

How can data use be more transparent?

The [Enterprise Data Ethics Framework](#) provides clarity around what can and can't be done with data, ensures consistency and accountability in decision-making, and fosters trust among the wider UQ community. To do this, the Framework outlines several ethical principles that apply to activities that use data.

In 2022, a key focus at UQ is to build an improved culture of conversation and collaboration around data use. What are the key principles that encourage increased transparency, and how can you apply them?

Key Principles

<i>Define uses, benefits, and harms for subjects</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The purpose and any proposed interventions or actions should be clearly defined, so subjects are aware of potential uses.• Expected benefits and harms should be identified.• This should be readily explained, and presented in a readable format (e.g. fact sheet).
<i>Be transparent with stakeholders</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keeping your stakeholders up-to-date on how their information will be used is vital.• Can be done through clearly communicating how you intend to use the data and providing any additional context that would assist with understanding (e.g. linked datasets).• Should always be in an easily accessible format (e.g. factsheet, infographic, or short booklet), freely provided, and using language that is familiar to the subject.
<i>Foster trust through engagement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subjects should be able to update their data when necessary and provide feedback on its use (e.g. specify an organisational level that should be permitted access).• Stakeholders should be aware of where their information is going, how it may be used, and the potential implications.
<i>Endeavour to obtain informed consent</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is when a subject gives permission for something (e.g. data collection) to happen, after being provided with information that allows them to understand the consequences.• It is the responsibility of the organisation to provide data subjects with sufficient information.• Consent should be maintained through informing subjects of any changes. This can be done using appropriate communication channels for the group.

Where can I find out more?

Throughout the year, you can learn more about how to ethically use data by attending the Data Ethics Staff Development course, run by Data Strategy and Governance. In this course, you will learn about the importance of considering ethical implications when working with data, using hypothetical scenarios to practice assessing potential issues and mitigating strategies. [Read more and book here.](#)

For further information, contact Data Strategy & Governance

data.uq.edu.au