

## **ACARA Submission to the Statutory Review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022**

### **1 Has the operation of the DAT Act advanced its objects?**

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There has only been one request for ACARA data through the DAT Scheme which was also submitted through our Data Request Program. Therefore, we cannot observe a difference in how our data is being accessed from the current process via the Data Access Program.

### **2 Does the DAT Act improve information flows between public sector bodies and accredited entities?**

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The one request for ACARA data through the DAT Scheme was not from a public sector agency nor university, and therefore we cannot make this claim. ACARA's Data Request Program has however been supplying data to all third parties for nearly 12 years. This mature process is able to efficiently and effectively deliver data to both the public and private sectors sometimes within one hour of the request being made. The Data Access Program can be tailored to ACARA's available data, providing users with a more efficient and customised solution than the DAT Scheme as a generic one-stop shop could supply, while still addressing ACARA's accountabilities.

### **3 How does the DAT Act add value in the wider data sharing context?**

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As an additional mechanism through which public sector bodies and accredited entities can request data, the ability to integrate requests into ACARA's enquiry system is potentially a useful tool. However, this has yet to be implemented and as there has only been one request (to date), this has not been a priority.

### **4 What changes could be made to the DAT Act or the DATA Scheme to make it more effective in facilitating access to, sharing and use of public sector data?**

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The DAT Scheme provides access to public sector data for public sector bodies and accredited entities (Commonwealth, state and territory government bodies, and Australian universities). However, ACARA's Data Request Program also provides data to many third parties beyond this limited list. Local Governments, Commercial entities, Not-for-profit agencies and other types of organisations also make up ACARA's customer set who would otherwise not be able to access the DAT Scheme. As such, ACARA's charter and direction from Education Ministers has always been to provide access to data for all third parties.

The review could consider the scope of third parties not eligible to apply for data through the DAT Scheme in order to make this service relevant to the general public.

## **5 Should the DAT Act be allowed to sunset?**

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Whilst the DAT Act will have no impact on ACARA's delivery, it is laudable that a generic facility to provide access to government data exists and for other government data this is surely beneficial.