

**AUSTRALIAN eRESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL (AeRIC)
AeRIC Meeting - Thursday, 23 April 2009**

**AGENDA ITEM 6: AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL DATA SERVICE (ANDS)
BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2009/2010**

Paper: ANDS Annual Business Plan for 2009/2010

Purpose

To provide the AeRIC Executive with an outline of the ANDS Business Plan for 2009/2010.

Background

On 17 September 2008, the Department entered into a funding agreement with Monash as Lead agent for ANDS to encourage collaboration and the effective use of research infrastructure under the Platforms for Collaboration (PFC) capability, as part of the National Cooperative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) program. This funding totalled \$21 million over financial years 2008-2011.

ANDS was established after extensive planning through consultations and a comprehensive establishment project. Many researchers and institutes have begun engaging with ANDS on their data issues. ANDS is now responding to this demand by supporting researchers and institutions in using their data more effectively.

The ABP for 2009/10 represents the second business plan required under the ANDS funding agreement. ANDS completed its first two milestones under the ANDS Funding Agreement earlier this year and received an associated \$5 million payment. The next payment of \$6 million is scheduled upon acceptance of the first Progress Report, due in September 2009.

Summary

By the end of 2009/10 ANDS expects that there will be many researchers who have published their data using ANDS persistent identifiers into a data store that feeds information to the ANDS Collections Registry. ANDS expects that researchers will be able to find a wide variety of data sets using the ANDS data pages through a variety of discovery paths, and that more institutions will be successfully engaged in meeting their responsibilities described in the "Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research".

ANDS has four inter-related programs of activity in order to deliver against their objectives:

- *Developing Frameworks* – the frameworks that will enable research data producing institutions to capture, manage and share research data;
- *Providing Utilities* – services that reduce the cost of capture and ease the task of discovery;
- *Seeding the Commons* – improving local data capture and populating the data commons; and
- *Building Capabilities* – improving Australia's capability to manage its research data.

These activities will be delivered in a co-ordinated manner that will ensure that partners simply engage with ANDS, not with the individual programs.

Issues

Building Capabilities

There is an increased focus on short sharp advice and consultancy over the development of curricula for a new breed of information professionals and courses for PhD students. This is driven by the view that ANDS needs to know more about what works before coursework is developed.

Program Engagement Strategies

This section of the Business Plan details how ANDS engages and in particular describes the “whole of ANDS” engagement strategies rather than programmatic engagement, as it is clear that their partners seek engagement beyond the program boundaries more often than not. This represents a significant shift in the approach ANDS had planned to take to engagement with stakeholders.

Financial and Human Resources

There is concern that ANDS will have a major underspend. It received payments totalling \$5 million earlier this year and is due to receive another \$6 million dollars in September based on the acceptance of its Progress Report.

ANDS has not changed its proportional spending on programs from the 08/09 Business Plan. However, a substantially greater level of external spending is shown in the 09/10 Plan as well as a substantially greater overall level of expenditure. ANDS plans to lift its expenditure from \$4.49 million in 2008/09 to \$8.82 million in 2009/10, so that in their final year, expenditure will be \$10 million. This means that ANDS will need to move rapidly on contracts and recruitment if this budget is to be met.