Seeking Expressions of Interest – Consultant

ARDC National Data Assets Impact Activity

National Data Assets Outcomes and Impact Reporting

The ARDC is driving a national initiative to develop a portfolio of national-scale data assets that support leading-edge research. In 2020, the ARDC committed to investing in 25 projects across a range of disciplines and organisations to deliver national data assets under the Cross-NCRIS, Public Sector Bridges, and Australian Data Partnerships programs. All 25 projects are due to deliver these assets by mid-2023. The NDA initiative represents a significant investment from ARDC of around $20 million.

As part of their contractual undertaking, these projects have committed to reporting on research outcomes and broader impacts from these investments at 12 and 24 months after project completion. This requirement is documented in the ARDC’s Research Outcomes Reporting Guidelines.

The Task

The ARDC is seeking a consultant to work with the National Data Assets (NDA) program team, to research, develop and document Impact Tracking Pathways for ARDC NDA projects in alignment with the ARDC Research Outcomes Reporting Guidelines. This includes:

- working with a number of NDA projects to understand the potential usage and impact of their data asset in the user community and with other beneficiaries
- reviewing existing plans for measuring outcomes and impact prepared by the projects
- leveraging existing impact tools and services (e.g. Scholix and Make Data Count)
- aligning the recommended approach with local and international best practices in impact reporting and tracking
- ensuring that the recommended approach can be implemented by projects in a timely manner in order to inform their post-project reporting at 12 and 24 months
● sharing the Activity learnings so that they can be adopted by the NDA portfolio and more broadly by future ARDC activities.

The Consultant

The Consultant for this activity will have:

● in depth knowledge of the research environment and the challenges in tracking the impact of both data and data infrastructure

● in depth knowledge of impact tracking initiatives in particular those related to persistent identifiers including Make Data Count and Scholix, as well as experience with the tools made available from these initiatives

● demonstrated experience working with research communities on common challenges, to elicit requirements, to develop solutions, workflows and implementation strategies

● excellent communication skills

● experience in research sector consultancy.

Work Packages and Timing

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<tr>
<th>Work Package</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Due</th>
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| 1 - Review   | Document: Summary of NDA projects’ Outcome and Impact Plans review findings | Working with the projects, review their existing NDA Outcome and Impact Plans, together with the ARDC’s draft reporting template, and summarise findings for ARDC to review. The review may take the form of one-on-one sessions with the projects or joint sessions or workshops with multiple projects. The review should consider:
  ● the project’s aims and intended outcomes
  ● the intended beneficiaries of the project outputs
  ● the environment the data asset will be deployed in (organisational, technical, discipline, etc) and any identified constraints or impediments to utilisation (e.g. due to the nature of the data or the environment)
  ● any system or procedural implementations for outcome | March 2023 |
and impact tracking already deployed

- responsibilities for impact tracking and reporting

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<tr>
<th>2 - Pathways to impact</th>
<th>Document: Summary of pathways to impact for each project</th>
<th>Working with the projects, gain an understanding of “what does success look like?” for each project. This may take the form of one-on-one sessions with the projects or joint sessions or workshops with multiple projects. Assist projects to articulate their pathway to impact (e.g. using the <a href="https://www.csiro.au/en/Other-Library/Impact-Evaluation-Framework">CSIRO Impact Evaluation Framework</a> or similar) and to document this. Provide a summary of the outcomes for ARDC review.</th>
<th>April 2023</th>
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<td>3 - Workflow analysis</td>
<td>Document: Summary data workflows and user touchpoints for each project</td>
<td>Working with the projects, gain an understanding of how users access and interact with the data, and identify points at which usage data can be collected. Document these flows and provide a summary for ARDC and project review (may be based on actual data or imagined if the data asset does not exist yet).</td>
<td>June 2023</td>
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<td>4 - Working models</td>
<td>Document: Summary of working models for impact tracking for each project</td>
<td>Review local and international best practices in impact reporting and tracking along with impact tools and services available and create a working model of how this can be applied to each of the projects (systems, policies, workflows etc) and a grouping of projects (e.g. Cross-NCRIS). Test this model with the projects, incorporate refinements, and finalise. Provide a summary of each model to the project team and for ARDC review.</td>
<td>Sep 2023</td>
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<td>5 - Learnings and outcomes</td>
<td>Final report</td>
<td>Produce a final report on learnings from this activity, summarising the approaches each project took to this activity, and the solutions applied to impact tracking – with the aim of sharing the learnings with ARDC and more broadly across the NDA portfolio.</td>
<td>Nov 2023</td>
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**Expressions of Interest**

Expressions of interest are sought until 11:59 pm (AEDT), 3 January 2023 to support the ARDC with this piece of work. Expressions of interest should be in writing (no more than 2000 words) and should include your expertise and experience pertinent to this role, any past engagement or experience working
with ARDC, and a proposal detailing the high-level approach you would take to this work, including proposed costs.

Please contact catherine.brady@ardc.edu.au to seek further information.