

Response to feedback on Supporting Indigenous Research Capability, Indigenous Data Network, University of Melbourne

Overview:

The feedback on the ARDC HASS proposal for the IDN was overwhelmingly positive. Respondents expressed that there is a need to understand and improve on the current Indigenous research data ecosystem. That the project seeks to map current requirements against the FAIR and CARE principles, with the understanding that its complex nature will require a wide variety of skills, experiences and abilities to achieve the best outcomes.

It was broadly recognised that Indigenous Data Governance is a core issue for Indigenous research data, and requires urgent attention. Enabling the application of an agreed set of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Governance principles to heterogeneous Indigenous datasets across the nation (including historical and orphaned research data) is vital to the project's success.

The project proposal development has been hampered by the limited timeframe. However, from all of the feedback we have received from external stakeholders and project partners, we recognise that there is an extraordinary amount of excitement, good will and encouraging momentum that will be drawn on as we advance the work outlined in the proposal.

Feedback questions and comments	Response
Will the project include existing research rather than 're-inventing the wheel'?	Wherever possible current practices, systems and capabilities are being utilised to support the work. This includes working collaboratively with project partners and engagement with the existing leading research in each of the project streams.
Will the project have connections to museums and galleries?	Although the timeframe of the proposal development did not enable broad engagement with museums and galleries across Australia, ongoing conversations will enable their participation. Further engagement will also likely occur beyond the 18 months of this project, where we envisage the project extended and building outwards to incorporate a broad range of research data custodians across all sectors working with Indigenous data. For example, we would foresee greater engagement with significant Indigenous collections such as those held by the South Australian Museum, Berndt Museum of Anthropology, and the National Museum of Australia.

<p>How does the work in other countries compare to Australia?</p>	<p>Although we recognise the value that research internationally brings to this project, we recognise the need to now focus on local solutions. That is, solutions that meet the diverse needs across the nation.</p>
<p>Are there benefits of mapping the digital gap?</p>	<p>We agree that this project has the potential to map the digital gaps and to provide knowledge of local strategies that might improve digital capabilities and services.</p>
<p>Will the spatio-temporal frameworks enable data to be accessed by relevant individuals and groups?</p>	<p>The IDN and project partners are interested in understanding the needs of local communities, but also the potential solutions may emerge from a Federated data network with localised access coverage.</p>
<p>How will the project manage the recovery of missing data within historical datasets?</p>	<p>One of the aims of mapping the Indigenous data ecosystem is to understand the gaps. We also are very cognisant that that this project is a pilot, creating the foundations for further work over a longer timeframe.</p>
<p>Concerns about music and magnetic media.</p>	<p>This project will not meet the needs of all different types of data. We agree that there is an urgent need to secure and maintain large historical datasets that include audio, visual and photographic material, which are at risk of being destroyed and/or orphaned. However, this is not within the scope of this particular project.</p>
<p>Timeline for feedback and engagement with the Indigenous research community.</p>	<p>Efforts have been made to be as inclusive with the Indigenous research community as possible. The project team have engaged extensively with stakeholders, although given the proposal development timeframe this is only a small number of the national community.</p>
<p>The project proposal could benefit from including STEM fields.</p>	<p>The project scope is only limited by time and funding. As noted, we see this project as building the foundations from which all sectors will engage and, hence, benefit from in the longer term. However, the project is likely to engage with STEM fields as it progresses.</p>

<p>Non-Indigenous carriage of the project fails to recognise the growing capacity of Indigenous researchers to undertake this work.</p> <p>Indigenous sovereignty and the development of governance frameworks and tools should be led by Indigenous people.</p>	<p>This project is led by Professor Marcia Langton.</p> <p>Efforts to include Indigenous researchers have been made but have been limited by the timeline for the proposal. Dr Vanessa Russ is the project manager for the IDN and has been driving the proposal work.</p> <p>Indigenous participants have been included from all institutions and the aim to build skills and capabilities to grow the Indigenous research network are a part of this work.</p> <p>Work to include international Indigenous perspectives is being included in the Traditional Knowledge Labels activity and understanding of the local data needs will be driven by the partnership with Empowered Community members.</p>
<p>Sharing of Indigenous research data in a culturally safe environment.</p>	<p>This is one of the key elements we will seek to address across all activities developed in Stream 1.</p>