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

From: Dina Neiger, on behalf of the Social Research Centre (SRC)

Date: 27 May 2025

Introduction

The Social Research Centre (SRC) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the statutory review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022 (DAT Act). SRC is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Australian National University (ANU), and as such a Commonwealth entity. SRC specialises in high-quality social research and data collection services for various Commonwealth agencies.

Alignment with the DAT Act Objectives

The DAT Act aims to enhance public sector data availability and transparency, facilitating controlled data sharing to inform government policies and programs. SRC's work aligns with these objectives by providing robust data collection and analysis services that support evidence-based policymaking.

Current Exclusion from the DATA Scheme

Despite SRC's Commonwealth ownership and its significant role in public sector data activities, it is currently excluded from the Data Availability and Transparency (DATA) Scheme due to its classification as a private entity. This exclusion limits SRC's ability to participate fully in data sharing initiatives under the DAT Act.

Submission

To align the DATA Scheme more closely with its intended objectives, we submit that accreditation eligibility be expanded to include Commonwealth-owned entities such as SRC. This expansion would:

- **Enhance Data Sharing:** Facilitate more efficient and secure data sharing between Commonwealth entities and their subsidiaries.
- **Promote Data Reuse:** Enable entities like SRC to access and utilise public sector data more effectively, leading to richer analyses and insights for the Commonwealth.
- **Strengthen Evidence-Based Policy:** Support the development of Commonwealth policies and programs grounded in comprehensive and high-quality data.

In summary

Incorporating Commonwealth-owned entities like the Social Research Centre into the DATA Scheme's accreditation framework is a logical and necessary step towards achieving the Act's goals of improved data availability, sharing, and transparency. Such inclusion

would not only streamline data-related operations for these entities but also enhance the overall effectiveness of government policies and services informed by robust data analysis.

Contact Information:

Dina Neiger, Chief Statistician, Social Research Centre

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Dr Dina Neiger

Executive Director, Chief Statistician

Campus Visitor, Polis: the Centre for Social Policy, ANU

Pronouns: she/her



Social Research Centre

Phone: [REDACTED]



The Social Research Centre acknowledges the Wurundjeri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our company is located and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters, and communities. We pay our respect to First Nations peoples, and to Elders past and present.



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