

**Subject:**

Re: Submission: Statutory Review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Date:**

Friday, 8 August 2025 3:39:24 PM

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Dear Review Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft findings and recommendations outlined in the 'Statutory Review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022 – Draft Findings and Recommendations' paper.

I'm writing on behalf of Seer Data & Analytics and our partners Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project and Maranguka (team members are copied on this email). We welcome clarifying the role of the DAT Act, making it simpler, more flexible and adjusting underlying arrangements and we believe that overarchingly, it would be more efficient than sunseting the DAT Act and starting again.

Please find below our additional input on the draft findings and recommendations.

### **Feedback on draft findings**

#### *Finding 1: The DAT Act has not achieved its objective*

We strongly agree with this finding and believe that it could have been expanded to reflect the broader systemic, structural, and social limitations of the current legislation—particularly its failure to enable inclusive and community-driven data sharing for public benefit.

#### *Finding 3: There is a role for the DAT Act in making Commonwealth data more available, but substantial modifications are required.*

We strongly agree with this finding and welcome the recognition that many excluded organisations—such as ACCOs, not-for-profits, and the private sector, including intermediary data sharing platforms such as Seer Data are eager for broader accreditation eligibility.

Noting:

- Excluding these organisations creates immediate, insurmountable barriers to public sector data used to drive social impact and community-led change.
- Many of these organisations are best positioned to deliver on the DAT Act's core objectives.

We particularly support and urge the prompt expansion of eligible organisations, especially in contexts involving data sovereignty, place-based initiatives and intermediaries such as Seer Data & Analytics aimed at building data assets and enabling community-led decision making and insight to improve social outcomes in

Australia.

*Finding 7: Expanding eligibility for accreditation would support greater use of and value-creation from public data.*

We strongly support Finding 7 and urge prompt action to expand eligibility for accreditation under the DAT Act, and for the expansion to include appropriate private sector data intermediaries such as Seer Data who serves more than 120 communities and place based initiatives around Australia. In addition to Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), not-for-profit research institutes, primary health networks, and not-for-profit service delivery organisations; private sector data intermediaries must also have a direct and authorised role in accessing and using data that impacts the communities they serve—ensuring that data access supports community-led solutions in a safe and equitable way.

Finding 9: The DAT Act does not include principles or mechanisms for specifically enabling First Nations people to be heard, recognised and empowered. This restricts the ability of the Act to contribute to Government commitments and priorities, which aim to improve outcomes for First Nations communities such as the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

We strongly support this finding and encourage reform to embed Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles into the DAT Act.

### **Feedback on draft recommendations**

*Recommendation 10: The entities that can seek accreditation to request and use data under the DAT Act should be expanded to include ACCOs, not-for-profit research institutes (including 6 This scenario primarily relates to findings 2, 3 & 6 and demonstrates the intended effects of recommendations 1, 8 & 9. Statutory Review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022 – Draft Findings and Recommendations 23 independent research organisations and medical research institutes), primary health networks, and not-for-profit service delivery organisations (including approved aged care providers).*

We strongly endorse Recommendation 10 and view it as foundational to realising the public interest purpose of the DAT Act, with the addition of private sector data intermediaries such as Seer Data and Analytics, considered for inclusion in the national interest. Seer Data & Analytics serves ACCOs and 1/3 of our users are First Nations organisations.

Private sector data intermediaries play a critical role in enabling ACCO participation by:

- providing supporting mechanisms which would be considered as critical to enable ACCO participation
- building capacity and data literacy support, that is, tools and training that

empower ACCOs to lead their own data projects.

- supporting self-determination and Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles through ethical data governance frameworks
- providing technology infrastructure: a secure, scalable platform that is accessible to resource-constrained community organisations, allowing ACCOs to work with and control data in ways that reflect their priorities.

Expanding eligibility is a matter of equity, trust, and good governance. It is also essential to closing gaps in service delivery, strengthening place-based partnerships, and respecting Indigenous Data Sovereignty.

*Recommendation 11: The DAT Act should include a power which allows the Minister to expand accreditation eligibility further, subject to advice from the National Data Commissioner (or other appropriate office or body with appropriate expertise).*

We support Recommendation 11 as a critical mechanism to ensure the DAT Act remains flexible and responsive to emerging needs. Allowing the Minister to expand accreditation eligibility (on expert advice) can help include capable, trusted entities such as private sector data intermediaries and others delivering public benefit but currently excluded from access. However, this power must not delay urgent reforms already warranted under Recommendation 10. It should complement, not substitute, near-term action to broaden participation.

To ensure this mechanism is used transparently and fairly, we recommend:

- Clear public benefit criteria and decision-making guidelines
- Diverse expert input, including from First Nations and community sectors; and
- Publication of rationale and advice behind Ministerial decisions.

This recommendation is essential not only for managing risk but for enabling inclusive, ethical and effective use of public data for community-led initiatives and decision-making in the nation's interest.

*Recommendation 14: Embed Indigenous data governance frameworks into decision-making processes and expand the participation in the DAT Act so that First Nations peoples are better heard, recognised and empowered to contribute to positive outcomes for Indigenous communities.*

We fully support Recommendation 14 and regard it as essential to ensuring that the DAT Act is consistent with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the Framework for Governance of Indigenous Data, and the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance. We welcome the acknowledgement that organisations

that represent First Nations communities should be empowered to access data under the DAT Act, leading to enhanced participation in a culturally safe or empowering framework for First Nations peoples to access, govern, or influence the use of their data.

*Recommendation 16: Longer term, there should be a nationally consistent data sharing framework that achieves full interoperability across jurisdictions and provides standardised pathways for users to access any Australian public sector data.*

We support Recommendation 16 as a vital step toward a unified, interoperable public data system. Fragmented frameworks across jurisdictions currently undermine access, especially for community-led and place-based initiatives that rely on both Commonwealth and state/territory data.

*Recommendation 17: Continued investment in the broader data sharing ecosystem is required to cultivate improved and sustained data sharing outcomes.*

We strongly support Recommendation 17 and emphasise the importance of sustained, targeted investment in the broader data ecosystem—particularly in ways that strengthen local capability and uphold Indigenous Data Sovereignty through technical uplift.

To realise the full potential of the DATA Act, data sharing must be grounded in the lived realities of place-based communities. This means:

Investing in the people and organisations closest to community - not-for-profits, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), and trusted local data platform and sharing intermediaries—who are best placed to act on data and drive meaningful impact through targeted technical uplift.

Clearer guidance is needed to help these organisations navigate complex data frameworks, alongside practical, ongoing support.

PLACE and the Investment Dialogue for Australia's Children (IDAC) are central partners in offering critical local and First Nations perspectives necessary for inclusive, community-informed system design and delivering reforms. Their leadership is essential to ensuring the system reflects local and Indigenous priorities, builds trust, and enables community-led decision-making.

We recommend a centrally governed investment approach, potentially via a cross-portfolio data body, that works in close partnership with PLACE and IDAC.

Thanks again for allowing us this opportunity to provide input.

Kind regards,

Kristi Mansfield  
CEO & Founder  
Seer Data & Analytics

Kristi Mansfield  
**Co-founder & CEO**



**Seer Data & Analytics**



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Seer Data & Analytics acknowledges all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Custodians of Country and recognises their continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.