



Statistical data integration: an update



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A quick refresher: the journey so far

- High level principles & governance and institutional arrangements for statistical integration involving Commonwealth data – endorsed by Portfolio Secretaries in 2010
- An integrating authority (IA) must be nominated for every integration project involving Commonwealth data
- Integrating authorities handling high risk projects must be accredited
- Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board - established March 2011
- Interim accreditation scheme for Integrating Authorities - published August 2011



A quick refresher: the journey so far

Material available on [nss.gov.au\dataintegration](https://nss.gov.au/dataintegration)

- Details of what's in scope of the arrangements
- Advice on how to determine the risk level of a project
- Documents outlining the roles and responsibilities of each of the three key players (integrating authorities, data custodians and data users)
- Legal framework for integrating authorities (project level requirements)
- Details of how to apply for accreditation against the interim arrangements
- Summarised version of ABS application for accreditation (other summarised applications will follow as agencies are accredited)
- Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board Terms of Reference
- Confidentiality information series, Glossary, FAQ



Planned for 2012

- Several agencies are expected to be accredited by the end of the year
- An online tool for integrating authorities to use to register Commonwealth data integration projects will be available (*December 2012*)
- Best practice guidelines are being developed (some elements have already been released, including a confidentiality series)
- An education and training strategy will be developed to support the guidelines.



Planned for 2012: Secretaries Board

Planning to take a paper to the Secretaries Board soon outlining the proposed legal and policy framework, i.e.:

- Data custodians will assess whether an integrating authority is authorised (by consent or by legislation) to use their identifiable data
- Integrating authorities undertaking high risk projects must be subject to privacy legislation (Commonwealth or state/territory)
- It must be possible to apply criminal penalties to an individual in the event of a breach of identifiable information
- Option of applying organisational sanctions to integrating authorities in the event of a breach, as an extra protection



Outcomes from the April meeting of the Oversight Board

- ABS granted interim accreditation
- decision that interim accreditation system not mature enough to handle private sector
- options for state government bodies seeking accreditation
- options to extend the arrangements beyond Commonwealth and state governments
- Defining Commonwealth data



Other stakeholder views

International Data Linkage Conference was held in May 2012.
Key messages from the conference included issues around:

Data access

- high level of frustration from researchers and consumer representatives that research is being deferred due to access issues
- a view that data is a public asset and should be treated accordingly.

Privacy issues

- public is becoming more aware of issues with data security & information privacy
- separation principle is widely used
- UK example – thousands of breaches by UK government employees

Consumer/public participation

- consumers want a voice in Australian data linkage governance processes.



Maximising use of administrative data through ABS Census Data Enhancement

Approved linking projects

Indigenous Mortality Project
2011 5% Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset
2016 Group Variable on the 5% SLCD

Approved quality/benchmark studies

Census Dress Rehearsal to Census
Census to DIAC Settlements
Census to Education data (AEDI, NAPLAN, Student Enrolments)
Census to WA enhanced mortality dataset

For further information see: ABS 2062.0 – Census Data Enhancement Project: An Update, Oct 2010



Other ABS data integration projects

- *The Australian Longitudinal Learning Database (ALLD) feasibility studies*
- *DIISRTE pilot study of business tax concessions*
- *Migrants Settlement Database to Education records linkage*
- *Migrants Settlement database to Personal Income Tax (PIT) data linkage*
- *National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection to the Commonwealth Childcare Management System*