

Information Publication Scheme 2023 agency survey findings

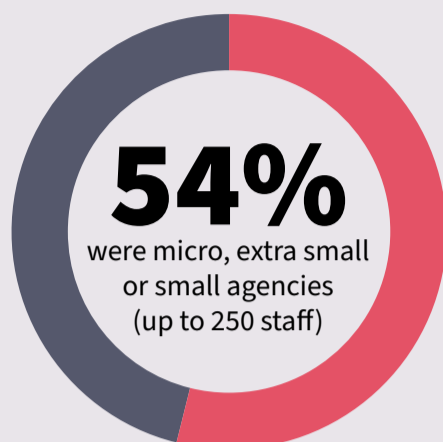
About the survey



196

Australian Government agencies (94%) participated in the IPS agency survey in 2023

↑ up from 190 (82%) in 2018



15%

conducted a review of the operation of their IPS in conjunction with the Information Commissioner prior to participating in the survey

↑ up from 6% in 2018



62%

have an officer who participates in the OAIC's Information Contact Officers Network

↑ up from 53% in 2018

The survey showed a continued **strong commitment** across the Australian Government to the IPS

Accessibility of IPS documents

82%

indicated that most or all IPS documents conform to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0

↑ up from 69% in 2018

↑ up from 50% in 2012

IPS governance and administration

78%

have appointed a senior executive officer to lead IPS compliance in their agency



90%

have published an **agency IPS plan** on their website



82%

said they **don't charge** for information required or permitted to be published under the IPS

↑ up from 73% in 2018

↑ up from 68% in 2012

Agencies were most likely to publish:



Annual reports (99%)



Functions and decision-making powers (97%)



Contact details to access information on agency websites (97%)



Organisation structure (96%)



Information released in response to FOI requests via an agency disclosure log (95%)

Areas for improvement



1. Strategy

Have a strategy to increase open access to information. Around a third of agencies currently have such a strategy in place (29%, down from 35% in 2018).



This strategy should actively identify information that can be published in compliance with privacy and secrecy requirements.



2. Asset management

Invest in information asset management.

Only 20% of agencies maintain an IPS information register (down from 38% in 2018) and only 34% of the remaining agencies intend to develop one in the next 12 months (down from 53% in 2018).



Establishing and maintaining an information register was the single most commonly identified challenge agencies faced in publishing information (36%, up from 18% in 2018).



3. Identify connections

Identify connections between information released under FOI, information published on the disclosure log and what should be routinely published.

Less than half of agencies have mechanisms for identifying other information that can be published under the IPS (42%, down from 59% in 2018 and 72% in 2012).



4. Publish proactively

Consider the categories of information published proactively.

Agencies were least likely to publish:

- consultation arrangements for the public to comment on agency policy proposals (75%, up from 72% in 2018 but down from 86% in 2012)
- information in documents to which agencies routinely give access in response to FOI requests (73%, down from 79% in 2018 and 86% in 2012).



5. Training

Use training to increase the culture of proactive publication.

Only 55% of agencies have assigned responsibility for the management or coordination of staff training and awareness of IPS obligations.



6. Promote feedback mechanisms

Promote how to make a complaint or provide feedback.

67% of agencies' websites provided information about how to complain about an agency's IPS entry. 87% of agencies did not receive any complaints specifically related to the IPS in 2022–23.