

## FAIR and CARE For Information Professionals

### *Purpose*

This Records Advice has been prepared to provide ACT Government employees with an introduction to the FAIR and CARE principles for data management. These principles help inform the *Standard for Records and Information Governance* published in 2022.

### *Background*

FAIR and CARE are acronyms to describe guidance for the management and stewardship of records, information and other data. FAIR principles aim to support discovery, sharing, and reuse of data to maximise its use and reuse. CARE principles are people- and process-oriented and aim to increase First Nations self-determination and innovation, realise opportunities in the knowledge economy, and assert First Nations rights and greater control to create value from First Nations data grounded in First Nations worldviews.

Together the principles aim to support strategic management of recordkeeping processes by providing a framework to facilitate increased data and information sharing, while also acknowledging power differentials and historical contexts. The CARE principles in particular support the concept of Indigenous Data Sovereignty, which draws on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The Declaration reaffirms the rights of First Nations Peoples to control data about their peoples, lands, and resources. This includes data, information, and knowledge, in any format, that impact Indigenous Peoples, nations, and communities at the collective and individual levels; data about their resources and environments, data about them as Individuals, and data about them as collectives.

### *FAIR – Principles for data management and stewardship*

**Findable** – Provide adequate metadata to describe data that enables discoverability via local or online portals.

**Accessible** – Data may be made open using standardised protocols. When data is sensitive and cannot be made open due to privacy, legal, or ethical matters, aim to provide clarity and transparency around the conditions governing access and reuse. Providing metadata for sensitive data can enhance discoverability without revealing the sensitive content and can include description about how specific conditions or arrangements can be made to access the data.

**Interoperable** – Data and metadata should aim to be supported and understood by using community-acceptable languages, formats, and vocabulary. The use of metadata identifiers helps to describe relationships between other data.

**Reusable** – To enhance the reuse of data, elements such as permission of use and origination need to be described. This is achieved by providing metadata that indicates the data's licence terms and provenance. This gives users the confidence to legally use the data, and that it is a trustworthy source of information. Description within the metadata allows this information about the data to be read by machines and streamlines user's ability to reuse the data.

More details can be found [here](#).

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## *CARE – Principles for Indigenous Data Governance*

**Collective Benefit** – How the design and function of data consider ways that can enable Indigenous Peoples to derive benefit from the data.

**Authority to Control** – Indigenous People’s authority to control Indigenous data must be empowered. The aim is to enable Indigenous data governance to facilitate Indigenous Peoples and governing bodies to determine their rights and interests regarding Indigenous lands, territories, resources, knowledges, and geographical indicators, and how they are represented and identified within data.

**Responsibility** – The majority of Indigenous data is controlled by non-Indigenous institutions, and it is the responsibility of information professionals to engage respectfully with Indigenous communities to ensure that Indigenous data supports capacity development, increased community data capabilities, and the strengthening of Indigenous languages and cultures.

**Ethics** – Indigenous Peoples’ ethics should inform the use of data at all stages of the data life cycle and across the data ecosystem. The aims are to minimize harm, maximize benefits, promote justice, and allow for future use. The aims of metadata in this case should describe the data’s provenance and purpose, and any constraints or obligations in reuse, including of issues of consent.

More details can be found [here](#).

### *Recommendation for implementation*

The ACT’s Standard for Records and Information Governance suggests that ACT Government agencies consider how FAIR and CARE principles can be applied to their records, information and data holdings. Additional guidance is available from a number of sources to determine how and when to apply FAIR and CARE.

#### *FAIR*

The Data Research Alliance (RDA) published [FAIR Data Maturity Model Specification and Guidelines 2020](#), which provides a flexible framework for the **FAIR** data maturity model. The guideline document provides additional details outlining indicators of success in implementing each of the FAIR elements. These include ensuring that metadata is identified by a persistent identifier, and providing rich metadata about datasets to support broad discovery.

#### *CARE*

[Open Government Data](#) aims to increase government transparency, accountability, and value creation, and is part of a greater movement towards innovation and digital transformation. The [Global Indigenous Data Alliance provides additional guidance](#) for understanding and applying the CARE principles. This includes the principle that Governments and institutions must actively support the use and reuse of data by Indigenous nations and communities by facilitating the establishment of the foundations for Indigenous innovation, value generation, and the promotion of local self-determined development processes.