



Open Government Partnership: Inform the development of Australia's Fourth National Action Plan

This consultation paper forms part of the co-creation process for Australia's Fourth Open Government Partnership National Action Plan (NAP4). It presents a shortlist of potential commitments developed by the Open Government Forum (the Forum). The paper seeks feedback on these proposed commitments to inform the Forum's further deliberations and to support the refinement and prioritisation of commitments for inclusion in NAP4.

The Open Government Partnership

The [Open Government Partnership](#) (OGP) is an international multi-lateral initiative that aims to increase transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

Australia's next national action plan will set out commitments that the government will deliver within a 2-year timeframe to achieve these goals. Australia has had three previous national action plans. Our [Third National Action Plan](#) (NAP3) ended on 31 December 2025.

The [Open Government Forum](#) (the Forum) supports Australia's participation in the OGP. It brings together government and civil society to develop, implement and monitor open government initiatives. The Forum helps make sure commitments reflect community priorities and promote greater transparency, accountability and public participation in government decision-making.

The Forum is made up of equal numbers of government and civil society members and establishes a space for ongoing dialogue and collaboration between the government, civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders, consistent with the [Open Government Partnership Participation and Co-Creation Standards](#).

Developing the Fourth National Action Plan

The Forum is now developing Australia's [Fourth National Action Plan](#) (NAP4) to be finalised by the end of 2026.

Consistent with the OGP [co-creation minimum standards](#), the Forum has agreed on a process for NAP4 to be collaboratively designed between government, civil society and other key stakeholders. The co-creation timeline includes opportunities for public engagement throughout the process.

Development of potential commitments

Forum members invited ideas for potential commitments, including from the broader community across the following themes:

- improve openness and accountability in government
- ensure the safe, fair and transparent use of data, technology and AI
- strengthen public participation and inclusion in decision-making
- support access to reliable information and address misinformation and other emerging risks.

Forum members and government agencies reviewed these ideas to shape the potential commitments set out in this paper.

The Forum has developed potential commitments, set out in this paper, for inclusion in NAP4 that are **concrete, specific and feasible**, with **verifiable deliverables**.

Commitments should meet the following criteria:

- Align with open government principles, including transparency, accountability, public participation and integrity.
- Be realistic and achievable within the 2-year implementation period (January 2027-December 2028), taking into account existing government priorities and policies, legislative settings, resources and implementation constraints.
- Be within the ability of a single Commonwealth agency to deliver.

Feedback received through this consultation process will be used to inform the priority of commitments and the composition of final commitments included in NAP4.

The potential commitments are:

1. Delivering Australia's First Media Literacy Strategy
2. Strengthening Youth Engagement in Government Decision-Making
3. Enhancing transparency of corporate ownership to build integrity and trust and reduce the risk of financial crime and corruption
4. Strengthening civic participation through collaborative design of model government engagement processes

5. Enhancing transparency of AI and digital accessibility
6. Strengthening Commonwealth fraud and corruption control frameworks
7. Improving access to government information and communications for people with disability

Final NAP4 commitments are subject to government agreement and approval.

We want to hear from you

Interested stakeholders and members of the public are now invited to have your say on the development of Australia's next National Action Plan.

In responding to this consultation paper, you may wish to consider the following questions in relation to each potential commitment.

- Is the topic of this commitment important to you?
 - Why or why not?
- How important are the possible benefits of the potential commitment?
- Do you have any suggestions to modify the potential commitment to increase its benefits?
- Do you have any concerns about possible negative impacts from the potential commitment?
- Overall, which commitments should be prioritised for inclusion in NAP4?

Have your say

We encourage you to provide your responses via the consultation platform. Submitting your response through the platform helps us analyse responses and publish them in a way that all users can access.

You do not need to answer every question. You may respond only to the questions that are relevant to you or your organisation.

If you are unable to use the consultation platform, you may provide a written submission responding to the questions in the discussion paper by email to the department at OpenGovernment@ag.gov.au.

Privacy

You may submit your response under your name or anonymously. Responses will be published at the end of the consultation period. Submissions will not be published without your consent, or if publication could raise legal concerns.

We may use an artificial intelligence (AI) tool for the purposes of analysing submissions and responses. Any AI tool used for this purpose will be securely hosted for departmental use within Australia and will comply with all departmental and

government obligations on AI use. No information used within the AI tool will be shared outside of the department or be used for training any AI models.

Submissions may be subject to freedom of information requests, or requests from the parliament. Personal information shared through the consultation will be treated in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988. For more information on how the department collects, stores and uses personal information, please visit our Privacy Policy at <https://www.ag.gov.au/about-us/accountability-and-reporting/privacy-policy>.

Proposed commitments

Proposed Commitment 1: Delivering Australia's first National Media Literacy Strategy

Lead agency: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Australia will develop its first National Media Literacy Strategy (Strategy) to help Australians understand and engage with news and media in an increasingly complex digital world. The Strategy will consider the impacts of emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), that are impacting the ability of Australians to critically engage with news and media.

The commitment will deliver a Strategy that sets out a clear and coordinated national approach to supporting Australians to develop the skills required to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the digital world. It will bring together government, community organisations and academics to co-design best practice approaches to strengthening media literacy skills.

This initiative aligns with the OGP principle of public participation. Through broad stakeholder consultation, the Government will lead a robust co-design process with the media literacy research and education sectors, community organisations, academics and communities. This approach will help ensure the Strategy reflects diverse expertise and lived experience and identifies priority groups most in need of targeted media literacy initiatives.

Proposed Commitment 2: Strengthening Youth Engagement in Government Decision-Making

Lead agency: Department of Education

The commitment would continue to strengthen opportunities for young people to participate in government decision-making through the Youth Advisory Group Program. Building on the previous NAP3 commitment, the initiative would support meaningful engagement with young people and provide structured channels for their perspectives to inform government policies and programs.

This commitment would be to deliver opportunities for diverse young people to provide advice directly to government through Youth Advisory Groups. The policy area and membership of the groups change each year. There is always a First Nations focus across the program. The members are 16 to 25 years old and represent all kinds of different backgrounds and experiences.

This commitment promotes public participation by empowering young people to contribute directly to policy development and decision-making processes. It promotes transparency by increasing visibility of how government engages with young people and how their views are considered in policy outcomes. It also supports accountability through proposed governance, reporting, and engagement mechanisms that enable agencies to demonstrate how youth perspectives have informed decisions and actions. By embedding meaningful youth participation, the commitment seeks to foster greater trust in public institutions while supporting more inclusive and informed policymaking.

Proposed Commitment 3: Enhancing transparency of corporate ownership to build integrity and trust and reduce the risk of financial crime and corruption

Lead agency: The Treasury

This commitment seeks to improve transparency about who ultimately owns, controls and benefits from unlisted companies operating in Australia. Building on the previous NAP3 commitment, the Australian Government will continue policy and technical reform work toward establishing a register of beneficial ownership information for unlisted companies (unlisted company BO register) and strengthen the supporting regulatory infrastructure.

Specifically, the commitment would be to:

- further consult on the design features for a public, Commonwealth-operated unlisted company beneficial ownership register, and progress legislative drafting to implement it, including proactive engagement with relevant academics and civil society experts
- complete Australian Securities and Investments Commission's second tranche of work to stabilise and uplift its companies register, which is necessary to support the future system build for the incorporation of beneficial ownership information for unlisted companies, and
- continue policy development work on a regime of beneficial ownership information in relation to trusts.

This commitment aligns with the OGP principles of transparency and accountability by increasing the availability of beneficial ownership information and strengthening public and regulatory oversight of corporate structures. The commitment also supports public participation through public consultation on the design features of the register. By helping to prevent the misuse of companies for corruption, tax evasion, money laundering, and other illicit activities, the reform supports OGP objectives of integrity, anti-corruption, and open government.

Proposed Commitment 4: Strengthening civic participation through collaborative design of model government engagement processes

Lead agency: Department of Home Affairs (Office for Social Cohesion)

This commitment aims to strengthen open government by modelling collaborative engagement and participation processes through Civic Space Policy Design Workshops. The workshops will bring together civil society organisations, local and state governments, and Commonwealth agencies to explore how Australia can implement specific recommendations from the OECD Open Government Review of Australia: *Strengthening Civic Space and Participation* (the Review).

The Review (released on 12 October 2026) aims to support Australia to strengthen civic spaces to enable more meaningful participation, drive trust and foster social cohesion. It makes recommendations on strengthening civic space in Australia and building more meaningful and impactful citizen participation approaches.

The commitment would be to deliver two policy design workshops to identify effective approaches to public engagement and citizen participation, address barriers to engagement, and gather evidence on what works best for inclusive and meaningful engagement. It will involve citizens and stakeholders directly in conversations about how specific recommendations of the Review could be implemented.

This commitment aligns OGP principles of public participation, transparency and accountability by actively involving civil society organisations and enabling stakeholders

in identifying effective engagement methodologies and addressing barriers to public involvement. It supports transparency by openly examining how government engagement processes are developed and by publishing findings and recommendations to inform future practice across the public sector. The commitment also strengthens accountability by creating an evidence base for implementing specific recommendations from the OECD Review.

Proposed Commitment 5: Enhancing transparency of AI and digital accessibility

Lead agency: Digital Transformation Agency (DTA)

The Australian Government will use AI-enabled assessment tools to conduct regular, systematic reviews of two key areas of public sector performance:

- the quality, completeness and accessibility of agency AI Transparency Statements; and
- the digital experience of public-facing government information and services, including accessibility, usability, discoverability and compliance with relevant standards.

These assessments will support the DTA's stewardship of the Australian Government AI policy and Digital Experience Policy by providing a consistent, scalable and evidence-based view of implementation across government.

Findings will be published through a public benchmarking/insights program. Rather than focusing on compliance alone, the program will promote greater transparency, improve digital service quality, and help agencies learn from one another.

By making these findings publicly available, the Government will create a positive feedback loop: greater transparency about performance will encourage continued improvements in transparency, accessibility and digital experience, while providing the public with greater visibility of government progress. This approach aligns with the principle that transparency itself can be a driver of accountability, trust and better outcomes for Australians. The commitment builds on existing government expectations for AI transparency and public accountability.

Proposed Commitment 6: Strengthening Commonwealth fraud and corruption control frameworks

Lead Agency: Attorney-General's Department

This commitment would improve the quality and transparency of information about fraud and corruption risks and responses across the Australian Government. It would also conduct a review of the Commonwealth Fraud and Corruption Control Framework

(the Framework) with input from government, civil society, academia and integrity experts. The Framework outlines how public entities must prevent, detect, and respond to fraud and corruption to protect public resources. By improving measurement and reporting of data about fraud and corruption, the commitment seeks to enhance public confidence in government integrity and stewardship of public resources.

This commitment would be to:

- enhance the Australian Institute of Criminology's (AIC) annual Australian Government fraud and corruption census and consider what data can be safely released to government, civil society and the public, and
- conduct the 2027 review of the Framework using a structured government and public engagement process.

This commitment aligns with the OGP principles of transparency, accountability and public participation. It promotes transparency by improving the collection, analysis and potential public release of fraud and corruption data, enabling greater public understanding of integrity risks and controls. It strengthens accountability and promotes public participation by conducting a public consultation process and publishing consultation and review outcomes demonstrating how stakeholder input has shaped the review of the Framework. The Framework and the related census data are critical to informing entities' prevention, detection and response to fraud and corruption. In strengthening these frameworks, the commitment will contribute to improved integrity and anti-corruption controls, safeguard public funds, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public services and protect vulnerable Australians from exploitation and identity theft motivated by a desire to defraud Commonwealth programs and services.

Proposed Commitment 7: Improving access to government information and communications for people with disability

Lead Agency: Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

This commitment would develop and implement the Accessible Information and Communications Associated Plan (Associated Plan) under *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031* to improve how governments communicate with people with disability. It would establish consistent accessibility standards, build workforce capability, strengthen accessible communication practices, and improve access to government information and services.

This commitment would deliver:

- development and publication of common accessible communication Standards/Guidelines for all government information products across the Commonwealth and states and territories, and practical tools and resources to support implementation,

- development of an Australian Public Service training package on disability inclusion, accessible communication, effective policy engagement, design, consultation and co-design practices,
- publication of research and workforce analysis relating to accessible communications,
- exploration and publication of opportunities and safeguards for the use of artificial intelligence to support accessible and inclusive communications,
- public consultation processes involving people with disability, disability representative organisations, subject matter experts and governments,
- public reporting on progress against implementation actions within the Associated Plan.

This commitment aligns with the OGP principle of transparency by improving the accessibility, availability and usability of government information for people with disability. It supports public participation by removing barriers to participation for people with disability, supporting them to access information and to engage with government. It promotes accountability through the establishment of clear standards, guidance, workforce training and public reporting on implementation progress, allowing governments to demonstrate improvements in accessible communications and their responsiveness to the needs of people with disability.