

# Department of Health Open Data Strategy

2015-2017

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Published by the State of Queensland (Queensland Health) – Refreshed September 2016



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An electronic version of this document is available at

<https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/open-data-strategy-health>

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## Executive Summary

This strategy identifies the Department of Health's plan to deliver the Queensland Government's open data initiative and the department's commitment to support open, accountable and transparent government.

It aligns with the government's priority to ensure Queensland Government information is made publicly available. Open data provides Queenslanders with economic and social benefits such as the opportunity to create applications, establish research programs, start new businesses and assist with improving government service delivery.

This strategy applies to the Department of Health, and does not extend to datasets collected by Hospital and Health Services.

# Introduction to Open Data

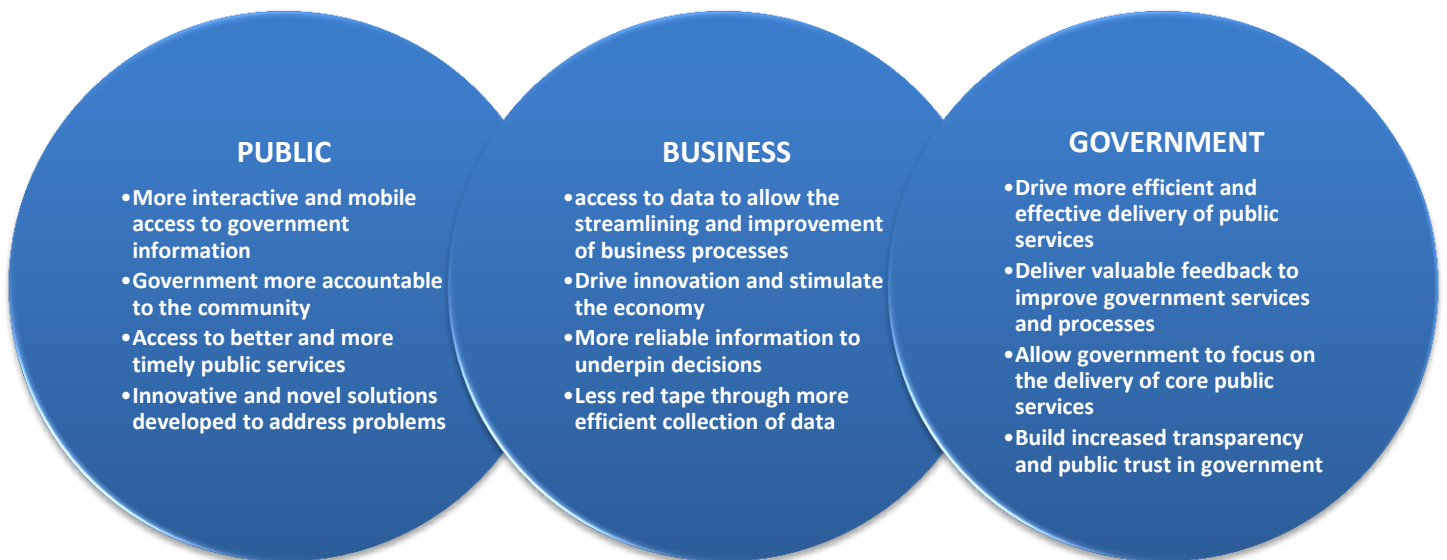
## What is Open Data?

Open Data is data that can be freely used, modified and shared by anyone, for any purpose.

Data can refer to numbers, letters, or pixels expressed in any form. Some data may be in a raw (or basic) form which has not been analysed or arranged into a meaningful form, whilst another data can be meaningful and understood in its raw format. When data is analysed, processed, organised, structured or presented in a given context to make it meaningful, data becomes **information**.

## What are the benefits of Open Data?

The benefits of the open data initiative are *far* reaching, enabling the health system to remain sustainable and continually improve. Specific benefits across the spectrum include:



## What types of data is held by the Department?

The Department collects a range of data including, but not limited to:

- Clinical conditions
- Healthcare provision and activity
- Hospital and service performance
- Public and population health
- Program administration
- Human resources
- Financial performance
- Capital delivery
- Workplace incidents

Whilst committed to releasing data as openly as possible, we are mindful that we hold a significant amount of sensitive health related information. We take our obligations around privacy and confidentiality of data seriously, and act in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009* and *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*.

## Open Data principals

The policy principles that underpin the strategy are:

- **Government data will be available for open use**

Published data will be made openly available under flexible licences wherever appropriate, allowing for reuse by the public including by business, researchers and individuals.

- **Government data will be available free**

Published data will be made available free, except if the charge is statutory or if cost recovery has a clear net benefit of the Queensland community.

- **Government data will be in accessible formats and easy to find**

Published data will be easily discoverable through [www.data.qld.gov.au](http://www.data.qld.gov.au) in accessible formats that promote their reuse.

- **Government data will be released within set standards and accountabilities**

Published data will be made available in a timely and relevant manner unless restricted for reasons of privacy, public safety, security, commercial confidentiality or compliance with the law. The Department of Health will be accountable for release of data in accordance with set standards.

## Our Goals and Objectives

In 2015-16, the Department of Health commits to the following:

<b>Release more data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raise the profile of the Open Data initiative via engagement with internal stakeholders, to ensure data is 'open by default'</li><li>• Review key data documents including the department Information Asset Register and Annual Report 2014-15, so as to identify new data sets</li></ul>
<b>Improve data quality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure data is released within set standards and in accordance with legislative and other protections</li><li>• Review currently available data sets to ensure links are active</li></ul>
<b>Support the reuse of data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publish data in multiple formats where possible</li><li>• Make historical data available, rather than just the most current monthly/annual data, to allow the user to analyse, assess trends etc.</li></ul>
<b>Engage with end users</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide a forum for feedback and ideas</li><li>• Engagement with the community via participation in events such as GovHack and HealthHack.</li></ul>

The Department's dataset schedule will be updated regularly and published as a dataset on the Open Data portal.

## Queries and feedback

We recognise that the success of the Queensland Government Open Data initiative is dependent on an active community of people using Open Data. We therefore welcome contact regarding a range of topics including:

- General questions about the published data
- Enquiries about data not currently available
- Suggestions on how to improve our data
- Feedback on how our data is being used

Contact details for the Department of Health's Open Data Officer are as follows:

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