



Secretaries' Digital and Data Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, 19 October 2022, 2.00 – 4.00pm

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

A. Minutes and action items

The Committee endorsed the minutes and action items from the 16 August 2022 Committee meeting.

B. Sub-Committee back brief

The Committee received an update on the Digital Leadership Committee meeting held on 14 September 2022, which agreed to the release of draft guidance for public sector adoption and use of Artificial Intelligence and Automated Decision Making as part of the Australian Government Architecture; agreed to the proposed timeline and potential themes for the refresh of the Digital Government Strategy. The Committee was also provided with updates on the implementation of the Assurance Framework, the Robodebt Scheme and the myGov Audit.

The Committee also noted a Deep Dive to discuss the Office of the National Data Commissions (ONDC) DataPlace platform was held on 13 October 2022.

C. APS Reform

The Committee noted the APS Reform program was announced by Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for the Public Service at her keynote speech to the Institute of Public Administration National Conference on 13 October 2022 and advised that digital and data will be an important enabler of the reform plan, with a renewed focus on putting people and businesses at the centre of services. The focus of Minister Gallagher's speech was on the 4 key themes of:

1. An APS that embodies integrity in everything it does
2. An APS that puts people and business at the centre of policy and services
3. An APS that is a model employer
4. An APS that has the capability to do its job well.

The Committee noted the in-house consulting model and 10-year view of key investments will be areas of focus. Secretary Griggs advised he has sent letters to all Secretaries encouraging them to contribute by further populating the investments forward program.

D. Review of the SDDC Terms of Reference and Forward Work Program

The Committee agreed to the Secretaries' Digital and Data Committee (SDDC) Terms of Reference which were revised to reflect the Secretaries Board's (the Board's) decision to expand the scope of the Committee to include data and appoint the Secretary of the Department of Finance as co-Chair.

Amendments to membership, quorum arrangements and reduced meeting frequency (from 6 to 8 weeks) were also agreed.

The Committee also agreed to bring forward items for the 2023 Forward Work Program (FWP) out-of-session ahead of endorsement by the SDDC at the 23 November 2022 meeting. Members discussed the 2023 SDDC FWP which is required to align with the digital and data priorities of the APS Reform agenda and agreed for internal (government) and external (whole of nation) key priorities to be highlighted separately for digital and together for data, and to include workforce matters.

2. DIGITAL & DATA STRATEGIC ISSUES

A. Update on the Optus data breach

The Committee received a verbal update on the Optus data breach that occurred on 22 September 2022.

The Committee noted the breach included personal identifiable information on millions of Australians and that it affected multiple government agencies which worked to contain the cyber breach and issue impacted customers with new identity documents.

The Committee was informed the cyber threat environment for Australia is constantly evolving and agencies were reminded to proactively address cyber security preparedness, learning from the issues arising from the Optus data breach, as a similar breach of information held by the government would have significant implications and damage the public's trust.

The Committee noted the work of the first responders in coming together at short notice, out of hours to contain the threat, and the Committee extended thanks to Commonwealth, state and territory representatives for their efforts.

Section 33

Item	Action	Lead Agency	Due Date
2022/24	Section 33	HA / AGD	23 November 2022

B. Update on the Review of the *Privacy Act 1988*

The Committee received a verbal update and noted the broader *Privacy Act* Review final report will include both immediate and medium-term priorities for reform which are designed to update the scope and coverage for the digital age and provide individuals with greater transparency and control over their personal information.

The Committee was advised of the requirement for entities to collect, use and disclose personal information fairly and reasonably.

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner also has the capacity to enforce the *Privacy Act* more effectively by strengthening the Information Commissioner’s powers.

The Committee noted the timeline of *Privacy Act 1988* reform engagement activities from October to November 2022, ahead of the Report being tabled in Parliament in December 2022.

C. Australian National Data Integration Infrastructure

The Committee noted the progress made on the Australian National Data Integration Infrastructure (ANDII) [redacted] Section 47B, Section 47C

[redacted]

Item	Action	Lead Agency	Due Date
2022/25	The Australian Bureau of Statistics to work with the Department of Finance to prepare costings regarding support for the Australian National Data Integration Infrastructure (ANDII) for one year.	ABS / Finance / PM&C	23 November 2022

3. DIGITAL INVESTMENT

A. Strategy for undertaking the myGov audit

The Committee received a verbal update and noted following an election commitment, on 16 September 2022 a panel of experts across a range of fields were selected to lead the myGov User Audit. Services Australia (SA) and the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) have provided resources from existing funding to support the expert panel which is being led by Mr David Thodey AO. The findings will be shared at the end of December 2022. This will inform supporting budget documentation, with a view to shaping investments and drive opportunities for the integration of changes to the myGov App.

The Committee noted stakeholder engagement activities are scheduled to commence, focussing on improving the user experience and addressing technology and privacy issues. Members discussed the view of myGov from a citizen perspective and how it differs compared to the lens through which government previously developed myGov. The Committee noted additional work is required to integrate the user experience across the various delivery platforms such as the App, shopfront or telephony services.

The Committee requested an update on the myGov Audit at the next meeting. Members are seeking further policy advice on the integrated service for citizens.

Item	Action	Lead Agency	Due Date
2022/26	The Committee requested an update on the myGov Audit at the next meeting to provide further policy advice on the integrated service for citizens.	SA	23 November 2022

4. DIGITAL ASSURANCE

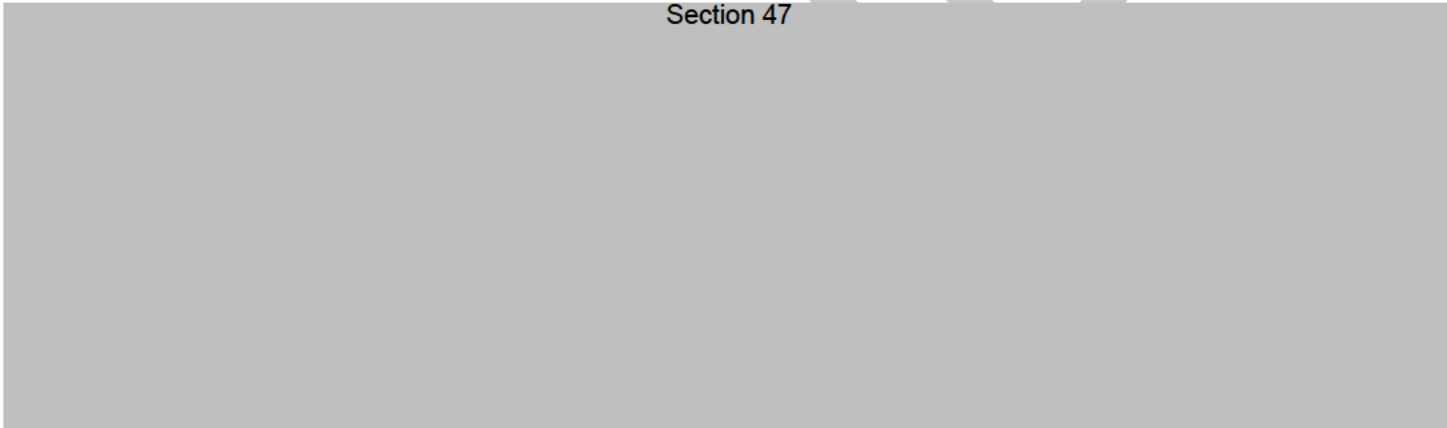
A. Digital Investment Portfolio Assurance Report

The Committee noted the Digital Investment Portfolio Assurance Report presents key metrics and themes across the government’s digital investment portfolio.

The Committee agreed to provide feedback to the DTA out-of-session to further develop the report and the recommendations being sought.

Item	Action	Lead Agency	Due Date
2022/27	The Committee agreed to provide feedback to the Digital Transformation Agency out-of-session to further develop the assurance report and the recommendations being sought.	DTA	23 November 2022

Section 47



Item	Action	Lead Agency	Due Date
2022/28	Section 47	Finance	ASAP

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Secretary Wilkinson provided members with an overview of the proposed DDMM agenda for 4 November 2022. The work of the DDMM will continue to be connected through the Board and the SDDC to continue to leverage Commonwealth engagement through to the states and territories.

The Committee requested an update on the Digital Identity work following the 2023 Budget.

Item	Action	Lead Agency	Due Date
2022/29	The Committee requested an update on the Digital Identity work following the 2023-24 Budget being handed down.	DTA	To be discussed following the 2023 Budget.

The Chair advised future meetings of the SDDC will be held in-person if possible and closed the meeting at 3.30pm.

CABINET