



# Call for Applications

## Institutional Underpinnings

Version 0.0, date 30th November 2020

**Application opening date:** 12 December 2020

**Application closing date and time:** 15 February 2021, 5pm AEST

**Announcement of Successful Applicants:** Q1 2021

**Project Commencement:** Q2 2021

### Revision history

Version	Date	Revision	Made by
v1.0			
v1.1			
v1.2			
v1.3			
v1.4			

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# 1 Background

## 1.1 ARDC

The Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) was formed by the Federal Government in July 2018 building on the work of three existing National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) eInfrastructure capabilities (the Australian National Data Service (ANDS), National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources (Nectar) and Research Data Services (RDS)).

The ARDC is a transformational initiative that enables Australian research community and industry access to nationally significant, leading edge data intensive e-Infrastructure, platforms, skills and collections of high-quality data.

In partnerships with organisations, the ARDC leads facilitations that work towards a coherent research environment to enable researchers to find, access, contribute to and effectively use services to maximise research quality and impact.

## 1.2 Program Vision

ARDC seeks to:

- catalyse a national, coordinated, and coherent approach to research data management at universities (including a common framework and coordinated action).
- support systemic improvements to research integrity and quality through uplift in research data management capability across universities
- support systemic improvements to research innovation and excellence through common data practices and capability that underpin national data assets

To achieve these goals, ARDC will co-invest in a collaborative project in which participating universities will create a jointly-agreed framework for the management, sharing, retention and disposal of data. Each institution will undertake activities to validate and test the framework and release outputs that can be reused by other institutions.

# 2 Open call details

## 2.1 Eligibility

All Australian universities (see the [Higher Education Support Act 2003](#) table A and B) that have formally registered their interest in the first phase of the call are eligible to apply. Each institution can only join once at the institution level, so we request only one submission per university. Institutions submitting more than one application may be deemed ineligible.

## 2.2 Application evaluation and selection

If more applications are received than can be accepted given the funds available for ARDC co-investment, applications will be assessed based on the research intensity of the institution, as calculated for the allocation of Department of Education Research Support Program funding.

## 2.3 ARDC investment & support

ARDC proposes to invest \$65,000 per participating institution towards the collaborative development of the framework and testing or validation of an aspect of the framework at each institution.

## 2.4 Co-investment

ARDC recognises that the COVID-19 situation has placed financial constraints on many organisations, which are restricting the funds available for infrastructure projects. To assist in the continued development of e-research infrastructure, the normal requirement for 1:1 matching co-investment will not apply for this investment program. However, this program is intended to align with existing institutional activities and priorities, and we expect co-investment in the project and the leveraging of existing activities from participating institutions. Co-investment includes but is not limited to funds, people, infrastructure, services, consultancy, strategy and long-term commitment.

## 2.5 Application enquiries

Institutions considering applying are encouraged to seek clarification if this document is unclear or they identify issues not covered by the provided documentation. Questions can be submitted by emailing [enquiries@ardc.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@ardc.edu.au) with subject heading “Institutional Underpinnings”.

Questions and corresponding responses will be deidentified and published in the [frequently asked questions document](#).

The closing date for questions is 8/2/2021.

## 2.6 Submitting an Application

Applications must be submitted using the online form that will be available from <https://ardc.edu.au/collaborations/strategic-activities/national-data-assets/institutional-underpinnings/>

Submissions open on December 12 2020 and close at 5pm AEST February 15 2021.

# 3 Project requirements

## 3.1 Enabling FAIR

The ARDC encourages the adoption of the [FAIR Data principles](#) as a valuable way of making research outputs more reusable, both for humans and machines. As an NCRIS facility ARDC is required to make the research outputs it enables FAIR (see the [NCRIS principles](#)). ARDC will provide guidance and support on how the Institutional Underpinnings project will result in FAIR enabling infrastructure, and these expectations will form part of the project requirements and reporting.

## 3.2 Impact Requirements

The [research outcome reporting requirements](#) specified for the rest of the National Data Assets Initiative do not apply to this program, and the supplementary investment associated with those requirements will not be offered. However, project reporting will include an assessment of outcomes and impact of the framework and the associated implementations.

## 4 Application terms

1. The Applicant must inform the ARDC promptly in writing of any material change to any of the information contained in their submitted Application, and of any material change in circumstance that may affect the truth, completeness or accuracy of any of the information provided in, or in connection with the Application.
2. The Proposer acknowledges and agrees that:
  - 2.1 to the maximum extent permitted by law, neither the ARDC nor its employees, advisers or agents will in any way be liable to any person or entity for any cost, expense, loss, claim or damage arising out of or in connection with this Call for Applications;
  - 2.2 they have not relied on any express or implied warranty or representation made by or on behalf of the ARDC other than as expressly contained in this Call for Applications or an addendum to this Call for Applications;
  - 2.3 they have not received improper assistance from any staff member of the ARDC;
3. The Applicant acknowledges that the ARDC may alter this Call for Applications, including its specifications / requirements, structure and timing, at any time and for any reason
4. The Applicant understands that applications will be treated as confidential by ARDC and that ARDC will not disclose Application contents and Application information, except:
  - 4.1 as required by law;
  - 4.2 for the purpose of investigations by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission or other government authorities having relevant jurisdiction;
  - 4.3 to external consultants and advisers of ARDC engaged to assist with the Application Selection Process;
  - 4.4 to the Department of Education, Skills and Employment, at its request and if required, to enable transparency and accountability; and/or
  - 4.5 general information from Applicants required to be disclosed by government policy and as part of the Call for Applications approval process.