



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

## **Collaborative Research Infrastructure Scheme (CRIS)**

### **Progress Report 2**

**For the period 1 September 2013 to 30 March 2014**

**30 April 2014**

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# 1 Introduction

This progress report outlines the current progress against the intended actions as per the submitted and accepted CRIS Implantation Plan.

As outlined in the CRIS Implementation Plan it describes that the intended actions will be carried out in the period June 2014 until December 2014. This time period is because the expenditure of some NCRIS and EIF funds was delayed beyond 2013 in order to provide a better service to the community over this period. As the intended actions will not be carried out until June 2014, none of the funds that have been received to date have been spent.

The programs, or components, are:

- **National Collections**, ensuring that the formation and curation research data collections, together with associated services, are maintained
- **National Services**, ensuring that the research data services of both technical and advisory nature that have been established under the ANDS programs to date are maintained
- **Institutional Engagement**, ensuring that Australian research institutional research data infrastructure is maintained, and continues to develop, using institutional funds, in a cost effective and nationally coherent manner
- **International Collaboration**, ensuring that the research data collaboration internationally is maintained, principally through the established international partnerships, notably the Research Data Alliance.

The intent of these programs taken together is to ensure that at the end of 2014:

- There will be national collections in identified priority areas that enable new questions to be asked addressing nationally significant research challenges.
- Institutions will be increasingly managing their research data as an institutional asset.
- Researchers will be able to use institutional research data infrastructure to routinely publish the data outputs from publicly funded projects.
- Australia has a leading role in research data infrastructure internationally.
- ANDS will be a trusted partner of research institutions.
- ANDS will continue to deliver valued and reliable national data services.
- The ARDC will be maintained with data collections that have been managed and connected, ensuring over 60,000 collections descriptions discoverable through Research Data Australia, Google and other mechanisms.

## 2 National Collections Program

The scope of this program includes collections of government, institutional, discipline and national facility data.

Two ANDS programs, Public Sector Data and National Collections, are combining to form the Coherent Access to Collections program. To date Public Sector Data has engaged with over 19 agencies to raise the profile of data management and expose their collections. It has resulted in over 34,000 collections and datasets being published through Research Data Australia. National Collections has promulgated awareness of the value of a collections approach to data and gained some traction in acceptance of distributed national collections. A proof of concept has been developed and demonstrated with positive results. The merging of these programs is indicative of the importance public data collections play as an input to research and the increasing value a collections approach is going to deliver particularly when combined with the delivery of storage solutions and services in partnership with other organisations.

Under CRIS, ANDS will continue to engage with research and public sector institutions in providing access to nationally significant collections.

### 2.1 Expected actions

Specific actions under this program include:

- Continue to engage with selected data custodians on establishing rich national collections.
- In consultation with research and data providers, maintain an inventory of collections both institutionally and nationally significant.
- Ongoing liaison with RDSI nodes and data providers to maintain appropriate storage and access.
- For all collections maintain relationships with service providers to provide access to tools associated with data collections.
- Continue to support access through richly described national collections that are published in Research Data Australia (RDA) and other relevant portals.

### 2.2 Highlights

There is nothing to report as the money has not been expended.

### 2.3 Difficulties and/or breakthroughs

There is nothing to report as the money has not been expended.

## 3 National Services Program

The scope of this program includes collection, registration, publication, discovery, and advisory services.

In its first four years of operation ANDS has established a national registry of research data, a national discovery portal, and a data publication identifier service. These are nationally-focused, value-adding services which are more efficient to run as a single instance for the sector. For example ANDS has joined the global DataCite infrastructure consortium and provides data Digital Object Identifiers to the whole Australian research sector. Through the EIF and NCRIS infrastructure, many research organisations have established data archives and metadata provider infrastructure to feed the ANDS national registry, which aims to provide a national cross-discipline view of the data outputs from (and inputs to) Australian research.

The NCRIS project has enabled ANDS to establish a capacity to support, advise and exchange information about data infrastructure establishment at Australian universities as well as targeted assistance for those using ANDS national services. ANDS also has established an expertise and advice service around questions of national policy promoting reuse of research data.

Under CRIS, the established national services will be maintained, including capacity to provide policy and advisory support for research data management.

### 3.1 Expected actions

Specific actions under this program include:

- Operate and develop national data discovery, data citation, and data standardisation services.
- Provide solutions and support for data portal software.
- Support the uptake of ANDS services.
- Continue to provide a national capability enhancement service for the data lifecycle focusing on data management and data publication.
- Continue to provide a national policy service aimed at engaging with all stakeholders and key decision makers so that coherent policy on research data access is achieved.

### 3.2 Highlights

There is nothing to report as the money has not been expended.

### 3.3 Difficulties and/or breakthroughs

There is nothing to report as the money has not been expended.

## 4 Institutional Engagement Program

The scope of this program is a series of data focussed engagements with all of Australia's major research organisations.

This program will build on work funded in previous years under the Seeding the Commons, Data Capture, Metadata Stores and Applications programs. These programs built a fabric for data management with a view to increasing the scope of the data commons; improved data capture and management across the research sector; funded the establishment of infrastructure in institutions for depositing data and metadata into well-managed stores; and funded the creation of a number of demonstrations of the value of bringing data together to answer new questions.

The final year of NCIS and EIF funding will enable new data focussed engagements that will assist the organisations involved to achieve their research data ambitions through the continuation of a series of targeted engagements. These engagements will be supported by a service offering that includes advice, tools and training and can be offered within a set of categories such as management, publication citation, re-use.

Under CRIS, these data focused engagements will be maintained, as part of maintaining the institutional research data infrastructure.

### 4.1 Expected actions

Specific actions under this program include:

- Continue the support for institutional engagement approaches that enable better sharing, improved efficiency and greater coherence of research institutional approaches to all institutional research data infrastructure.
- Continue the targeted assistance to selected institutions to enable routine publication of research data outputs conformant to national guidelines.
- Monitor re-deployed data tools in new environments.
- Continue to demonstrate the value of better use of research data through the Applications program and associated activities.

### 4.2 Highlights

There is nothing to report as the money has not been expended.

### 4.3 Difficulties and/or breakthroughs

There is nothing to report as the money has not been expended.

## 5 International Collaboration Program

Until 2012, international collaboration activities within ANDS occurred in a number of different programs including: selection of DataCite as our preferred Digital Object Identifier solution, and engaging with international partners to adopt our technology as a way of future proofing the investment and expanding the pool of potential developers.

The Research Data Alliance has now become the main focus for ANDS' involvement in international activity, although a number of existing activities will continue in parallel. The purpose of the Research Data Alliance is to accelerate international data-driven innovation and discovery by facilitating research data sharing and exchange, use and re-use, standards harmonization, and discoverability. This will be achieved through the development and adoption of infrastructure, policy, practice, standards, and other deliverables. The Research Data Alliance has been founded through commitments by Australian Commonwealth Government, the European Commission, and United States of America. The work of the Research Data Alliance will primarily be undertaken through its working groups and interest groups. Participation in working groups and interest groups, starting new working groups, and attendance at the twice-yearly plenary meetings is open to all.

The key activity under CRIS will be to maintain a strong Australian role in the Research Data Alliance.

*Note that this program will be conducted using a combination of CRIS funds and separate funding under a contract entitled "Data Web Forum".*

### 5.1 Expected actions

Specific actions under this program include:

- Contribute to ongoing operations of Research Data Alliance
- Facilitate involvement of other countries and institutions in RD-A
- Facilitate Australian involvement in Research Data Alliance working groups
- Contribute to success and expansion of persistent identification of data through DataCite
- Contribute to success of data and research identification integration through ODIN

### 5.2 Highlights

There is nothing to report as the money has not been expended.

### 5.3 Difficulties and/or breakthroughs

There is nothing to report as the money has not been expended.

## 6 A summary table of actual expenditure for the period covered by this report

\*Note that the International Collaboration program is separately funded but is reported here for completeness.

Program Title	Actual Expenditure for the period
<b>National Collections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management and governance costs at both the node and national governance levels</li> <li>• salaries and on costs for technical staff</li> <li>• infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>• utilities</li> <li>• rent</li> <li>• consumables</li> <li>• other</li> </ul>	\$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ -
<b>National Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management and governance costs at both the node and national governance levels</li> <li>• salaries and on costs for technical staff</li> <li>• infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>• utilities</li> <li>• rent</li> <li>• consumables</li> <li>• other</li> </ul>	\$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ -
<b>Institutional Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management and governance costs at both the node and national governance levels</li> <li>• salaries and on costs for technical staff</li> <li>• infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>• utilities</li> <li>• rent</li> <li>• consumables</li> <li>• other</li> </ul>	\$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ -
<b>International Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management and governance costs at both the node and national governance levels</li> <li>• salaries and on costs for technical staff</li> <li>• infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>• utilities</li> <li>• rent</li> <li>• consumables</li> <li>• other</li> </ul>	\$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ -

## **7 Quantitative Estimate of Component Outputs**

There is nothing to report as the money has not been expended.

## **8 Key Performance Indicators**

There has been no progress against Key Performance Indicator's as the money has not been expended.

## **9 Other matter considered relevant**

None.