

# Project Update (April 2023)

## Research Link Australia (RLA) project

RLA Project Team

5 May 2023

Over the past months, the RLA team has been undertaking initial consultations with federal government agencies, universities and research organisations. The aim was to better understand the potential and value of building a national shared information platform that can aid in linking research with businesses, industry and government. The consultations sought people's existing needs, how researcher-industry linkage was currently occurring, and what information sources were useful. We also leveraged the significant experience and advice from those already facilitating research-industry linkage at scale. The following are our most significant findings.

Regarding the potential value:

- The challenges to research-industry linking are many and multi-staged. Researchers and industry benefit from multiple services and support being available. Better, richer and shared information can add real value to the whole ecosystem, boosting the success and capacity of other programs and services that facilitate.
- Funding bodies are keen to boost the number of applications for research-industry schemes and this can improve with better connection and collaboration.
- Greater access to more comprehensive information has the potential to reduce duplication, reduce costs across this national ecosystem, and can seek to improve the timeliness and quality of information.

Recommended scope:

- A shared information platform must offer benefits nationally, but must also ensure a clear demonstration of value and need. This will require a balanced approach, driving systemic information-ecosystem improvement, while also working closely with communities of specific and current need.
- Establishing national scale governance will be essential. The platform must also be driven by community and a co-design approach if we are to advance.

Technical findings:

- The team has identified information queries that facilitators might typically require, as well as a number of frequently mentioned information sources that might better support such queries.
- Co-design is needed to demonstrate that these queries can be effectively answered with information that can be made available.

## What Are Our Next Steps?

The project will be focusing on a series of progressive co-design workshops over the coming months (dates to be released soon). We will seek opportunities to co-design around a small number of identified community areas. Some will focus on systemic information-ecosystem uplift, and some will work closely with national research initiatives. Co-design outcomes will inform the development of the RLA platform, our strategy framework, and our operating model.

## How Do I Get Involved?

First, [register your interest](#) via the project webpage to receive further updates and information about events from the RLA project. Details of seminars and workshops will also be available via [ARDC Events](#). If you are unfamiliar with RLA or would just like to follow our progress, we recommend registering your interest and attending our seminars.

Second, consider participating in one or more of the open co-design workshops that will commence late in May. For those familiar with RLA, we welcome your participation in the workshops as together we will progress the platform, information ecosystem and a shared strategy.

There will be opportunities to provide additional feedback following each seminar and the workshops.

## More About RLA

The RLA project is a government funded initiative, delivered by the ARDC as part of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).

The RLA project aims to provide an information platform and strategic framework to boost the success of services and activities that are linking universities and research organisations with businesses, industry and government. The project is part of the Government's increased support for collaboration between research and industry, vital for Australian innovation, driving productivity and economic growth, improving quality of living and planet health.

Learn more about [Research Link Australia](#).