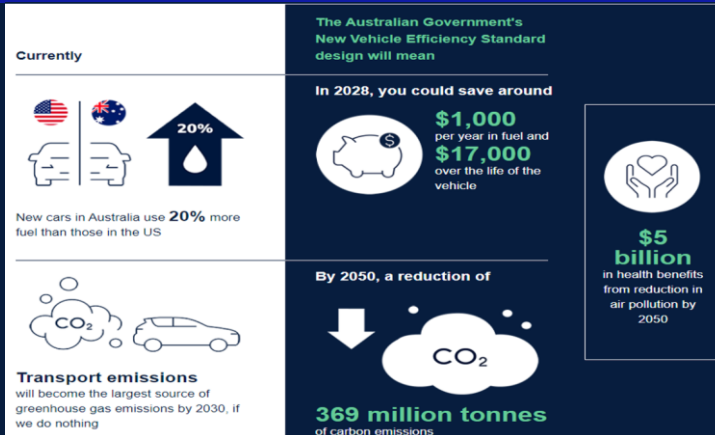
## Health Research

- Australian Cancer Dataset – breast cancer research
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme data – cancer research
- Medicare Benefits Schedule data – behavioural therapy research
- Medicare Consumer Directory– disability outcomes
- National Death Registrations – disability outcomes
- Data Over Multiple Individual Occurrence (DOMINO) – disability outcomes

## COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout



## New Vehicle Efficiency Scheme



## JobKeeper Scheme

Utilising existing Australian Taxation Office data through:

- Single Touch Payroll (STP)
- Business activity statements (BAS)

The government established the JobKeeper stimulus payment to assist Australian individuals and business owners significantly impacted by COVID-19.

# The National Disability Data Asset (NDDA)

NDDA was announced on 9 June 2023 by the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Social Services and the Hon Bill Shorten MP, Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

## What?

- Enduring national data asset
- Safely brings together linked, de-identified information
- From Commonwealth, state and territory governments
- Mostly information about people



## Why?

- Better understanding of needs and outcomes
- Better support for people with disabilities, their carers, and the community



## How?

- The Australian National Data Integration Infrastructure (ANDII)

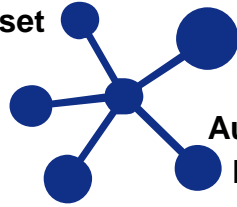


## Data Sharing

- 4 Data Sharing Agreements (DSAs) have been registered through the DATA Scheme
  - View the DSAs on our website: <https://www.datacommissioner.gov.au/data-sharing-agreement-register>

# Current & Future Developments

**National Disability  
Data Asset**



**Australian National  
Data Integration  
Infrastructure**



**Scheme Review**



**National Data Catalogue**

# Accredited Entities

Australian Government

## Australian Government Agency

-  Attorney-General's Department
-  Australian Bureau of Statistics
-  Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare
-  Australian Institute of Family Studies
-  Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
-  Australian Securities and Investments Commission
-  Department of Education
-  Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
-  Department of Finance
-  Department of Health and Aged Care
-  Department of Industry, Science and Resources
-  Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
-  Department of Social Services
-  Department of the Treasury
-  National Disability Insurance Agency
-  Productivity Commission




## State or Territory Government Agency

-  ACT Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
-  Department of Health WA
-  NSW Department of Customer Service
-  NSW Health Administration Corporation
-  NSW Ministry of Health
-  Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
-  Queensland Health
-  Queensland Treasury
-  SA Department of Treasury and Finance
-  Victorian Department of Health
-  Western Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet

## Australian University

-  Monash University
-  The University of Adelaide
-  The University of Melbourne
-  The University of New South Wales
-  The University of Queensland
-  The University of Sydney
-  The University of Western Australia

## Key

-  Accredited Data User Only
-  Accredited Data Service Provider Only
-  Accredited as a data user and a data service provider

# Acknowledgements

Eva Fisch, Dianne Brown, Gary Pearce, Susie Phillips, Patrick Splawa-Neyman, Nicholas McPhee, David Powell, Mat Ishac, Andrew Harrison, Simon Barrett, Paul Marett, Megan Fincher, John-Paul Fenwick, Zishi Wang, Alex Lakani, DATA Accreditation Scheme Committee & Research Data Governance Working Group members

**Contact: [datascheme@monash.edu](mailto:datascheme@monash.edu)**

