# TRANSCRIPT OF EVENT

## PANEL DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

15 March 2022

**FELIX RITCHIE**

I work primarily with the public sector. And one thing that was really interesting was the COVID pandemic and the range of responses to, for example, remote working to increase use of sharing data. That's been very interesting. It's been quite a challenge to a lot of systems, also lots of possibilities. And I think one positive thing that may come out of this is thinking about how we might look at data access differently.

**IAN OPPERMAN**

I asked a very simple question as to why people don't share data and we ran a workshop and we came to the conclusion that there was no real reason other than cultural principally. That sort of evolved into three broad areas, unwilling, unable, not allowed. The unwilling has certainly changed, again, into governmental agreements and the push from top down to understand or to appreciate the value of data has certainly changed the cultural aspects. The not allowed, the data strategy in New South Wales, which supports, or is supported by the Data Sharing Act, the Data Availability and Transparency Bill, and the Intergovernment Agreement all say that you are allowed, in fact, that you're expected to share data. The unable part is really the part that still needs to be worked on. So when people suddenly say, yes, I want to share data. Yes, I want to do good things with the datasets that I've got available. I want to share data across jurisdictional boundaries, those repeatable patterns of data sharing are the parts that are still missing.

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| BEN NEWTON | One of the areas where we have been doing some work with a lot of our carrier base, particularly on sharing of data is around some projects to actually enable real time visibility. And I think a lot of people in the room might sort of think, well, couldn't you just give a driver an app. That works for Domino's. But if you then sort of put that at an enterprise scale, it's unworkable and unpractical to give a driver sort of 10 different apps for 10 different organisations based on different pickups. So where this thing goes is it's all about the aggregation of telematics data on vehicles. |
| DAN JERMYN | So we created a smart weather data model using AI and other bits and pieces of wizardry to plug into the system so that now when any kind of system emerges, we're constantly scouring bureau of meteorology, other kind of sources of information about the patterns of floods, the patterns of weather, the patterns of fire, whatever it may be. And as we did that, we noticed that every single one of those institutions providing that information does it in a different way. Some of them are doing kind of polygons on a map. Some of them are giving postcodes. And so, we have to do a huge amount of work to kind of aggregate those and then build the model off the top of it. The challenges of course are how do you kind of provide that interoperability? We're on a journey there, I think, but what you can see hopefully is that the rewards are worth it when you get it right. |
| PHILIP GOULD | If you don't get governance right in a really complex world with lots of data, lots of legislation, lots of competing interests, you can get really bogged down. So for me, good governance means that people know what they're allowed to do, what decisions they're empowered to make. And also what the end goal is. |
| BENJAMIN MITRA-KAHN | I don't know if there are Latin scholars in the room, so I don't know what data means. It's a Latin word. It means given. This is something you're given, don't worry about where it came from. Well, that's literally what it means. In the old days we had captor. There's things you have to take and steal from the data admins, right? Data's about taking than understanding. Do you know your [CIS] admin? Do you know your data admin? If not, go meet them. They're lovely people. Friendly. A little shy. Don't come on too strong. Find out where the data came from, how it got there and what it's doing. |
| TERESA BLAIR | What we're seeing is convergence between groups and departments and agencies who are at the same level of maturity where we're all starting to band together to think about how we can get that more integrated training and professionalisation career path. So that it's not, data isn't just a thing you do a stint in, but it's actually something that we invest in. We nurture our people and then we take them through that career journey. |
| FLORA CARAPELLUCCI | We've consciously said about trying to work very much in partnership, and we've all almost gone down, we call it like an internal consultancy model, where the policy people and the data people will get together. We've got business analysts who do the job of translating what the policy people are |

saying, and what the data people are saying. Because often there is that kind of, they do speak a different language, and they consciously agree on the scope of a project, how long it's going to take, and the two senior people who are responsible in the data area and the policy area, formally sign off on it. So it's like a contract. And that really focuses people's minds.

SALLIE PEARSON

When we look at the billions of lines of data that we have, we need to respect that they often represent a story about a person's life. So for me, it could be a cancer diagnosis, a visit to hospital for an acute condition, or the dispensing of a drug for a condition that's going to be debilitating for that person.

ELLEN BROAD

Is it was considered best practise about five years ago when we talked about ethical machine learning, to remove sensitive identifiers from data sets that you were using, if you were going to be using them to train a model, to make decisions about individuals. However, in order to establish the effect of your decision making on individuals, you need to have access to sensitive characteristics so you can know what your model is doing. So we are constantly updating what is best practise based on the effect of the kind of processes that we follow at the time.

JOSHUA MELTZER

Don't assume that keeping data locally is a sure-fire method of improving trust in data use of management. To some extent, these issues are somewhat separate, but best data kind of security and other management practises may actually [inaudible], sort of point towards distributed data held globally, rather than in one particular location. So, there's always going to be, I think, a bias domestically to this view that if only data could be stored in my country, it's going to be safer and more secure. And I don't think the analysis really bears out of most instances.