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# Principles for Statistical Integration across Commonwealth Agencies

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## Overview of presentation

- Background & context
- Scope & development
- Commonwealth principles
- Next steps



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## Background & context

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### Demand for statistical integration:

- Evidence-based policy
- Program monitoring and evaluation
- Capacity building for data linkage under PHRN.



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## Background & context (cont.)

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### Opportunity and risk:

- Opportunity for better research outcomes through doing more with what we currently have
- Privacy breaches in data linkage can be characterised as being 'low probability-high impact'
- Any privacy breach may jeopardise the heavy national investment in data linkage and e-Health
- As such, we need a set of principles, institutional models, and governance that offers the **lowest risk** against privacy breaches.



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## Background & context (cont.)

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### The Cross Portfolio Statistical Integration Committee (CPSIC):

- Established on 1 April 2009 following a joint DoHA-ABS proposal to PSM.
- Objective to create a Commonwealth approach to support statistical integration for statistical and research purposes.
- Jointly chaired by DoHA-ABS.
- Represented by portfolio agencies



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## Scope & development (cont.)

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- The CPSIC Committee is engaged in two phase approach:
  - **Phase 1:** To produce commonly agreed principles for statistical integration across the Commonwealth
  - **Phase 2:** To develop suitable governance and institutional arrangements for statistical integration.



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# Commonwealth principles

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## Principle 1:

- Responsible agencies should treat data as a strategic resource and design and manage administrative data to support their wider statistical research use.

## Principle 2:

- Agencies responsible for source data used in statistical data integration remain individually accountable for their security and confidentiality.



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## Commonwealth principles (cont.)

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### Principle 3:

- A responsible 'integrating authority' will be nominated for each data integration proposal.

### Principle 4:

- Statistical integration should only occur when it provides significant overall benefit to public.





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## Commonwealth principles (cont.)

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### Principle 5:

- Statistical data integration must be used for statistical and research purposes only.

### Principle 6:

- Policies and procedures used in data integration must minimise any potential impact on privacy and confidentiality.



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## Commonwealth principles (cont.)

### Principle 7:

- Statistical data integration will be conducted in an open and accountable way.



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## Next Steps - Phase 2

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- Governance and institutional arrangements.
- This work mainly entails:
  - Assessing the types of statistical integration projects
  - Developing governance and institutional arrangements for Integrating Authorities
  - Developing a communication plan.



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## Next Steps (cont.) - Phase 2

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- CPSIC is planning to go back to PSM in August 2010 with recommendation for governance and institutional arrangements.



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## CPSIC – Further information

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- The work by CPSIC is not about using statistical integration for . . .
  - Compliance and regulation purposes
  - Case management or incident investigation
  - National security or crime investigation.
  
- The CPSIC work does not aim to . . .
  - Create a super warehouse of data
  - Create a unique identifier for the population
  - Remove control of data from data custodians/collectors.