

Frequently Asked Questions

What types of data can be accessed from VAHI's data request hub ('the Hub')?

The Hub facilitates access to data across Victoria's health system, including hospitals and health services, mental health, alcohol and other drugs and perinatal data. The Hub can also be used to ask a question about the data or measures in an existing VAHI report or suggest new measures to VAHI.

What types of requests cannot be answered through the Hub?

We cannot respond to requests that involve significant analytics of variation, trends, predictive modelling, linking of data (see page 2) or the interpretation of data. We can also only provide data that is available and accessible within the Victorian health collections.

Do I need to pay a lodgement fee?

You may be asked to pay a fee to help cover the cost of fulfilling your data request. VAHI is trialling cost recovery for the Data Request Hub, so the service can continue sustainably.

Not all requests are covered by the cost recovery trial. If your request is in the scope of the trial, a member of the team will contact you to discuss.

[Find out more about the trial on our website.](#)

What else do I need to consider when requesting data from the Hub?

While we will do our best to action your request, please note the following:

- **Ethics Approval:**

If the data you are requesting will be used for a research project then, the project may need to be approved by a recognised



Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC).

Research assessed as having a negligible risk of re-identification will be exempt from ethical review.

While we can advise on whether there is a need for, and where to seek ethics approval, we do not directly manage this process. If your data request requires ethics approval, you will need to work with the relevant ethics committee to seek approval for the data request before we can assist you.

When Ethics approval is provided, the Hub is still required to review the data items being requested to ensure that it is fit for purpose and meets all legislative obligations. Further information regarding the Department of Health and Human Services' ethics committee is available here:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/clinical-trials-and-research/human-research-ethics-committee>

- Data Linkage:

If you are seeking linked data, please contact the Centre for Victorian Data Linkage (CVDL) who will be able to better support your request. More information regarding CVDL is available here:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/reporting-planning-data/the-centre-for-victorian-data-linkage>

- Legislative Requirements (including privacy):

All data requests will be reviewed to ensure that legislative requirements are met before we provide you with the data. For example, VAHI's policy on releasing data aims to protect the privacy of individuals, small community groups and private hospitals which entails that patient level data must be de-identified and comply with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic), the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic) and other relevant legislation. Unless the risk of re-identifiability is negligible and in cases where special legislative requirements



exist, we will seek consent from the relevant data custodian before releasing the requested data.

How do I know what data is specifically available through the Hub?

The Hub can provide access to the datasets listed below. If you click on the link for each dataset, you will be able to view the relevant data dictionary and related material:

Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment (AoD)

- Victorian Alcohol and Drug Collections (VADC)

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/alcohol-and-drugs/funding-and-reporting-aod-services/data-collection/vadc-specifications>

Hospital data (HosData)

- Elective Surgery Information System (ESIS)

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/data-reporting/health-data-standards-systems/data-collections/esis>

- Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED)

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/policiesandguidelines/vaed-manual-2018-19>

- Victorian Emergency Management Dataset (VEMD)

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/data-reporting/health-data-standards-systems/data-collections/vemd>

Mental Health

- Client Management Interface (CMI) and Operational Data Store (ODS)



<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health/research-and-reporting/reporting-requirements-for-clinical%20mental-health-services>

Perinatal

- Victorian Perinatal Data Collection (VPDC)

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/quality-safety-service/consultative-councils/council-obstetric-paediatric-mortality/perinatal-data-collection>

Other

- Agency Information Management System (AIMS)

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/data-reporting/health-data-standards-systems/data-collections/aims>

- Victorian Integrated Non-Admitted Health (VINAH)

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/data-reporting/health-data-standards-systems/data-collections/vinah>

How can I use data that I request through the Hub?

Please note that all data requests will require you to sign a Conditions of Release (COR) document. The COR outlines your obligations when using the data. The COR will differ depending on the type of data you request, including the level of sensitivity with regards to potential identification of individuals.

How long will it take for me to receive my data?

While we are committed to providing you with the data as soon as we can, all data requests are triaged depending on several factors, including:

- urgency of the request in relation to other requests in the Hub
- complexity of the request



- complexity of legislative, ethics, privacy and other contextual issues
- our overall number of requests

However, we will keep you informed of progress in relation to your request. An analyst will be in touch shortly after you submit your request and will provide you with an estimate of how long it should take. If you create an account, you can also check the status of your request using our “Track” feature on the Hub homepage.

How can I provide feedback about the Hub?

After your request is complete, you will be provided with the opportunity to complete a short customer feedback form. We will take your feedback on board to keep improving our service!