



Australian Immunisation Register link to the Person Level Integrated Data Asset

The Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) is the source of data for vaccination records in Australia. While it contains basic demographic information, it does not include information on many characteristics of interest including occupation, cultural diversity, disability or chronic health conditions.

This type of more detailed information can help answer important policy and research questions on immunisation in Australia. The Department of Health and Aged Care are working with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to link the AIR to other Commonwealth datasets in their Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA).

The ABS's [Census and Statistics Act 1905](#) enables the supply of AIR data to the ABS. Linking with PLIDA unlocks essential information for policy decision making and evaluation. The ABS has strict privacy and governance controls in PLIDA that prevent re-identification of individuals.

What is PLIDA?

PLIDA (formally known as the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project or MADIP) is part of a well-established data integration program administered by the ABS, which safely integrates Commonwealth datasets, using a 'privacy by design' approach.

Key information about PLIDA:

- The ABS is trusted as the [accredited Integrating Authority](#) for PLIDA. They
 - collect and combine the data
 - provide access to de-identified data to authorised researchers
 - protect individuals' privacy and keep their information secure at all times.
- PLIDA combines information health, education, government payments, income and taxation, employment, and population demographics (including the Census) over time.
- It 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.
- The ABS and our analysts protect your personal information and you will not be identified through the AIR- PLIDA. Privacy and governance protections for the PLIDA include
 - restricting access to approved researchers
 - confidentialising outputs before they can be released. This means statistical techniques may be applied to further protect your data
- removing all personal identifiers such as name, full residential address and government identifiers before an integrated dataset is made accessible to trained analysts in a controlled environment.

Linked PLIDA projects are accessed through the ABS' secure [DataLab](#).

Further information on how your data is protected is available in the ABS's [AIR-PLIDA Summary Privacy Impact Assessment](#). Learn [more about the PLIDA project](#) on the ABS website.

AIR-PLIDA project

The AIR-PLIDA project links frequent updates from the AIR with a range of other Australian Government datasets. This allows us to analyse vaccination coverage among different priority or vulnerable population groups.

This project maximises the use of existing data assets without having to collect information from individuals again.

The ABS checks all outputs before data can be released from their DataLab.

Datasets in the AIR-PLIDA project include:

- the 2016 Census of Population and Housing – a rich source of data on the diversity of people in Australia. It includes country of birth, language spoken at home and year of arrival in Australia
- information on employment, including industry and occupation from the Australian Tax Office Single Touch Payroll and Personal Income Tax
- information on Social Security payments from DOMINO Centrelink Administrative Data
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) and Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS)
- migration and visa information from the Department of Home Affairs.

We have linked over 95% of AIR records to a PLIDA record, meaning the data is of high quality.

As the AIR-PLIDA is the result of complex data integration processes, it is important that results presented in our information papers are not compared directly with other sources. We will provide caveats and explanations to help you interpret the data.

Who can use AIR-PLIDA?

The ABS administers the data linkage for PLIDA and manages the PLIDA data asset.

Only approved analysts can access the AIR-PLIDA. They must be

- from or contracted by a government agency, and
- based in Australia.

Other Commonwealth agencies who can use the AIR-PLIDA include:

- the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- the Department of Social Services
- the Department of Education, Skills and Employment
- the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- and the Department of Home Affairs.

Analysts from other Commonwealth agencies and jurisdictional health departments may join as the project evolves.

Results from AIR-PLIDA

Project outcomes and results will be made available on the AIR-PLIDA page on our website.

The Australian Government, jurisdictional health departments and Primary Health Networks are currently using preliminary de-identified work from the AIR-PLIDA project to inform their planning as part of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, particularly for some vulnerable and priority cohorts.

We will continue to refine our analysis to deliver reliable research to support policy decision-making and evaluation of immunisation outcomes in Australia.