



# 2016



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## WHAT IS GOVHACK?

GovHack is an international competition for people of all abilities who seek to make life better through open data.

Across one weekend, thousands come together to form teams, agree projects, and participate in what has become one of the world's biggest open data competitions.

- 3,000+ participants
- 40 locations
- Across Australia and New Zealand.

### Why does GovHack matter?

Formed with the objective to raise the profile of open government data, GovHack has since evolved to encompass the following objectives:

- To provide an opportunity through open data for government, citizens and industry to collaborate, gain knowledge and develop new skills;
- To showcase open data as a mechanism for identifying and solving deep-rooted social, economic and environmental challenges;
- To impress upon Government the economic and societal value of quality, machine-readable, standardised open data;
- To highlight the increasing value of open data as a tool to promote transparency, strengthen democracy, and develop trust.



***Data without ingenuity is like a lamp without power – only when the two are connected do opportunities to innovate become clear. This is why GovHack is so important, why I am so proud over a dozen federal departments have participated this year and why I am grateful to the 850 volunteers who made it happen.***

*Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull*



*Main photo: David Ma (modified)  
Inset photo Eva Rinaldi*

# THE COMPETITION

The pinnacle and final event of the Australian Government's Innovation Month 2016, GovHack took place across the weekend of the 29th to 31st of July.

A total of 437 projects were completed ranging from apps to websites, augmented to virtual reality, 3D printed sculptures to fire visualisations.

This was followed by weeks of judging by selected sponsor representatives, State Awards and finally the GovHack National Red Carpet Awards.

Local events and awards were supported by over 70 government agencies, national and local corporate sponsors with IP Australia and IBM as the critical lead national sponsors.

For the second year in a row sponsors provided over \$200K in international, national and local prize funding as well as mentorships and co-working placements.

GovHack was the pinnacle and final event of the Australian Government's Innovation Month 2016.

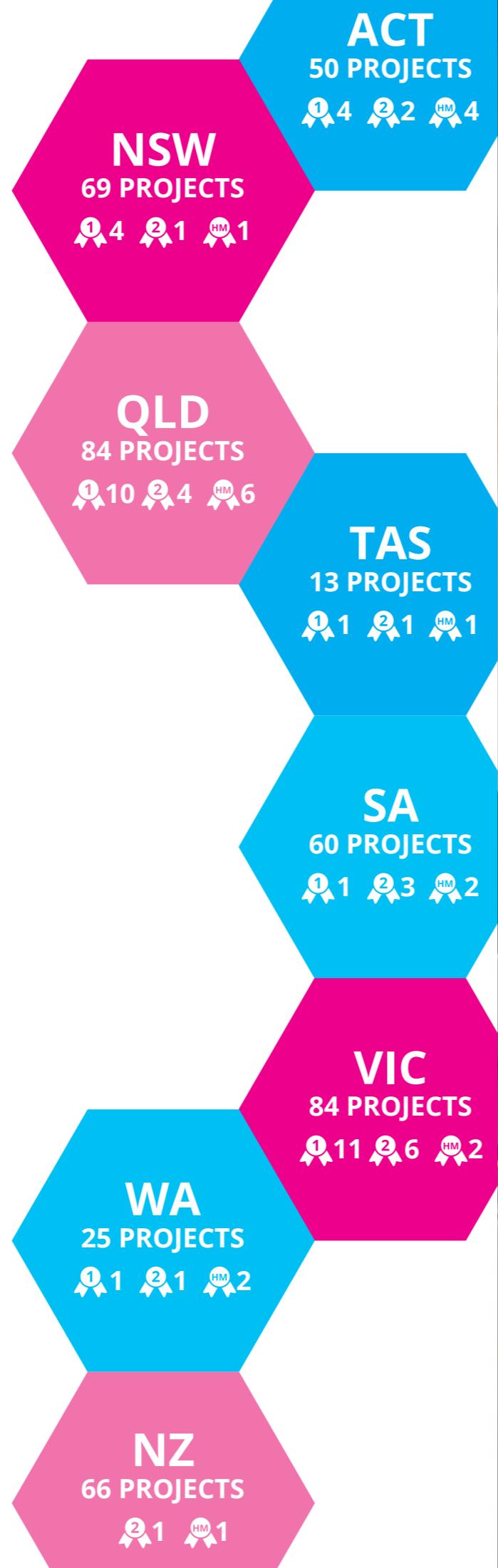
A record number of data sets (over 170) and data portals (over 40) were made available for the event. GovHack 2016 culminated in the National Red Carpet Awards held in Adelaide on Saturday 22 October where over 70 prizes were awarded to winning teams in 33 categories (see page 8).

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*The power of people!  
Demonstrating to the government  
what the community can do when  
empowered with data. Supporting  
an entrepreneurial ecosystem*

*GovHack volunteer,  
Adelaide SA*

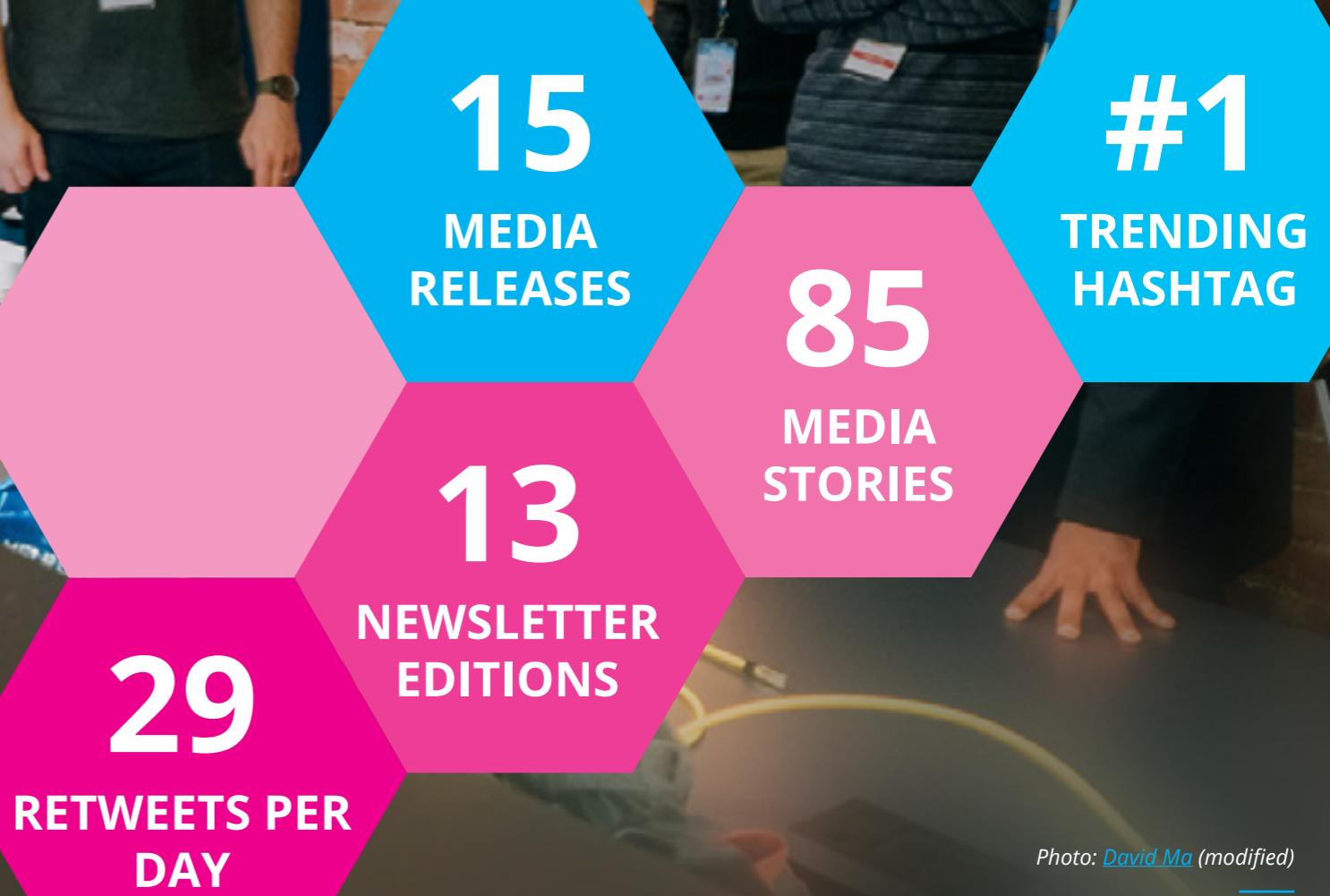
Projects, first, second and honourable mention prizes, by region



# IN THE MEDIA

Mainstream media coverage for GovHack 2016 included over 85 stories and interviews by outlets including ABC News 24, Radio National, the Daily Mail, the Advertiser and the Canberra Times. Over 15 media releases from Australian and state government ministers, local councils and GovHack itself were also generated to promote the hackathon, the Spirit of GovHack Awards, state and territory winners and the national and international Red Carpet Award winners.

The new GovHack Facebook page achieved 188,888 total post impressions. These channels also carried live video feeds and interviews from the State and the Red Carpet Awards ceremonies.



*Photo: David Ma (modified)*

# AWARDS

## International prize categories:

- Community Resilience Hack (IAG and Bureau of Meteorology)
- Machine Learning Hack (Google) and Storytelling Hack (Ancestry)

## National major prize categories:

- Creative Humanities Hack (ABC and Microsoft)
- Data Intelligence Hack – Data journalism, spatial modelling, analytics (Australian Taxation Office and the Australian Bureau of Statistics)
- Entrepreneurial Hack (IP Australia & IBM)
- Fresh Data Hack – APIs and Data Services (Australian Business Register and Department of Industry, Innovation and Science)
- Future Australia Hack (Department of Education and Training and Department of Employment)
- Innovative Ideas Hack (Australian Financial Security Authority and Queensland Government)
- Inspired by Research Hack (DATA61 and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare)
- No Boundaries Data Hack (Geoscience Australia & PSMA Australia)
- Paddock to Plate Hack (National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy and Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development)

Other prize categories included 18 national bounty, two national team and 146 regional categories including "Spirit of GovHack Awards".

In New Zealand there were seven national major prize and 13 national bounty prize categories.

All award categories and their sponsors are available in detail on the [GovHack 2016 competition portal](#).



# WINNING PROJECTS

The award winning projects and the categories they won are described in detail on the GovHack 2016 website – including the national and international winners, the state winners and the "Spirit of GovHack" winners. A selection of award winning projects are shown here.

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### Search Party

A smartphone app that helps co-ordinate public searches for missing people using a GPS 'heat map' to identify areas that have not been searched. The app combines missing person data from the ABC and the Australian Government with data from the Gold Coast City Council and the Queensland Government.

### Staying the Course

Why do students drop out of tertiary education? This visualisation uses open data from the Department of Education and Training to pinpoint the risk factors and the actions needed to help students stay the course.

### Proximity

This smartphone app alerts drivers when they enter high risk areas for accidents using traffic accident data from the Victorian Government. It also warns truck drivers when they are approaching low bridges.

### Greenu

Interactive posters that encourage people to hunt for vegetables in community gardens and make healthy meals. The posters combine open data from the City of Adelaide, City of Brisbane, South Australia's Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, the Bureau of Meteorology and the ABC.

### Walks of life

An app that raises awareness of the health risks people face at different stages of their lives by taking a walk through the life of a virtual character named Sam.

### SweetSpot

What's the best location for a new business? This visualisation can pick the best spot by combining employment, building, residential and traffic data.

### Weather Balls

The Weather Ball is an Internet connected desk light that lets you know when the weather is taking a turn for the worse by changing colour and flashing.

Photo: [Martin Ollman](#)

## RED CARPET AWARDS

Since its inception in 2014, the Red Carpet Awards have become a key opportunity for government and private sector sponsors to recognise the teams that have used open data to create the most innovative and useful projects. The awards also recognise the commitment of sponsors and the hard work of volunteers involved in GovHack.

The Awards were also one of many events in the South Australian Government's Open State – a ten day festival exploring how open and transparent decision making, innovation and enterprise can help address challenges like transforming our economy, climate change and rapidly changing technologies.

In his opening address, Craig Laundy, the Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science – representing the Prime Minister – highlighted that open data was one of the keys to the Australian Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda. He also launched the IP Nova app – an app initially developed at GovHack 2015 using open data from IP Australia – and read a letter from Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull which paid tribute to GovHack.

GovHack flew and accommodated over 70 representatives from across Australia and New Zealand to represent their state, country or team at the GovHack 2016 International Red Carpet Awards, held in the 'Potteresque' Mortlock Wing of the State Library in Adelaide on Saturday 22 October.

During the course of the evening Australia and New Zealand's best and brightest civic hackers were awarded for their creativity and ingenuity.

In total, there were 70 national and international prizes awarded across 33 award categories.



# CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT LOOP

This year our annual GovHack Survey saw 229 surveys completed. We appreciate this feedback, as it helps us to make GovHack even better every year.

GovHack 2016 was made up of 69% new participants. It is great to see so many new people experience GovHack for the very first time. Best of all, 94% of respondents said they would be back for GovHack 2017, and 97% said they would strongly recommend GovHack to others.

Looking to the future, 17% of respondents said they were "parents of future GovHackers". One in five of these respondents said they would make use of childcare if it was provided next year.

Suggested organisational improvements for GovHack 2017 included a greater variety of food, faster WiFi, and more whiteboards. Suggested data improvements included better access to large raw data with less aggregated statistics, and the provision of datasets in a raw delimited format.

Finally, respondents were asked for general comments and feedback, including what drew them to GovHack in the first place. We received some great answers, some of which are shown here.

“  
The atmosphere, the challenge, improving the country we live in.

Competitor  
Perth WA

“  
New ideas, interesting people, good technology and fantastic organisation on the part of the sponsors and volunteers to get it all together to provide cohesive output.

Observer  
Melbourne VIC

“  
The chance to have something amazing built out of our data set over a weekend!

Mentor  
Melbourne, VIC

“  
Being able to work in a team to build real solutions to real problems using open data.

Competitor  
Brisbane, QLD

“  
Collaborating with a group of others who I had no experience working with before to produce something new and unique that could be of benefit to the wider community.

Competitor  
Rockhampton, QLD

“  
It is great being involved with the future of our society. This is the way to go. GovHack provides a great environment for team-work.

Mentor  
Onkaparinga, SA



## VOLUNTEERS

850 dedicated volunteers helped organise and run GovHack 2016. These volunteers included mentors, data custodians, state managers and hosts, state media liaisons – and a Global Operations Team that coordinated national sponsorship, the national competition, the GovHack website and Hackerspace, mainstream and social media.



## GOVHACK 2017 AND SPREADING THE SPIRIT OF GOVHACK

GovHack will be back in 2017 on the weekend of **28-30 July**.

Until then stay connected through Facebook page and their local makerspace, open source project and open knowledge chapter.

Rex Smeal, Hobart.  
2016 National Spirit of GovHack  
award winner



Photo: Paris Buttfield-Addison

# SPONSORS

Over 100 sponsors kindly provided data sets, prizes and in kind support for GovHack 2016. GovHack is run under the auspices of Linux Australia. We would particularly like to thank the support of Linux Australia for enabling GovHack to thrive in 2016.

## International sponsors

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## National gold sponsors

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## National silver sponsors

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## Australia & New Zealand national sponsors


## Foundation sponsors

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## State platinum and state awards naming rights sponsors

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## State gold sponsors


## State silver sponsors




[govhack.org](http://govhack.org)