



Secretaries' Digital & Data Committee

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Minutes

Friday, 18 August 2023, 10.00am – 12.00pm

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and no conflict of interests were declared.

In relation to the late delivery of agenda papers, papers will be distributed in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference, with late papers to be issued progressively.

A. Minutes and action items (by exception)

The Committee endorsed the minutes and actions from the 29 June 2023 Committee meeting, with action item 2023/04 to remain open and placed on the agenda for the November 2023 meeting.

2. DIRECTION SETTING

A. Data and Digital Government Strategy update

Mr Nathan Williamson, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Finance and Mr Chris Fechner, Chief Executive Officer, Digital Transformation Agency (DTA), provided an update on the Data and Digital Government Strategy, with the consultation phase now complete and analysis of feedback underway.

Section 34

The Committee noted the intention to publicly release a short 'what we heard' document of responses received during public consultation and the progress on developing a simple metrics and measurements framework to measure progress.

B. Cross-Jurisdiction Life Events

Mr Fechner introduced the paper and highlighted the importance of ensuring consistency across government agencies to meet the Commonwealth vision prior to agreement on a position with states and territories, Section 47C. Members discussed examples of key life events including the *birth of a child* pilot underway in 3 hospitals, where the hospital can register a birth on behalf of the parent.

Section 47C

Leveraging existing technology and connecting segments of life journeys will be important, Section 47C

The Committee noted the endorsement by the Data and Digital Ministers Meeting (DDMM) of the findings of the cross-jurisdictional life events review and agreement to the 4 review recommendations.

The Committee noted the Commonwealth's role, pending resourcing availability, to lead implementation of recommendations in collaboration with states and territories.

The Committee agreed the DTA will return in 2024, to seek the Committee's endorsement of the proposed Commonwealth strategic narrative (vision) and identified Commonwealth priorities for a reformed cross-jurisdictional life events program.

The Committee agreed the DTA will use the myGov User Audit Response Committee to develop a strategic narrative (vision) to establish priorities for the Commonwealth. This group will work alongside the Cross Jurisdictional working group (to be established through Data and Digital Ministers' Meeting Senior Officials Group (DDMM SOG)) to develop a 5-year plan with states and territories, based on life events.

C. Future of Shared Services

Secretary Wilkinson outlined the strategic direction of shared services and the importance of collaboration between larger and/or more complex agencies to enable others to leverage technologies and reduce duplication of effort. Section 47C

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Section 34

D. myGov User Audit Government Response

Ms Rebecca Skinner, Chief Executive Officer, Services Australia outlined the response to the myGov User Audit, developed in conjunction with the DTA, noting the need for further discussion in relation to the inclusion of vulnerable people given the digital focus of the Audit.

Members discussed the need for a primary front door to services, along with the need for a single government vision and a focus on strong cyber security to maintain trust in the platform.

Section 47C

The Committee endorsed the following position Section 34

- Section 47C
- Section 47C

3. COMMON PLATFORMS AND REUSE

Nil items for SDDC consideration

4. INVESTMENT DECISIONS AND ASSURANCE

A. Update on Digital & ICT planning project

Mr Shane Johnson, First Assistant Secretary, Policy Innovation and Projects, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, discussed the consultation undertaken in developing the paper circulated and the lack of clarity about future needs and challenges in prioritising investments, transitioning legacy systems, advancing technology and cyber security. Mr Johnson emphasised the need for reform in 4 key areas and the need for SDDC and Digital Leadership Committee support for DTA to drive whole-of-government outcomes.

Members discussed the landscape of vendor behaviour, the requirement for a mechanism for Recommendation 8 (positioning the SDDC to drive strategic WofG outcomes, drawing on and supporting DTA advice) noting the Committee’s membership is a subset of the broader secretary cohort, funding and prioritisation.

Secretary Griggs undertook to discuss next steps with PM&C out of session. Members considered this item warranted further discussion at the next SDDC meeting.

Item	Action	Lead Agency	Due Date
2023/15	The Update on Digital & ICT Planning Project be further considered at the next SDDC Meeting.	PM&C	23 November 2023

B. 2023-24 MYEFO Digital Investment Overview (DIO) and evaluation progress

Section 47C

The Committee noted the DIO is

Section 34

The Committee agreed for draft DIO

Section 34

5. WORKFORCE AND CAPABILITY

Nil items for SDDC consideration

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Update on Digital Traineeships

Mr Subho Banerjee, Deputy Commissioner, Australian Public Service Commission, provided members with an update on the digital traineeship program. Over 3,000 applications were received, with 174 applicants merit listed. There was strong representation and interest from veterans and First Nations cohorts along with an equal gender split.

Next Meeting

Members agreed there was no need for an additional SDDC meeting scheduled for 5 October 2023.

The next SDDC meeting is scheduled for 23 November 2023.

The Chair thanked members for attending and the meeting closed at 12.01pm.