



18 September 2025

Dr Stephen King
Independent Reviewer
Statutory Review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022
c/o Department of Finance
1 Canberra Avenue
Forrest ACT 2603
Australia

ACS Feedback to the DAT Act Statutory Review Draft Findings and Recommendations

Dear Dr King,

ACS strongly supports the draft findings and recommendations of the DAT Act Statutory Review.

In our view:

- The draft findings accurately reflect the shortcomings of the way the current DAT Act has been designed, the constraints it has placed on its implementation, and its overall failure to meet its stated objectives.
- The draft recommendations provide many well thought through ideas on how to improve the DAT Act and its implementation to improve safe sharing of government data across all three tiers of government and nationally.

A key theme through the draft recommendations is that the authorising framework must be flexible: providing a simple process and light-weight controls where the data sharing risk is now, and much more rigorous processes and controls where the data sharing risk is high.

As noted in our Statutory Review submission, ACS has been actively involved in data sharing and privacy framework development since 2017. The result of this work was published in a series of whitepapers culminated in the 2023 report *Frameworks and Controls for Data Sharing*¹.

This report provides a detailed description of two important concepts that are related to the draft recommendations:

- The ACS whitepaper introduces the concept of “level of control”, which ranges from *no control* through to *very high control*. This concept aligns with the notion of “tier” mentioned in Recommendation 8.
- The ACS whitepapers developed the concept of Personal Identification Factor (PIF) to quantify the risk that combining data sets may result in re-identification. This concept gives a very clear definition of risk of sharing personal data.

As the peak Australian IT practitioner body, ACS has a unique role in setting and raising IT professional standards. The ACS Data Sharing Committee has a special interest in developing data sharing frameworks, skills and adoption across the Australian economy. We would be very pleased to be involved in data sharing framework discussions arising from this Statutory Review, to impart our knowledge from past efforts, to contribute to the framework refinement, and finally to support the data sharing skills uplift to our members.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Graeme Port
Chair, ACS Data Sharing Committee

¹ ACS. Frameworks and Controls for Data Sharing. 2023. https://www.acs.org.au/insightsandpublications/reports-publications/Industry_Insights_Frameworks_and_Controls_for_Data_Sharing.html