



# 2024-25 Budget Estimates Briefing Pack

Final Briefing pack for Executive Board members

Hearing Date: 31 May 2024

Released under FOI Act

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## HIB01: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AGENCY (DTA) BUDGET MEASURES

### Subject/Issue

Breakdown of the DTA's funding measures as at 2024-25 Budget.

### Key facts and figures

- The DTA's total departmental appropriation for the 2024-25 financial year is **\$51.7 million**. This amount is made up of:
  - Agency resource funding of **\$47.3 million**
  - One ongoing measure from the 2023-24 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) update totalling **\$1.0 million**
  - Four new measures from 2024-25 Budget totalling **\$3.3 million**.
- Details of these four new measures include:
  - *Finance portfolio - additional resources*: **\$3.3 million and \$3.4 million** funding in 2024-25 and 2025-26 respectively. The total funding for this terminating measure is **\$6.7 million** over two years.
  - *APS Capability Reinvestment Fund*: No additional funding provided in the 2024-25 Budget. The cost of this measure will be met from funding previously included in the Contingency Reserve.
  - *Savings from external labour – extension*: Reduction of funding of **\$79,000, \$68,000, \$56,000 and \$0.8 million** over the forward years. The total reduction in funding is **\$1.0 million** over four years.
  - *Supporting safe and responsible AI*: No additional funding provided in the 2024-25 Budget. The DTA will use existing APS resources in delivering this measure.
- The one ongoing measure relates to *Commonwealth Cyber Security Uplift*. This measure provided a total of **\$2.5 million** over four years from the 2023-24 MYEFO up to 2026-27. Ongoing funding of **\$0.5 million** per annum is provided from 2027-28 onwards.

### Key points

- The DTA's Budgeted Average Staffing Level (ASL) for 2024-25 is **271 ASL**.
- This is made up from:
  - **247 ASL** from the DTA's agency resource funding base funding.
  - **5 ASL** in 2024-25 from the ongoing measure *Commonwealth Cyber Security Uplift*. This reduces to **3 ASL** per annum in 2025-26 and future years.

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- **19 ASL** in 2024-25 and 2025-26 respectively from the new terminating measure *Finance portfolio* - additional resources.

## Background

The DTA's 2024-25 and forward year appropriation measure funding is made up of:

Measure/Funding	2023-24 Estimated Outcome \$'000	2024-25 Budget Estimate \$'000	2025-26 (FE1) Estimate \$'000	2026-27 (FE2) Estimate \$'000	2027-28 (FE3) Estimate \$'000	Totals
Departmental Appropriation	\$46.4m	\$47.4m	\$47.8m	\$49.0m	\$50.0m	\$240.6m
<i>Commonwealth Cyber Security Uplift</i> (2023-24 MYEFO ongoing measure)	\$0.5m	\$1.0m	\$0.5m	\$0.5m	\$0.5m	\$3.0m
<i>Interim Steps to Strengthen Assurance of Digital Projects</i> (2023-24 MYEFO terminating measure)	\$2.8m	-	-	-	-	\$2.8m
<i>Finance Portfolio – additional resources</i> (2024-25 Budget new measure)	N/A	\$3.3m	\$3.4m	-	-	\$6.7m
<i>APS Capability Reinvestment Fund</i> (2024-25 Budget new measure)	N/A	-	-	-	-	Nil
<i>Savings from external labour – extension</i> (2024-25 Budget new measure)	N/A	(\$0.079m)	(\$0.068m)	(\$0.056m)	(\$0.840m)	(\$1.043m)
<i>Supporting safe and responsible AI</i> (2024- 25 Budget new measure)	N/A	-	-	-	-	Nil
<b>Total 2024-25 PBS</b>	<b>\$49.7m</b>	<b>\$51.7m</b>	<b>\$51.6m</b>	<b>\$49.4m</b>	<b>\$49.6m</b>	<b>\$252.0m</b>

The DTA's agency resource funding was adjusted in 2023-24 to account for Machinery of Government changes that occurred following the 2023-24 Budget:

- the **Digital Identity** function transferred to Department of Finance with effect from 6 July 2023 as a result of the Prime Minister's letter dated 23 May 2023 (**\$15.0 million** and **15 ASL**).
- the DTA's **cyber security related** functions, including the Hosting Certification Framework transferred to the Department of Home Affairs from 1 July 2023 as a result of the Mrdak Review recommendation (**\$0.5 million** and **3 ASL**).

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These changes are reflected accordingly in the Budget and forward years.

### Supporting information

#### Questions on Notice

- F148 – 2023-24 Additional Budget Estimates - 2022-23 October Budget Savings – External Labour, Advertising, Travel and Legal
- F109 – Supplementary Budget Estimates - 2022-23 October Budget Savings – External Labour, Advertising, Travel and Legal

#### Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests

- FOI 006/2024 – request for access to February 2024 Senate Estimates pack.
- FOI 242/2023 – request for access to ‘finalised key/hot topics briefs, and an index of backpocket/background briefs from the February 2023 Senate Estimates hearings. A copy of the previous version of this brief was released to the applicant on 14 April 2023

#### Recent Ministerial Comments

- Nil

#### Relevant Media Reporting

- Nil

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## HIB02: DATA AND DIGITAL GOVERNMENT STRATEGY

### Subject/Issue

The Data and Digital Government Strategy (the Strategy) sets out how Government will use world class data and digital capabilities to deliver simple, secure, and connected public services.

### Key facts and figures

- The whole-of-government Strategy sets the vision for the Australian Government's use of data and digital technologies to 2030.
- On **15 December 2023**, the Strategy and first Implementation Plan was published on dataanddigital.gov.au.
  - As of 15 May 2024, the dataanddigital.gov.au website has received **12,300 unique visitors since its release**.
- The Strategy is backed by further investment in data and digital-related initiatives in the 2024-25 Budget, supporting the missions and outcomes of the Strategy to ensure achievement of its 2030 vision.
- These investments reaffirm the Strategy's commitment to deliver connected, accessible services that meet the needs for all people and business. This includes:
  - **\$1.2 billion** for the sustainment and enhancements of critical aged digital systems to support the introduction of the new Aged Care Act.
  - **\$175 million** to fund significant changes to aged care platforms and capabilities under the Support at Home (SaH) program (formerly known as the Home Care Reform Package Program).
  - **\$68 million** to support First Nations digital inclusion, including establishing a First Nations Digital Support Hub and a network of digital mentors to increase access to online services and improve digital literacy.
  - **\$43.2 million** to support the delivery of communications priorities, such as boosting regional connectivity and digital inclusion.
- In addition, there was significant investment to ensure simple and seamless services. This includes:
  - **\$630 million** to reaffirm the Strategy's commitment to make myGov the primary front door for individuals and for sustainment of the platform as a critical national infrastructure.
  - **\$288.1 million** for the Digital ID program as it prepares to transition to an economy-wide legislated scheme.

- **\$57.4 million** to continue initiatives under the Health Delivering Modernisation Program and to update My Health Record

## Key points

- The Strategy puts people and business at the centre of government digital service outcomes.
- It sets the vision to transform the APS to a policy, delivery and operational environment that is driven by data and digital capability while building sustainability of APS skills and capabilities in data and digital.
- The Strategy aligns with the broader reform agenda for the APS, which seeks to transform and modernise the APS with the same 2030 horizon.
- The Implementation Plan outlines the actions the Government will take to achieve the Strategy's 2030 vision.
- This first Implementation Plan includes relevant and currently available whole of government metrics that are aligned to the Strategy's missions and will be used to measure the APS progress towards achieving the 2030 vision.
- Metrics and measurement sources will continue to evolve as initiatives are progressed, outcomes of initiatives are achieved, and new measurement sources are identified. The first plan includes metrics to establish the baseline against which future outcomes will be compared.
- The Strategy is a call to action for the APS and encourages agencies to align their enterprise-level data and digital strategies and initiatives with the Strategy's vision.
- The Digital Transformation Agency is undertaking activities to promote, embed and drive adoption of the Strategy in the APS and Australian Government. These activities include:
  - executive speaking engagements, such as the Australian Public Service Commission's State of the Service Roadshow, which focussed on engagement with remote and regional APS staff members
  - direct engagement with Agencies to ensure agencies are aligning their enterprise-level data and digital strategies and initiatives with the Strategy's vision
  - communication and engagement materials, such as the Strategy Overview, targeting entry-level APS and those unfamiliar with the Strategy
  - sharing best practices and lessons learnt on the development and consultation periods of the Strategy with Industry, international delegations and States and Territory Governments.

## Implementation Plan

- Activities for the next update to the Implementation Plan include:
  - identifying achievements to date including completion of initiatives or achievement of major milestones
  - progress updates to the existing initiatives, metrics, and measures
  - inclusion of new initiatives to support implementation.
  - outlining objectives and focus for the coming year.
- The next update to the Implementation Plan will be published in late 2024.

## How is the Australian Government Implementing the Strategy

- The Implementation Plan includes a selection of new and existing data and digital initiatives which contribute to the Australian Government's data and digital agenda. It showcases the significant work and service uplift that is already underway across the APS.
- Not all data and digital initiatives underway across the APS feature in the plan. Rather, it includes the ones that most significantly contribute to achieving the Strategy vision and missions.
- An updated Implementation Plan and roadmap will be published annually and will include progress of the data and digital initiatives.
- The on-going monitoring and reporting of initiatives, outside of the publishing of the updated plan and roadmap, is the responsibility of the owning department or agency.
- The process for determining which initiatives will feature in the plan is subject to agreement by the Secretaries' Digital and Data Committee. This committee is responsible for ensuring the vision and missions are embedded across the APS.

## How will progress of the Strategy be measured?

- The Implementation Plan will be updated each year to track progress towards the 2030 vision. The metrics framework will measure progress towards the 2030 vision across the whole-of-government, rather than at individual initiative level.
- Digital initiatives in the Plan that are subject to the Digital and ICT Investment Oversight Framework (IOF) will also be assessed throughout their lifecycle to ensure alignment with the Strategy vision and missions including at the Strategic Planning, Prioritisation and Contestability states.
- Those that demonstrate alignment and contribution to the achievement of the Strategy missions are more likely to be funded in Budget Processes.

- Where a digital initiative is not subject to the IOF, they will follow existing agency specific processes.

### **Australia ranking - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Digital Government Index (DGI)**

- Australia formally participated in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Digital Government Index (DGI) in December 2022. The 2023 DGI results, which are used to assess Australia's ranking in the OECD, was released on 30 January 2024. It showed overall **Australia is currently 5th**, behind South Korea, Denmark, Great Britain and Norway. Australia scored the following in each individual dimensions:
  - Digital by design: 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Data-driven public sector: 8th
  - Government as a platform: 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Open by default: 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - User driven: 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Protectiveness: 7<sup>th</sup>
- Rather than competing with other countries, it is more important for government investments to accelerate the take up of data and digital capabilities to deliver better outcomes for people and business.
- The government will continue to compare its data and digital performance with other countries and ensure every opportunity is taken to improve international rankings, but its priority is leveraging the benefits of data and digital for all Australians.

### **Background**

The Department of Finance and the DTA jointly led the development of the Strategy. This is the first time an Australian Government has addressed data and digital in a single Strategy and better connects these capabilities to ensure a more cohesive approach and deliver meaningful change.

The development of the Strategy was guided and supported by an Oversight Committee that comprised senior executives with relevant expertise and experience from a cross-section of APS agencies.

Following the release of the initial Strategy in May 2023, broad consultations (including public consultation) were held during June and July 2023 which sought feedback from public and community groups, industry and academia, state and territory governments and the APS.

Overall, stakeholders supported the Strategy's intent and vision, and the integration of data and digital into a single strategy.

## Supporting information

### Questions on Notice

- F093 – 2023-24 Additional Estimates – DDGS – Government Commitments
- F094 – 2023-24 Additional Estimates – DDGS – Frameworks
- F095 – 2023-24 Additional Estimates – Implementation Roadmap – AI Initiatives
- F095 – 2023-24 Additional Estimates – DDGS – Consultation

### Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests

- FOI 006/2024 – request for access to February 2024 Senate Estimates pack.
- FOI 242/2022 – request for access to ‘finalised key/hot topics briefs, and an index of backpocket/background briefs from the February 2023 Senate Estimates hearings. A copy of the previous version of this brief was released to the applicant on 14 April 2023

### Recent Ministerial Comments

- Minister Gallagher announced the final data and digital government strategy on 15 December 2023 and it was published on the [dataanddigital.gov.au](https://dataanddigital.gov.au) website.

### Relevant Media Reporting

- [Gallagher unleashes APS Data and Digital Strategy out to 2030 \(themandarin.com.au\)](https://www.themandarin.com.au)
- [MEDIA RELEASE - DATA AND DIGITAL GOVERNMENT STRATEGY A DO-NOTHING DOSSIER OF DULLNESS | Paul Fletcher MP, Member for Bradfield](#)

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**PDR Number:** SB24-000011  
**Last Printed:**

**HIB03: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE APS****Subject/Issue**

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Government Taskforce (AI Taskforce) leads the Australian Government's efforts on the use and governance of AI in the Australian Public Service (APS).

**Timeline**

Date	Event
23 June 2023	Data and Digital Ministers Meeting (DDMM) agree to a 'nationally consistent approach to the safe and ethical use of AI by Australian governments.'
6 July 2023	<a href="#">Interim guidance</a> on government use of publicly available generative AI was published by the DTA and Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR).
7 August 2023	AI Taskforce established.
19 September 2023	The AI Taskforce is publicly announced by Ministers Husic and Gallagher.
9 November 2023	DTA opens a Request for Information (RFI) for generative AI services to gather information on generative AI capabilities relevant to government.
16 November 2023	The Prime Minister publicly announces the Australian Government trial of Copilot for Microsoft 365, to run from 1 January to June 2024, with a minimum of 5,000 APS participants.
22 November 2023	The AI Taskforce issues the first update to the Interim guidance, improving advice to agencies and staff using generative AI tools.
1 January 2024	The APS Copilot for Microsoft 365 trial commences involving more than 7,700 licenses for public servants across more than 60 agencies.
23 February 2024	DDMM agree to an initial national framework for the assurance of artificial intelligence in government.
14 May 2024	Release of the 2024-25 Budget, which contains a measure comprised of <b>\$39.9 million over three years</b> for the development of policies and capabilities to support the adoption and use of AI in a safe and responsible manner. The measure includes the development and implementation of policies to position government as an exemplar in the use of AI, led by the DTA, with costs to be met from within existing DTA resources.

## Key Points

- The Australian Government is committed to embracing AI and fostering an innovative culture in the APS, acting as an exemplar in transparency, risk management and governance of emerging technology.
- This work has been led by the AI Taskforce, jointly led by the DTA and Department of Industry Science and Resources (DISR), which was established to deliver policies and guidance to help government harness the opportunities of AI technologies in a safe, ethical and responsible way.
- As the AI Taskforce concludes in June 2024, an ongoing coordinated approach to AI in government will be implemented through a series of whole-of-government measures to ensure coordination of governance, risk management, transparency and capability across the APS.
- The measure includes a suite of work that will be undertaken in consultation with DISR to ensure alignment with broader whole of economy approaches to AI spanning assurance, transparency, governance, technical standards and evaluation.
- The DTA is also developing dedicated policy for the responsible use of AI in Government. Compliance with this policy will be mandatory for Australian Government departments and agencies, with the exception of the Defence domain or to the National Intelligence Community (NIC). This was determined following extensive collaboration. Rather, these entities may voluntarily adopt the policy, in part or whole, where doing so will not compromise national security.
- To inform next steps for the Policy, the DTA will also pilot an Australian Government AI assurance framework. The development of this framework was led by the DTA and NSW government in collaboration with Australian, state and territory governments.
- The DTA welcomes engagement from all agencies to foster alignment and best practices as they develop their internal AI strategies, policies and guidelines.

### Copilot for Microsoft 365 trial

- The Australian Government is conducting a six-month trial of Copilot for Microsoft 365, administered by the DTA, making it one of the first governments in the world to deploy generative AI tools across government. Almost **7,700 staff across over 60 agencies** are participating in the trial.
- The DTA, in partnership with the AI Taskforce, will evaluate the trial and advise government on its outcomes and potential next steps.

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- The trial will evaluate the Copilot for Microsoft 365 product as well as the use of generative AI tools in general. As a requirement for participating in the trial, agencies will provide data and insights to the DTA to inform the final evaluation report.
- Copilot for Microsoft 365 is a supplementary product that integrates with the existing applications within the Microsoft 365 suite under the whole-of-government Volume Sourcing Arrangement (VSA). The addition of Copilot under an existing VSA has the following benefits:
  - quick deployment of the technology with minimal disruption and administrative burden
  - enables meaningful APS-wide learnings from a diversity of job families and portfolios across the service
  - staff can experiment and learn about generative AI capabilities within applications they are already familiar with.
- The DTA will consider outcomes from the Copilot for Microsoft 365 trial when considering future solutions for Government.

### IF ASKED

#### What is DTA's role in supporting the procurement of AI technologies across government?

- While DTA does not currently have a specific role in the procurement of AI, outside of our current remit agencies can use the Cloud Marketplace and Digital Marketplace to engage sellers with AI, Machine Learning capabilities and emerging technology capabilities.
- At the 'Supporting the development of sovereign capability in the Australian tech sector' public hearing on 06 May 2024, the CEO of Trellis Data made a remark that the announcement of the Copilot trial resulted in the cancellation of a contract between Trellis Data and an Australian Government department. The DTA was unable to find evidence to substantiate this claim and have not been made aware of any other occurrences from other vendors.
- The DTA will monitor the evolving landscape and capture emerging technologies within the marketplace panels on BuyICT.gov.au.
- The Copilot for Microsoft 365 trial was made available as an additional product under the Whole of Government Microsoft Volume Sourcing Arrangement. Copilot is a trial feature of the Microsoft 365 and was not an outright purchase of the product.

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- The total expenditure for the trial is commercial-in-confidence as the number of licenses purchased is publicly available and it would be easy to ascertain the cost per license should this information be shared.
- There was a claim that the announcement of the trial had blocked a contract from being executed between a supplier and a government agency for a generative AI solution. The DTA was unable to find evidence to substantiate the claim and have not been made aware of any other occurrences from other vendors.
- Once this trial has been completed, the DTA will conduct an evaluation of the outcomes, and will also consider the best way to achieve value for money on a similar scale and product.
- Following the Copilot for Microsoft 365 trial, agencies will be required to undertake their own procurement processes to ensure the product meets the needs and provides value for money for their agency.
- To support the conclusion of the trial the DTA is developing a transition plan to identify the processes and resourcing available post 30 June 2024. The plan will clarify arrangements such as licensing, training, technical support, coordination and closing out existing communication channels.
- The DTA, in partnership with an external provider, is developing materials to support the transition and any future adoption.

### **What were the outcomes of the RFI undertaken by the AI Taskforce?**

- The RFI highlighted several emerging and evolving standard practices in the AI industry.
  - New and evolving concepts in controls, audit, data privacy and ethics for AI systems are appearing at unprecedented rates.
  - Due to the speed of this evolution maintaining awareness and understanding of AI technology leading practices may present a challenge for agencies.
  - Industry is calling for a more transparent and predictable regulatory environment to provide some assurance of the correct direction to develop.
  - Small to medium enterprises (SME's) noted the benefits of equitable access to government contracts.

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- These outcomes have assisted in directing the work undertaken by the AI Taskforce and will inform the development of AI specific procurement guidance for government.

**What is the Government's view on Australian Securities and Investments Commission's (ASIC) pilot of using LLMs' to summarise public submissions to senate enquiries?**

- In experimenting with new forms of technology, such as open and closed source Large Language Models (LLMs), ASIC sought a low-risk use case to test their applicability. One such low risk use case was the ability of a chosen LLM to summarise public submissions to senate enquiries that referenced ASIC.
- To undertake the pilot ASIC identified 50 public submissions for the Inquiry into management and assurance of integrity by consulting services and using a set criterion scored the chosen LLM and human summaries in a blind comparison.
- The pilot found the chosen LLM did not pickup nuances and context, used incorrect and irrelevant information, and missed relevant information, references to ASIC and the central point of submissions.
- This pilot discovered that:
  - Summarisation is not a simple task but is a collection of multiple tasks.
  - Collaboration between data scientists and subject matter experts is crucial.
  - Prompt engineering is important.
  - Continuous experimentation and iteration are essential.
- This pilot demonstrates the excellent work occurring across the APS to deliver the Australian government's commitment to adopting AI in safe and responsible way. This includes adopting an evidence-based approach to the testing and evaluation of specific LLM models for specific use cases.

**How many agencies may be using AI tools to summarise submissions?**

- The AI in Government Taskforce is aware of several agencies piloting and using AI tools to effectively summarise information, such as DEWR's ParliHelper trial.

## Background

In November 2019, the Australian Government AI Ethics Framework was published, based on OECD principles, to guide businesses and governments to responsibly design, develop and implement AI.

On 1 June 2023, the Rapid Response Information Report: Generative AI was commissioned by Australia's National Science and Technology Council at the request of the Minister for Industry and Science to respond to significant public conversation about the role AI should have in society.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) has developed a Long-Term Insights Briefing on AI and the trustworthiness of public service delivery. It examines specific policy challenges that may affect Australia and the Australian community in the medium and long term.

From June – August 2023, DISR undertook public consultation on the whole-of-economy Safe and Responsible AI in Australia discussion paper.

On 24 January 2024, the Australian Signals Directorate's Australian Cyber Security Centre (ASD's ACSC) released a joint publication with international partners to provide organisations with guidance on how to use AI systems securely.

Interim guidance on government use of public generative AI tools, published by DTA and DISR on 21 July 2023, encourages agencies to build on this guidance and implement agency-level policies, as well referring staff to their own agency's policies, existing whole-of-government legislative obligations and responsibilities.

An update to the Interim guidance on government use of public generative AI tools was made by the Taskforce in November 2023 to provide clearer principles and use-cases to support government agencies in their implementation of processes for staff.

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## List of WofG/WofE AI Initiatives

WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT		
AI in Government Taskforce Extended to Q2 2024.	Taskforce <a href="mailto:aitaskforce@dta.gov.au">aitaskforce@dta.gov.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established 7 August 2023; co-led by the DTA and DISR.</li> <li>Delivering policies and guidance to help government harness the opportunities of AI technologies in a safe, ethical and responsible way.</li> </ul>
<i>Interim guidance for agency use of generative AI</i> First pub. July 2023 Updated Nov 2023	Taskforce <a href="mailto:aitaskforce@dta.gov.au">aitaskforce@dta.gov.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First published by the DTA in July 2023. Updated by the Taskforce in November 2023.</li> <li>Provides agencies and staff with guidance on whether and how to deploy generative AI tools in their work. Helps staff align to AI Ethics Principles and APS Code of Conduct.</li> <li>Will continue to be iterated as the technology landscape evolves.</li> </ul>
RFI on generative AI services and support Report due in early 2024	Taskforce <a href="mailto:aitaskforce@dta.gov.au">aitaskforce@dta.gov.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closed 6 December 2023 and received 86 responses. Conducted by Taskforce in partnership with the DTA.</li> <li>RFI sought information from vendors of generative AI services and support to inform future procurement practices for the technology.</li> </ul>
Copilot for Microsoft 365 Trial Jan-June 2024	DTA <a href="mailto:copilot@dta.gov.au">copilot@dta.gov.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operating from January to June 2024. Administered by the DTA and evaluated by the Taskforce.</li> <li>Over 7,000 public servants from &gt;50 agencies are trialling Copilot for Microsoft 365 to enhance productivity and develop skills, capabilities and preparedness for generative AI.</li> </ul>
Policy for the responsible use of AI in government	DTA <a href="mailto:digitalpolicy@dta.gov.au">digitalpolicy@dta.gov.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective from 1 July 2024. It applies to all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in addition to existing legislation, policies and guidance.</li> <li>The policy mandates 3 priority actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>designate accountable officials (within 90 days)</li> <li>implement minimum training for all APS staff (within 6 months)</li> <li>publish transparency statements (within 6 months).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
INTER-GOVERNMENT		
National AI Working Group In progress	DTA <a href="mailto:aitaskforce@dta.gov.au">aitaskforce@dta.gov.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-chaired by Australian and NSW Governments.</li> <li>Australian, state and territory governments working to align AI assurance frameworks for a nationally consistent approach to AI in government.</li> </ul>

WHOLE-OF-ECONOMY (not exhaustive)		
<p><b>Safe and Responsible AI in Australia</b> consultation</p> <p>Discussion paper pub. 1 Jun 2023            Submissions closed 4 Aug 2023  <a href="#">Interim response</a> published 17 Jan 2024</p>	<p>DISR  <a href="mailto:DigitalEconomy@industry.gov.au">DigitalEconomy@industry.gov.au</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertaken by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR).</li> <li>• Exploring how the Australian Government can mitigate any potential risks of AI and support safe and responsible AI practices.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Australia's AI Ethics Framework and principles</b></p> <p>Published November 2019            Developed by CSIRO's Data61</p>	<p>DISR  <a href="mailto:DigitalEconomy@industry.gov.au">DigitalEconomy@industry.gov.au</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary framework for businesses or govt who designs, develops or implements AI in Australia.</li> <li>• Complementary (not a substitute) to existing AI regulations and practices.</li> <li>• Includes 8 principles to achieve safer, more reliable and fairer outcomes for all Australians.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Artificial Intelligence Centre (NAIC)</b></p> <p>Launched 14 Dec 2021</p>	<p>CSIRO  <a href="#">Section 47F</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinates expertise and capability across government, research and industry to develop Australia's AI ecosystem.</li> <li>• Includes the <a href="#">Responsible AI Network</a> – a world-first program bringing together experts, regulators, training organisations and practitioners.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Copyright and AI Reference Group</b></p> <p>Announced 5 Dec 2023</p>	<p>Attorney-General's Department  <a href="mailto:copyright@ag.gov.au">copyright@ag.gov.au</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announced by the Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus KC as an outcome of copyright roundtable series held over 2023.</li> <li>• Will be a standing mechanism for ongoing engagement with stakeholders, including in creative, media and technology sectors, to prepare for future copyright challenges emerging from AI.</li> </ul>

## Supporting information

### Questions on Notice

- F090 – 2023-24 Additional Estimates – Consultation with Australian AI Companies
- F091 – 2023-24 Additional Estimates – Government contracts being negotiated with AI Companies
- F097 – 2023-24 Additional Estimates – Mechanisms to manage risks of AI use
- F098 – 2023-24 Additional Estimates – AI – Minister Correspondence
- F192 – 2023-24 Additional Estimates – Use of Artificial Intelligence
- In Senate question time on 17 November 2023, Senator Pocock asked questions regarding the Microsoft co-pilot and the opportunity for Australian providers to tender for the pilot.

### Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests

- FOI 006/2024 – request for access to February 2024 Senate Estimates pack.
- **Early August 2023** - DISR received a request for all briefings, reports and privacy impact assessments relating to large-language models and generative AI. The DTA was consulted on this FOI.

### Recent Ministerial Comments

- [‘Australian Government collaboration with Microsoft on artificial intelligence’](#) (Copilot trial) – Prime Minister Anthony Albanese; media release, 16 Nov 2023.
- Op Ed by Ed Husic MP, [‘AI can help Australia be more productive \(afr.com\)’](#); Wed 20 September 2023
- Speech by Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, [‘Digital ID and AI insights: How the Albanese Government is leading the digital evolution’](#); Tue 19 September 2023.
- Joint announcement by Senator Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance, and Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science; media drop on Mon 18 September.

### Relevant Media Reporting (most recent to oldest)

- [Ministers agree to national AI framework for government \(innovationaus.com\)](#)
- [Australia's public service has a big future in AI \(but it'll have an American accent\) \(the-riotact.com\)](#)
- [Government to start using GenAI tools \(ia.acs.org.au\)](#)
- [Govt to deploy Microsoft AI across the Public Service \(innovationaus.com\)](#)
- [DTA looks for a whole-of-gov approach to generative AI \(itnews.com.au\)](#)
- [Taskforce created to set public service guardrails for AI \(innovationaus.com\)](#)
- [New taskforce for government use of AI, emerging tech \(themandarin.com.au\)](#)

**Date:** 20/05/2024  
**Cleared by (SES):** Chris Fechner  
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**Consultation:** DISR  
**PDR Number:** SB24-000012  
**Last Printed:**

## HIB04: WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT ICT PROCUREMENT

### Subject/Issue

The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) provides strategic sourcing advice and delivers value-for-money whole-of-government procurement arrangements for digital products and services.

### Key Facts and Figures

- There are **6 panels** (hardware, software, cloud, telecommunications, data centres and digital services) that Commonwealth, state and territory entities can use to buy digital products and services.
- There are **7 whole of Government arrangements** (Microsoft, SAP, Concur, IBM, Amazon Web Services, Rimini Street, and Oracle) available for use by Commonwealth, state and territory entities to buy a wide range of digital products and services via agreed terms, conditions and pricing.
- There is a strong representation of small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) across our marketplaces and panels, with SMEs representing 80% of the over 3,900 approved sellers as at 31 January 2024
- In the 2022-23 financial year, DTA facilitated over 7,000 contracts worth \$7.22b, with:
  - 44% of contracts (by value) awarded to SMEs.
  - 2% of contracts (by value) awarded to Indigenous Business.
- The establishment and operation of the panels is cost-recovered based on usage.
- The DTA returned \$9.1m in savings to consolidated revenue for the 2021-22 FY and anticipate a savings return of \$6.4m for the 2022-23 FY.

### Key Points

#### Digital Marketplace Panel 2

- The Digital Marketplace panel expires on 31 July 2024 and will be replaced with a new Digital Marketplace Panel.
- The Digital Marketplace Panel 2 was opened via a request for Tender on Austender on 15 March 2024 and closed on 11 April 2024.
- Applicants were required to apply through the DTA's online platform, BuyICT.gov.au
- The new panel is an entire rework of the previous Digital Marketplace Panel, that is highly utilised across Government.

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- Due to the extensive interest in the panel, the DTA received a large number of applications and has commenced evaluations.
- As evaluations are underway the DTA is not able to comment further on the process.
- The new panel aims to be in place by the end of July 2024 to replace the current Digital Marketplace Panel which expires on 31 July 2024.
- The current Digital Marketplace panel was closed for new seller and category applications on 1 March 2023. Closure was required to assign resources to the establishment of the new panel.
- To ensure that the new panel improves procurement of digital and ICT products and services, research was undertaken with over 932 buyers, 2,073 sellers, 225 labour hire candidates, 4 industry bodies, 10 domestic and international panel managers.
- The new panel:
  - provides buyers with an improved catalogue experience on BuyICT.gov.au to make it easier to find SMEs and Indigenous Businesses.
  - includes a new head agreement that limits the need for extensive negotiations and will enable the DTA to consolidate its other panels into the Digital Marketplace in future.
  - promotes more equitable practices in BuyICT.gov.au to support and improve SMEs and Indigenous Businesses accessing government business through in-platform nudges to inform better practice buying.
- While the new Digital Marketplace Panel 2 will not be open as often as Digital Marketplace Panel 1 was, it will be opened regularly.
- The DTA aims to open the new panel again as soon as evaluations are finalised from the initial request for tender applications.
- The DTA is committed to incorporating feedback from users, and will continue to iterate the BuyICT platform, which hosts the Digital Marketplace Panel 2, to ensure it is as simple and easy to use for all buyers and sellers.
- A consultation period ran from 1 December 2023 to 12 January 2024 (after being extended from 22 December 2023), to provide industry and government an opportunity to respond to the many changes.
- The DTA received approximately 340 responses to the consultation and updating the panel agreement following the feedback.

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## Risks

### SME participation concerns

- There is a strong representation of SMEs across our marketplaces and panels, with SMEs representing 80% of over 3,900 approved sellers (as at 30 April 2024)
- The DTA works hard to foster SME participation in its panels, this includes:
  - by reducing the number of panels through consolidation
  - opening panels for new market entrants
  - Engagement with SMEs throughout panel development; including consultation on technical requirements, head agreements, and emerging technologies.
- It has also created BuyICT.gov.au - an online platform to streamline procurement for buyers and suppliers.
- BuyICT.gov.au, goes a long way to making it simpler to respond to a large-scale government tender and sell once appointed to a panel.
  - There are prompts to support sellers updating their profile to market themselves in the best possible light.
  - We have nudges throughout the platform to encourage better buying behaviour with support of selecting SMEs in quote processes.
  - We also have an RFI process that prevents buyers from excluding any seller, making sure everyone in a category or within a marketplace is given an opportunity to respond.
- BuyICT.gov.au also promotes an open and transparent procurement process, by publicly displaying Digital Marketplace opportunities.
- The DTA is unable to provide tagging for Australian owned companies as there is not a consistent definition of an Australian or Australian-Owned Business across Commonwealth legislation or Australian Government entities.
- The DTA BuyICT platform is ready to engage Australian owned tagging once Government Policy allows.
- Tagging of an Australian owned business In BuyICT.gov.au will also allow transparent data of procurements through BuyICT insights page. DTA can then report on these numbers similar to those on SME and IB.

## Cyber security and data breaches

- The DTA's procurement arrangements mitigate the threat of data breaches by including a set of legal clauses including the *Privacy Act 1988* in contracts.
- The DTA also works to align key sourcing contracts with the Hosting Certification Framework.

## Seller conduct and conflicts of interest

- The DTA has protections across all its panels for the disclosure to the Commonwealth of relevant litigation, arbitration, mediation, cover confidentiality and ethical behaviour.
- The Head Agreement can be terminated in whole or in part for a breach of that listed above or a failure to resolve a Conflict of Interest to the reasonable satisfaction of DTA or a Buyer.
- The DTA requires all parties to identify, declare, and manage improper conduct and conflicts of interest. This applies to DTA employees, contractors, or any sellers applying for, or already approved under, our panels. Updates are made regularly to ensure transparency and proactive risk management.
- If the misconduct occurred when a seller performed a contract outside of a DTA panel, it may still be possible for the DTA to suspend or terminate a seller.
- Individual agencies are responsible for managing their own approaches to market and contracts. It is up to each agency to determine when or if a breach of their contract has occurred and to decide on the appropriate course of action to take.

## Timeline

Date	Event
11 April 2024	<b>Digital Marketplace Panel 2 closed for responses</b> The RFT received a large number of responses and evaluation has commenced.
15 March 2024	<b>Digital Marketplace Panel 2 open for responses</b> The new panel was open via a Request for tender through Austender, applications applied through BuyICT.gov.au
1 Dec 2023	<b>Consultation on the Digital Marketplace draft panel agreement</b> Consultation was released seeking feedback on the proposed legal architecture, the panel agreement, and concepts of the Digital marketplace Panel 2 panel agreement pack. Closed 12/01/2024.
20 Oct 2023	<b>Oracle agreement extended</b> The current Oracle agreement was extended for a further 24 months to 25 November 2025.
29 Sept 2023	<b>Digital Marketplace Panel extended</b> The current Digital Marketplace was extended for a further 5 months to 31 July 2024.
30 June 2023	<b>Software Marketplace panel open for refresh</b> Tender closed 28 July 2023 with new sellers expected to commence onboarding through BuyICT platform by November 2023.

## Background

Contracts for all the DTA's procurement arrangements are reported through Austender under the relevant Standing offer. This information is publicly available and can be found at [www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au).

## Supporting information

### Questions on Notice

- No QoNs asked

### Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests

- FOI 006/2024 – request for access to February 2024 Senate Estimates pack.
- FOI 004/2023 - Request for information on all recent (12 month) Digital Sourcing Marketplaces and the Statement of Tax Record (STR) requirements and compliance for each. Provided on Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 2023

**Recent Ministerial Comments**

- Nil

**Relevant Media Reporting**

- Nil

**Date:** 21/05/2024  
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**Consultation:** Nil  
**PDR Number:** SB24-000013  
**Last Printed:**

Released under FOI Act

## HIB05: SAP AND ERP

### Subject/Issue

Details regarding arrangements with SAP and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) category establishment.

### Key Facts and Figures

- There are 24 agencies across Government that use the current SAP arrangement.
- As of 31 March, the total spend under the SAP arrangement is \$988.58m
- The SAP arrangement which originally expired on 28/09/2021 has exhausted all extension options. However, the Head Agreement allows for a negotiated variance for further extensions should they be required.

### Key Points

#### SAP Arrangement

- The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) and SAP Australia signed a new whole-of-government arrangement on 24 May 2024.
- The agreement commences on 29 June 2024, (following expiry of the current agreement) and will run for an initial 3-year term, with 3, 1 year extension options.
- The new agreement will allow for continuity of services, including maintenance and support.
- The current SAP arrangement expires on 28 June 2024. It was established in 2017 following a Cabinet decision to expand the use of ICT coordinated procurements.
- There have been 4 extensions to the agreement since its inception:
  - Extension 1 (executed 10 June 2021) for 12 months to 28 Sept 2022
  - Extension 2 (executed 28 Sept 2022) for 9 months to 28 June 2023
  - Extension 3 (executed 28 June 2023) for 6 months to 31 Dec 2023
  - Extension 4 (executed 21 Dec 2023) for 6 months to 28 June 2024

#### SAP bribery charges

- On 10 January 2024, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) announced charges against wholly owned subsidiaries of SAP (SAP South Africa, SAP

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Africa, SAP Indonesia and SAP Azerbaijan). On the same day SAP resolved negotiations by agreeing to settle. The charges were:

- conspiracy to violate the anti-bribery and books and records provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act-US (FCPA) relating to its scheme to pay bribes to South African officials, and
  - conspiracy to violate the anti-bribery provision of the FCPA for its scheme to pay bribes to Indonesian officials.
- SAP agreed to pay:
    - monetary sanctions of nearly US \$100 million in disgorgement and prejudgment interest to settle the SEC's charges
    - US \$118.8 million criminal fine to the DOJ and to a forfeiture of approximately US \$103 million, of which US \$85 million will be satisfied by the company's payment of disgorgement pursuant to the SEC's order
  - On 12 January 2024, SAP subsidiaries (South Africa, Africa, Indonesia and Azerbaijan) received media attention for bribery charges (outside of Australia).
  - On 12 January 2024, immediately following media reports of global bribery investigations, the DTA CEO wrote to SAP President and Managing Director (Australia and NZ) to seek assurance and advice on controls in place to prevent incidents involving SAP Australia.
  - Since January there has been further correspondence with SAP Australia to obtain additional information and evidence. As part of this the DTA raised a series of questions and requested certain information from SAP Australia Pty Ltd which they have provided.
  - The DTA received assurance from SAP Australia Pty Ltd that no SAP Australia Pty Ltd personnel, either current or former, were involved in the allegations of misconduct.
  - The DTA will continue to work with the vendor to satisfactorily close off the matter in the coming months and to uphold Australia's strong procurement standards.
  - The DTA has protections across all whole-of-government arrangements, including the SAP Head Agreement, for the disclosure to the Commonwealth of relevant litigation, arbitration, mediation, cover confidentiality and ethical behaviour.
  - The DTA has protections across all whole-of-government arrangements, including the SAP Head Agreement, for the disclosure to the Commonwealth of relevant litigation, arbitration, mediation, cover confidentiality and ethical behaviour.

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- While there are provisions in the arrangement to terminate for this kind of breach, any termination of the SAP arrangement would require careful consideration. Careful and thorough analysis of risks would need to be conducted, including but not limited to, transition costs and gaps in mission critical systems.

### ERP Category establishment

- The DTA is responsible for standing up a new ERP Category under the Software Marketplace Panel. This project is currently underway and is supported by two Requests for Information (RFI) and Request for Tender (RFT).
- The first RFI was released on 29 November 2023 and aims to establish a Market Research Directory (directory) to support agencies in their early research on ERP products and service solutions. The RFI closed on 24 December 2024 receiving a total of 42 responses.
  - The DTA re-released this RFI (Market Research Directory) on 31 January 2024 to allow for any ERP providers who may have missed responding during the initial release.
  - The directory has been made available to Commonwealth agencies. This will assist agencies to better understand the ERP market in advance of the release of the new ERP Category.
- A second RFI was released on 6 December 2023 to engage with industry seeking feedback on the **draft** Approach to Market tender documentation (draft Head Agreement, Statement of Requirement, Category Terms, and application process information pack).
  - This RFI closed at 3.00pm on 24 January 2024.
- Following feedback on the draft tender documentation, the RFT to establish the ERP Category was published on AusTender on 26 February 2024 and closed on 22 March 2024.
- The new category is expected to be released through BuyICT.gov.au in mid2024.
- The ERP Category will be mandatory for use by Non-corporate Commonwealth Entities.

## Timeline

Date	Event
6 Nov 2023	<b>SAP whole-of-government contract extended</b> The current SAP arrangement was extended for a further 6 months to 28 June 2024.
29 Nov 2023	<b>Request for Information 1– ERP Market Research</b> RFI released through AusTender inviting companies to register for a market research contact directory for Enterprise Resource Planning providers. This RFI closed on 24/12/2023.
06 Dec 2023	<b>Request for Information 2 – RFT document pack</b> RFI released through AusTender on draft document pack for establishment of ERP Category 3 on Software Marketplace, closing 24/01/2024
10 Jan 2024	<b>Bribery charges brought against wholly owned subsidiaries of SAP.</b> Negotiations resolved the same day, with SAP agreeing to settle.
12 Jan 2024	<b>The DTA CEO wrote to SAP Australia</b> Seeking assurance and advice on controls in place to prevent incidents involving SAP Australia
26 Feb 2024	<b>Request for Tender – RFT document pack</b> RFT released through AusTender for establishment of ERP Category 3 on Software Marketplace, closed 22/03/2024
26 Jan 2024	<b>The SAP President and Managing Director – ANZ responded to the DTA correspondence</b> Providing information on their assurance and internal controls in place to prevent incidents involving SAP Australia
4 Mar 2024	<b>The DTA CEO wrote to SAP Australia</b> Seeking additional details and evidence on internal controls in place to prevent incidents involving SAP Australia
25 Mar 2024	<b>The SAP President and Managing Director – ANZ responded to the DTA correspondence</b> Providing additional information on their assurance and internal controls in place to prevent incidents involving SAP Australia

## Background

N/A

## Supporting information

### Questions on Notice

No QoNs asked

### Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests

- FOI 006/2024 – request for access to February 2024 Senate Estimates pack.

### Recent Ministerial Comments

- Nil

### Relevant Media Reporting

Multiple media outlets have reported on the SAP bribery charges including:

- Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs – ‘SAP to pay over \$220m to resolve foreign bribery investigations’ - [Office of Public Affairs | SAP to Pay Over \\$220M to Resolve Foreign Bribery Investigations | United States Department of Justice](#)
- US Securities and Exchange Commission – ‘SEC charges global software company SAP for FCPA violations’ - <https://www.sec.gov/news/press-release/2024-4>
- BBC – ‘Software firm SAP to pay \$220m over bribery charges’ - [Software firm SAP to pay \\$220m over bribery charges - BBC News](#)
- The Wall Street Journal – ‘SAP to pay more than \$220 Million to end bribery probes’ - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/sap-to-pay-98-million-to-sec-to-settle-bribery-charges-f1f7cc82>
- Reuters – ‘SAP to pay \$222 million to settle US bribery charges’ - <https://www.reuters.com/technology/sap-pay-more-than-220-mln-settle-us-bribery-charges-2024-01-10/>
- Smaller outlets have been excluded from this list

Media reporting on the ERP panel has focussed on the end of GovERP:

- CRN Australia – ‘Digital Transformation Agency tests market for ERP solutions’ - <https://www.crn.com.au/news/digital-transformation-agency-tests-market-for-erp-solutions-603223>
- InnovationAus – ‘Gallagher pulls back ‘naïve’ \$344m GovERP project’ - <https://www.innovationaus.com/gallagher-pulls-back-naive-344m-goverp-project/>
- The Mandarin – ‘Finance looks to ERP-as-a-service as part of shared services reboot’ - <https://www.themandarin.com.au/80614-finance-outlines-shared-services-strategy-shops-around-for-erp-as-a-service/>

**Date:** 23/01/2024  
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**Consultation:** Nil  
**PDR Number:** SB24-000009  
**Last Printed:**

## HIB06: PERFORMANCE OF DIGITAL PROJECTS

### Subject/Issue

There is ongoing parliamentary and public interest in the performance of digital projects. The DTA is driving the success of digital projects by providing advice to agencies and implementing wider reforms to how projects are being designed and delivered. The Government has committed further resourcing to this work in the 2024-25 Budget alongside agreeing to further reforms to drive transparency and accountability across digital projects.

### Key Points

- The DTA necessarily gathers data and intelligence on digital project performance to fulfil its mandate.
  - In February this year, the Government released data on digital projects as transparency is key to driving improvement. We've also agreed to continue releasing this data in future.
- While the DTA can comment in general terms on the Australian Government's digital projects, detailed questions on projects should be directed to the relevant lead agency.

### What the Australian Government is doing to drive better outcomes from digital projects

- Not every digital project will succeed – especially those which are high risk and innovative. While good project assurance doesn't guarantee success, it plays a critical role in informing good decisions and helping give each project the best chance of success.
- In the 2024-25 Budget, the Government has invested further to strengthen digital project design and delivery and ensure every project has the best chance of success.
  - This investment in Budget builds on the 2023-24 MYEFO commitment of \$2.8 million in 2023-24 to 'strengthen assurance, monitoring and remediation advice for the Government's major digital and ICT investments.'
- The new investment in Budget includes \$3.3 million in 2024-25 and \$3.4million in 2025-26 to further strengthen the DTA's ability to provide assurance, monitoring and remediation advice for major digital projects.
- The Government has also agreed to a new funding model which will ensure that, from 2026-27 onwards, every project can access the advice it needs from the DTA to use assurance effectively.

- The Government has also agreed to a package of reforms which will drive accountability and transparency across digital projects. These reforms include:
  - Releasing an annual report on major digital projects building on the first digital project data release in February this year. This will bring Australia in line with its global peers and ensure Australians know how their digital projects are performing.
  - The Government has also agreed to expand the existing Benefits Management Policy. This policy is key to ensuring every project maintains a focus on what must go right to deliver expected benefits for Australians. This will include standing up a benefits register to centrally track the benefits of all major digital projects.

## IF ASKED

### What is the DTA doing to address Project X's delivery difficulties?

- In its work with digital projects, the DTA has noted key challenges including resourcing and funding pressures (including difficulty in acquiring skilled resources), vendor underperformance, and unanticipated technical complexity.
- The DTA is driving improved project performance through its central assurance role. This includes by:
  - Driving targeted strategic reforms to improve digital project performance. This includes the development of the Benefits Management Policy which is uplifting APS capability in benefits management and ensure agencies are measuring what matters across digital investments.
  - Ensuring assurance arrangements remain fit-for-purpose throughout delivery to support good governance and decision-making.
  - Applying the escalation protocols outlined in the Assurance Framework for Digital and ICT Investments. These protocols are applied to at-risk digital projects and focus on supporting agencies in effective remediation. For example, the first escalation protocol involves the DTA providing advice to agencies on the preparation of a remediation plan drawing on both the DTA's expertise as well as other sources of expertise in Government. This process drives transparency and accountability for remediation action.
- The DTA's assurance role commenced in November 2021 as part of a package of reforms designed to improve the success rate of digital investments.

- The DTA's assurance role does not dilute agency accountability for their projects. Instead, it ensures that:
  - Agencies plan for and use assurance effectively to direct their focus and attention where it matters most.
  - Assurance information flows to the centre of government to capture learnings and continuously improve how digital investments are designed in the future.

## Background

The DTA published digital project data (including delivery confidence ratings where available) on its website on 7 February 2024. This release followed questions in writing from the Hon Paul Fletcher MP in late 2023 which sought specific information on digital projects being delivered across the Australian Government.

The DTA liaised with all agencies leading digital and ICT projects that were in scope of these questions to ensure that data held by the DTA was correct and current. Agencies were also given the opportunity to seek that data be withheld from release.

Not every digital project underway in the Australian Government is included. The new Assurance Framework for digital projects only commenced in November 2021. This means projects which commenced before this generally aren't tracked by the DTA. Likewise, projects which are out-of-scope of the Framework such as projects led by intelligence agencies are not included.

## Supporting information

### Requests for Information

- 487 - House of Representatives Parliamentary Question in Writing – Delivery Issues
- 488 – House of Representatives Parliamentary Question in Writing – Agencies seeking funding advice
- 491 = House of Representatives Parliamentary Question in Writing – Assurance Reviews
- F059 - 2023-24 Additional Estimates – Revision of Project Schedule or Scope
- F060 – 2023-24 Additional Estimates – Risks for med-high projects
- F061 – 2023-24 Additional Estimates – Significant issues for projects rated medium
- F062 – 2023-24 Additional Estimates – Projects subject to Escalation Protocols
- F063 – 2023-24 Additional Estimates – In-scope Proposals
- F058 - Supplementary Budget Estimates - 2022-23 October Budget Savings – Gateway Proposal Projects
- F059 - Supplementary Budget Estimates - 2022-23 October Budget Savings – Proposals subject to ICT Approval Process
- F060 - Supplementary Budget Estimates - 2022-23 October Budget Savings – ICT Approvals Process

- 439 – House of Representatives Parliamentary Question in Writing – Digital and ICT Investments
- 441 – House of Representatives Parliamentary Question in Writing – Digital and ICT Investments – Health Check
- 442 – House of Representatives Parliamentary Question in Writing – Digital and ICT Investments – Targeted Review
- 443 – House of Representatives Parliamentary Question in Writing – Digital and ICT Investments – Internal Review
- 444 – House of Representatives Parliamentary Question in Writing – Digital and ICT Investments – Delivery Confidence
- 445 – House of Representatives Parliamentary Question in Writing – Digital and ICT Investments – Remediation
- 446 – House of Representatives Parliamentary Question in Writing – Digital and ICT Investments – Enhanced Notification Letter
- 448 – House of Representatives Parliamentary Question in Writing – Digital and ICT Investments – In-Scope Proposals
- 449 – House of Representatives Parliamentary Question in Writing – Digital and ICT Investments – State 2: Investment Prioritisation

#### Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests

- FOI 006/2024 – request for access to February 2024 Senate Estimates pack.

#### Recent Ministerial Comments

- Nil

#### Relevant Media Reporting

[The tech projects most at risk across Canberra \(innovationaus.com\)](#)  
[ICT overhaul receives low confidence score - Australian Ageing Agenda](#)

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Last Printed:	

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## FS01: KEY STATISTICS

## Human Resources

Data as at 31 March 2024 unless otherwise specified.

	March 2024	2022-23	Change	%
ASL	228.90	216.7	12.2	5.6%
Headcount	272	240	32.0	13.3%
FTE	262.77	223.45	39.3	17.6%

APS	111	96	15	15.6%
EXEC	150	132	18	13.6%
SES	11	12	-1	-8.3%

Full time	251	222	29	13.1%
Part time	21	18	3	16.7%

Ongoing	266	230	36	15.7%
Non ongoing	6	10	-4	-40.0%
Secondees - In	13	3	10	333.3%
Inactive	2	5	-3	-60.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>16%</b>

Canberra	187	185	2	1.1%
Sydney	23	22	1	4.5%
Remote	62	33	29	87.9%

## Increase in Headcount / Remote Employees

- Of the 32 headcount increase, 90.6% (29) were new starters engaged remotely in the current financial year (FY):
  - 31.0% (9) in Portfolio Assurance
  - 20.7% (6) in Chief Technology Officer
  - 13.8% (4) in Digital Prioritisation
  - 6.9% (2) in Digital Service Performance
  - 6.9% (2) in Digital Strategy, Policy and Engagement
  - 6.9% (2) in Architecture and Emerging Technology
  - 3.4% (1) in Office of the CEO
  - 3.4% (1) in Investment Advice and Contestability

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- 3.4% (1) in Corporate
- 3.4% (1) in Digital Sourcing
- Of the 56 separations in the current FY, 3 were remote workers:
  - 1.8% (1) in Digital Identity
  - 1.8% (1) in Digital Prioritisation and Planning
  - 1.8% (1) in Digital Strategy, Policy and Engagement
- A further 3 existing DTA employees have converted to remote work:
  - 2 employees from Digital Service Performance
    - 1 employee now working from Tasmania
    - 1 employee now working from Victoria
  - 1 employee from Portfolio Assurance now working from Victoria

### Labour Hire

- The DTA engages labour hire (contractors) to meet capability needs where the DTA does not have the capacity or required skill within its APS workforce.
- The nature of contracting allows many of the people with specialised tech capabilities to remain current by working across a variety of products and organisations.
- The DTA has significantly reduced the number of contractors engaged and is looking to engage more APS employees in future to increase Digital and Technical capabilities across the APS.

Year	Active Contractors	% change
2019-20	88	-
2020-21	219	148.9%
2021-22	152	-30.6%
2022-23	39	-74.3%
2023-24 <sup>^</sup>	27 (YTD)	-30.7%

<sup>^</sup> Number of contractors for 2023-24 does not include contractors for Digital Identity moved to Department of Finance (5).

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## Recruitment

- We increased our headcount by 32 employees in the current financial year.
- This takes into consideration 20 staff moving to other agencies as part of Machinery of Government (MoG) processes in July 2023
  - i.e. this is a total increase of 52 employees, however there was a decrease of 20 employees due to MoG's in 2023. Therefore, the total increase was 32.
- Most of the increase relates to recruitment in our Portfolio Assurance Branch (+14), Corporate Branch (+12) and Digital Service Standards Branch (+10). Corporate recruitment was predominantly filling existing vacancies, while the other two branches received increased funding associated with budget measures.

## Employee Movements

	Commencements		Exits	
	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24
July	8	10	13	6
August	8	7	8	7
September	14	5	3	3
October	11	13	6	3
November	4	4	9	3
December	1	7	6	3
January	12	9	12	3
February	10	21	2	2
March	10	12	5	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>36</b>

\*All exits include non-ongoing contracts that have ended within the period but exclude exits due to Machinery of Government (MoG) changes.

## Attrition (employee turnover)

- As at 31 March 2024, the DTA's turnover rate is **20.7%** for the 2023-24 financial year.
- This is down from 35% in 2022-23 and 48.2% in 2021-22 (excluding Machinery of Government changes).
- This reduction reflects the settling of our workforce following our mandate change in July 2021, as well delivering strategies that focus on our organisational culture, employee development and working in partnership with our employees on a new employee value proposition.

### Gender Balance

	Male	%	Female	%	Total
APS	48	43%	63	56%	111
EXEC	74	49%	76	51%	150
SES	7	64%	4	36%	11

### Diversity and inclusion

	2022-23	2023-24 YTD	Change
People that identify with disability	4.3%	5.9%	+1.6%
First Nations	0.9%	0.7%	-0.2%
Carers	13.4%	16.1%	+2.7%
LGBTI+	8.2%	7.0%	-1.2%
Born in a country other than Australia	24.7%	26.4%	+1.7%

### Affirmative measures

- The DTA does not actively use affirmative measure recruitment.
- That said, we actively promote applications from all diversity groups in every recruitment process, including applying RecruitAbility to all positions.
- We have recently reviewed our recruitment guidelines which will provide further detail about how line areas may consider affirmative measures when advertising positions.
- While we don't actively use Affirmative Measures, we still attract and retain people with disability and meet the government's 7% employment target.

### First Nations

- As a small policy agency with a large Canberra presence, the DTA experiences difficulty in attracting and recruiting First Nations employees.
- We receive a very small number of applications from First Nations people.
- We also regularly lose out on whole of government graduate processes to larger agencies who tend to be more attractive to regional candidates.
- For example, larger agencies with a more geographical dispersed presence can attract candidates in regional areas, allowing candidates to stay close to community.
- We have adopted a stronger remote working arrangement position in the last 2 years, and we hope to see change our attractiveness to candidates.

## Reconciliation Action Plan

- The DTA launched its inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan in 2021 in line with Reconciliation Australia's first stage – "Reflect".
- Given the progress we have made over the last 2 years, we are now moving to the Reconciliation Australia's second stage – "Innovate".
- Reconciliation Australia is currently reviewing the second draft of our next Reconciliation Action Plan and we expect to finalise it by the end of the financial year.

Released under FOI Act

**Finance Statistics**

Data as at 31 March 2024 unless otherwise specified.

**Portfolio Budget Statement - PBS**

	2023-24 Estimated Actuals	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 FE2	2026-27 FE3	2027-28 FE3
Departmental Appropriation  (Table 1.1)	\$49.72m	\$51.70m	\$51.59m	\$49.36m	\$49.63m
Section 74 Receipts  (Table 1.1)	\$3.84m	\$4.37m	\$6.44m	\$3.25m	\$3.50m
ICT Coordination Procurement Special Account – Expense  (Table 2.1.1)	\$10.89m	\$11.47m	\$8.74m	\$14.92m	\$14.40m
Budgeted Expenditure by Program (Table 2.1.1)	\$65.16m	\$68.27m	\$66.93m	\$67.69m	\$67.69m
ASL	242	271	N/A	N/A	N/A
Released Under FOI Act					
Total special account receipts (\$m)  (Table 1.1)	\$414.44m	\$395.32m	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total agency resourcing (\$m)  (Table 1.1)	\$659.77m	\$683.08m	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Contracts

## DTA Internal contracts

Period	Total number of active contracts	Total Value of contracts (ex GST)
Active Departmental Contracts at 31 March 2024	93	\$86.7m
New departmental contracts since 1 July 2023	66	\$9.1m
<i>Open Tender</i>	46	\$8.3m
<i>Limited Tender below \$80k</i>	18	\$0.5m
<i>Limited Tender above \$80k</i>	2	\$0.3m
Contracts exempt from Division 2 of CPRs	2	\$0.3m
Active departmental contracts - labour for hire	27	\$7.7m
Active departmental consultancies	Nil	Nil

## Total Active Contracts

Top 10 active DTA internal contracts at 31 March 2024

CN ID	Supplier	Contract Description	Value	Procurement method
CN3818823	11 Moore Street Pty Ltd	DTA Office lease - Canberra	\$43,154,276.28	Limited Tender
CN3985605	Microsoft	Microsoft Unified Support Services 2023-24	\$16,925,591.10	Limited Tender
CN4011075	The Trust Company (Australia) Ltd	DTA Office lease - Sydney	\$4,300,025.88	Limited Tender
CN3906945	Capgemini Australia Pty Ltd	Service Now Specialists	\$4,199,175.20	Open Tender
CN3903277	BT Automation Pty Ltd	Service Now Specialists	\$2,780,000.00	Open Tender
CN4011076	Maddocks	Legal services	\$1,391,500.00	Open Tender
CN3638814	Nextgen Networks Pty Ltd	DTA network solution	\$1,213,791.31	Open Tender
CN3999777	Australian Government Solicitors	Legal services	\$1,190,605.00	Limited Tender

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CN ID	Supplier	Contract Description	Value	Procurement method
CN3701860	AUCloud	Virtual Security Operations Centre	\$1,175,000.00	Open Tender
CN3723347	ServiceNow Australia Pty Limited	Hosting Platform	\$953,416.46	Open Tender
			<b>\$77,283,381.23</b>	

Top 10 new DTA contracts entered 1 July 2023 – 31 March 2024

CN ID	Supplier	Contract Description	Value	Procurement method
CN4011076	Maddocks	Legal services	\$1,391,500.00	Open Tender
CN4011945	Tullius Pty Ltd	Management advisory service	\$737,000.00	Open Tender
CN4013736	Hays Specialist Recruitment	Labour Hire	\$507,640.08	Open Tender
CN4011943	Jellyfish Digital Australia	Google Marketing Platform 360 licensing, support and training	\$497,567.40	Open Tender
CN4007777	Aclivity Pty Ltd	Specialist Benefits Management Advice	\$482,391.00	Open Tender
CN4042607	Reason Group Pty Ltd	Reuse Assessment	\$451,000.00	Open Tender
CN4044822	Cynterra Pty Ltd	Cloud Native Secure Internet Gateway	\$388,960.00	Open Tender
CN4011074	Hays Specialist Recruitment	Labour Hire	\$338,429.52	Open Tender
CN4011942	Cordelta	Labour Hire	\$331,320.00	Open Tender
CN4035533	GLIC Recruitment Pty Ltd	Labour Hire	\$310,612.50	Open Tender
			<b>\$5,436,420.50</b>	

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## WofG Contracts

Period	Total number of active contracts	Total Value of contracts (ex GST)
WofG Contracts totals	7	\$6.087B
	Total number of active contracts	Total Value of contracts (ex GST)
Total active DTA procurements (incl WOAG)	129	\$7.135B

## Single Seller Arrangements

Contract	Value
AWS (1.0 and 2.0)	\$691.0 m
Concur	\$17.60 m
IBM 1.0	\$2.230 B
IBM 2.0	\$985.0m
Microsoft (VSA4-5)	\$2.000 B
Oracle	\$274.5 m
Rimini Street	\$8.5 m
SAP	\$988.50 m
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7.053 B</b>

Arrangement	No. of Panellists	No. of *SMEs	% of SMEs	Total Spend (\$m) *	Total SME spend (\$m) *	% of SME spend
Digital Marketplace	3602	2929	81%	\$16,341,450,734.67	\$10,705,695,938.22	66%
Hardware Marketplace	206	143	69%	\$3,516,552,052.61	\$739,285,259.91	21%
Software Marketplace^	374	262	70%	\$3,454,545,463.28	\$627,279,909.25	18%
Cloud Marketplace	411	289	70%	\$380,528,794.13	\$140,350,670.68	37%
Telecommunications Marketplace	54	27	50%	\$444,264,762.95	\$58,455,174.95	13%
Data Centre Panel 3	22	11	50%	\$19,880,211.17	\$7,490,723.59	38%

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\* Values are based on contracts reported to AusTender. However, a portion of opportunities published by agencies do not report to AusTender (e.g. CCEs, and state/territory/local governments).

^ Software Marketplace reflects both Category One – the government’s selected Microsoft Licencing Solution Provider (Data#3) and Category Two - Commercial off the Shelf (COTS) software and services.

### Spending on Office Locations

2023-24 YTD (July 23 – Mar 24)	Canberra	Sydney	Total
Rent	\$1.715m	\$0.448m	\$2.163m
Outgoings	\$0.242m	\$0.171m	\$0.413m
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.957m</b>	<b>\$0.619m</b>	<b>\$2.576m</b>
2022-23	Canberra	Sydney	Total
Rent	\$1.984m	\$0.242m	\$2.226m
Outgoings	\$0.238m	\$0.077m	\$0.315m
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2.222m</b>	<b>\$0.319m</b>	<b>\$2.541m</b>

### Consultancy Contracts

	2022-23	2023-24 YTD
Count of contracts	2*	Nil
Total Contract Value	\$813,000.00	Nil
Total Actual Spend	\$766,058.23	Nil

\* Relates to one contract with Kantar Public Australia Pty Ltd (\$638,000 actual spend) for market research for Digital Identity completed in June 2023 (Digital Identity was transferred to the Department of Finance in July 2023), and one contract with Corroboree Talent Limited (\$128,058.23 actual spend) for the independent review of Cyber Hubs completed in February 2023.

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## Recent Contracts with Big 6 firms

CN ID	Supplier Name	Description	Start	End	Contract Value
<b>Active</b>					
CN3855513	KPMG	Financial Statements Accelerated Reporting Model Licence and Support	8/03/22	7/03/25	\$71,280.00
CN3959798	EY Digital	AGA Digital Product	31/03/23	31/03/24	\$654,310.84
CN4013086	KPMG	Portfolio Assurance Modelling and Costing Support	24/08/23	31/03/24	\$58,938.00
<b>Completed in 2022-23</b>					
CN3957224	PWC Indigenous Consulting Pty Limited	Digital Service Delivery Blueprint Development	29/03/23	30/06/23	\$275,000.00
CN3964613	The Boston Consulting Group Pty Ltd	Report on Domestic and International Digital Service Standards	1/05/2023	9/06/23	\$253,000.00
CN3988406	KPMG	Delivery of Portfolio Assurance modelling and costing	16/06/23	30/06/23	\$120,180.00

## Sponsorships

CN ID	Supplier Name	Description	Start	End	Contract Value (\$)	Contract Status
CN4035837	Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA)	AIIA iAward Sponsorship 2024-26	22/02/24	30/12/26	\$63,800.00	Active
CN3948682	Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA)	AIIA iAward Sponsorship 2023	23/02/23	23/02/24	\$21,818.18	Complete

Sponsorship of award category, participation in award judging, onstage presentation, attendance in awards and inclusion of question in post-event survey.