

# Towards a national strategy for FAIR and open access to Australia's research outputs

Health Libraries Australia, 12th July 2021

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Other than third party images

# What we'll cover

Why a strategy for open research now?

International and national initiatives

Where we are in Australia now

2020 work - what we did

2020 work - what we learnt

Next steps

# Council of Australian University Librarians

Peak leadership organisation for university libraries.  
Members are University Librarians from Australia and New Zealand

**Shared purpose:** To transform how people experience knowledge – how it can be discovered, used and shared.



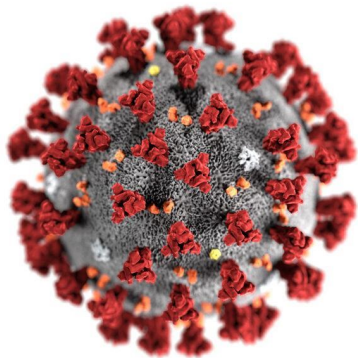
# Open Access Australasia

28 universities across Australia & New Zealand, Creative Commons Australia & Tohatoha Aotearoa Commons  
Chair of Executive Committee, Martin Borchert, UNSW  
(Previously AOASG)

**Focus** is on open access to research publications  
**Support** for initiatives in open research



# Why the urgency, now more than ever?



COVID-19 was an accelerator for open and FAIR research



Foundation was more than 20 years of open initiatives including Budapest, Bethesda and Berlin Declarations

# Reminder of the components of open access



Open Access

=

immediate free access to read ~~✗~~

+

retention of copyright by author

+



application of an open license  
that enshrines author attribution and  
reuse rights



Open Access

can be applied to...

journals, books,  
monographs,  
non-traditional research  
outputs, data, software  
etc...



# Types of article open access

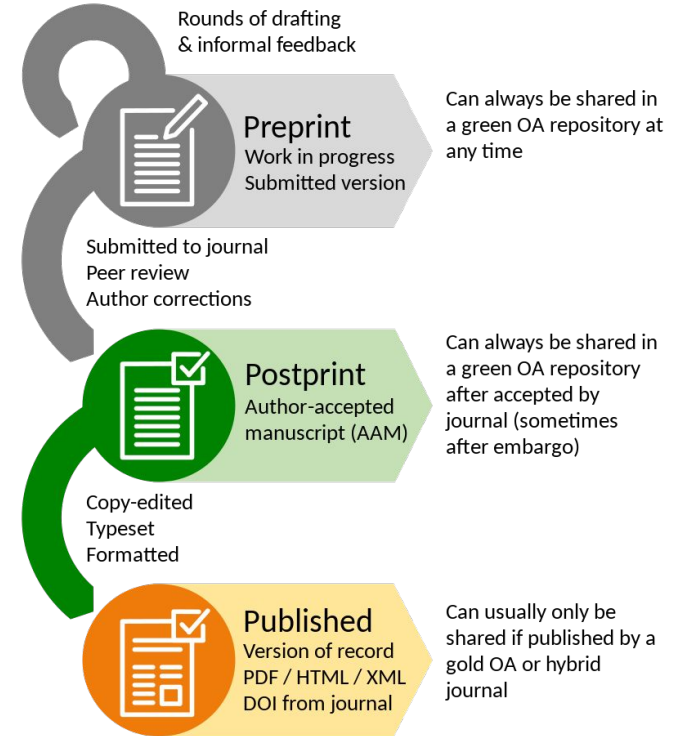
**Preprint:** Non-peer reviewed version of an article

**Repository “Green”** open access: author accepted version (postprint) of an article is deposited into a subject-based or institutional repository.

**Journal “Diamond”** open access: fully open access journals that are free for readers and for authors to publish in.

**Journal “Gold”** open access: fully open access scholarly journals. *May* have an article processing charge.

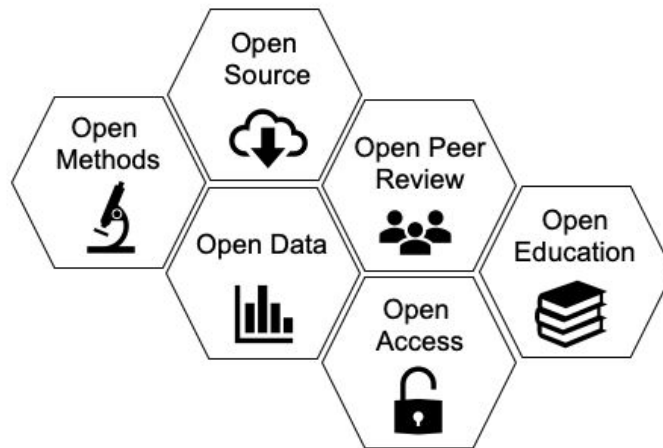
**Journal “Hybrid”** open access for an individual article in an otherwise subscription journal. An article processing charge is *a/ways* required. To comply with funder policies **must** be part of **transformative agreements**



# System drivers for an overarching national strategy

COVID-19 reinforced the need for a non-siloed open approach across the research ecosystem of more than open access

- Much open research (eg data) is not in “traditional” venues anymore
- Evidence from NHMRC and Wellcome work that current approach doesn’t incentivise quality or even integrity
- Metrics increasingly don’t reflect the full value of research to society

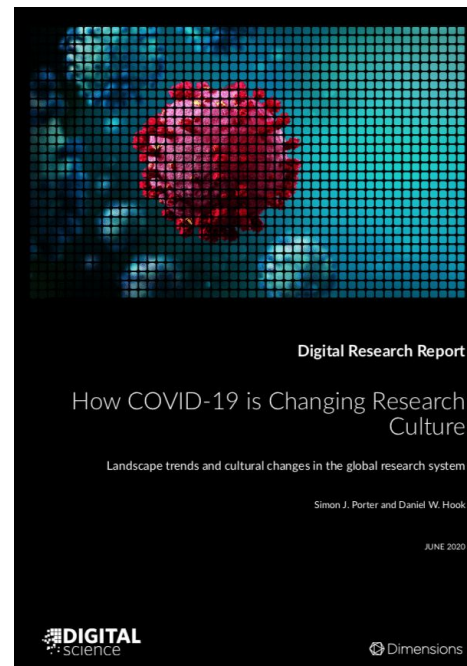


# External drivers for an overarching national strategy

COVID-19 could be an opportunity to systematically rethink how we do and what we value in research

Publishers and other providers are seeking to regain control post-COVID

Pricing announcements indicate that publishers will continue to maximize prices





# Open Access and Open Research initiatives have accelerated in the past 12 months

## Internationally

APEC Policy statement on Open Science: Aug 2020

Plan S requirements: active from Jan 2021

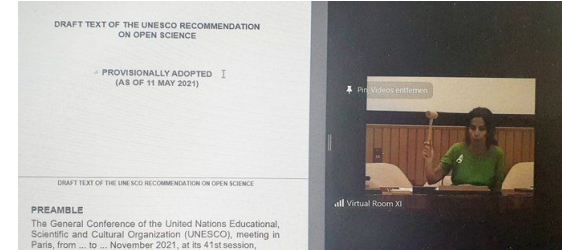
- focussed on Open Access to articles
- includes journal and repository options

UNESCO Open Science Recommendation: provisional text adopted May 2021 after two year consultation

- more than open access
- includes concept of diverse approaches - “bibliodiversity”

G7 Research Compact: released June 2021

- “we will continue to work ... to promote open science”



G7 Research Compact

# Strategic national approaches are increasing

1997 Latin America

2012 European Commission

2012 UK

2013 Netherlands

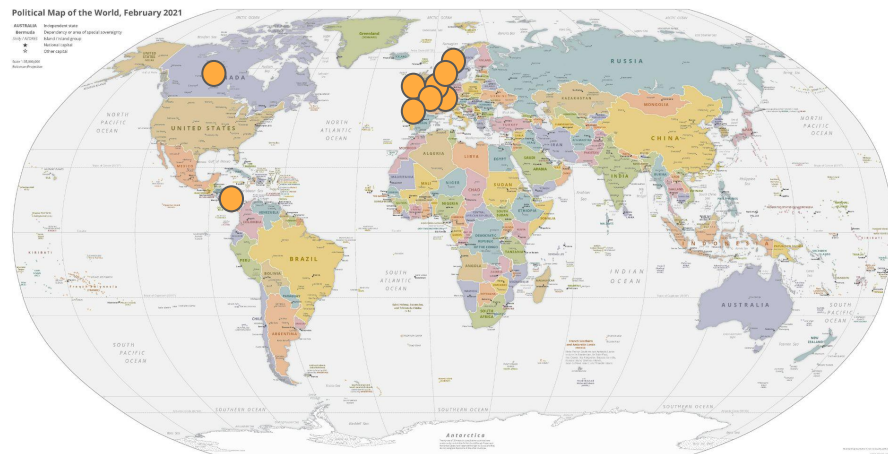
2014 Finland

2017 Sweden

2018 France

2019 Ireland

2020 Canada



# Open Access and Open Research initiatives have accelerated in the past 12 months

## In Australia

### NHMRC

- Consulting on change to immediate Open Access to articles

### Chief Scientist

- Open Access noted as one of Dr Foley's four foundational issues

### Australian Academy of Science

- Position statement - Open Science

## Achieving impact from Australian science

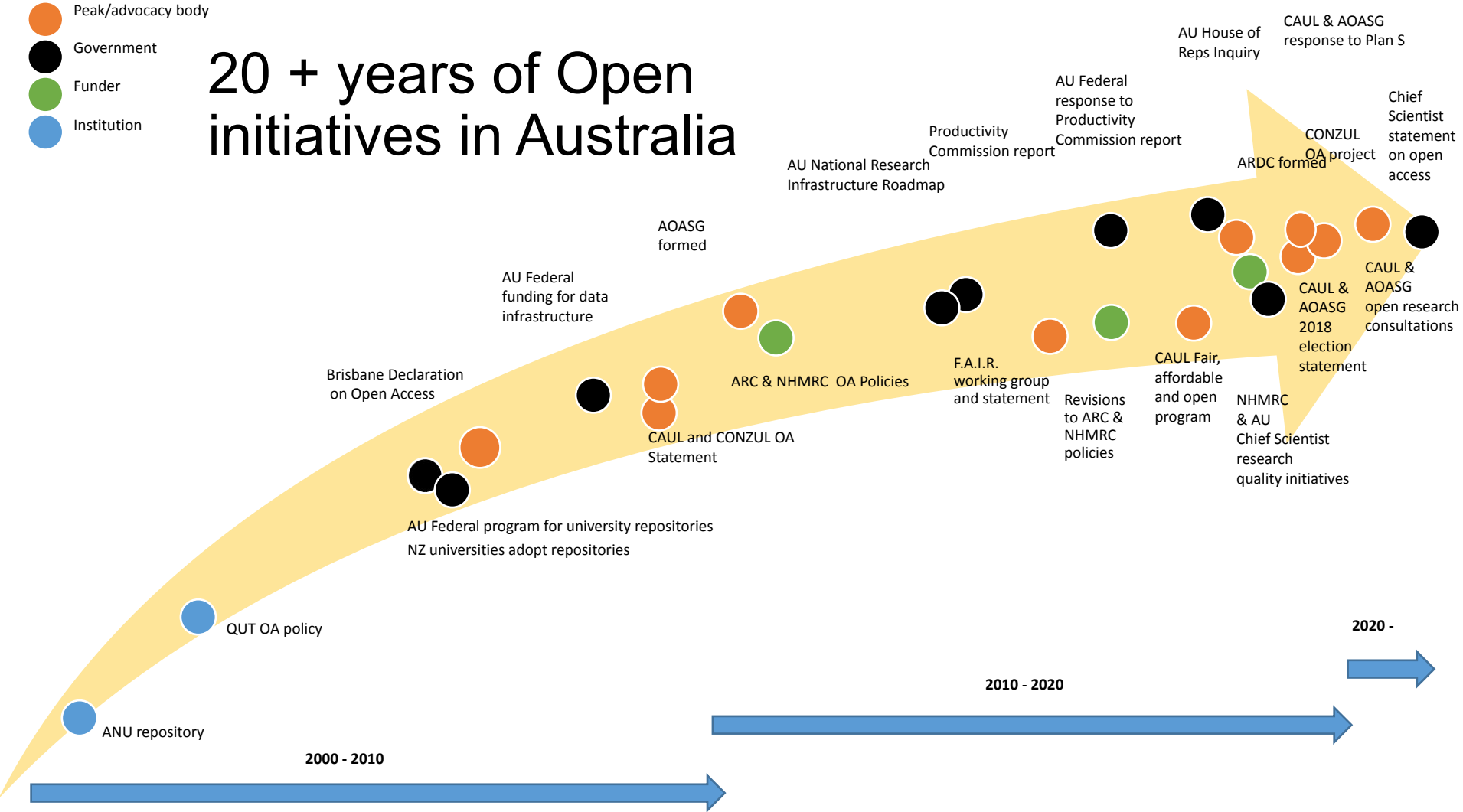
Wednesday, 17 March 2021



*Dr Foley speaks at the Press Club.*

# 20 + years of Open initiatives in Australia

- Peak/advocacy body
- Government
- Funder
- Institution



# Current situation in Australia: strengths

ARC and NHMRC have OA policies

Longstanding repository infrastructure in universities

FAIR data practices supported by ARDC

CAUL has negotiated transformative agreements for universities and other organisations

National approach is possible eg Cochrane Library

UA / CAUL/ AOASG projects e.g. APCs; Roadmap to Plan S

# Current situation in Australia: challenges

Institutions' approach to OA and data not coordinated

- Far from full OA

Responses to specific initiatives often siloed by sector and speciality

- No overarching coordination of support for open infrastructure eg, repositories

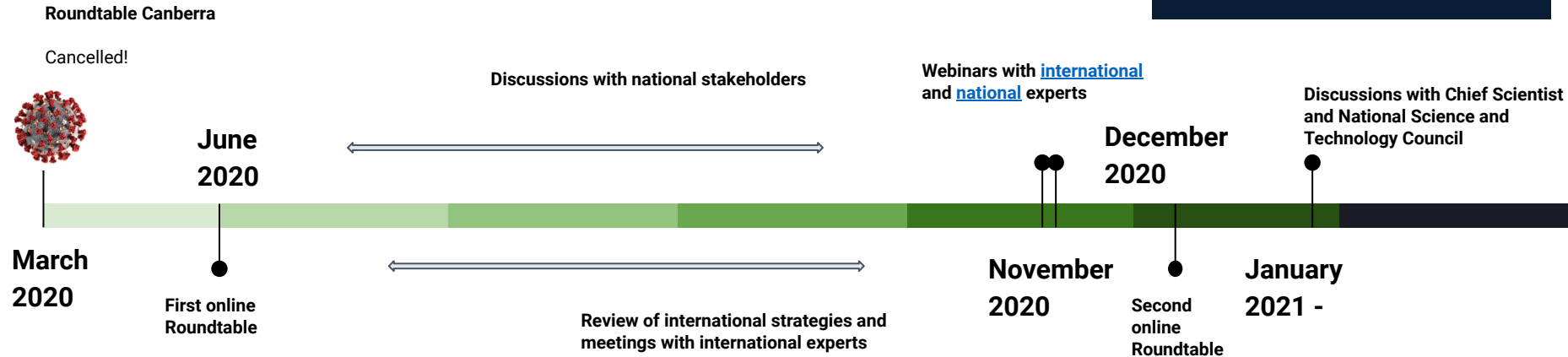
Costs neither contained nor transparent

- Many different organisations buy access to same content through multiple subscriptions
- Hard to collect information on costs

# CAUL and AOASG work in 2020-2021

## Making the case for a national approach for Open Research in Australia

Review of 2020 activities



# Who we engaged with in 2020 & 2021

- Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia
- ARC
- Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes
- Australian Academy of Science
- Australian Academy of Technology & Engineering
- Australian Academy of the Humanities
- Australian Council of Learned Academies
- Australian Research Data Commons
- Australian Research Management Society
- Council of Australian University Librarians
- CSIRO
- Department of Defence - Defence Science & Technology
- Department of Education, Skills & Employment
- Department of Industry, Science, Energy & Resources
- Department of Health
- Group of Eight Universities
- NHMRC
- National Library of Australia
- Office of the Chief Scientist
- Office of the National Data Commission
- Open Access Australasia
- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
- Science & Technology Australia
- Universities Australia



# Conclusions from 2020 activities

## General

- Much to learn from other countries: not necessary for Australia to wholly reinvent the process
- No one prescribed route or starting point: process often starts with a coalition of the willing
- Careful consideration is needed to ensure process and stakeholders are appropriate for Australia

## Some components are essential

- A high level champion or sponsor, with good links to government, maximises the chance of success
- Wide consultation and buy in across the sector are needed: time frames need to reflect that
- Specific case studies that demonstrate need are likely to be necessary
- Dedicated logistical and/or financial support is essential for coordination of development of strategy

# Potential scope of an Australian Open Research Strategy

## Overarching vision



### Key elements

- Research publications
- Data
- Code
- Indigenous research
- Open education resources

### Supporting activities

- Open Infrastructure
- Metrics/Incentives
- Training
- Monitoring mechanisms

### Underlying principles

- Ethics
- Integrity
- Quality
- Innovation
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Efficiency
- Collaboration
- Interdisciplinarity
- Cost effectiveness
- Competitive advantage

# Next steps

National Science and Technology Council

Further engagement with Chief Scientist

[UN Open Science Conference](#)

OA 2020 Berlin 15 meeting

CAUL Project: Libraries, Researchers and Open Publishing Case Studies

Open Access Australasia: increasing resources and capacity building



15th **BERLIN OPEN ACCESS CONFERENCE**  
**ADAPT AND ADVANCE**

September 28 – October 01, 2021

# Follow up & questions very welcome



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