Australian Library and Information Association

14 October, 2019

Office of the National Data Commissioner
PO Box 6500
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission by email

Data sharing and release legislative reforms discussion paper

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) is the professional organisation for the Australian library and information services sector. On behalf of our 5,000 personal and institutional members, we provide the national voice of the profession in the development, promotion and delivery of quality library and information services to the nation, through leadership, advocacy and mutual support.

ALIA has been an active participant in the discussions around the proposed Data Sharing and Release Legislation, and we would like to commend the Department on the extent and depth of the consultation process. This has enabled the complex issues around data sharing and release to be considered from many different perspectives and has provided a robust discussion paper which answers our sector's concerns.

We welcome the consideration given to the benefits for researchers of improved access to government data; the detailed examination of the concept of consent, as well as the focus on upholding privacy; the acknowledgement of issues related to copyright and IP during roundtable discussions.

The role of the National Data Commissioner is a further safeguard to balance appropriate access with security of information about individuals.

We understand there is further work to be undertaken. We welcome the opportunity to continue to be involved and to highlight the evolving role of library and information professionals, making data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (the FAIR principles).

Contact
Sue McKerracher, ALIA CEO
[redacted]