### Australian Data and Digital Council  
**Terms of Reference 2019**

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<tr>
<th><strong>Chair</strong></th>
<th>The Commonwealth Minister for Government Services</th>
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| **Membership** | The Ministerial Council (Council) consists of one ministerial representative from each jurisdiction with responsibility for data and/or digital matters.  
In addition to members, the Council’s Senior Officials Group will attend meetings.  
The Chair may invite representatives from other agencies to participate in specific meetings, as appropriate. |
| **Operations** | Meetings will be held up to four times a year.  
The Council will make decisions on the basis of consensus, wherever possible.  
The Council will consult with the relevant COAG Council(s) or Ministerial Forum(s) on policy issues prior to any agreement to projects within its work program. |
| **Scope of Council responsibility** | The Council will focus on improving outcomes for customers by driving cross-government collaboration on data and digital transformation to drive smarter service delivery and improved policy outcomes.  
The Council is responsible for overseeing the development of Australia’s digital capability. This can be achieved by identifying best practice across jurisdictions and pursuing areas for collaboration to achieve its purpose.  
The Council will work to investigate and understand barriers to digital integration as well as data sharing within and across State and Territory Governments and the Commonwealth Government.  
To improve the use of public sector data and develop better digital services for people and businesses, the Ministerial Council will consider and promote initiatives that aim to:  
- Understand customer’s needs  
- Ensure the security of Australia’s data  
- Reform national data sharing arrangements  
- Prioritise and agree data and digital initiatives that offer national or cross-jurisdictional benefits  
- Ensure equitable access to the benefits of digital transformation for all Australians including consideration of addressing the digital divide |
| Specific actions to progress Council responsibilities in the next 18 months | The Council will deliver its data and digital work program to transform services for people and businesses under four themes:  
**Reforming cross-jurisdictional data and digital platforms, services and protocols**  
- National Disability Data Asset  
- Data sharing on birth defects  
- e-invoicing and e-planning  
- National API standards  
- Additional cross-jurisdictional data collaboration initiatives (as referred by COAG)  
**Enhancing government capability to build public trust and deliver digitally**  
- Building trust and community support  
- Digital inclusion  
- Emerging technologies  
**Transforming services around life events**  
- Prioritisation of life events  
- Birth of a child  
- End of life  
- Looking for work  
**Delivering a seamless digital identity experience for citizens**  
- Digital identity solutions |
| Review and reporting | The Council will report to COAG as required on its progress. |