

Privacy Impact Assessment – Summary

National Crime and Justice Data Linkage Project – Proof of Concept

March 2023

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has conducted a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) for the feasibility of integrating a range of ABS held administrative justice datasets nationally as part of the National Crime and Justice Data Linkage Project. This project has been conducted as a Proof of Concept due to the exploratory and experimental nature and thus there are no public outputs for release.

Prompted by the Council of Australian Government’s (COAG) Prison to Work Report (2016), Prime Minister and Cabinet (and now the National Indigenous Australians Agency) initiated a project to address Finding 9 within the report, which noted that there are data gaps and a patchy evidence base for what works to help reduce recidivism and support people as they transition from incarceration to employment.

This Proof of Concept assesses the feasibility and meaningfulness of integrating ABS held administrative justice datasets (from the Police, Criminal Courts, and Corrective Services sectors), as well as testing the feasibility of linking justice datasets with other Commonwealth datasets held by the ABS.

The PIA considered the potential privacy impacts that linkage of justice data will have on the privacy of individuals whose personal information would be linked and used in this project by authorised ABS staff.

The PIA also assessed the potential privacy risks of the project against the Australian Privacy Principles. Based on this assessment, the ABS considers the standard ABS procedures for handling data for the purposes of integration to be appropriate, and that the ABS are compliant with privacy requirements.

The Proof of Concept phase is now complete, and work is commencing on transitioning the project into a Production phase.

Please refer to the following publications for more information regarding the ABS Crime and Justice collections used in this Proof of Concept:

Recorded Crime – Offenders (cat. no. 4519.0) - <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4519.0>

Criminal Courts, Australia (cat. no. 4513.0) - <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/4513.0>

Prisoners in Australia (cat. no. 4517.0) - <https://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4517.0>