



Australian Government

AUSTRALIA'S SECOND OPEN GOVERNMENT NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2018-20

Open
Government
Partnership
Australia



Australia's second Open Government National Action Plan 2018-20

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Ministerial Foreword



I am very pleased to release Australia's second Open Government National Action Plan. The completion of this Plan, which involved a co-design process between Government, members of the Open Government Forum and civil society has been an excellent example of the community and the Government working in a truly collaborative way in the design of public policy. I particularly wish to thank members of the Open Government Forum and the public who gave up their time and provided valuable advice to help deliver a National Action Plan worthy of Australia's strong reputation for open and accountable government.

Australia's second National Action Plan, which covers the period 2018-20, promises to further enhance citizen's access to information, civic participation, public accountability, as well as technology and innovation for openness and accountability. Building on the success of the first plan, this second plan is comprised of a more targeted and focused set of commitments which seeks to find new and innovative ways to build greater openness and transparency into citizen's everyday interaction with government. Alongside initiatives to enhance electoral transparency and expand open contracting and due diligence in procurement, this new plan includes a number of new initiatives to ensure government is able to deliver better and more transparent outcomes for the Australian community. For example:

- exploring ways the Government and the public service can adopt more place-based approach in its work;
- involving the states and territories in the promotion of OGP values and principles; and
- enhancing the ability for the public to engage in the work of the public service.

Australia has been a member of the Open Government Partnership since 2015 and since then, we have taken great strides to improve transparency, accountability and public engagement in many facets of government. I am confident that this second

National Action Plan will help to continue this trend and reinforce Australia's position as a global leader in the field of openness and accountability.

Thank you again to all who worked to develop this plan. I look forward to continuing to work with civil society to promote the commitments in this plan and to further strengthen OGP principles and practices in the Australian Government.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Cormann', is positioned above the printed name.

Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance and the Public Service

Civil Society Members of the Open Government Forum Forward

The concept of open government is one of enormous potential. At its heart it respects the right of citizens to engage directly and scrutinise the behaviour of government and the institutions of state.

Governments embracing this scrutiny and the direct participation of citizens ultimately make better, more informed, decisions. Greater accountability also builds trust and respect and supports a more equitable society.

With this in mind, it has been a rare privilege for civil society members to participate directly in the shaping of Australia's second National Action Plan through the work of the Open Government Forum.

Our role has been to press for the inclusion of new big transformative ideas, to contribute our views on the strength of draft commitments and to seek to improve the process of consultation.

Many of the members of the Forum were members of the Interim Working Group contributing to the development of the first National Action Plan. Some are members of the local Open Government network, some represent other organisations with a demonstrated commitment to the principles of open government. Each brings a unique perspective to the work of the Forum and values the generosity and frank advice of senior officials participating alongside them.

We welcome the progress made on a number of the priorities in our first National Action Plan, and the fact that these will roll over for ongoing monitoring. Many of our first National Action Plan commitments are on track, while some are delayed. We would like to consistently see increased transparency around the reporting on progress of commitments from the first National Action Plan where those commitments have been delayed or not being delivered.



There is much to be encouraged by in Australia's commitment to open government principles, and there is always room for improvement in our processes. Over the course of this second National Action Plan we hope to see high level government leadership, better support for the work of the civil society members in reaching out to their networks and improvement in the depth and breadth of consultation and communication with a broad cross-section of civil society. This is particularly the case in ensuring the engagement of people and groups that have had very limited input in this process to date, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability and people from regional and remote areas.

There are a number of areas of open government that are important to us that are not included in this plan. We look forward to developing these ideas into solid commitments that are ambitious and coherent in future plans. These include ongoing work on open contracting, building the capacity of civil society to engage, access to and management of information and new work in addressing inequality and injustice, sustainable development goals, human rights protection, a national integrity commission, a First Nations Voice to Parliament, and the Parliament's engagement in the OGP through development of a Parliamentary Action Plan.



Introduction

Australia's first Open Government National Action Plan was developed in collaboration with the representatives of civil society and launched in December 2016. It contains commitments to strengthen and improve transparency and accountability in business, open data and digital transformation, access to government information, integrity in the public sector, and public participation and engagement.

The Australian Government, informed by consultations with the community, has since made substantial progress in completing the majority of these commitments. Notwithstanding the expiry of the first Plan, it will continue to implement incomplete commitments, and continue to report on progress to Australia's Open Government Forum and publicly via the [OGP Australia website](#) until they are concluded.

This second Open Government National Action Plan builds on the lessons and successes of our first Plan. It consists of a focussed set of commitments, which will together further open up government, and help realise all the values of the Open Government Partnership to enhance access to information, civic participation, public accountability, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. Specifically, this National Action Plan seeks to:

- strengthen the national anti-corruption framework;
- enhance the transparency of political donations and funding;
- improve the sharing, use and reuse of public-sector data;
- improve public service practices using place-based approaches;
- enhance state and territory participation in the Open Government Partnership;
- enhance public engagement skills in the public service;
- engage Australians in the Independent Review of the Australian Public Service; and
- expand open contracting and due diligence in procurement.

The Open Government Forum recognises the potential for our Open Government commitments to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Australia and around the world. In particular, the Forum notes the mutually reinforcing aspects of this Plan with *Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*, which focuses on access to justice and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, and *Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals*, which emphasises multi-stakeholder partnerships to share knowledge and expertise.

The Plan has also been developed to respond to the [mid-term report of the Independent Reporting Mechanism](#), which evaluated Australia's progress in its first year of implementing its open government commitments. The report recommended that Australia:

- broaden its stakeholder engagement on open government matters
- enhance awareness of open government initiatives across government
- advance work related to establishing a federal anti-corruption agency and lobbying and political donation reform initiatives
- develop a comprehensive process for reform of Australian Government information management and access practices, and
- enhance coordination with state and territory governments on open government matters.

These recommendations have been considered in designing the process for developing Australia's next Open Government National Action Plan, and in the resulting open government commitments.

This Plan has been developed in collaboration with the Australian community, and has involved both online and face-to-face consultations, which have formed part of a larger developmental process that has been guided and overseen by Australia's multi-stakeholder forum, the Open Government Forum. The Australian Government thanks all of the



members of the Forum – who will continue to oversee and monitor implementation of the new Plan, and assist the government’s continuing efforts to elevate the profile of open government matters – and everyone who participated in the development of this Plan.

Developing our second National Action Plan

The development of this Plan has been informed by consultations with the Australian community. This was conducted in line with a five-stage process developed with our Open Government Forum, incorporating periods for:

- **retrospective** reflection (November-December 2017), where we worked with government and key stakeholders to identify continuing and prospective themes and commitments;
- **raising awareness** of the OGP and the process to develop the next Plan, **and seeking ideas** (January 2018);
- **developing ideas** (February-March), where we developed prospective themes and commitments through a series of online and face-to-face consultations around the country;
- **drafting commitments** (April-July), which included working with the Open Government Forum to further develop and refine prospective commitments, conducting another series of online and face-to-face consultations, and convening a meeting of the Forum to make final recommendations to government on the Plan; and
- **finalising the Plan** (August), where we submitted and published the Plan.

Details and timelines of this process were first published online in early December 2017. In order to raise awareness of the process, and in particular to enhance public participation in the consultations, opportunities for public engagement were further promoted from early February 2018 on the OGP Australia website and on governmental social media, and emailed to subscribers of the OGP Australia email list and to specific key civil society stakeholders who had been identified by the Forum. Civil society members of the Forum also assisted in promoting the consultations.

Phase 1 consultations: Prospective themes and commitments

In the first phase of public consultation, in the six weeks from 19 February-30 March, the Australian Government asked the Australian community about prospective themes and commitments for the Plan. Individuals and groups could have their say by submitting and discussing ideas at the OGP Australia website in response to five discussion starters, and leave suggestions for other commitments. The Australian Government also convened five face-to-face consultations in different cities across the country.

During this time, nearly 60 comments and submissions from over 100 registered users and attendees were received and published. The outcomes of each face-to-face consultation were also published.

The ideas for commitments were then considered by the Open Government Forum, who worked with the government agencies to further develop and refine them at its meetings in April, May, and June. The Forum discussed emerging cross-cutting themes in business, integrity, engagement, states and territories, and data. As a result of this process, commitments relating to improving public service practices using place-based approaches, engaging Australians in the Independent Review of the Australian Public Service, and expanding open contracting and due diligence in procurement were added.



Phase 2 consultations: Draft Plan

This second phase was held from 25 June-8 July, and included release of a full draft Plan for comment online, which contained eight draft commitments. The Australian Government also held two face-to-face workshops.

These consultations were promoted by the Australian Government and civil society members of the Open Government Forum in a manner similar to that employed for the first phase of consultations.

During this time nearly 60 comments and submissions from nearly 90 registered users and attendees were received and published.

Australia's Open Government Forum met again in July to consider feedback received in this second phase of consultations and make a final recommendation to government on the content of Australia's second Open Government National Action Plan 2018-20.

Strengthen the national anti-corruption framework	
Commitment Start and End Date	
September 2018-August 2020	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Attorney-General's Department
Commitment description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	<p>The frameworks, laws and reporting channels that make up the dispersed and multi-faceted national anti-corruption framework are not well understood. The 2017 Senate Select Committee on a National Integrity Commission recommended the current system be strengthened to make it more 'coherent, comprehensible and accessible' and give 'careful consideration to establishing a Commonwealth agency with broad scope and jurisdiction to address integrity and corruption matters'.</p> <p>The Government is committed to addressing corruption wherever it occurs, and to increasing public awareness of and confidence in our systems to prevent, detect and combat corruption.</p> <p>There is concern from some sectors and civil society representatives that corruption in the public sector is not being adequately addressed. A number of submissions throughout the public consultation process for the second National Action Plan called for the establishment of a national integrity body.</p> <p>There may be opportunities to strengthen the existing framework to ensure it functions more effectively and more cohesively, to better communicate the functions and agencies that make up the national anti-corruption framework, and/or improve trust and confidence in the framework.</p>
What is the commitment?	<p>The Government will continue to consider and assess all options for strengthening the national anti-corruption framework to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that sectors and activities vulnerable to corruption are covered; • improve the framework's coherence, effectiveness and functioning; and • better communicate the framework. <p>We will do this by analysing the coverage afforded at present by relevant government departments, agencies and other bodies and identifying any significant gaps in their jurisdiction, functions and resources. Our intention will be to continue to ensure the national anti-corruption framework is comprehensive, cohesive and effective.</p>

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	This commitment will involve the Government continuing to review the national integrity framework and assess all options to ensure public sector accountability and anti-corruption mechanisms are integrated, cohesive, effective and accessible.	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment will advance the OGP values of transparency and public accountability by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving the transparency and accessibility of information on anti-corruption policies and practices, and enhancing anti-corruption and public accountability mechanisms. 	
Additional information	The Government will consider available research and information, including the Australian Research Council Linkage Project LP160100267 (2016-2019) <i>Strengthening Australia's national integrity system: priorities for reform</i> being led by Griffith University, Transparency International Australia and others.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
Government response to the Report of the Senate Select Committee on a National Integrity Commission	Q3 2018	Q4 2018
Civic engagement in ongoing review of the national integrity framework	Q3 2018	Q4 2018
Implement Government response to the Report of the Senate Select Committee on a National Integrity Commission and any other outcomes of ongoing review of the national integrity framework	Q4 2018	Q2 2020
Contact information		
Contacts	Integrity Branch, Attorney-General's Department	

Email and Phone		anticorruption@ag.gov.au
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity, Australian National Audit Office, Australian Public Service Commission, Commonwealth Ombudsman, Australian Federal Police, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (majority of federal agencies), relevant state and territory agencies (for example, anti-corruption agencies).
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Transparency International Australia, National Integrity Committee, The Australia Institute, Australian Research Council Linkage Project LP160100267 (2016-2019) Strengthening Australia's national integrity system: priorities for reform (Griffith University), the Accountability Round Table, Australian Open Government Partnership Civil Society Network, Law Council of Australia, other relevant non-government and private sector stakeholders (for example, compliance, advisory and law firms).



Enhance the transparency of political donations and funding

Commitment Start and End Date

September 2018-August 2020

Lead implementing
agency/actor

Department of Finance (with the Australian Electoral Commission)

Commitment description

What is the public
problem that the
commitment will
address?

The Commonwealth funding and disclosure scheme, established under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act) specifies arrangements for the public funding of federal election campaigns, and the disclosure of funding source. The objective of the scheme is to provide transparency and inform the public about the financial dealings of political parties and candidates, and others involved in the electoral process.

The scheme requires relevant organisations and individuals to lodge an annual return with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). Annual returns are published in PDF format on the AEC website at the beginning of February for the previous financial year.

Different arrangements apply to elections. Election disclosure returns are published by the AEC on its website 24 weeks after polling day.

The delay between transactions being entered into, and their disclosure, while consistent with the requirements of Part XX of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, detracts from transparency and affects the ability of the public to form judgements about political parties, candidates and other actors that seek to influence election outcomes, and to apply that knowledge in exercising their franchise. This is particularly the case in an election context where the voting public is not informed of donations or electoral expenditure prior to casting their votes.

What is the
commitment?

Australia will investigate options for enhancing the timeliness and the accessibility of relevant information, through enhancing the electoral funding and disclosure scheme.

How will the
commitment
contribute to solve the
public problem?

Our ambition is to ensure the Commonwealth's electoral funding and disclosure scheme provides for the improved timeliness and accessibility of relevant information, with regards to the financial dealings of political parties and candidates, and others in the electoral process. This will support increased transparency and increase public confidence in Australian democracy.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?		<p>This commitment will advance the OGP values of transparency and civic participation by giving due consideration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving the accessibility of information provided to the public; and providing the public with more frequent and timely information.
Additional information		<p>JSCEM Inquiry</p> <p>https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Join t/Electoral_Matters/2016Election</p>
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		<p>Start Date:</p> <p>End Date:</p>
JSCEM Inquiry and reporting	Inquiry into 2016 election including relevant terms of reference.	Q4 2018
Government considers recommendations	Q1 2019	Q3 2019
Parliament and other relevant stakeholders consider Government decisions	Q1 2020	Q3 2020
Contact information		
Contacts		Resource Management Branch, Department of Finance
Email and Phone		electoral.policy@finance.gov.au
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Australian Electoral Commission
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, interested CSO stakeholders.

<h2>Improve the sharing, use and reuse of public sector data</h2>	
<p>Commitment Start and End Date</p> <p>September 2018-August 2020</p>	
<p>Lead implementing agency/actor</p>	<p>Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</p>
<p>Commitment description</p>	
<p>What is the public problem that the commitment will address?</p>	<p>Government data offers significant opportunity for innovation in Government services, economic enterprise, research and development and transparency. Greater availability of data held by government increases transparency and openness.</p> <p>The Productivity Commission identified existing data governance arrangements are complex and prevent the use and reuse of data. The PC found barriers to sharing include a dense web of legislative requirements, a culture of risk aversion and a lack of a whole of government approach. The PC found these barriers could be addressed through reforms to the way data sharing and use is governed.</p> <p>The Australian Government has committed to implementing a simpler, more efficient data sharing and release framework by establishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new Commonwealth Data Sharing and Release Act to streamline access and use of data; and • a new National Data Commissioner (NDC) to oversee the framework and legislation, and issue guidance and support to agencies to meet the new requirements. <p>The new Data Sharing and Release Act will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote better sharing of data held by the Australian Government; • build trust in use of public data; • dial up or down appropriate safeguards; • maintain the integrity of the data system; and • establish institutional arrangements.
<p>What is the commitment?</p>	<p>Building on commitments under Australia's first National Action Plan, this commitment focuses on the implementation of data governance reforms announced by the Australian Government in May 2018. These reforms will increase data access and use within government and with trusted users outside government, while improving data privacy and security with strengthened and consistent safeguards.</p> <p>PM&C commits to consulting across government, through the new National Data Advisory Council (see current Action Plan), with the Open Government Forum and with the public including</p>

	<p>businesses, civil society groups and research and non-profit sectors to design and develop the implementation of the reforms.</p> <p>As a first step, the Government has released an Issues Paper for public feedback and comments by 1 August. The paper outlines an approach to a new Data Sharing and Release Bill which aims to balance sharing data held by government with appropriate risk management.</p> <p>As committed under Australia's first National Action Plan, the National Data Advisory Council will be a multi-disciplinary expert panel drawn from public sector and civic society organisations.</p>
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	<p>The reforms aim to promote better sharing of public sector data while building the public's trust in use of public data by ensuring appropriate safeguards and integrity in the data system.</p> <p>To do this, we need to ensure that the implementation of the reforms is consistent with community values and expectations. This commitment will build consultation into the implementation and monitoring of the reforms.</p> <p>The new legislation will exist alongside existing legislation and data safeguards in the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i>; <i>Privacy Amendment (Notifiable Data Breaches) Act 2017</i>; Australian Government Agencies Privacy Code; <i>Archives Act 1983</i>, National Archives of Australia information management standards and Digital Continuity 2020 Policy, and Protective Security Policy Framework requirements relating to releasing classified information.</p>
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	<p>This commitment for these reforms is relevant to several OGP values in the following ways:</p> <p>Access to information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reforms, in particular the Data Sharing and Release Act, will streamline the sharing of data held by government to those within and external to the system while maintaining strong safeguards around data access. <p>Civic participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This commitment will build consultation into the implementation and monitoring of the reforms, including through the National Data Advisory Council (a commitment under the current National Action Plan). <p>Public accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Data Sharing and Release Act will require increased transparency on how data is shared across government. Greater sharing and better use of data will improve agencies' ability to evaluate policies and programs effectively.
Additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Builds on Commitments 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 of the first National Action Plan. Announcement of response to Productivity Commission Issues paper on an approach for the legislation

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
Appoint National Data Commissioner		Q3 2018	Q4 2019
Consultation on the on the approach to the design of the legislation to ensure it balances sharing data held by government with appropriate risk management		Q3 2018	Q4 2019
Establish National Data Advisory Council to advise the National Data Commissioner		Q3 2018	Q4 2019
National Data Commissioner issues first guidance and standards		Q3 2019	Q3 2020
Contact information			
Contacts		Data and Digital Branch, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	
Email and Phone		DataLegislation@pmc.gov.au	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	<p>All Australian Public Service entities will be consulted through Government processes, including the Attorney-General's Department, the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner and the National Archives of Australia.</p> <p>The National Data Commissioner will work closely alongside the Information and Privacy Commissioners.</p> <p>The Australia Bureau of Statistics will provide technical guidance and support to the National Data Commissioner.</p>	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	A wide range of relevant stakeholders will be consulted in the development of the legislation, including privacy advocates, academics and researchers, and other peak bodies.	

Improve public service practices using place-based approaches

Commitment Start and End Date

September 2018-August 2020

Lead implementing agency/actor

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

The problems present in the most disadvantaged locations across Australia are numerous and interrelated, and addressing them requires locally tailored, community based approaches (Australian Social Inclusion Board). The public service must have the authority, flexibility and capabilities to collaborate with different communities in different places to develop and implement different approaches.

A place-based approach recognises the impact of 'place' on individuals' experiences and outcomes and incorporates this recognition into strategies to improve social, economic and environmental outcomes. It embeds meaningful public and multi-stakeholder participation into the business of policy development and service delivery.

Too often, decisions are taken centrally without the engagement of local citizens. In addition, there can be unclear lines of accountability for delivery and quality of outcomes.

This commitment, focused on public sector improvement, will explore what changes to capabilities, planning, engagement, data sharing and implementation practice of the public service are required to support a place-centred approach. It will identify learning from place-based approaches already underway such as Cities Deals, Empowered Communities, Stronger Communities for Children and Logan Together and consider how to better enable citizen engagement and involvement in program design and delivery. The purpose of this commitment is to learn from place-based approaches that are already underway and explore how these learnings could be applied more broadly across the Commonwealth.

What is the commitment?

The Government will explore ways to encourage the application and broader adoption of place-based approaches across the public service, and provide recommendations for how the public service could apply a more place-centred, transformational and joined-up delivery approach to its work.

	This will be done by establishing mechanisms for the public service to learn from place-based approaches already underway, such as Cities Deals, and Empowered Communities, Stronger Communities for Children, and Logan Together. The learning focus will be on good practice and challenges in relation to delegation and accountability for local planning, engagement and service delivery to support place-based approaches and listening to the experiences of citizens.	
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Our ambition is to design and promote a whole-of-government approach to learning from and applying place-based approaches. The adoption of place-centred approaches should contribute to the development of policy, implementation and service system responses that better take account of the needs and aspirations of citizens, deliver tangible outcomes, hold all stakeholders to account for their responsibilities and ensure that services are delivered in a way that meet the needs of the end user.	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment will advance the OGP values of transparency , civic participation and public accountability by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating informed public participation; • improving policy development and service delivery; and • encouraging an ongoing sharing of information and views across the public service that builds consensus on broad policy directions. 	
Additional information	The work could draw on learnings from existing place-based approaches.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
Finalise scope of works. Relevant Commonwealth agencies will be consulted on the scope of works. Other relevant stakeholders will be invited to contribute their perspectives to the learning report	Q3 2018	Q3 2018
Develop a framework /mechanism for the public service to learn from existing place-based approaches	Q4 2018	Q1 2019

Capture learnings from existing place-based approaches	Q1 2019	Q4 2019
Finalise report on learnings	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
Provide Government with recommendations based on learnings and seek Government's agreement to publish recommendations	Q2 2020	Q3 2020
Contact information		
Contacts	Engagement and Development Branch, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Special Adviser, Regional Governance, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	
Email and Phone	NetworkCoordination@pmc.gov.au	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Department of Health, Department of Social Services, Department of Human Services, Department of Education and Training, Department of Jobs and Small Business, Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, Australian Bureau of Statistics and relevant State and Territory Government agencies.
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Specific organisations not yet identified, but may include a cross section of Empowered Communities organisations, Logan Together community partners and Stronger Communities for Children facilitating partners, local citizens and local government representatives.

Engage States and Territories to better understand information access

Commitment Start and End Date

September 2018-August 2020

Lead implementing agency/actor

Information and Privacy Commission NSW on behalf of Commonwealth, State and Territory Information Commissioners and Ombudsmen, and supported by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Under Australia's federal system of government, responsibilities are shared between different levels of government. To date, participation in the Open Government Partnership has occurred primarily at the federal government level.

There is significant work underway at the state and territory level that contributes to the development of a culture of government openness, enhanced levels of transparency and greater public accountability. The right to access government information is independently oversighted by the Commonwealth, State and Territory Information Commissioners and Ombudsmen.

Currently, there is no consistent mechanism to enable an assessment of awareness of the right to access government information and experiences in exercising that right at each level of government.

What is the commitment?

This commitment will better provide for subnational participation in the Open Government Partnership process to build understanding of information access frameworks. We will achieve this by:

1. facilitating administrative arrangements between state and territory governments and Australian Government officials responsible for Australia's Open Government commitments to support collaboration and learning on open government matters (including highlighting the opportunity for formal subnational cooperation and membership in the Open Government Partnership), and
2. engaging with Information Commissioners and Ombudsmen to seek agreement to conduct surveys to measure citizens' awareness of the right to access government information, and their experiences and outcomes in exercising that right. These surveys will inform activities to promote and support the right to access government information.

How will the commitment

We will promote fuller participation in the Open Government Partnership by Australian states and territories (providing greater

contribute to solve the public problem?	opportunities to enhance government transparency and accountability), and, in particular, enhance understandings of how the right to information access is experienced by Australians.	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	<p>By facilitating greater participation in the Open Government Partnership process by state and territory governments, this commitment will advance all the OGP values.</p> <p>In particular, by better measuring the value citizens place on the right to access government information, and their awareness of, and their experiences and outcomes in exercising that right, this commitment will advance the OGP value of access to information.</p>	
Additional information		
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
Administratively engage state and territory governments to raise awareness of the Open Government Partnership, support collaboration and learning on open government matters, and highlight the opportunity for formal cooperation and subnational membership.	Q3 2018	Q4 2018
<p>Engage with state and territory Information Commissioners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agree to the design of a survey to measure the value citizens place on the right to access government information, and their awareness of, and their experiences and outcomes in exercising that right 	Q3 2018	Q4 2018

• conduct survey		Q1 2019	Q3 2019
• analyse and publish results of survey		Q3 2019	Q4 2019
Contact information			
Contacts		Information and Privacy Commission NSW	
Email and Phone		Elizabeth.tydd@ipc.nsw.gov.au	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	State and Territory Information Commissioners and Ombudsmen and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Accountability Round Table, Australian Open Government Partnership Civil Society Network.	

Enhance public engagement skills in the public service

Commitment Start and End Date

September 2018-August 2020

Lead implementing
agency/actor

Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

Commitment description

What is the public
problem that the
commitment will
address?

Public policy problems are increasingly complex and this complexity is occurring in an environment of declining trust in government.

Numerous reviews, senior public servants and academics have emphasised that the APS can reduce the complexity and build trust by bringing more people and expertise into its work when they are needed. Better approaches might allow the APS to translate the best technical, academic and practical advice into accessible, policy and programme relevant conclusions.

However, awareness and practical experience of how to engage the community beyond traditional information sharing and consultation is patchy. There are good examples of more collaborative approaches, but this is not the norm. Rather, APS engagement often has an emphasis on obtaining buy-in rather than accessing expertise. And the APS still lags behind adoption of better engagement compared to local, state and international jurisdictions. In particular, the APS has a gap in its capability to undertake deliberative, open and collaborative engagements.

What is the
commitment?

Develop and implement an Open Dialogue Roadmap:

Australia will co-chair and take a leading role in the development of an Open Dialogue Roadmap, through OGP International's Deliberative Processes Practice Group. The Roadmap will consist of a briefing booklet making the argument for deliberation and a how to guide. It will assist public servants to design and implement open and deliberative engagement processes.

The Establishment of an APS Engagement Hub: The Hub would be, in the first instance, a digital space. It will ensure the initiatives under the first Action Plan's Commitment 5.2 framework are delivered. It will tie together elements of the framework and create a landing point for guidance, advice and support. It will be iterated over time and has the potential to integrate engagement efforts across the APS.

Over time the Hub could act as a platform for general interaction between civil society and the APS. User research will be undertaken to inform the design of this element of the Hub, with findings reported to the Open Government Forum.

<p>How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?</p>	<p>The use of open dialogue and deliberative processes are proven ways to improve public sector engagement awareness and capability and foster an Open Government culture. Similarly, the development of a digital hub to provide a platform for knowledge management and retention, as well as the delivery of expertise and resources offer a proven method for building capability and raising awareness.</p> <p>Open and deliberative processes differ from traditional approaches to consultation by enabling richer communication between, across and among public sector agencies and their respective publics. Moreover, it offers a means of supporting more sustained forms of engagement rather than traditional event-driven approaches.</p> <p>This is achieved through a rules-based exchange of ideas and information that focuses on responding to a question and/or resolving an issue. In doing so, this type of process provides a more effective way of solving complex and contentious policy issues that have competing interests and the negotiation of trade-offs.</p> <p>These processes have already been successfully applied to radioactive waste (Commonwealth), Sports policy (Canada), Reproductive rights (Republic of Ireland) and Dog and Cat Management (South Australia).</p> <p>The development of this roadmap will boost engagement capability, both in Australia and overseas. In particular, it will raise awareness and build a shared understanding of how deliberative processes work, why they are important to modern governments, and when they can be used effectively. It will include a step by step guide on how to undertake deliberative engagements, as well as a Briefing Book that provides accessible answers to the top questions about public deliberation that are likely to be asked by political or senior public service decision makers.</p> <p>Implementation of the roadmap will be via the development and testing of a demonstration open dialogue capability.</p>
<p>Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?</p>	<p>This commitment will have a broad range of impacts, and specifically advances the OGP values of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • civic participation and transparency by allowing further access to information to ensure meaningful input from interested members of the public into decisions; citizens' right to have their voices heard; and opening up decision making to more interested members of the public; and • technology and innovation for openness and accountability by promoting new technologies that offer opportunities for information sharing, public participation and collaboration; and making more information public in ways that enable people to both understand what their governments do and to influence decisions.



Additional information		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Builds on Commitment 5.2 of the first National Action Plan. The Roadmap is also included in the proposed work agenda for the APS Reform Committee (Policy, Data and Innovation stream).
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		<div>Start Date:</div> <div>End Date:</div>
Establish the Engagement Hub		<div>Q3 2018</div> <div>Q4 2019</div>
User research on design of the Hub		<div>Q3 2018</div> <div>Q1 2019</div>
Publicly release Open Dialogue and Deliberation Booklet		<div>Q3 2018</div> <div>Q1 2019</div>
Publicly release the Practical How To Guide		<div>Q1 2019</div> <div>Q2 2019</div>
Test and report back publicly on the Open Dialogue Roadmap		<div>Q3 2019</div> <div>Q1 2020</div>
Contact information		
Contacts		Open Government Partnership Section, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.
Email and Phone		ogp@industry.gov.au
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	<p>Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (APS Reform team). All Australian Government departments will be made aware of the work through inclusion on the working Agenda of the APS Reform Committee (Policy, Data and Innovation stream).</p> <p>Information and Privacy Commission NSW.</p>
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	<p>OGP International's Deliberative Processes Practice Group includes four other countries, and public sector and civil society representatives from each.</p> <p>In addition: IAP2, New Democracy, Open Australia Foundation, Open Government Partnership Network.</p>

Engage Australians in the Independent Review of the Australian Public Service

Commitment Start and End Date

September 2018-June 2019

Lead implementing
agency/actor

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Commitment description

What is the public
problem that the
commitment will
address?

The Australian public and successive Australian governments have been well served by a highly professional Australian Public Service (APS). The APS has consistently engaged with the key policy, program, service delivery and regulatory challenges of the day, and sought to understand current management, governance and technological developments.

However, new technology and global developments are transforming the Australian economy and society. This will continue and accelerate over the decades ahead, posing new opportunities and challenges for citizens, business and the broader community.

The Government is determined to ensure Australia capitalises on the opportunities this provides to drive innovation, increase productivity, create jobs, improve citizens' experience of government, and deliver better services. The APS has a critical role in assisting government to manage and respond to new and emerging challenges — both in policy and implementation. But it must be best placed to harness the opportunities, with the necessary in-house capability to both develop and implement solutions.

This means improving the capacity of the APS to innovate, collaborate, and to use data and technology more effectively.

What is the
commitment?

The Government has established an independent review to ensure the APS is fit-for-purpose for the coming decades. The review will examine the capability, culture and operating model of the APS and identify an ambitious program of transformational reforms.

The independent panel leading the review will consult widely, both within and outside the APS.

The panel will ensure their work is undertaken in an open and transparent manner, in collaboration with the APS and its stakeholders.

To do this, the panel will:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage wide participation both within and outside the APS, and input to deliberations throughout the life of the review (including through more dynamic engagement mechanisms such as online polls); • utilise appropriate technologies, such as artificial intelligence and natural language processing capabilities to support timely development of insights and analysis; and • test ideas (both face-to-face and online) in an open and iterative manner. 	
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	<p>Ensuring recommendations are well informed and reflect stakeholder input will maximise their impact in delivering transformational change and ensuring the APS is fit-for-purpose in 2030 and beyond.</p> <p>By conducting the review in this manner, the panel will model a best practice approach and set the expectations for the conduct of future reviews.</p>	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	<p>This commitment will advance the OGP values of transparency and civic participation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conducting the review in an open and iterative manner; • facilitating informed public participation into the Independent Review of the Australian Public Service; • improving policy development and service delivery; and • enhancing transparency around the inputs to government decision-making. 	
Additional information	Up-to-date information on the Independent Review of the APS is available at: https://www.apsreview.gov.au/ .	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
Open and ongoing consultation through face-to-face and online mechanisms which, where permissible, will be published	Q3 2018	Q2 2019
Report delivered to government	Q2 2019	Q2 2019
Contact information		
Contacts	Independent Review of the APS taskforce, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	

Email and Phone		apsreview@pmc.gov.au
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	<p>All Australian Government departments and their staff will be encouraged to contribute to the review.</p> <p>The review will also engage with state and territory governments to understand their experiences of designing and implementing transformational organisational change.</p>
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	<p>Specific organisations are not currently known, but it is expected that a wide range will be consulted in the course of the review, including citizens, APS employees, community groups, business groups, public sector unions and academia.</p>

Expand open contracting and due diligence in procurement

Commitment Start and End Date

September 2018-August 2020

Lead implementing
agency/actor

Department of Finance

Commitment description

What is the public
problem that the
commitment will
address?

Under Commitment 4.3 of Australia's first Open Government National Action Plan, the Government assessed its compliance with the Open Contracting Data Standard. Following this assessment and a public consultation process, the Government agreed to progress options to increase its compliance with the Open Contracting Data Standard by publishing AusTender contracting data in an OCDS-compliant schema.

The Open Contracting Data Standard sets out key documents and data that should be published at each stage of government procurement. The Standard enables disclosure of data and documents at all stages of the contracting process by defining a common data model. It was created to support organisations to increase contracting transparency, and allow deeper analysis of contracting data by a wide range of users.

What is the
commitment?

Australia will progress the publication of existing federal Government procurement data using the Open Contracting Data Standard schema to publish an additional AusTender dataset on data.gov.au.

We will then assess the use and value of that data for relevant purposes and to relevant user groups including government, business and civil society.

Additionally, Australia will review existing procurement due diligence processes, report on the outcomes of the review, and consider opportunities to further support the Open Government Partnership values of transparency and accountability.

How will the
commitment
contribute to solve the
public problem?

This commitment will build on the Open Contracting commitment in the original Open Government National Action Plan.

Why is this
commitment relevant
to OGP values?

This commitment will advance the OGP values of **transparency**, **accountability** and **access to government information**.

Additional information		
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
Publish additional OCDS-compliant dataset on data.gov.au	Underway	Q4 2018
Engage with stakeholders in government, business and civil society to promote the publication of additional dataset	Q4 2018	Q2 2019
Review existing due diligence processes of relevant Commonwealth entities and publish outcome of review	Q1 2019	Q4 2019
Review use and value of OCDS-compliant dataset	Q3 2019	Q4 2019
Implement additional measures (if required)	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
Contact information		
Contacts		Department of Finance
Email and Phone		procurementagencyadvice@finance.gov.au
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Australian Government entities bound by the Commonwealth Procurement Framework.
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Transparency International Australia, Open Contracting Partnership.

