Summary of 2023 Privacy Impact Assessment

National Disability Data Asset and the Australian National Data Integration Infrastructure

This document is in Easy Read.

Background

The National Disability Data Asset is a new way to bring together data about all Australians.

In this document we call it the data asset.

The data will come from different parts of the government.
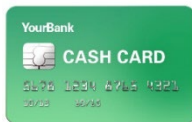
Data is:

- facts

- information

- records.

The data asset will help show how people with disability live.

The information in the data asset will not have private information. This means the data asset will not have a person's:

- name

- where they live

- their phone number

- email address

- bank details.

The data asset is being made by the:

- Department of Social Services (DSS)

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

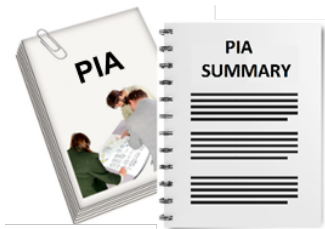These Australian government agencies are called 'Commonwealth Partners'.

Partners means that they work together.

When you see the word 'we' or 'us' it means the Commonwealth Partners.

States and territories and the disability community are part of making and choosing how the data asset will be used.

What is this summary about?

This document is a summary of the 2023 Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA). It has some of the information and recommendations from the PIA. Recommendations are ideas on how to fix or make things better.

We worked with a company called Maddocks to do a PIA. Maddocks are not part of the government. They are a business that is very good at helping to make or keep data private.

The PIA looked at the data asset and how the Australian National Data Integration Infrastructure supports it to work.

In this document we will call the Australian National Data Integration Infrastructure the 'computer system'.

The computer system lets us look at the data and link information that is the same or similar.

The PIA was done to make sure that:

- the data asset and computer system follow the *Privacy Act 1988*

- we think about any dangers or risks to privacy

- we think about ways to work on the risks to privacy

- community are okay with the way information is used.

We worked with Maddocks to do some focus groups for the PIA in 2023.

More than 150 people were part of the focus groups. A focus group is a way for people to have a say about what they think.

Maddocks did a report on the focus groups.

A report is a written document to say what was learned.

An update to the PIA will be done in 2025.

Summary of findings

In the focus groups, people said:

- making the data asset was a good idea.

- it can be a very bad thing for people if information about their health or disability is made public without their consent. Consent is when you say yes or agree to something.

- the Australian community thinks that information that is sensitive should be kept safer and more private.

In the Privacy Act, sensitive information could be about:

- your health

- the country you were born in, or where your family came from

- your religion or what you believe.
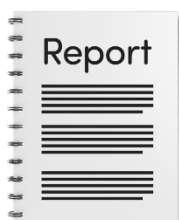
Maddocks wrote that we are thinking about privacy when making the data asset. Privacy is important.

Governance will be done for the data asset to make sure the rules are followed and things are done the right way, like making sure:

- data is kept private

- things do not go wrong in the future.

We will do some things to keep peoples' personal information safe, like:

- saying how people's information will be shared

- following the rules in the *Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022*

- having a set of rules on what is shared from the data asset.

Maddocks has made some recommendations on how to fix any risks or dangers and help keep data private.

Recommendations

The PIA makes recommendations on the following things in the data asset:

1. Principles for adding datasets in the data asset in the future. This means that there are rules about what data can be added to the data asset.

2. Collection notices for data providers. This means that data providers will receive words to explain how information for the data asset is used.

3. Managing the risk of re-identifying data. Looking at the way things are done. This means that we keep checking the ways we keep information private and safe.

4. Managing the risk of re-identifying data.

   Rules about:

   • how data is shared

   • research projects that use the data

   • how to keep information private.

5. Managing data breaches. A clear plan that says what should be done if data is:

- shared or used in the wrong way, or

- used by a person who should not have access.

6. Develop a Compliance Framework. A way to check the rules that keep data safe and private are being followed.

Learn more

If you want to find out more on the National Disability Data Asset website (www.ndda.gov.au). This includes Privacy for the National Disability Data Asset (www.ndda.gov.au/privacy-policy).

You can send us a question about privacy at ndda@abs.gov.au