

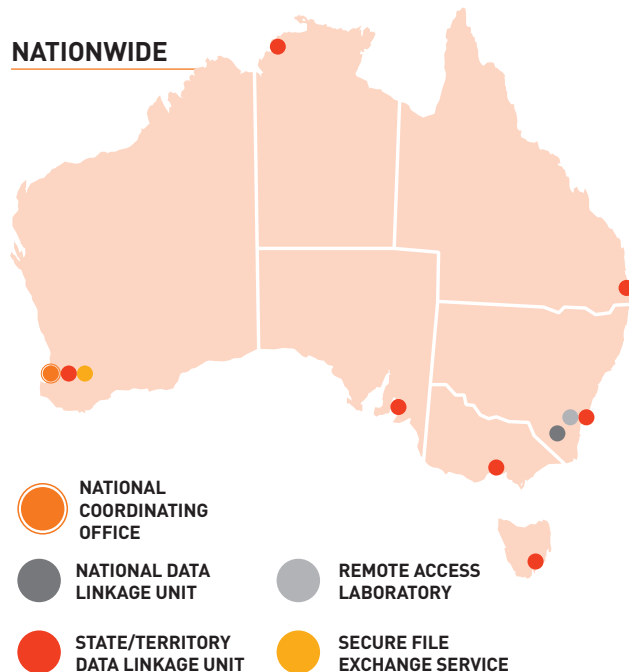
## THE PHRN AT A GLANCE

The Population Health Research Network (PHRN) is a ground-breaking program which has created Australia's first national data linkage network.

Established with the backing of the Australian Government (as part of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy) and supported by every Australian state and territory, the PHRN has built a network that enables existing health data from around the nation to be brought together and made available for vital health and health related research purposes.

The PHRN supports six state/territory data linkage units, one national data linkage unit and a secure data laboratory. The PHRN also provides a number of national eResearch tools and services to assist researchers to access linked data efficiently and securely.

### NATIONWIDE



### CONTACT

**PHONE:** (08) 6488 8600

**EMAIL:** [phrn@uwa.edu.au](mailto:phrn@uwa.edu.au)

#### ADDRESS:

Population Health Research Network, M320  
The University of Western Australia  
35 Stirling Highway  
Crawley, WA 6009

**[WWW.PHRN.ORG.AU](http://WWW.PHRN.ORG.AU)**

PHRN is an initiative of the Australian Government being conducted as part of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy.



## ACCESSING CROSS JURISDICTIONAL LINKED DATA



## APPLICATIONS

### HOW DO I APPLY FOR LINKED DATA?

#### Information portal

[www.phrn.org.au](http://www.phrn.org.au)

A range of information is available to assist you in preparing an application for linked data.

Visit the PHRN website for information on:

- Data collections available for linkage
- Requirements for data access
- Services for researchers
- Researchers' roles and responsibilities
- The data access request process
- Data security
- Contact details of linkage units

#### A one-stop site for your project application

<https://oas.phrn.org.au>

The PHRN Online Application System has been developed to improve the efficiency of the application process for cross-jurisdictional linked data projects. The unified form reduces the number of application forms required and enables researchers to submit their applications simultaneously and track their applications online. The PHRN Online Application System has been endorsed by all PHRN data linkage units as the agreed application process for cross-jurisdictional linked data projects.

## APPROVALS

### WHAT APPROVALS DO I NEED?

Data linkage requires the use of personal information to make the initial link between data collections. This is usually done without consent so there are legal and ethical considerations. For a cross-jurisdictional linked data project, you will need to obtain approval from data linkage units, data custodians and Human Research Ethics Committees (HRECs).

#### Data linkage units

Approval must be obtained from each state/territory data linkage unit who will perform the linkage of state-based data collections as well as the national linkage unit who will perform the cross-jurisdictional linkage of data. You can apply for these approvals via the PHRN Online Application System.

#### Data custodians

Approval must be obtained from the data custodian responsible for each data collection included in the project. You can apply for data custodian approval via the PHRN Online Application System.

#### Human Research Ethics Committees

Approval must be obtained from each HREC which has responsibility for the oversight of the use and disclosure of personal information to be linked by the state/territory and national linkage units. Where research is focused on Aboriginal people, or Aboriginal people are a significant component of the participants, then approval from an Aboriginal HREC is required in addition to standard HREC approval.

## ACCESS

### HOW DO I ACCESS LINKED DATA?

#### Secure File Exchange Service (SUFEX)

SUFEX is one of the options that data custodians can use to securely send files to researchers and to SURE. SUFEX uses a secure online application that allows users to send and receive files from anywhere at any time.

For more information on SUFEX please visit the SUFEX website or to register email SUFEX directly.

Email: [support@sufex.org.au](mailto:support@sufex.org.au)

Website: [www.sufex.org.au](http://www.sufex.org.au)

#### Secure Unified Research Environment (SURE)

SURE is Australia's first and only remote-access data research laboratory purpose-built for the analysis of linked, routinely collected data. Researchers must use the SURE to access and analyse linked Commonwealth and state/territory data files for approved research projects in Australia.

For more information on the SURE including its design, security features and the process for access, please visit the SURE website and/or contact the Sax Institute directly.

Phone: (02) 9195 6060

Email: [sure-admin@saxinstitute.org.au](mailto:sure-admin@saxinstitute.org.au)

Website: [www.saxinstitute.org.au/our-work/sure/](http://www.saxinstitute.org.au/our-work/sure/)