



Australian Government

High Level Principles for Data Integration Involving Commonwealth Data for Statistical and Research Purposes

An initiative of the
Cross Portfolio Statistical Integration Committee (CPSIC)

1

PRINCIPLE ONE

Strategic Resource

Responsible agencies should treat data as a strategic resource and design and manage administrative data to support their wider statistical and research use.

This principle aims to maximise statistical and research use of existing and new Commonwealth data sets.

2

PRINCIPLE TWO

Custodian's Accountability

Agencies responsible for source data used in statistical data integration remain individually accountable for their security and confidentiality.

This principle ensures that data custodians recognise their continued accountability for their data within integrated datasets and establish adequate controls over the use of personal or other sensitive data in data integration projects.

3

PRINCIPLE THREE

Integrator's Accountability

A responsible 'integrating authority' will be nominated for each statistical data integration proposal.

This principle sets out the responsibilities of integrating authorities to manage the data integration project from start to finish in line with the agreements made with data custodians and requirements as part of approval processes.

4

PRINCIPLE FOUR

Public Benefit

Statistical integration should only occur where it provides significant overall benefit to the public.

This principle ensures there is a demonstrated ability to produce significant outputs from the integrated dataset and an independent assessment is made that the public good outweighs the privacy imposition and risks to confidentiality.

5

PRINCIPLE FIVE

Statistical & Research Purposes

Statistical data integration must be used for statistical and research purposes only.

This principle requires that where data integration is approved and implemented for statistical and research purposes, it is not then used for regulatory purposes, compliance monitoring, or service delivery. This helps to ensure that the risk of breaches of personal information and the potential impact of any breach remain low.

6

PRINCIPLE SIX

Preserving Privacy & Confidentiality

Policies and procedures used in data integration must minimise any potential impact on privacy and confidentiality.

This principle ensures privacy and confidentiality are preserved to the maximum extent possible.

7

PRINCIPLE SEVEN

Transparency

Statistical data integration will be conducted in an open and accountable way.

This principle ensures the public is aware of how Commonwealth government data is being used for statistical and research purposes.

Statistical Integration—why?

Statistical data integration involves integrating micro-data, particularly unit record data, from different administrative and/or survey sources to provide new datasets for statistical and research purposes. Statistical integration aims to maximise the potential statistical value of existing and new datasets, to improve community health, as well as social and economic wellbeing, by integrating data across multiple sources and by working with governments, the community and researchers to build a safe and effective environment for statistical data integration activities.

About CPSIC

In 2009, Australian Government Portfolio Secretaries established a Cross Portfolio Statistical Integration Committee (CPSIC), jointly chaired by Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), to create an Australian government approach to facilitate linkage of social, economic and environmental data for statistical and research purposes.

Members

Cross Portfolio Statistical Integration Committee members were: Attorney-General's Department, Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Public Service Commission, Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Department of Defence, Department of Health and Ageing, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Department of Finance and Deregulation, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department

of Human Services, Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Local Government, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, Department of the Treasury and the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Principles have been endorsed by
Portfolio Secretaries

3 February 2010

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