



2025-26 PLIDA Board Annual Report



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Introduction

Welcome to the 2025-26 financial year Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA) Board Annual Report. This report intends to communicate information on DataLab key metrics, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Data Integration work program, notable outcomes, client survey satisfaction results and, major investments for product improvement and client services.

Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA)

The [PLIDA](#) is a secure data asset combining information on health, education, government payments, income and taxation, employment, and population demographics to create a comprehensive picture of Australia over time. PLIDA is one of three main assets that make up *ABS Integrated Data*.

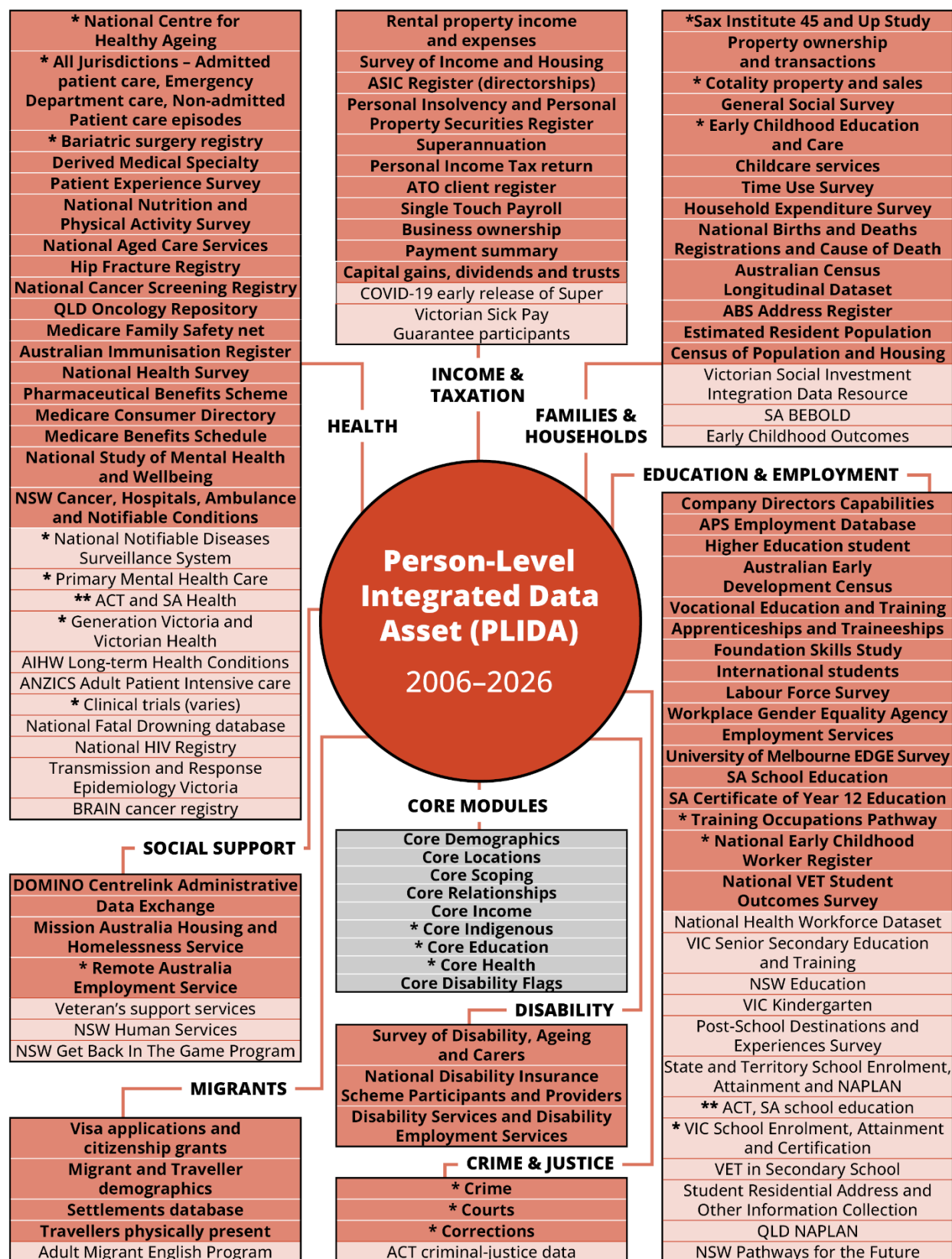
PLIDA provides whole-of-life insights about various population groups in Australia, such as the interactions between their characteristics, use of services like healthcare and education, and outcomes like improved health and employment.

There are now 149 datasets or modules available in PLIDA that are available for re-use with notable developments in health, wealth and housing domains. The ABS has linked another 19 datasets for specific projects making 168 in total in PLIDA. This includes a wide range of state and territory data and some new private sector datasets such as insurance data. In comparison, there were only 9 datasets in 2017 (see Figure 1).

PLIDA data is securely held by the ABS in the ABS DataLab with access only made available to approved researchers for approved purposes via myDATA. The PLIDA Modular Product (PMP) is a detailed microdata product created from the PLIDA data asset. The PMP contains data from a range of different data custodians and covers several domains.

See here for more information: [Person Level Integrated Data Asset \(PLIDA\) | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#) and [PLIDA data and legislation | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

Figure 1. Datasets in the Person Level Integrated Data Asset



PLIDA is not a single, integrated dataset – the data structure is a set of linkable files based on unique individual identifiers

As of July 2026

Indicates the dataset is available for re-use Indicates the data is not available for re-use

* indicates that the data supply is in negotiation or data integration is underway

** indicates being linked to PLIDA for the purposes of the Life Course Data Initiative (LCDI) and access will be limited to approved LCDI projects during the pilot phase

PLIDA Governance

The PLIDA Governance Guide was released in 2025-26 and provides the framework for data custodians providing data to the PLIDA. It explains how the ABS manages PLIDA. It also helps custodians understand their role in ensuring safe handling of data, transparent governance, and compliance with legislation and ethical standards.

See here for more information: [Guidance for Data Custodians | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

PLIDA Board

The [PLIDA Board](#) was established to be the governance body responsible for the operation and strategic direction of PLIDA (formerly known as MADIP). The PLIDA Board provides strategic direction, governance and oversight of PLIDA and develops the PLIDA Strategy which outlines the vision and purpose of PLIDA. The PLIDA Board considers how new and emerging data initiatives impact strategic priorities and hence evaluates the risks and benefits of linking additional data to the asset.

The Board is a decision-making authority accountable to the Australian Statistician.

The Board makes strategic decisions relating to:

- data acquisition and use
- data sharing, outputs, access and release
- linkage infrastructure and strategy
- risk and issue management
- available resources
- governance, including legal advice
- stakeholder engagement and communication strategies.

The PLIDA Board does not approve access to PLIDA.

See here for more information: [PLIDA Board | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

PLIDA Board Structure, Membership and Activity

The PLIDA Board is chaired by an SES Band 2 officer from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Meetings are triannual with virtual attendance options. Attendance of meetings can be delegated in consultation with the PLIDA Board secretariat. Secretariat support for the PLIDA Board is provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Member agencies are represented by one SES Band 1 or 2 officer from each of the data custodian agencies. The role of a PLIDA Board member is to represent their agency's views when considering and responding to issues and share information presented to the Board within their agency. Only Board members (not observer agency members) have decision-making authority to set the strategic direction and manage operational and analytical issues. Observer agency members contribute broader Commonwealth or specialist perspectives to the discussion.

PLIDA Board Activity in 2025-26

PLIDA Board activity in 2025-26 highlights a focus on researchers' access to and utility of PLIDA. Notable outcomes include:

a. *Supporting the collection and production of official statistics using PLIDA*

The PLIDA Board endorsed the concept of *StatsLab*, intended for internal ABS use to make more effective use of PLIDA data in the production of official statistics. *StatsLab* use similar technologies to DataLab and is part of the ABS data modernisation work program. *StatsLab* is accessible only to ABS staff, who sign lifelong undertakings under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. The ABS is expanding its utilisation of administrative data sources from PLIDA for official statistics, particularly in household survey collections. Over the past year, data in PLIDA has been used to enable more efficient sampling design, supplement survey responses, support output weighting and inform quality assurance activities.

Increasingly, ABS survey data is also being incorporated into PLIDA Modular Products where it can be utilised for a wide range of approved research projects. This work is expected to reduce collection costs, improve representation in survey populations, deliver more accurate outputs and enrich the data available for decision making.

- b. PLIDA Board approved the development of PLIDA *TableBuilder* products. The products will enable access to integrated data for those without the capability or funding to access microdata in the DataLab. *TableBuilder* products have been requested by clients and Board members for some years. These products allow for instant (seconds) production of aggregate tables of counts from PLIDA assets.
- c. PLIDA Board endorsed a technical solution for virtual collaboration (screen sharing) in the DataLab has been implemented. LabLink is a new video conferencing tool developed by the ABS for SEAD, now available in its trial (BETA) phase to all users. It is designed to help researchers collaborate securely within their Virtual Machines (VMs), even when working from different physical locations. There are no additional costs involved for projects using LabLink.
- d. The ABS engaged independent privacy consultant Maddocks, on behalf of the PLIDA Board, to conduct the 2024-25 PLIDA Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA) Update. The PLIDA Board agreed with all the recommendations from the 2024-25 PLIDA PIA Update and their response provides a summary of recommendations together with how the recommendations will be implemented. The recommendations focus on actions to advance privacy best practice and enhance existing governance processes.
- e. The Board commissioned a trial for managing '*Enduring Multipurpose Programs (EMPs)*' for research and analysis by large, enduring government DataLab projects. The program Eight projects were selected for the pilot and was extended by six months pending approvals by data custodians. The EMP pilot is designed to deliver responsive policy insights with reduced administrative burden, streamlined collaboration between researchers, faster and more robust results, and lower supplier, operating and project team costs.
- f. A new webpage on the ABS website dedicated to the PLIDA Board was published, that houses meeting notes available for reference. This contributes to the transparency of PLIDA operations, including regular updates to the ABS website with reference to PLIDA.
- g. The Board endorsed updated *Terms of Reference* (TOR). Updates include a refresh of member details and references the responsibility for members to 'apply a whole-of-Commonwealth perspective to maximise data utilisation in the interests of the Australian community'. The Board endorsed an expansion of its membership to include state and territory representation.

- h. The Board commissioned an investigation into controlled access for private organisations undertaking public-benefit research in the ABS DataLab using PLIDA data. An evaluation paper is being prepared to test a suitable model with strengthened Five Safes controls and additional monitoring alongside clear public benefit tests to manage key risks such as reputational impact, commercial use among others.

General Updates Across 2025-26

Across the year there was a clear shift toward greater transparency and governance maturity. The ABS progressively enhanced the Data Integration Project Register, making it publicly accessible, regularly updated, and increasingly detailed – adding features such as PLIDA/Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment (BLADE) usage indicators and project lead contacts to support visibility and collaboration. At the same time, there was a strong emphasis on improving governance processes, including simplifying data access approvals, streamlining policies, and reforming systems like access for academic and international researchers. A key change included streamlined PLIDA data approvals. Most datasets have now transitioned from reference-period-specific approvals to a single project-lifetime approval covering all historical, current and future periods. This reduces administrative effort for researchers, custodians and the ABS integration team, while supporting more consistent project documentation.

In parallel, the ABS and PLIDA Board focused on operational efficiency and user experience improvements to support scale. This included upgrading systems such as myDATA, refining standard operating procedures around issues like ethics and international access to DataLab, and enhancing the Person Linkage Spine to improve timeliness, coverage, and analytical capability. New tools and access pathways – particularly TableBuilder products and pricing calculators – were introduced to make integrated data more accessible, easier to use, and more predictable in cost.

Initiatives such as the ABS – Universities Australia agreement and the collaboration with the Australian Research Data Commons demonstrate a deliberate effort to expand the research community and strengthen partnerships. At the same time, integrated data is increasingly embedded in major policy initiatives, including school funding allocation, the development of national data assets like the National Veterans' Data Asset (NVDA) and evaluation of employment programs. PLIDA is now recognised as critical research infrastructure with recent funding from the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy. Together, these developments show how PLIDA and its governance systems is maturing as national, policy-oriented data research infrastructure.

The *ABS Data for Evaluation Projects* policy was introduced, formalising operational arrangements and legislative mechanisms for releasing data to support program and service evaluation activities where specific organisations must be identified to support evaluation. Three projects have been approved under these arrangements:

- ACT justice data
- Mission Australia housing and homelessness services data
- Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) program data

The ABS is undertaking a reform initiative to standardise and strengthen the governance, approval and monitoring of academic data access. The project addresses long-standing issues with bespoke university

arrangements by introducing a consistent, risk-based model aligned to the Five Safes framework, incorporating standardised approval workflows, a formal Statement of Support process, clearer Contact Officer responsibilities, and six-monthly reporting and access reviews. Good progress has been made, and a soft rollout is underway with selected universities. The reform is expected to reduce administrative burden while improving transparency, scalability and assurance, ultimately strengthening controls and minimising residual risks associated with academic researcher access.

Across the year the ABS has strengthened the technical backbone of PLIDA. The most significant initiatives and changes are:

- The enhancement of the Person Linkage Spine, which underpins PLIDA. Updates include plans to refresh demographic and address information more frequently, extend the historical coverage back to around 2000, and incorporate additional data such as births, deaths, and migration to improve linkage quality and longitudinal analysis capability. These upgrades are aimed at making integrated data more current, comprehensive, and suitable for official statistics and longitudinal or intergenerational research.
- A second major focus is the development of new data products and access platforms, particularly TableBuilder. *People in Australia*, the PLIDA TableBuilder product was progressed to a beta testing phase. It is expected that *People in Australia* will be released by the end of 2026 and enable broad access to be deidentified, aggregated and perturbed PLIDA data without full DataLab access. Additional infrastructure tools such as LabLink and code-sharing capabilities also support collaboration and improve how researchers interact with PLIDA in the DataLab.
- DataLab annual fees increased by 10% from July 2025 because of underlying and cumulative cybersecurity, cloud and labour cost pressures.

Notable PLIDA Product Expansion in 2025-26

Across the year, PLIDA saw continuous expansion through the addition of datasets spanning income, employment, health, education, housing, and social services. Overall, PLIDA shows a steady progression toward a comprehensive, whole-of-life integrated data asset with increasingly rich cross-domain coverage and recurring refreshes of major datasets. Many of the datasets supplied by states and territories restrict re-use. New additions include:

- *ABS General Social Survey (GSS)*: The 2025 GSS has been delivered as a high-value social wellbeing data asset, strengthening the evidence base on Australians' social characteristics and outcomes.
- *ACT Health data collection*: Includes ACT Kindergarten Health Check, 2006-2023; ACT Year 7 Health Check, 2006-2023; ACT Maternal Perinatal Data Collection, 1997-2023; ACT Emergency Department Data Collection, 2006-2023. The data linkage supports the Life Course Data Initiative but is otherwise for strictly limited release.
- *ACT Education Data Collection (2010-2024)*: The collection includes regularly administered surveys/tests by ACT Education. The data linkage supports the Life Course Data Initiative but is otherwise for strictly limited release.
 - Student Census 2010-2024
 - NAPLAN data 2010-2024
 - Year 12 Senior Secondary Outcomes 2010-2023

- Performance Indicators for Primary Schools (BASE) 2010-2023
- *ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate* (2022-23 to 2023-24): Links together ACT Police, ACT Criminal Courts and ACT Prisons. Data is available for strictly limited release.
- *APS Employment Database* (2005-06 to 2023-24): Includes de-identified employment and demographic information for Australian public servants.
- *ATO Property Transactions Dataset* (2017-2026): A longitudinal dataset covering real property transactions across Australia.
- *Better Evidence, Better Outcomes, Linked Data (BEBOLD)*: An integrated South Australian data asset that contains data on 32 birth cohorts (~20,000 births a year) from 1991 onwards, as well as information about parents and families. The dataset includes perinatal, hospital emergency and admitted patient data, homelessness, births deaths and family demographic information, education and public housing, child and family health service, child protection, drug and alcohol services and corrections information. While selected BEBOLD datasets have been linked to PLIDA, the current data sharing arrangement with the custodians restricts access to a pre-approved set of projects affiliated with the BEBOLD program and Life Course Data Initiative. Additional use cases for this data are not being considered by the custodians at this time.
- *Core Income module* (2006-07 to 2023-24): Integrates income and employment data from PLIDA datasets to provide derived income measures at the person level, developed in alignment with ABS income standards.
- *Hip Fracture Registry* (2018-2024): A new standard release module has been loaded into the PLIDA Modular Product (PMP). This data is available for re-use.
- *Mission Australia Homelessness* (2019-24): Records of individuals receiving support from Mission Australia housing and homelessness services. Includes demographic information, living and occupational circumstances, service engagement duration, and types of assistance provided. This data is available for re-use.
- *National Cancer Screening Registry* (2017-2025): Bowel Cancer Screening Program dataset containing participant-level attributes drawn from the National Cancer Screening Registry. This data is available for re-use.
- *National Fatal Drowning Database* (2002-2025): Compiled by Royal Life Saving Society – Australia, capturing detailed information on all unintentional drowning deaths in Australian waterways. Used to inform coronial processes, government policy, and national water safety strategies. This data is not available for re-use.
- *National HIV Registry* (1982-2023): Assists researchers to inform and evaluate equitable HIV responses in Australia. Findings from the research on the factors associated with gaps in access will support the development of HIV prevention and treatment programs appropriately tailored to ensure equitable outcomes. Delivered into DataLab for a Kirby Institute project with Strictly Limited Release.
- *NSW Pathways for the Future* (2024): A linked dataset covering early childhood, primary and secondary schooling, Vocational Education and Training (VET), and university education for a NSW population cohort aged 0-67. Re-use of the data is limited.
- *NSW Health data* (varies): Selected hospital, emergency department, ambulance and notifiable conditions data have been made available to support the UNSW Ethnicity and Cardiovascular Health project. This data is not available for re-use.
 - NSW Admitted Patient Data Collection (APDC) July 2006 to June 2024

- NSW Emergency Department Data Collection (EDDC) July 2006 to Jun 2024
- NSW Ambulance 2009 to Sep 2024
- NSW Notifiable Conditions Information Management System (NCIMS) January 2020 to Apr 2024
- *NSW Cancer and Hospitals dataset (1972-2024)*: Contains records of incidence and mortality data of people diagnosed with primary invasive cancer in NSW. This data is available for re-use. It covers people who reside in NSW who were attended public/private hospital services, rehabilitation centres, NSW public/private outpatient radiotherapy treatment centres, and attended breast or cervical screening services.
 - NSW Admitted Patient Data Collection (01 July 2001-31 Dec 2024)
 - NSW Emergency Department Data Collection (01 July 2005-31 Dec 2024)
 - NSW Cancer Registry (01 January 1972-31 Dec 2024)
 - NSW Mental Health Ambulatory Data Collection (01 January 2001-31 Dec 2024)
 - NSW Pap Test Register (01 July 1996-30 June 2017)
 - BreastScreen NSW (01 January 1988-31 Dec 2024)
 - NSWCR All Radiotherapies Dataset (01 January 2008-31 Dec 2024)
 - NSW Clinical Cancer Registry (01 January 2008-31 Dec 2014)
 - National Cancer Screening Register Bowel Raw Data Extract – NSW Data (01 January 2008-31 Dec 2024)
 - National Cancer Screening Register Cervical Raw Data Extract – NSW Data (01 January 2017-31 Dec 2024)
 - NSW Outpatient Systemic Therapies Oncology Dataset (01 January 2013-31 Dec 2024)
 - Patient Reported Measures (01 January 2019-31 Dec 2024)
- *Queensland Oncology Repository (2000-2025)*: A dataset from Cancer Alliance Queensland detailing verified cancer diagnoses. Includes a linkage package and eight analysis tables covering patient demographics, diagnoses, hospital episodes, procedures, treatments (radiation and systemic therapies), staging, and deaths. This data is available for re-use.
- *South Australian Certificate of Education (2005-2025)*: Covering South Australian individuals enrolled in Stage 1 or Stage 2 (or equivalent) from 2005 to 2025. This data is available for re-use.
- *Single Touch Payroll (STP)*: Phase 2 Entitlements Module enhanced the analytical capability of existing STP data. This new module enables deeper insights into employment conditions, including leave, termination payments and entitlements not previously observable.
- *University of Melbourne Educational Development Gains in Early Childhood (EDGE)*: Survey of kindergarten children.

There are several strategic initiatives underway building on PLIDA infrastructure, including:

- *State and Territory hospital data*: The ABS is being supported by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to deliver hospital data into PLIDA for re-use.
 - Admitted patient care (public and some private hospitals)
 - Emergency department services (public hospitals)
 - Outpatient services (public hospitals)

- *SSRIN–PLIDA Electronic Health Record (EHR) linkage*: A high-value, clinically rich hospital EHR dataset covering more than one million historical patients from Peninsula Health (Frankston–Mornington Peninsula region), spanning the life course. The dataset integrates information across multiple clinical domains, including patient demographics, Emergency Department presentations, hospital admissions, outpatient and community services, mental health services, surgery, radiology, pharmacy, and costing data.
- *National Veterans Data Asset (NVDA)*: The ABS has been funded from 2026-27 onwards to produce the NVDA built off PLIDA and make it available for reuse. This activity addresses recommendation 107 of the Royal Commission into veterans suicide by creating the NVDA, leveraging PLIDA base infrastructure to deliver 80% of the data needed supplemented with quarterly Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), quarterly Department of Defence data supplemented with annual Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data and annual state and territory data (up to three data sets each) to expand the information on and better design services for veterans and their families.

2026 DataLab and Data Integration User Experience Survey

The annual User Experience survey took place between 25 May and 12 June 2026, marking the fourth year it has been conducted. DataLab researchers (Project Leads, Analysts, and Discussants) active in the past 12 months were invited to participate. Discussants were included for the first time this cycle, with a focus on understanding their overall experience, including interactions with LabLink.

A total of 219 responses were received this year, consistent with the 217 responses received last year. We thank all participants for taking the time to provide valuable feedback, which plays an important role in shaping improvements to DataLab and Data Integration services.

Survey content

Participants were asked about their experience with the following:

- DataLab system, onboarding and training, client support, clearance, and charging
- myDATA and project initiation
- Use of PLIDA and BLADE
- Custom Data Integration Service
- ABS website and other communications

Preliminary Results

Please note that these results are preliminary and may be subject to minor amendments.

DataLab

- 71% of respondents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with their overall experience using the DataLab system over the past 12 months, compared to 69% in 2025.

PLIDA

- 75% of PLIDA users were satisfied or very satisfied with their overall experience using PLIDA, down slightly from 79% in 2025.
- 68% of survey respondents had used the PLIDA Modular Product in the last 12 months.
- 70% of PLIDA users had used one or more Core Modules in the last 12 months.
 - Those who had used Core Modules were generally satisfied with them.

- More than half of the PLIDA users indicated they had experienced difficulties with supporting materials due to a “lack of documentation. They also highlighted a lack of awareness for some of these materials, suggesting that promotion could be improved.
- The most commonly cited issues with PLIDA data included “difficulties finding required data”, “missing or incomplete values”, and “incorrect, incoherent or inconsistent values”.

myDATA

- 53% of users were satisfied with myDATA overall, up from 38% in 2025.
- Improvements over the past 12 months have been positively received, although some frustrations remain with system limitations.

Next Steps

Further analysis of survey responses will be undertaken, with results disseminated to relevant stakeholders. A summary of findings, along with agreed actions, will be published on the ABS website.

Incident/Event Summary

The ABS maintains a strong and proactive approach to managing data risks, ensuring timely, consistent, and compliant responses to all events in line with legislative requirements, including the Notifiable Data Breaches scheme and the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022.

A structured incident management framework supports transparency, rapid escalation, and informed decision-making – while also enabling continuous improvement across systems, processes, and user behaviour. Insights from incidents are actively used to strengthen governance, enhance training, and refine operational controls.

In 2025, the Data Integration Program managed 89 events across Data Integration, DataLab, and the Secure Data Integration Environment (SDIE). Importantly, only one event was assessed as a medium-severity data breach, with all others classified as low-severity incidents or non-events – demonstrating the overall effectiveness of existing safeguards and controls.

The majority of events related to procedural or user-driven issues rather than system failures, highlighting opportunities for targeted improvements rather than systemic risk. Encouragingly, strong monitoring and assurance processes enabled early detection and resolution, minimising impact.

Significant progress has been made since 2024, including:

- Enhanced Safe Researcher training and refresher programs aligned to real incident themes
- Strengthened data protection processes and clearer reporting expectations
- Improved standard operating procedures and governance alignment
- Delivery of DataLab user guidance through accessible video tutorials
- Expanded use of data analytics (DTEX and BI tools) to support investigations
- Increased proactive monitoring and auditing to detect emerging risks early

These improvements demonstrate a maturing control environment, with a clear shift toward prevention, early detection, and continuous uplift.

Overall, the program continues to operate effectively with low incident severity, strong oversight, and a clear commitment to ongoing improvement.

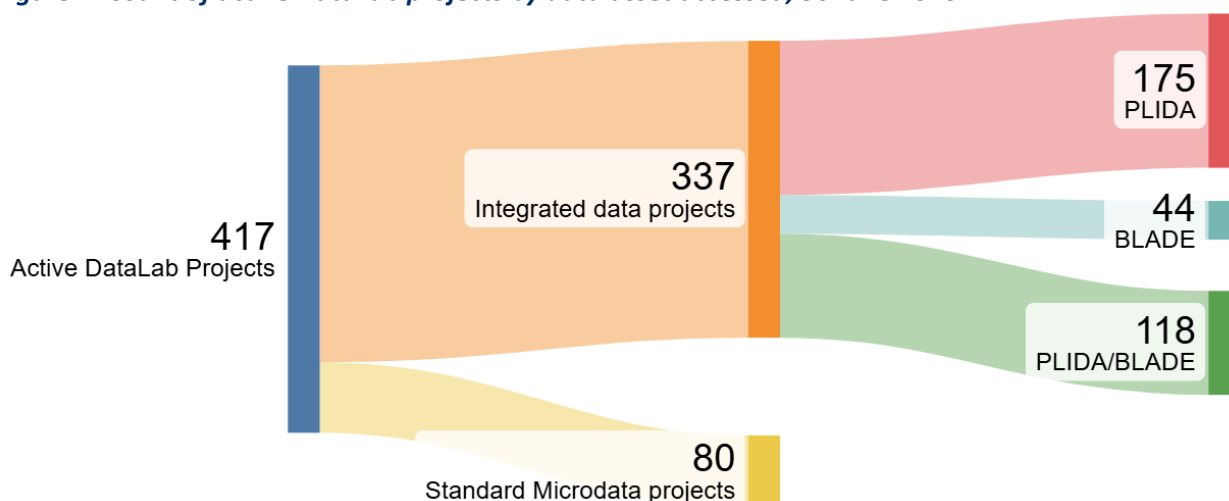
DataLab Key Metrics

The ABS DataLab is a secure, cloud-based research environment provided by the ABS. It allows approved users to access and analyse detailed microdata including PLIDA for statistical and research purposes.

Project Metrics

Figure 2 is a snapshot at 30 June 2026 that shows there were 417 active projects in the DataLab accessing integrated data (337), and standard microdata (80). Of the 337 projects currently accessing integrated data, 175 used PLIDA and 118 used PLIDA and BLADE. Of the 44 projects currently accessing integrated data, 44 used BLADE.

Figure 2. Count of active DataLab projects by data asset accessed, 30 June 2026



Of the active DataLab projects, 103 are Commonwealth Government projects (including ABS), 24 are State or Local Government projects, 262 are Australian university projects, 21 are Australian policy or non-government institutions and 5 are foreign university projects (Figure 2).

At 30 June, 91 new projects have been submitted and are awaiting or under assessment by the ABS, pending custodian approval or awaiting DataLab activation and data provision. Of these, 47 are projects awaiting access under the ABS/University Australia Agreement, which are currently on-hold pending an available place under this arrangement. At 30 June, a further 17 new projects are being drafted by researchers.

Between July 2025 and June 2026, the number of DataLab projects accessing PLIDA has grown from 268 to 293. As a proportion of all DataLab projects, projects accessing PLIDA has grown from 61% to 70% representing an overall move away from other types of ABS microdata to ABS Integrated Data.

More detail on active projects can be found on our project register: [Data integration project register | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#).

Figure 3 shows the count and growth in DataLab projects using integrated data by organisation type for period 2018-19 to 2025-26. Unlike other snapshot figures and tables in this report, Figure 3 includes all projects that were open at any point during the financial year. As a result, Figures 2 and 3 are not directly comparable as they are based on different reporting methodologies.

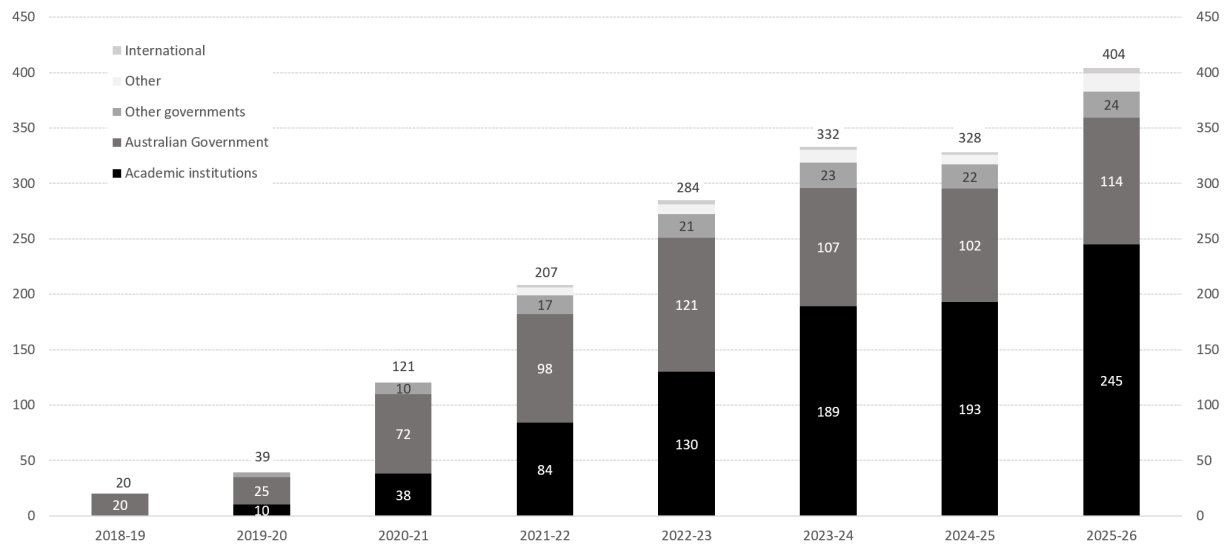
Table 1. Counts of all active DataLab Projects and projects accessing PLIDA

Month	Total Active Projects	PLIDA only	PLIDA + BLADE	% of total using PLIDA
Jul 2025	436	168	100	61%
Aug 2025	442	179	100	63%
Sep 2025	453	179	103	62%
Oct 2025	451	183	106	64%
Nov 2025	456	191	109	66%
Dec 2025 to Jan 2026	457	188	115	66%
Feb 2026	460	186	116	66%
Mar 2026	443	181	118	67%
Apr 2026	453	187	117	67%
May 2026	454	187	120	68%
Jun 2026	417	175	118	70%

Table 2. Top 20 PLIDA datasets by usage, June 2026

PLIDA dataset	Usage rate as a percentage of all PLIDA projects
Census Of Population and Housing	86%
Income Tax Return	72%
Payment Summaries	61%
Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS)	55%
Data Over Multiple Individual Occurrences (DOMINO)	54%
Death Registrations	53%
Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)	52%
National Health Survey	44%
Abs Derived Income	42%
Core Demographics	39%
Core Locations	38%
Higher Education	38%
Australian Taxation Office (ATO) Client Register	36%
Core Relationships	33%
Survey Of Disability, Ageing and Carers	30%
National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)	28%
National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)	26%
Core Scoping	25%
Travellers	24%
Migrant And Traveller Demographics	23%

Figure 3. Count of unique Integrated Data Projects by Organisation Type, 2018-19 to 2025-26



Footnote: Counts are any unique project active at any point during a financial year. Prior to Nov 2021, the old (pre-cloud) DataLab was still in use by clients. Numbers have been sought from the old DataLab, but both start and end dates are unknown. The data should be read as cumulative, for example five projects that are still active have been running since 2016-17 or 2017-18.

Key metrics presented in Table 3 show interactions related to the DataLab. Table 4 presents metrics for the top 10 active & inactive organisations in the DataLab, as well as only active DataLab user organisations, July 2025 to June 2026. Figures refer to users only counted once to prevent duplication of the same user across multiple projects within the same organisation.

Tables 5 to 9 provide more detail about the number of projects, researchers and usage in the DataLab.

Table 3. Counts of DataLab Users¹ and DataLab User Organisations²

Users	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (as of 17 June 2026)	Difference (on 2023-24)
Number of unique ³ active users ⁴ as of 30 June	220	319	350	~59% increase
Number of unique active users as of 30 June ⁵ (cumulative total from 2020)	2416	2862	3197	~32% increase
Number of unique users undertaking DataLab ⁶ training as of 30 June	1307	1424	1331	~2% increase
Total Organisations in the DataLab	98	71	88	~10% decrease
Number of user organisations as of 30 June (cumulative total from 2020)	173	178	203	~17% increase

Footnote: ¹ An individual who has been approved to access the ABS DataLab for the purpose of conducting statistical or research analysis using detailed microdata. ² A DataLab user organisation is formally approved by the ABS to allow its approved staff or affiliates to access and use the ABS DataLab. ³ Unique users are only counted once to prevent duplication of the same user across multiple projects within the same organisation. Organisations in the DataLab can have multiple projects often with the same User appearing in more than one project. ⁴ Users logged into the DataLab and actively running a virtual machine (VM) for their analyses. Includes only 'Analysts' and excludes 'Discussants'. ⁵ Figures do not reflect users prior to migration from on premises to cloud and only include 'Analysts'. ⁶ Count includes users who attended refresher training and users who attended full training.

Table 4. Top Ten User Organisations, 2025-26

Rank	User Organisations and User Counts	
	Active & Inactive ¹ DataLab user organisations with user counts	Active DataLab organisations with by user count
1	Australian Bureau of Statistics - 32	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations - 28
2	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations - 32	Australian Bureau of Statistics - 24
3	University of New South Wales - 22	University of New South Wales - 20
4	University of Sydney - 20	University of Queensland - 19
5	University of Queensland - 20	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare - 19
6	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare - 20	University of Sydney - 18
7	Australian National University - 19	Monash University - 18
8	Monash University - 18	Department of Education - 17
9	Department of Education - 17	Australian National University - 16
10	Department of Health and Aged Care - 16	University of Melbourne - 13

Footnote: ¹ Inactive counts include researchers who may have been active within the financial year.

Table 5. Counts of open and closed DataLab projects, by year

Project Counts	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Difference (on 2023-24)
Total projects – (Archived, Closed & Open)¹	209	264	317	~20% increase
Archived & Closed projects	102	150	156	~4% increase
Open projects	107	114	161	~42% increase

Footnote: ¹ Please note total projects are only those with access to PLIDA data.

Table 6. DataLab unique outputs¹ by year

Outputs	2023-24 Count	2024-25 Count	2025-26 Count	Difference (on 2023-24)
Total	2,555	2,185	2,027	~21% decrease

Footnote: ¹ Counts of unique output requests. Excludes output request reviews, input and transfer requests. *2025-26 data for 1 July 2025 – 16 June 2026

Table 7. Top 10 projects by total output volume¹, Nov 2022-June 2026

Rank	Projects	Number of output requests
1	2021010-Health Understanding health policy impacts on socio-demographic cohorts	731
2	2021097-Micro heterogeneity and macroeconomic performance: before and after the virus	389
3	2018019-Disability and social determinants of health in Australia	197
4	2021056 - Education, Skills and Employment National Data Asset (ESENDA) – Phase 1	187
5	2020098 - Skills Tracker	177
6	2021089-Improving Australians health understanding relationships between health and other factors	176
7	2020z008 - Understanding spare capacity in the labour market	170
8	2023127 - Competition Review	142
9	2022020 - Census Futures research for the 2026 Census of Population and Housing	118
10	2019z008 - Ongoing research for annual wage review	113

Footnote: ¹Based on counts of unique requests, which excludes any reviews conducted.

Table 8. Top 10 projects by output volume¹ in 2025-26

Rank	Projects	Number of output requests
1	2021097-Micro heterogeneity and macroeconomic performance: before and after the virus	63
2	2021056 - Education, Skills and Employment National Data Asset (ESENDA) – Phase 1	58
3	2021010-Health Understanding health policy impacts on socio-demographic cohorts	57
4	2023097 Analysis of Sectors, Regions and Industry Programs in Australia	55
5	2023087 NSW Labour Market, Business Dynamics and Productivity	41
6	2023127-Competition Review	41
7	2020087 Productivity Commission research and reporting	36
8	2020z008 - Understanding spare capacity in the labour market	35
9	2020098/20240288 - Skills Tracker	33
10	2023001 Migration, ethnicity and cancer care outcomes	32

Footnote: ¹Based on counts of unique requests, which excludes any reviews conducted.

Table 9. Data products accessed¹

File Directories/Data Products	Count	Accessed/Available
Accessed	3573	Number of product file directories ² (not specific products) accessed by Users for FY 2024-25
Available	1843	Total number of data products in the DataLab (data does not contain dates for FY)

Footnote: ¹ Data products are the specific microdata files or datasets available for analysis. ² Product file directories are folders containing data products. Availability is the number of directories available; Accessed is the number of times those directories were assigned to projects.