



## **Australian National Data Service (ANDS)**

### **National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy 2013 (NCRIS 2013)**

## **INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

# SUMMARY

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ANDS believes that data can be a crucial element of strong research institution/industry engagement. Indeed, much of the reason for the emphasis on “big data” is to bring together new analyses with new forms of more complex data. However much current research industry engagement does not make data as strong an element as it might be. Data can be a key deliverable, collaboration over data can be an important element of partnership, and data sharing is a strong instrument of trust building.

However in many cases the data sharing will not be frictionless: data will not simply routinely be provided by research to industry, and the data used in research will often not be in a form that supports the partnership. Data needs for complex research industry engagement will often be drawn from many sources and used in a variety of ways. For example a property developer planning a new suburban development might wish to increase the value of the development by using data that AURIN has assembled from local, state and federal governments. Data models from research institutions that demonstrate improved walkability for a development could become very important. Data held on the Gold Coast region assembled by Griffith University can be combined with AURIN data to enable councils and property managers together plan improved land management. Industrial development will need to get environmental approvals and so integrating all relevant environmental data through the Nectar funded Biodiversity & Climate Change Virtual Laboratory will be relevant.

Since ANDS cannot work with all parties, it will leverage existing relationships to work in support of increased institutional engagements with industry. It will do this through a targeted set of activities:

- Continue to make available to research and industry a rich set of data collections descriptions at no cost
- Help research institutions establish high value data collections that support the industry partnerships targeted by the institutions.
- Help research institutions to refine data management planning to take into account industry engagement
- In partnership with Nectar, RDS, and associated data intensive NCRIS capabilities, develop stronger abilities to support research and industry to jointly access a rich range of data services
- Strengthen the data capability within selected Cooperative Research Centres, and the newly establishing Industry Growth Centres
- Help to integrate existing data collections from a wide range of sources to provide Australia unique international advantage in industry data sharing
- Enhance Australia’s ability to participate in international industry data sharing through relevant activities in the Research Data Alliance.

# 1 Key activities planned

There are a number of key activities in the ANDS 2015-16 Business Plan that demonstrate an intention to develop industry engagement activities or extend existing activities. Through the National Services program, ANDS will:

- Continue to make available to research and industry a rich set of data collections descriptions at no cost
- Develop an improved data capability at selected Cooperative Research Centres, and the newly establishing Industry Growth Centres
- Help research institutions to refine data management planning to take into account industry engagement

Through the National Engagements program, ANDS will:

- Help research institutions establish high value data collections that support the industry partnerships targeted by the institutions.
- Help to integrate existing data collections from a wide range of sources, including research, government and industry, to provide Australia with a unique international advantage in industry data sharing
- In partnership with Nectar, RDS, and associated data intensive NCRIS capabilities, develop stronger abilities to support research and industry to jointly access a rich range of data services

Through the Institutional Engagements program, ANDS will:

- Help research institutions establish high value data collections that support the industry partnerships targeted by the institutions
- Help to integrate existing data collections to provide Australia unique international advantage in industry data sharing
- Develop an improved data capability at selected Cooperative Research Centres, and the newly establishing Industry Growth Centres
- Help research institutions to refine data management planning to take into account industry engagement

Through the International Collaboration program, ANDS will:

- Enhance Australia's ability to participate in international industry data sharing through activities in the Research Data Alliance.

These activities will be carried out in an integrated manner across the ANDS programs.

# 2 Potential and actual benefits

Up until this business plan, ANDS remit was to work with and for the benefit of publicly funded research institutions and their researchers. Consequently industry engagement has been peripheral

to the central activities of ANDS. Nevertheless, the broad remit of ANDS is to make research data more valuable – targeted at researchers, research institutions and the nation. Consequently researchers and research institutions do now have more valuable data to support their engagements with industrial partners. We have seen Curtin University explicitly develop a major open data collection that uses a commercial partner’s instruments, and with the aim of strengthening their relationship with the exploration and mining sector.

As has previously been described, joint activities with some of NCRIS partners have involved direct and indirect industry engagement. Working with AURIN on the University of Melbourne walkability project was of direct benefit to city planners and developers. Working with Nectar and Griffith University of data for the BCCVL has enabled improved environmental planning.

The economic benefit of data being available for research and industry engagement has not been measured, but the equivalent analysis just within the research sector by Houghton and Gruen points to billions of dollars of benefit. Appropriate policy and infrastructure to support use of data beyond the research sector is likely provide enormous economic value as well.

The intention of this plan is to widen ANDS’ engagement and provide greater focus, with the aim of making data a strong element in research industry partnerships. This will sometimes be bilateral, but often multi-lateral, as data is needed for a wide range of sources, in a wide variety of forms. Thus ANDS will work to ensure that data sharing becomes easier as the value of data increases.

This should ensure:

- improved engagement between industry and research through data sharing
- data collections are established to support industry-aligned research activity, and
- enhanced data-driven industry decision-making

### **3 Evidence of engagement**

ANDS will monitor its engagement via the following measures:

1. Number of accesses to Research Data Australia from addresses in the .com.au domain
2. Number of research institutions and associated organisations that use data to enhance industry engagement with ANDS support – this might come through establishing a data collection, such as Curtin University, or ensuring data licencing enables industry engagement as part of improved data management practices
3. Number of Cooperative Research Centres, Industry Growth Centres, and other related organisations that ANDS engages with.

## 4 Timeframes for Implementation

Description of Activity	Program Responsibility	How	Implementation
Continue to make available to research and industry a rich set of data collections descriptions at no cost.	National Services	Via the <a href="#">Research Data Australia</a> portal	Ongoing.
Develop an improved data capability at selected Cooperative Research Centres, and the newly establishing Industry Growth Centres.	National Services & Institutional Engagement	Via the ongoing work of the National Services and Institutional Engagement teams.	Work to commence in 2015-2 and then ongoing.
Help research institutions to refine data management planning to take into account industry engagement.	National Services & Institutional Engagement	Via the ongoing work of the National Services and Institutional Engagement teams.	Work to commence in 2015-2 and then ongoing.
Help research institutions establish high value data collections that support the industry partnerships targeted by the institutions.	National Engagements & Institutional Engagement	Via our 'High Value Collections Projects' as outlined in the 2015-16 Business Plan	Work to commence in 2015-2 and continue for the life of the high value collection projects
Help to integrate existing data collections from a wide range of sources, including research, government and industry, to provide Australia with a unique international advantage in industry data sharing.	National Engagements & Institutional Engagement	Via our 'Research Data Services Project' as outlined in the 2015-16 Business Plan	Ongoing.
In partnership with Nectar, RDS, and associated data intensive NCRIS capabilities, develop stronger abilities to support research and industry	National Engagements	Via our 'Research Data Services' funded activity as outlined in the 2015-16 Business	Work to commence in 2015-2 and continue during this joint

to jointly access a rich range of data services.		Plan.	activity.
Enhance Australia's ability to participate in international industry data sharing through activities in the Research Data Alliance.	International Collaboration	Via our 'Institutional Research Data Engagement' funded activity as outlined in the 2015-16 Business Plan.	Work to commence through Plenary 6 in September 2015 and then ongoing.