

# News releases - John Rau

## Changes hold key to collaboration in data sharing

John Rau

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Artificial walls preventing sharing information which illuminates challenging problems will be broken down by changes to be put to Parliament.

The legislative changes, in line with recommendations from Royal Commissioner Margaret Nyland, are being prepared by Attorney-General and Child Protection Reform Minister John Rau.

In the first sitting week next month, Mr Rau aims to propose amendments to the *Public Sector (Data Sharing) Bill 2016* currently before Parliament.

The amendments will extend the reach of the data sharing by enabling the Government to work with the Commonwealth, other states or territories, local councils and the non-Government sector.

The Data Sharing Bill already allows for the wealth of information gathered by government agencies to be accessible so services have a holistic picture of citizens in their care.

The proposals address concerns raised by the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission, which said: *“A consistent theme in evidence before the Commission was that, in spite of the ISGs (Information Sharing Guidelines), many agencies fail to share information.”*

In addition, the amendments seek to establish a new data analytics office to co-ordinate data storage, sharing and analysis.

### Background

In August, the Government introduced into Parliament the Public Sector (Data Sharing) Bill 2016, which aims to set out clear principles regarding the sharing of Government Data between different government agencies.

The Bill sets out clear Trusted Access Principles that govern the provision of information – including whether there is an overriding public interest in sharing the data – to ensure agencies share data in a responsible manner.

The Bill’s objectives are to promote management and use of data as a public resource to support good government policy making and service delivery.

Amendments to the Data Bill will be posted on the website of the Attorney-General’s Department.

**Quotes attributable to Child Protection Reform Minister John Rau**

Data held by governments and non-government organisations are a valuable asset that can and should be used more effectively.

The Child Protection Systems Royal Commission identified a culture where privacy and confidentiality concerns inhibited sharing information relevant to the health, safety and wellbeing of children.

Improving child protection requires all of us to work together and that requires changing that culture so collaboration flourishes.

By establishing data analytics office, we will look for information across Government that can help better inform our policies and deliver better outcomes for South Australians.