

Open Government Partnership New Zealand

National Action Plan 2018-2020

Progress report to: 30 June 2020

Commitment 9: Increase visibility of government data stewardship practices

Lead agency:

Stats NZ

Objective:

To increase the visibility of data practices for government-held data.

Ambition:

New Zealanders will:

- understand how government is managing, using, and protecting their data and be able to hold government to account.
- have confidence and trust in the management and use of data that government holds on their behalf.

OGP values:

Transparency, Accountability

Milestones		Progress
1	Develop and publish an overview of government's data stewardship practices <i>Start/End dates: August 2018 to 30 November 2018</i>	
2	Engage with citizens and government on the data stewardship overview to ensure it provides visibility of the right things and is addressing key needs <i>Start/End dates: Ongoing</i>	
3	Promote the data stewardship practices to government agencies and support them to implement good practice <i>Start/End dates: Ongoing</i>	
4	Engage with citizens and government to identify where effort should be focused to address gaps in government's data stewardship practices <i>Start/End dates: Ongoing</i>	

Progress key:



some delays



underway



completed

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- The Data Stewardship Framework provides a structure and common language for organising and describing the different elements of effective data stewardship. The accompanying Data Stewardship Toolkit will provide access to guidance, resources, and tools to help people and agencies to steward data effectively.
- Consultation with government agencies revealed a diversity in data stewardship awareness, practices, and maturity across government. This became more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic when government organisations were seeking data to inform policies and responses. This diversity means it will take longer than anticipated to achieve our objective of consistent and transparent data stewardship practices across government.
- However, there are a number of initiatives underway that will contribute to this commitment's objective (and to the Data Stewardship Toolkit). As resources are developed, they will be promoted to government agencies and help will be available to support implementation. This is expected to be on an ongoing basis beyond the timeframe of this commitment. Resources will be publicly available, and we will seek public feedback to enable the resources to be refined.
 - Stats NZ is undertaking a review of data access and use across government during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in the post-lockdown recovery phase, to identify what the data needs are and where data stewardship improvements could be made.
 - Three government data content requirements have been approved: date of birth, person name, and street address. Each requirement covers a minimum compliance that needs to be met by all government organisations. Two more data content requirements are in development.
 - The Data Ethics Advisory Group has been meeting regularly since September 2019 and has published guidance for the Data Ventures' Population Density Project. Guidance for the Ministry of Education's Equity Index is currently being drafted.
 - Stats NZ has recently published Ngā Tikanga Paihere, a framework and tool that draws on 10 tikanga to guide safe, responsible, and culturally appropriate use of data.
 - A Data Capability Framework will be published soon. This tool helps to identify and assess data and analytical capability for those who need to use data in their work.
 - A new Data and Statistics Bill is currently being drafted. This new legislation will provide a consistent approach to the production of official statistics and

the safe management and use of government data for research and analysis. It replaces the Statistics Act 1975.

- An algorithm charter is being finalised before being rolled out to government agencies. (See Commitment 8.)
- Stats NZ will use both the data stewardship framework and the data capability framework to connect these initiatives and guide users to adopt the practices. We will also be seeking and publishing case studies showing how these resources have been used.

HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES

- We will be developing an engagement strategy to:
 - promote new data stewardship resources
 - seek feedback on the stewardship resources we develop (or are thinking of developing)
 - provide appropriate channels for contributing suggestions and voicing concerns.
 - ensure we close the loop on feedback received, either by responding directly or by publishing key findings and insights from the feedback.

HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED

- We will publish key findings and insights when appropriate (in addition to data stewardship resources).

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Publish the Data Capability Framework.

LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED

- Data stewardship framework: <https://data.govt.nz/manage-data/data-stewardship/a-draft-data-stewardship-framework-for-nz/>
- Data content requirements: <https://data.govt.nz/manage-data/data-content-standardisation/register-of-government-data-content-requirements/>
- Guidance from the Data Ethics Advisory Group <https://data.govt.nz/about/government-chief-data-steward-gc/ds/data-ethics-advisory-group/guidance-from-data-ethics-advisory-group/>
- Ngā Tikanga Paihere: <https://data.govt.nz/use-data/data-ethics/nga-tikanga-paihere/>