



National Device Reuse Principles

The National Device Reuse Principles provide a common direction for Australian governments to use suitable government ICT devices to support digital inclusion, while also improving the return on public ICT investment, reducing avoidable waste and enabling secure, sustainable and socially beneficial reuse.

Statement of opportunity

Data and Digital Ministers are committed to increasing levels of government device donation to support digital inclusion. Australian governments refresh large numbers of ICT devices each year. With early planning, secure handling and suitable partnerships, more of these devices can be given a second life — supporting digital inclusion, reducing e-waste, strengthening circular economy outcomes and improving value from public investment.

The opportunity is to make reuse a more consistent consideration across government decision-making, while preserving flexibility for jurisdictions to choose the pathways that best fit their policy, market and community context.

Scope and application

The principles apply to government ICT devices that are no longer required for government use and may be suitable for a second-life pathway. They may also inform decisions about leased, supplier-managed or contractually controlled devices, where permitted under relevant arrangements. Where reuse is not appropriate, responsible recycling or other sustainable disposal options should be considered.

The principles do not override jurisdictional laws, procurement rules, contractual obligations, information security requirements, records management obligations or asset disposal processes.



Principles



Principle 1: Prioritise digital inclusion outcomes

Device reuse should support digital inclusion by improving access to appropriate technology for people and communities experiencing digital exclusion, including First Nations people and communities. Reuse pathways should be community-informed, guided by need and supported by complementary assistance where possible. Reused devices may not be suitable for every context.



Principle 2: Consider reuse early

Governments should consider device reuse and lifecycle extension across procurement, contract management, use, decommissioning and disposal to help identify feasible pathways, manage whole-of-life costs and maximise public value.



Principle 3: Align with existing frameworks

Device reuse should align with relevant jurisdictional procurement, asset disposal, cyber security, privacy, records management, sustainability and social procurement frameworks. The principles support national consistency of intent while preserving jurisdictional responsibility for implementation



Principle 4: Manage security, records and risk

Governments should maintain appropriate oversight of devices throughout decommissioning, transfer and disposal. Before reuse, donation, resale or transfer, agencies should address information security, records and relevant risk obligations.

● Principle 5: Work through appropriate partners

Governments should consider working with suitable partners across a range of delivery models to support safe, effective and inclusive reuse pathways. Partner arrangements should be fair, transparent and consistent with applicable procurement and disposal requirements.

● Principle 6: Support quality and usable second-life pathways

Reuse initiatives should support second-life pathways that provide safe, functional and fit-for-purpose devices. Where devices are not suitable for reuse, governments should pursue responsible recycling or other sustainable disposal pathways.



Principle 7: Review and improve over time

Governments should take a proportionate approach to reviewing reuse outcomes and identifying lessons learned. Insights should inform future procurement, asset management, digital inclusion and circular economy planning where useful.





National Device Reuse Principles at a glance

Giving suitable government ICT devices a second life - securely, sustainably and in ways that support digital inclusion.



Focus on public value

- 1) Prioritise digital inclusion outcomes

Reuse should improve access to appropriate technology for people and communities experiencing digital exclusion, where devices are suitable and support is available.



Plan and align

- 2) Consider reuse early
- 3) Align with existing frameworks

Reuse is most feasible when it is considered early and remains consistent with each jurisdiction's procurement, asset, security, records and sustainability settings.



Manage and deliver safely

- 4) Manage security, records and risk
- 5) Work through appropriate partners
- 6) Support quality second-life pathways

Devices should only be reused where risks are managed, partners are suitable, and recipients receive devices that are safe, functional and useful.



Measure and improve

- 7) Measure proportionately and improve

Measurement should be proportionate and help improve future procurement, asset management, digital inclusion and circular economy decisions.