

Tasmanian Data Linkage Unit



Linked Data in Action:
Supporting Service
Improvement

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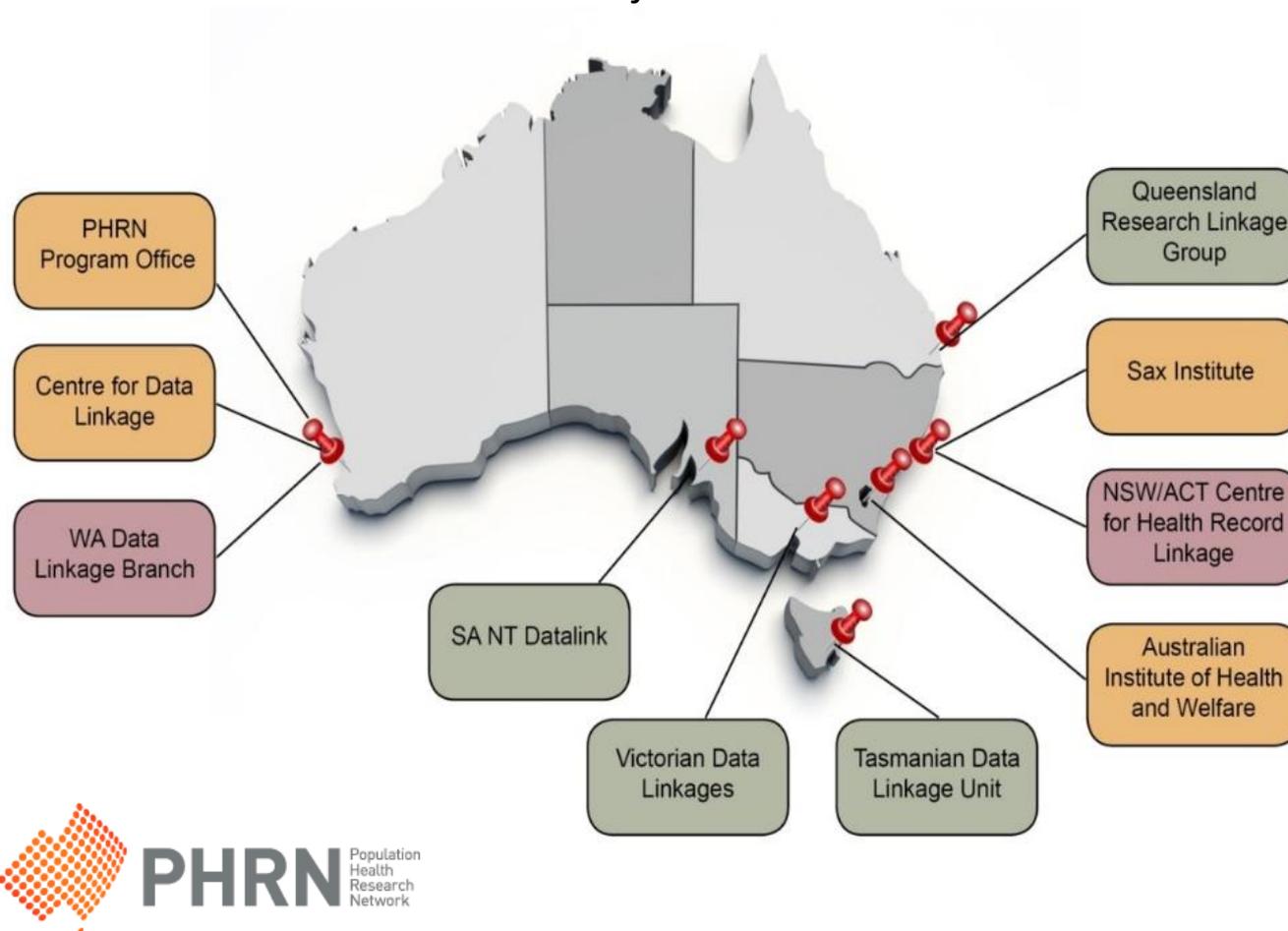
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Background – Tasmanian Data Linkage Unit (TDLU)

- Established in 2010
- Current staff of 4 (Professor Alison Venn is Director) and casual staff to undertake clerical review
- Commonwealth funded - NCRIS
- Part of the Population Health Research Network (PHRN)
- The PHRN has been established to build a nationwide data linkage infrastructure capable of securely and safely managing health and other information from around Australia.

Population Health Research Network

A **collaborative network** developing data linkage capability within and between Australian jurisdictions



What is Data Linkage?

- Data linkage is a method of bringing together information about people, places and events in a way that protects individual privacy
- Data linkage brings together this information from disparate information sources
- This enables the construction of chronological sequences of events for individuals – often referred to as “*cradle to the grave*”
- In combination, these individual ‘chapters’ create a bigger story about the health and wellbeing of people in the community
- In bringing records together, the TDLU uses strict privacy preserving policies, protocols and procedures to ensure the security of the data and confidentiality of the individuals the records relate to.

Popular datasets for linkage

State datasets

- Public hospital admitted patient episodes
- Public hospital emergency department presentations
- Birth & Death
- Perinatal (Mother & Baby)
- Cancer
- Ambulance
- Education
- Individual cohort

Popular commonwealth datasets

- National Death Index - NDI
- Australian Cancer Database – ACD
- Cancer Screening Registries
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme - PBS
- Medicare Benefits Scheme – MBS
- Australian Immunisation Register – AIR

TDLU Achievements

- The TDLU has linked 61 individual datasets
- Comprises 37 different datasets
- Completed almost 30 projects
- App. 10 projects actively being worked on working on
- Including our biggest project to date (in terms of records)
- Have a number of other projects in the early stages of development
- Our Master Linkage Map contains ~ 7.5m unique records

State of Play – Commonwealth Data Sharing & Information Management

- Crowded space
- New Australian Government Data Sharing and Release Legislation: Issues paper for consultation
 - New data sharing and release arrangements, streamlining the way public data is shared and released within government and with trusted users.
 - Provide efficient, scalable and risk-based trusted data access to datasets that have substantial and community-wide benefits for research, innovation and policy.
 - The new arrangements will increase the authorised sharing and release of data and improve data safeguards to ensure risks are managed consistently and appropriately
- National Statistical Service
- ABS – 5 Safes principles
- Data Integration Partnership for Australia (DIPA) - a whole-of-government initiative to make better use of existing public data.
- Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP) &
- Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment (BLADE)

Data Linkage Network in Australia

- Development of national linkage key infrastructure
 - Support the efficient linkage of state and commonwealth data, cross and multi-jurisdictional projects
- Enduring linked data repositories - national
 - Admitted patient, emergency department, MBS & PBS

Thinking of a project using linked data?

- Our message is:
- Please talk to us as early as possible as part of planning your study
- We can provide advice
 - HREC processes
 - How to link with Commonwealth Data
 - Steps involved in applying for linked-data through the TDLU
 - Timeframes
 - Costs
- We also provide:
 - Helpful guides on steps involved in applying for linked data