Australian Early Development Census

Data Services and Charging Practices

July 2024

Services and Charging Practices

1.   Service philosophy

The services offered by the AEDC Data Management Team are based on the principle that AEDC Data Management Services are designed to promote broad access to and appropriate use of AEDC data.

All efforts are made to direct data users to publicly available data in the first instance. Provision of Data Management Services is only offered when it is clear that tailored data or support is required to meet specific data or analytic needs.

Data access applications, particularly AEDC Macrodata applications are reviewed at the time of submission and, where possible, data already in the public domain is used to fulfil the request. Enquiries and applications are analysed on a monthly basis and recommendations made to the Department of Education regarding frequent requests for AEDC Macrodata that could be made available to the public on the AEDC Data Management website.

2.   AEDC data provision and data support services

The AEDC Data Management Team is currently fulfilling a number of core data provision and data support services with respect to the creation and dissemination of AEDC data. Core data delivery activities include:

- Provision of data files and support materials in response to approved requests for AEDC Macrodata,
- Provision of data files and support materials in response to approved requests for AEDC Microdata, and
- Release of the AEDC data for the development of Master Linkage Keys for data linkage.

AEDC Data Management support services are currently provided in response to:

- General enquiries for publicly available data,
- Queries relating to approved requests for AEDC Macrodata,
- Queries relating to approved requests for AEDC Microdata, and
- Queries relating to AEDC data for data linkage.

The Social Research Centre is also in the position to provide additional AEDC Data Management support services including:

- Ad-hoc data analysis and interpretation,
- Descriptive or analytic report writing,
- Training including familiarisation with the AEDC data collection, use of AEDC data products, AEDC data analysis and appropriate interpretation of AEDC data, and
- Seminars or workshops on topics of relevance to potential or current AEDC data users.

These additional support services are outside the scope of the current AEDC Data Management contract with

the Department of Education.

3.   Charging practices and fee structures

3.1   Charging practices and fee structure

Cost recovery is the underlying objective of all fees charged by the Social Research Centre for the provision of data or support in relation to the AEDC data collection.

Fees are not charged if:

- The AEDC data is already in the public domain.
- The support enquiry can be resolved in less than 30 minutes.
- The support enquiry relates to an approved AEDC Microdata or AEDC Macrodata application.

Fees are charged after the first 30 minutes to:

- Create or produce AEDC Macrodata (i.e. tables, frequencies, profiles etc.) or Microdata (i.e. unit record files).
- Undertake a detailed feasibility assessment for data linkage or AEDC Macrodata/Microdata production.
- Write or replicate reports using AEDC data.
- Provide training in the use or analysis of AEDC data files or products.
- Undertake any data creation or support services that are not covered by the current AEDC Data Management contract with the Department.

Starting with the 1st of July 2024, our fee structure is as follows:

- **Hourly rate:** $340 per hour (or part hour) including GST with a minimum charge of $680 (incl. GST).
- **Customised AEDC Microdata file:** $2,750 (incl. GST). Each customised file is subjected to detailed quality assurance checks and a risk assessment.
- **Customised AEDC Microdata file with Linkage:** $3,025 (incl. GST). Data linkage involves matching identifying information about the same individual or analytical unit across different datasets, enabling their integration.

These fees are based on our 2024 rate schedule. The Social Research Centre reserves the right to review these charging practices and the fee structure on an annual basis.

3.2   Accessing fee for service activities

Data users submitting an AEDC data access application or requesting AEDC data support services are provided with a quotation for the proposed tasks once the scope of work has been finalised. Organisations or data users that require ongoing assistance, particularly in relation to ad-hoc analysis or data analysis training have the option to purchase a 'block' of hours, in 50 hour increments, rather than obtaining a quote and creating a contract to fulfil each individual request.

Data users are not charged additional fees for ongoing technical or operational support of an approved AEDC Data Request. If, for example, an approved Data User finds that they have inadvertently omitted a crucial variable from their data request, a further fee would not be charged to recreate the file. Similarly, enquiries for

clarification regarding data quality or the data collection process would not typically be a fee-for-service activity. It is also the case that researchers formally requesting to use pre-existing AEDC Macrodata/Microdata for a new project or purpose will not be charged for this work unless there is a significant change to the specification.

Significant changes to approved AEDC Macrodata/Microdata requests constitute modifications to more than five per cent of the code used to fulfil the request or five per cent of the AEDC Macrodata/Microdata created in response to the request.

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