

Dr Stephen King  
*Statutory Review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022*  
Office of the National Data Commissioner (ONDC)  
E-mail: [DATActReview@finance.gov.au](mailto:DATActReview@finance.gov.au)

27 May 2025

**Feedback on the Statutory Review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022**

Dear Dr King,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the Statutory Review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022.

The University of Adelaide (UoA) has been an Accredited User under the DATA Scheme since June 2024. Since being accredited, the University has not submitted any requests for access to data. Prior to accreditation, Dataplace was used to initiate a request for access to data managed by the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW), with that request diverted from Dataplace to the AIHW's own 'data on request' pathways.

Since obtaining accreditation, the University's Organisational Administrator has responded to several researcher inquiries, with the majority interested in the National Disability Data Asset, but none have led to requests.

As the organisation's experience with the application of the Act is limited, this submission, in response to the Review's Terms of Reference, will be limited to matters relevant to our experience.

**Does the Act support improved public sector data availability and transparency, including sharing public sector data in a controlled way?**

Implementation of the Act—including the establishment of ONDC, Dataplace platform, and resourcing the Australian Government Data Catalogue—has reinvigorated activities to make public sector data discoverable and shareable.

The development of rich, linked resources like the National Disability Data Asset will create new opportunities for research in a robust and safe environment.

**Has the operation of the Act advanced its objects?**

The UoA has not utilised the Act sufficiently to form an opinion.

**How does the operation of the Act compare and interact with other existing mechanisms for facilitating access to, sharing and use of public sector data?**

The UoA has not utilised the Act sufficiently to form an opinion.

**Stakeholder satisfaction with the operation of the Act as a tool for reducing barriers and enabling effective access to, sharing and re-use of public sector data.**

As already noted above, the only Dataplace experience that the UoA has to draw upon, was an inquiry initiated through Dataplace, which was diverted to existing AIHW sharing pathways.

In that case, engagement with Dataplace and the DATA Scheme added what was perceived as an unnecessary administrative layer. As the platform and Scheme mature, communication, assessment and sharing pathways between ONDC and data custodians should continue to improve in order to advance user experience, and ensure a sensible, efficient and transparent process.

**Should the Act remain in force past its current sunset date of 1 April 2027?**

Yes, the UoA is supportive of efforts to create responsible, transparent and safe opportunities to use Australian Government data in research. As data-driven research and computational tools and skills become more accessible and widely used across disciplines, the research sector will likely seek more access to this data. The Act is a driver to improve tools, methods, skills and culture around safe data sharing as the demand grows.

Please feel free to contact me, if further information is required.

Yours sincerely



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Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Operations and Commercialisation)