



Rosie Williams

Over the last decade I researched, designed & built multiple research projects using open data for the purposes of political transparency. I also engaged [media](#), [policy makers](#) and the general public with these projects through newspaper & [radio interviews](#), live presentations and social media events and crowdfunded my own income. I am now [writing a book](#) about working with government data to document the expertise that I developed during this decade so that policy advocates, researchers, media and the general public may share in it.

Experience

2012 - Current Ausgov.info Founder

My very first project, BudgetAus ran off the first ever complete line item dataset of the federal budget which I created myself & which inspired the government to use my schema when they began publishing the same dataset in 2014. My current domain was launched at the Linux Australia Conference in 2018 and has hosted projects using spending & revenue, charities, donations, tenders, grants, pecuniary interests & corporate tax transparency datasets

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2008-Current Freelance Journalist & Policy Commentator

I have been published by or referenced/interviewed & at times worked with media including those listed below. My writing provides expert commentary across a wide range of issues including ethics and human rights in the use of data, privacy, income inequality, housing and welfare policy.

I was also on the policy team for Electronic Frontiers Australia attending Australia's inaugural E-safety conference. I was instrumental in setting up the Online Safety Working Group & Data Ethics Working Group & recruiting other members to the policy team. I also represented the EFA at the policy drafting event for the Enhancing Online Safety (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Bill 2017.

I have engaged with the media extensively over the past decade from the launch of BudgetAus on the front page of the digital version of the SMH on budget day 2013 to being included in a list of projects on the Guardian Australia site & referenced in various media from radio with Mark Colvin. I have also engaged extensively with government in policy consultations across a diverse range of issues including Australia's National Plans for Open Government & various Parliamentary Inquiries. My submissions have been referenced in the Final Reports for these Inquiries. My research has even been mentioned by name (along with others) on the floor of Parliament as a reason to hold a Parliamentary Inquiry.

Testimonials

Bill McLennon

FORMER HEAD, AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS, FORMER CHAIRMAN UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION

I was impressed by the Censusfail submission to this (Inquiry) Committee. It very clearly showed some good analysis that would have helped the ABS to run a better Census if it had done such research before developing the Census proposal. It also saved me from explaining the current thrust in government with the Government Data Linkage Project, & its likely links to the Census.

Media

[MichaelWest](#)
[Sydney Morning Herald](#),
[Innovation Australia](#)
[The New Daily](#)
[Independent Australia](#)
[Ideas Hoist](#)
[ABC PM Radio](#)
[International Budget Partnership](#)
[Online Opinion](#)

Education

Cert IV Business
CSS Curtin University (HD)
University of New England
Bachelor of Arts (Sociology)
Cert IV Welfare

Expertise

Policy
Programming
Journalism
Research

Musical Composition
& Production

Contact

rosie@ausgov.info

Languages

PHP

MySQL

CSS

HTML

JavaScript

Garry Brooke

**FORMER DIRECTOR, APPROPRIATIONS MANAGEMENT TEAM,
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**

I've worked with Rosie Williams on budget data transparency since November 2013. Rosie has developed her project into the best government data transparency initiative I know... continually updated & improved to make underlying data intelligible & to focus on key aspects for analysis. My interest has particularly been on the transparency of federal budget data.

Selected Submissions

Inquiry into the 2016 Census

I designed and ran a survey for the users of the #CensusFail hashtag to provide insight to policymakers regarding the concerns around the use of names and addresses provided with the census forms for the purposes of tracking individuals across all other government datasets from cradle to grave. I also provided a detailed account of the evolution of this issue over the decades as successive governments sought to de-anonymise census statistics. This [submission](#) was referenced in the [Final Report](#) from the Inquiry.

Inquiry into the criminalisation of re-identifying open data

When academics discovered that individuals whose data was included (without their consent or knowledge) in the 'open' dataset of Medicare histories spanning 30 years of 1 in 10 Australians, the government introduced a Bill to criminalise this research. The Bill was sent to a Senate Standing Committee for public consultation. My [submission](#) was referenced in the [Final Report](#).

Hobbies & Other Skills

Rosie grew up in brass bands and was the state trumpet champion in the 14 & Under section in the mid 80's, learning privately from Dick Montz of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music for a brief period.

Rosie returned to music during lockdowns and is now a composer of neo-classical, jazz & fusion music. Search for Rosie Williams on your streaming platform.

Volunteering

During the 1990's I provided information & support to parents of gifted children in advocating for their children. I was also a volunteer explainer at the Wollongong Science Centre and Planetarium in the early naughties.