



Factsheet

## Incubator Support Supporting the use of open data by start-ups

*Through the DataStart program, the Government is creating opportunities for Australian start-ups to develop sustainable businesses through access to open government data. The expanded DataStart program will incentivise Australian incubators to work with more data-driven businesses through funding support under the Incubator Support initiative, an element of the Entrepreneurs' Programme, and by providing ongoing in-kind support to start-ups using open data.*

### Purpose

Should an applicant wish to support start-ups to access open government data ('public data') as part of their Incubator Support project, they may consider addressing this as one of the outcomes under Merit Criterion 2. In addressing this outcome, applicants should identify how they will develop and collaborate with start-ups that use open government data as part of their business. This document provides further guidance to incubators about how to best support start-ups to access and leverage open government data.

### Why is open data important and useful to start-ups?

Government agencies collect significant amounts of data in the course of their activities. This data can be used and reused by government, business and the community to drive economic and social outcomes.

With appropriate consideration of privacy, security and commercial sensitivities, the public release of government-held data (in easily shared and readable formats) can fuel business activity, increase public sector efficiency, and provide better support for evidence-based policy development. Startups are in a unique position to innovate using this free resource to help solve problems and offer new business solutions.

### What is data.gov.au

Currently managed by the Digital Transformation Agency, [data.gov.au](https://data.gov.au) is the Australian Government's open data portal. Many Commonwealth, State and Territory and Local Government entities have made their data discoverable and accessible through data.gov.au.

As at October 2017, there are over 28,000 datasets available on data.gov.au, with this number increasing as more government agencies identify valuable datasets to publish.

Detailed information on how to access open government data on data.gov.au is available via the [Open Data Toolkit](#). Alternatively, contact [data@digital.gov.au](mailto:data@digital.gov.au) for further information.

### How can incubators support start-ups to leverage open data?

- **Inform them about available resources**

[Data.gov.au](https://data.gov.au) and [search.data.gov.au](https://search.data.gov.au) both provide easy ways to find, access and reuse public data. In addition to providing access to data the portal provides a touch point with data custodians from many government agencies.

- **Help facilitate access to data**

If a particular dataset is not available through data.gov.au or the relevant State or Territory Government open data portal, users can contact the open data portal manager or the relevant department to request this data be openly published – provided there are no privacy, security or commercial considerations relating to the data.

- **Promote the value of open data to start-ups**

Data available through [data.gov.au](https://data.gov.au) is provided under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence unless otherwise noted. This data can be used to generate new business, develop new products and services, and drive efficiencies.