Australian Library and Information Association

Submission in response to the New Australian Government Data Sharing and Release Legislation issues paper

31 July 2018

1. About us

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. We represent school, public, academic, research, corporate, law, health, government, national, state and territory libraries and the professionals who work in them.

2. Background

ALIA has been pleased to contribute to the Australian Government's thinking around data sharing and release. In 2016, we responded to the Productivity Commission's *Data Availability and Use* issues paper and participated in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Research Roundtable on High-Value Data. We have also been part of related discussions about Australia's research infrastructure and open government. We welcome this latest opportunity to respond to the New Australian Government Data Sharing and Release Legislation issues paper on behalf of our Members.

3. National Data Commissioner

Our only comment in relation to the issues paper is that we are pleased to read of the Australian Government's plan to appoint a National Data Commissioner to oversee data sharing and release. We can see opportunities to focus attention, reduce duplication, concentrate and enhance expertise, and provide stakeholders such as ourselves with a single point of contact. (These are the benefits libraries have found from working with the Office of the eSafety Commissioner.)

For more information:

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