

# Finance and Public Administration References Committee

## Questions on Notice

### Questions from Hansard – Australian Computer Society

Question No.	Asked by	Question
1.	<b>Senator McALLISTER (CHAIR)</b>  Hansard, p. 32.	<p><b>CHAIR (Senator McALLISTER):</b> You went on to talk a little bit about open data. I think your argument is that our role in opening up government datasets has already delivered productivity increases and innovation and growth in the Australian economy. Is it possible for you to provide a couple of examples about occasions where government data has been provided and has been used by the private sector to generate new business opportunities or value?</p> <p><b>Dr Tate:</b> I can't offhand. I do have such things. Where that's happened, in a general sense it has been that the data has been provided by government, and private operators have taken that data and made it available to people in a format that's reliable and easily accessible—a thing that government departments reasonably weren't funded to do. I would have to take it on notice to give you some examples, but I'd be happy to send you some individual examples.</p>

Answer:

Open government data is being used by hundreds of different companies across Australia. A sampling of these companies can be found in Open Data 500 Australia ([www.opendata500.com/au/list/](http://www.opendata500.com/au/list/)), which is produced by the Department of Communications in conjunction with New York University.

To pull out a few examples:

- Spatial Vision, which uses geospatial and mapping data to “provide business systems, advanced spatial analyses, reliable planning systems and practical mapping applications to address some of the country’s most pressing environmental, economic and resource issues.”
- Parklands Albury Wodonga, a community enterprise that negotiates for access to public land. It uses government environment, weather and land ownership records.
- The Australian Medical Association, which makes extensive use of PBS stats, Medicare data, adverse event reports from the Therapeutic Goods Administration as well as open data from the National Health and Medical Research Council, the National Health Funding Body and many more agencies.
- TripMate, which uses open public transport datasets to generate customized public transport information.

- Landfill Gas Industries, which uses geospatial data in the planning of “landfill gas extraction, flaring and monitoring, design, supply and installation of systems.”

2.	<b>Senator McALLISTER (CHAIR)</b> Hansard, p. 32	<b>CHAIR (Senator McALLISTEER):</b> That's terrific. In doing that, if you could track down the date that the Deloitte study that you referred to earlier was published so that the committee can track down that piece of literature for our work, that would also be very helpful.  <b>Dr Tate:</b> I can happily give you the link. It was the 2015 paper.
----	-----------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Answer:

The study in question is:

Deloitte Access Economics, "Digital Government Transformation," 2015.

It can be found at this address:

<https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/au/Documents/Economics/deloitte-au-economics-digital-government-transformation-230715.pdf>

A copy of the report has been attached to this response for convenience.

3.	<b>Senator McAllister (CHAIR)</b> Hansard, p. 34.	<b>CHAIR (Senator McALLISTER):</b> We've had evidence that there's a shortage of qualified project managers in the ICT space in government. I have been told separately that in fact that's not confined to government—that actually the availability of experienced, qualified ICT project managers in the broader economy is constrained and that they are consequently very expensive, whether you're trying to hire them in the public sector or the private sector. Would you agree with that assessment? What can you tell us about the availability of that skill set in the labour market at the moment?  <b>Dr Tate:</b> From an IT professional's point of view—and I'm quite happy to send you the statistics from a report done late last year on the overall IT economy, not just project managers—there is a substantial shortage of the skills that are needed for a range of IT professionals, of which the IT project managers would be one. I said that I didn't just pick the number out of the air, the 81,000 new IT professionals by 2022. The ACS has worked with Deloitte Access Economics to work out what the requirements are. This is of course across all of the IT skills...
----	------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Answer:

The report referenced is:

Deloitte Access Economics, "Australia's Digital Pulse: Policy priorities to fuel Australia's digital workforce boom," 2017.

It can be found at this address:

<https://www.acs.org.au/content/dam/acs/acs-publications/Australia%27s%20Digital%20Pulse%202017.pdf>

A copy of the report has been attached to this response for convenience. The relevant data can be found on page 27.

4.	<p><b>Senator Fawcett</b> Hansard, p. 35.</p>	<p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> Does the private sector use them? We had evidence earlier today that a number of government procurements have been flawed because the executives signing off haven't actually understood what the product was that was being offered and whether it would really be fit for purpose. I'm wondering if the SFIA framework is widely used within government? Are you aware of which departments use it? Do they use it as a core requirement for appointing a decision-maker?</p> <p><b>Dr Tate:</b> I will try to make sure I cover all of those. Certainly, yes, it is used quite widely in the private sector. As I said, there are competing frameworks. In continental Europe they have a slightly different framework: it's much the same, but with another level. But, yes, within the private sector in Australia this is widely used. Within governments, as far as I'm aware it's widely used. I know that the Queensland government uses it widely; I'm pretty certain that most other state governments do. In terms of the federal government, I've seen substantial use of it. I don't know exactly which departments use it, but I can see there is a very substantial use of it. I believe, and I'm pretty certain, the Department of Defence makes fairly extensive use of it, or has done in the past. But I'm afraid I'd have to check for you which other departments do use it. It's quite well used.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator Fawcett:</b> Certainly if you can provide any further information to the committee about which departments use the framework, and any of those examples where it hasn't been applied and there's been a project problem, that would be very useful. Thank you.</p> <p><b>Dr Tate:</b> Okay, I will certainly do my best to do that.</p>
----	---------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Answer:

The Australian government began adopting the Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) as the foundation for whole-of-government ICT career paths and information and communication technology workforce planning in 2009. It was a centrepiece of the Whole-of-government ICT strategic workforce plan 2010-2013 and is currently used in many federal government departments and in all state governments. ACS works with a number Federal Government Departments in the adoption and implementation of SFIA, with known SFIA departmental users including Department of Defence, Australian Federal Police, and Department of Health. The current methodology utilised to support the implementation of SFIA across the full spectrum of human capital management includes skills capture, Job Role profiling, validation of existing workforce skills sets, career development, resource management and succession planning

Unfortunately, I don't have specific information on projects where the use of the SFIA might have affected the success or failure of the project. It's probable that there have been incidents where ICT professionals with insufficient qualifications have caused project issues within government departments, but those issues tend to be dealt with within those departments and rarely become matters of public record.

If you'd like more information on the use of SFIA in federal government departments, I can point you to the APSC Whole of Government Strategic Workforce Plan 2010-2013:

<http://www.apsc.gov.au/publications-and-media/archive/publications-archive/ict-workforce>

For its use in various state governments I can provide various public links.

The Queensland Government aligns its internal classification with SFIA:

<https://www.qgcio.qld.gov.au/information-on/workforce-planning/ict-skills-framework>

The NSW Government aligns its classifications to SFIA:

<https://www.psc.nsw.gov.au/workforce-management/capability-framework/occupation-specific-capability-sets/ict-professionals>

The WA Government also aligns its IT workforce framework with SFIA:

<http://gcio.wa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/02312595-Item-3.4b-ICT-Capability-Framework-Framework-May-2017-PDF-version-Final.compressed.pdf>

The SA Government adopted SFIA in 2010:

[https://digital.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/content\\_files/reports/ICT\\_Workforce\\_%202013-14.pdf](https://digital.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/content_files/reports/ICT_Workforce_%202013-14.pdf)