OECD OURdata Index: 2019

Australia

6th Place

Legend:
- Data Availability
- Data Accessibility
- Government support for data reuse

Governance for Open Government Data

| Institutional Governance	Policy Framework	Legal and Regulatory instruments
The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has the primary responsibility for driving the open data agenda in Australia. The Office of the National Data Commissioner implements and oversees the new data sharing and release framework.	The Australian Government Public Data Policy Statement from 2015 provides a framework to foster innovation and grow the economy using public data. The Australian Government's response to the Productivity Commission Data Availability and Use Inquiry serves as a national data strategy for 2018-2023.	The new Data Sharing and Release Act (open for consultation in 2018) aims to find a balance between increased sharing of public sector data and risk management.

Enabling coherent policy implementation
→ The Data Sharing Principles promote coherent, safe, appropriate and more flexible sharing of data from the public sector.
→ The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet conducted a review of government data activities that took place in 2018 to get an overview and support future initiatives.

Open Government Data Portal
→ Data.gov.au gives access to open data from the Australian government.
→ In addition to free and open data, the portal has information on unpublished data and data available for purchase from government entities.
→ Data.gov.au federates open data from data portals operated by Australian state and territory governments (eg, data.vic.gov.au, data.nsw.gov.au), supporting discovery of more than 89,000 datasets.
→ Data.gov.au publishes descriptions using the open standard schema.org, allowing further discovery and reuse by services like Google Dataset Search

Using data as a platform: ecosystem engagement and collaboration
→ Senior government officials responsible for promoting the use, sharing and re-use of government data within their organisation, called 'Data Champions', form a network of public servants that collaborate on open government data.
→ The Digital Transformation Agency runs an online community of practice open to those interested in sharing ideas and experiences using open government data from data.gov.au.

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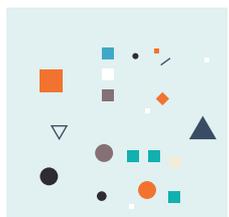
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Good practice

NationalMap

NationalMap is a map-based data visualisation platform, capable of displaying geospatially enabled datasets from data.gov.au or datasets uploaded by users that are appropriately geocoded. The goal of NationalMap is to provide easy access to spatial government data, unlocking economic potential by supporting both commercial and non-commercial innovation. Future releases of NationalMap are expected to incorporate emergency management and planning data from the Australian state and territory organisations responsible for bushfire management.

Performance per Index Pillar

Data Availability

0.14	0.24	0.20
2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
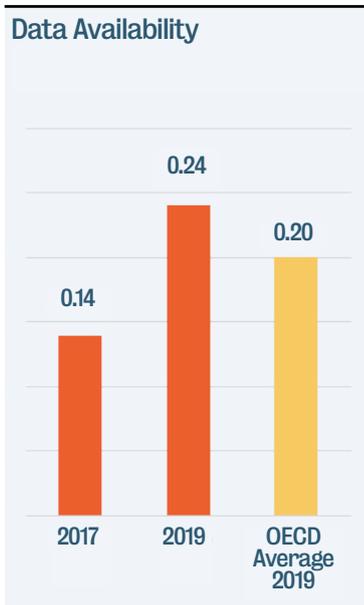
Australia has made one of the most noticeable improvements in data availability among OECD countries since 2017, especially in terms of engaging stakeholders early in the process of open data initiatives and in providing more high-value data on the federal open data portal.

Data Accessibility

0.21	0.24	0.23
2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
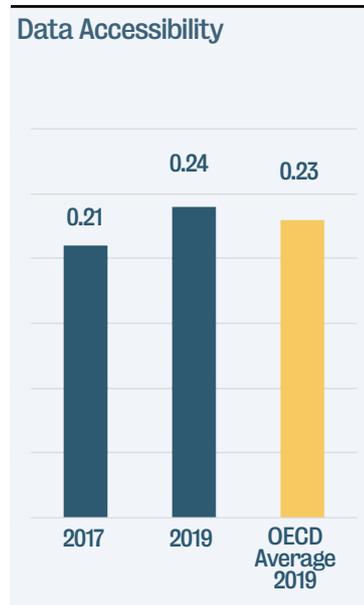
The overall level of data accessibility has increased in recent years, while stakeholder engagement on the federal OGD portal remains below the OECD average. This indicates a need to make the portal a more open and user-driven space for citizens.

Government support for data reuse

0.27	0.25	0.17
2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
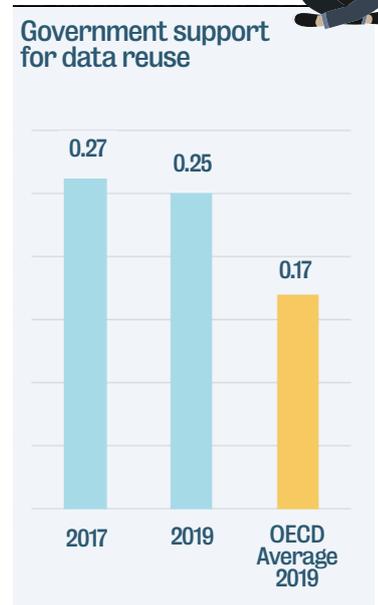
Australia is still one of the leaders in terms of promoting government data re-use both within and outside the public sector. To further promote re-use, more resources could be invested into monitoring the impact of open data.

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