



Child Wellbeing Data Asset

November 2025 update

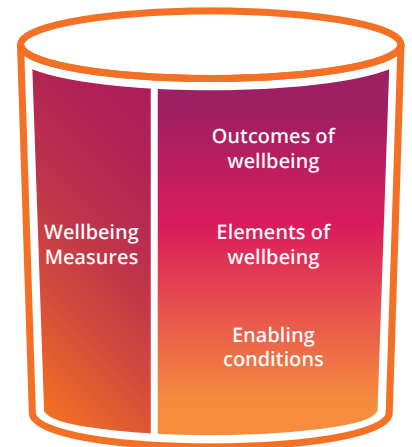


What is the Child Wellbeing Data Asset?

The Child Wellbeing Data Asset (CWDA) aims to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. It will enable researchers to **safely, securely and ethically** access enduring, integrated data across sectors to **analyse children and young people’s wellbeing and pathways through government services over time**.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) is developing the CWDA as an initiative under the First National Action Plan of the *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse* (the National Strategy).

The CWDA is open for pilot projects and anticipated to be available for external access in 2026. Information about how to access the CWDA will be shared through the [CWDA newsletter](#).



Child Wellbeing Data Asset

What research areas will the CWDA support?

Priority areas	Data collections (initial iteration)
Child safety	From June 2025:
Early years	Australian Early Development Census
Families	Medicare Benefits Scheduling
Mental health	Pharmaceuticals Benefits Scheme
Student wellbeing	In 2026:
Youth justice	Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set
Closing the Gap	Child Protection National Minimum Data Set
Priority groups	National Community Mental Health Care Database

The CWDA will support research relating to a set of policy priority areas, informed by extensive consultations with government and non-government stakeholders across sectors.

Approved researchers will be able to access 3 of the 6 integrated data collections from June 2025 and the rest of the collections in the CWDA’s first iteration in 2026.

Other data collections available through the National Health Data Hub will also be available to users of the CWDA.

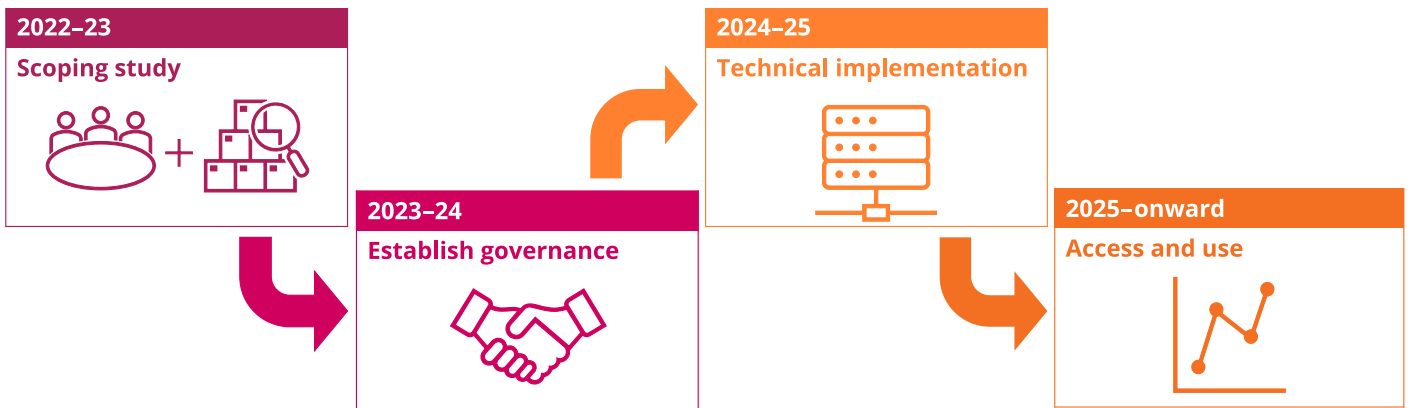
AIHW will continue to consider priorities and additional data collections for future iterations of the CWDA.

How are decisions on the CWDA's operation being made?

Following the CWDA's launch in June, AIHW has established ongoing governance arrangements for decisions on the CWDA's scope and prioritisation of future development:

- **CWDA National Committee (CNC)** supersedes the CWDA Development Working Group (DWG) to provide guidance on the CWDA's operation and future development. Its membership includes representatives from key Australian, state and territory government agencies, including data owners, and a First Nations representative.
- **CWDA Advisory Group (CWDA AG)**, including academic, priority groups and sector representatives, provides advice to CNC.

Implementation timeline



Development roadmap

	Key achievements (at November 2025)	Next steps (early 2026)	Future priorities (mid-2026 onward)
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation version of CWDA Governance Framework with data custodian committees for review • Establish ongoing governance for the CWDA • Data sharing agreements with data custodians for negotiation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWDA Governance Framework finalised • Data sharing agreements established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWDA available for external access • Ongoing governance of the CWDA through the CNC
Stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued updates via CWDA quarterly newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued quarterly newsletter and web page updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a CWDA Community of Practice
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data design for collections completed • Data linkage for authorised collections commenced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data linkage continues for authorised collections • User resources developed • Pilot project planning commences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial data linkage finalised for first iteration collections • Enduring data linkage updates conducted as required • Conduct CWDA pilot projects
Second iteration planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collections for CWDA's second iteration endorsed by REDWG and SMG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate engagement with data owners for second iteration collections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue engagement with data owners for second iteration collections



More information

Visit the [CWDA website](#)

Contact us: child.wellbeing@aihw.gov.au

