

Prospection submission on the exposure draft of the Data Availability and Transparency Bill.

Prospection is an 8-year-old Australian data analytics company. We have considerable experience working with the PBS 10% dataset under licence from Services Australia. We have been able to build capability and a growing business in Australia, employ 80 people, earning export revenue and attract capital investment. Therefore, we are a perfect example of how appropriate access to public data can be used by innovative, and responsible private sector organisations with broad economic, national and health (in our case) benefits.

We support access to timely, linkable and broad datasets. The Data Availability and Transparency Bill should help enable this. The devil will be in the detail and implementation. In our experience, Prospection can be seen as a trusted intermediary between Govt (data holder) and clients (researchers, industry, clinical groups, Government groups) who want the insights / outputs from data but may lack capability, or access.

The Bill could work well if:

- broad datasets are released and updated in a timely manner, and that approval processes are relatively streamlined and timely. This promotes investment, capability building and sector expertise to be developed, and the data is made useful and to used. There needs to be a focus on providing a 'programme' or sector wide capability rather than just at a project level
- there is broad interpretation of the benefits and uses of data such as economic and employment. A narrow interpretation could significantly limit the benefits.
- timely, person level data that is deidentified but timely, linkable and updated is made available. Organisations such as Prospection should be able to become Accredited Data Service Providers and given updated access to PBS and MBS datasets.
- data approvals should be timely and streamlined.
- data access is truly enabled beyond Govt. COVID has shown that Govt is getting better at using public data internally. What has been missing is the ability for non-Govt stakeholders to access timely and useful public data. We can act as a leverage point for non-Govt stakeholders.
- All stakeholders – legislators, Govt departments and data providers should collaborate and iterate on improvements and focus on what end user needs.

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