

Breaking Down Barriers



Melbourne Institute research
into understanding and
overcoming disadvantage

Breaking Down Barriers

The Breaking Down Barriers Shared Data Environment

Version 1



Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide an introduction to the Breaking Down Barriers Shared Data Environment, or BDB-SDE. It is housed and accessed through the Melbourne Institute Data Lab (MIDL), a secure enclave that has been established by the Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic & Social Research at The University of Melbourne.

For more information on MIDL, please refer the MIDL Information Pack.

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Disadvantage in Australia

Socio-economic disadvantage in Australia is a large and complex problem. It is multifaceted and has many factors that can drive individuals into and out of disadvantage throughout their lifetimes. Whilst low income and high levels of unemployment are usually observed for those in disadvantage, these factors alone do not help us understand the magnitude and depth of poverty and disadvantage in Australia. Understanding why and how people become disadvantaged, and the consequence of disadvantage is challenging, many factors are interlinked and when combined can have a compounding effect.

Measuring these factors and understanding their effects is far from straightforward. We do know that rigorous quantitative analysis of longitudinal data is critical to understanding and addressing the dynamics of entrenched and persistent disadvantage in Australia. Connecting a deep understanding of the issues and drivers surrounding disadvantage through research and analysis with practice, program development and policy will make it easier and faster to test and evaluate ideas which is essential to driving change and developing appropriate and effective solutions.

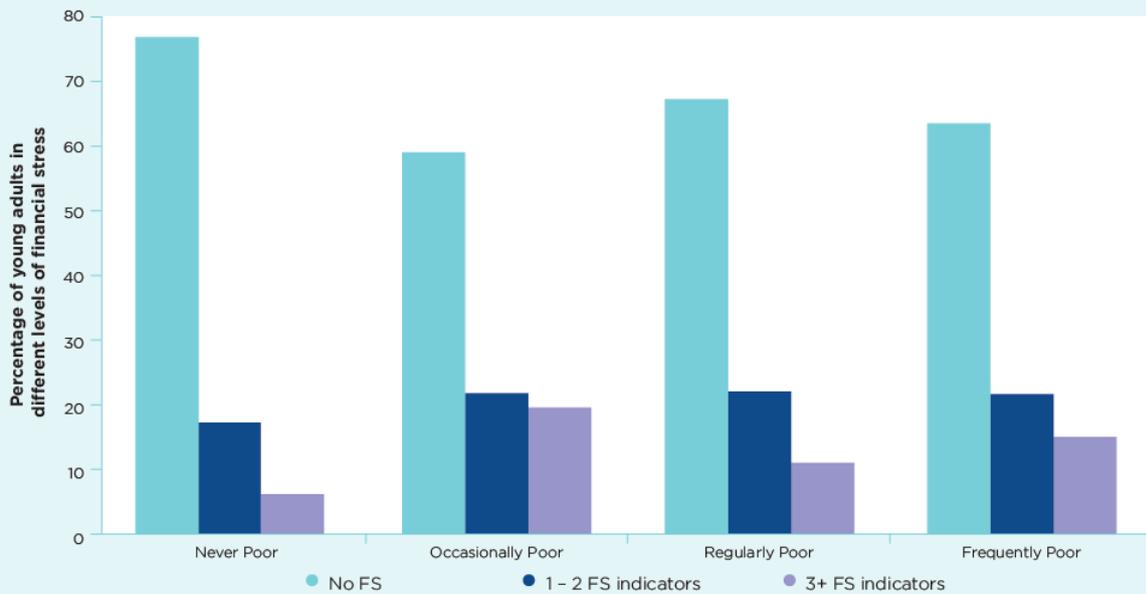
Disadvantage is a complex issue for which there is no single study or magic bullet that exists to help us to shape practice and policy to reduce disadvantage. As highlighted in the Breaking Down Barrier's Report: **Spatial and Community Dimensions of Income Poverty**, over the past decade measures such as the national poverty rate has been relatively flat at approximately 12-14 percent. However, Australia is one of the few OECD countries that have relatively high poverty rates. Although below the USA, poverty in Australia is higher than that in the UK and New Zealand. Moreover, more than 40 percent of Australian communities reported a poverty rate of greater than 12 percent between 2006 and 2016. While there has been slight improvement in poverty rates, overall, there is also evidence of a deepening crisis for households with incomes that fall far below standard measures used to identify poverty.



Children born into disadvantage, have a much higher chance of experiencing disadvantage in their adult lives.

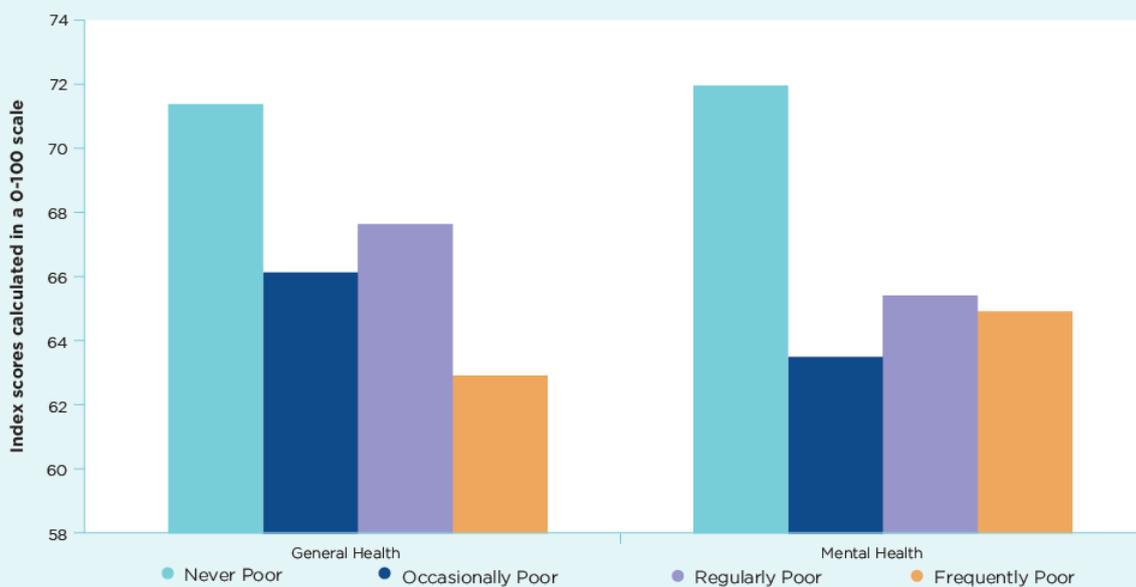
Examining the period from 2001 to 2018 it has been found that children from a disadvantaged background often struggle to move up the economic ladder. Experiencing just a single year of income poverty during childhood is associated with low earnings in adulthood. Adding to that it was also found that both general health and mental health are worse among young adults who grew up in poor households.

Figure 1. Financial stress for individuals aged 21 and over, by number of years in income poverty as a child



Notes for Figure 1: Financial stress. For each category for experience of income poverty during childhood, we compute the share of individuals aged 21 and over who report different levels of financial stress.

Figure 2. General and Mental Health indexes for individuals aged 26 and over, by number of years in income poverty as a child

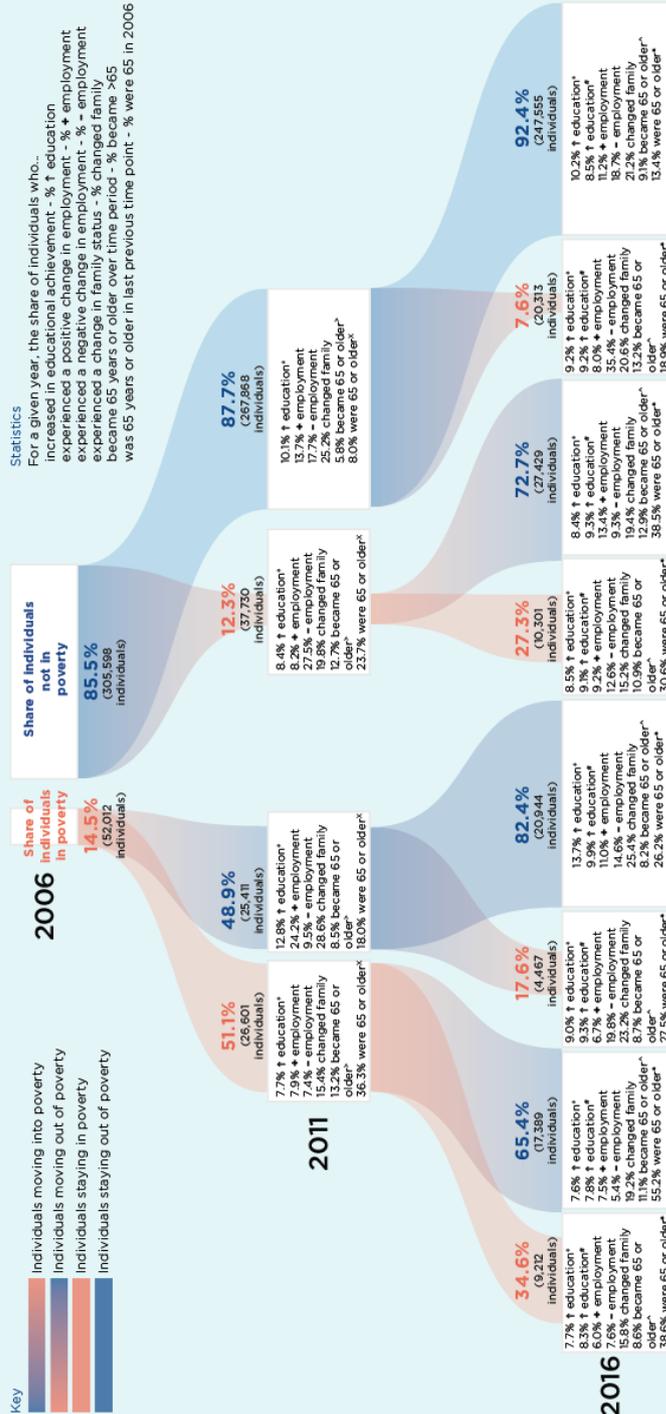


Notes for Figure 2: Never poor means not in poverty in any of the years observed in childhood; Occasionally poor means poor for at least 20% of that time; Regular poor means poor for more than 20% but no more than 50% of the time observed as a child; and Frequently poor means poor for more than 50% of the time observed in childhood.

Individuals and households can cycle in and out of poverty due to family dynamics or unexpected circumstances

Changes in family, education or employment status is associated with moving into or out of poverty. People change their family type over time, as well as their level of education and employment status. We find that those who exit poverty are more likely to experience a positive change in employment status and/or educational degree than those who remain in poverty. Specifically, among those who moved out of poverty between 2006 and 2011, 24 percent had a better employment outcome. Among those observed in poverty in both 2006 and 2011, only 8 percent had a better employment outcome.

Figure 3. Changes in Poverty and Changes in Situation



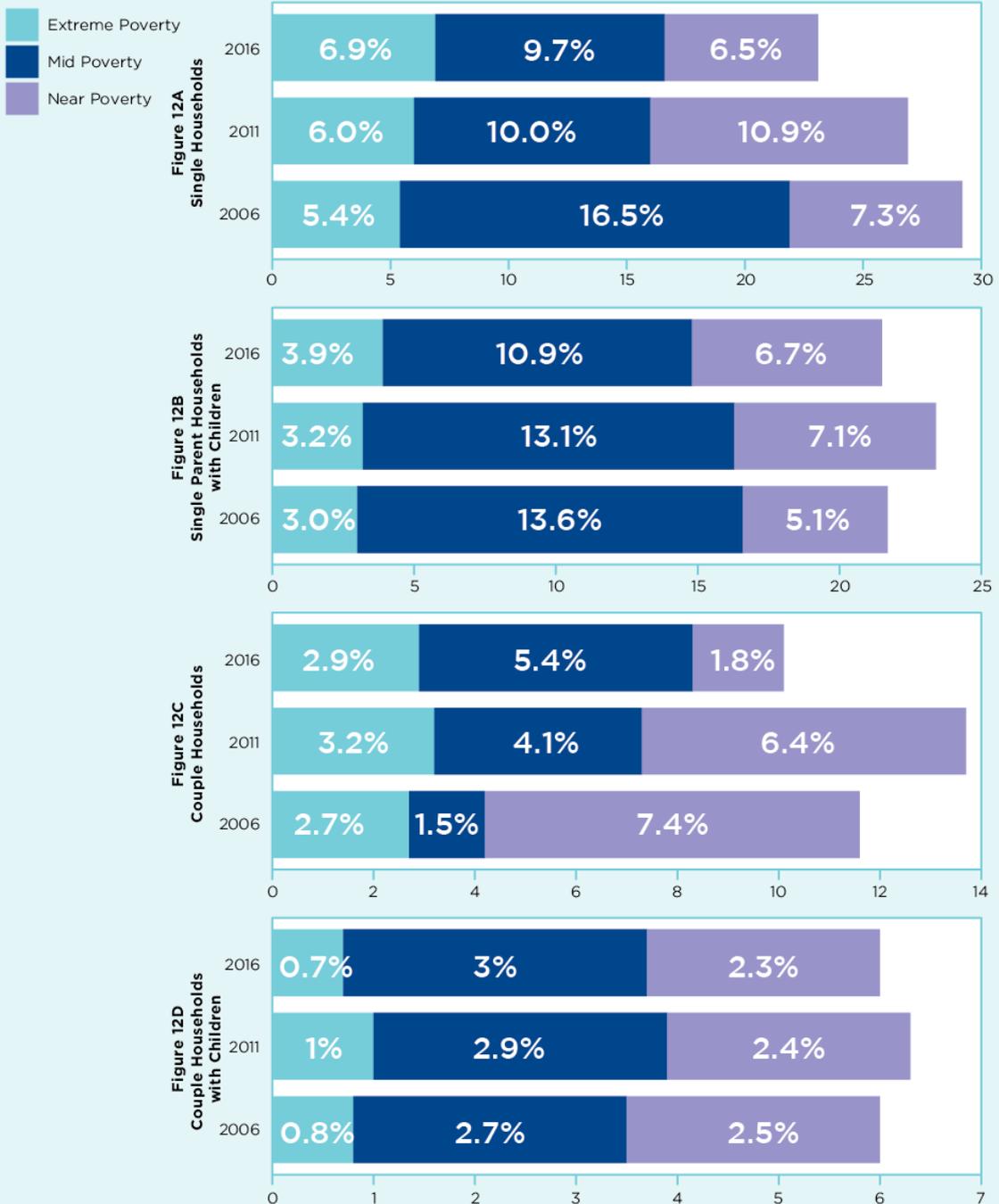
Notes for Figure 3: * Denotes an increase in education between 2006 and 2011. # Denotes an increase in education between 2011 and 2016. > Denotes the share of individuals who became 65 years or older between 2006 and 2011. ^ Denotes the share of individuals who became 65 years or older between 2011 and 2016. x Denotes the share of individuals who were 65 years or older in 2006. * Denotes the share of individuals who were 65 years or older in 2011.

Poverty varies substantially across household types

On average, single households have the highest average community poverty rates, ranging from 29 percent in 2006 to 23 percent in 2016. The average community poverty rate for single parent households is extremely high being approximately 22 percent for all census years.

Couple households with children exhibit the lowest poverty rates whereas couple households with no children have ranges just over 10 percent. Although the average poverty rate for couple households are low and remained low, over time there has been an increase in those with incomes in the mid-poverty range.

Figure 4. Average Community Poverty Rates



Notes for Figure 4: Depicted are the average share of each poverty rate across all communities for the given household type. For example, in 2016, the average extreme poverty rate across all communities for couple households was 2.9 percent whereas the average mid-poverty rate was 5.4 percent.

Drawing from just a few recent examples, it is easy to observe the complexity of poverty and disadvantage along many dimensions. And, thus, the motivation for building the Breaking Down Barriers Shared Data Environment (BDB-SDE). An environment that brings together data from a range of sources to enable deep analysis and the testing and evaluation of ideas to address community, household, and individual poverty and disadvantage.

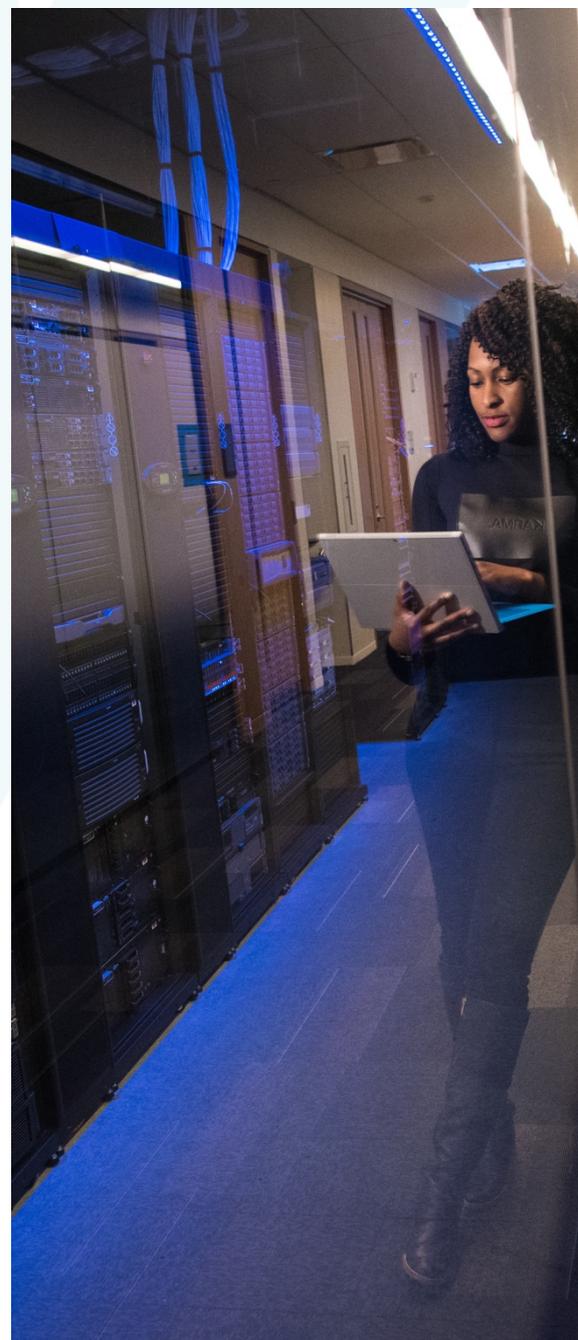
After many years of informing and shaping social and economic policy, the Melbourne Institute is well placed to lead the way in understanding entrenched and persistent disadvantage in Australia. The development of the BDB-SDE will be a significant step forward in addressing some of these issues by increasing access and deeper analysis of the core issues driving people in and out of disadvantage. Linking this analysis with policy makers and service providers who can create positive change will be key in making a large step towards eliminating disadvantage in Australia.

The BDB-SDE initiative is funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation. The Paul Ramsay Foundation has committed more than \$350 million since 2016 in more than 90 partnerships with individuals and organisations offering new ways to break cycles of disadvantage and to achieve lasting change.

Building the BDB-SDE

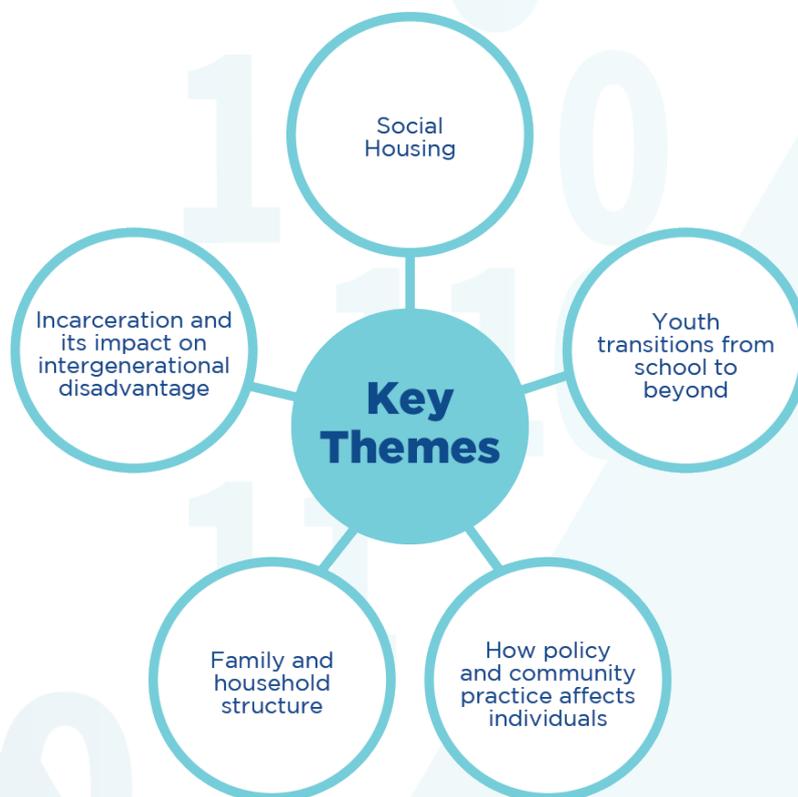
The number of datasets available to understand disadvantage is vast. The BDB-SDE is being built incrementally over the coming years with the Melbourne Institute focused on identifying and accessing relevant datasets via three key mechanisms:

- **Access to broader datasets**
Gaining access to broad data, including commonwealth and state level datasets that capture relevant populations (or a random sample of the population) that would allow us to understand those living in disadvantage and to be able to compare a range of measures between those that have experienced disadvantage and those that have not experienced disadvantage. These datasets may include information on employment, schooling, income, housing, and family dynamics.
- **Undertaking short reviews of specific issues tied to disadvantage**
Melbourne Institute researchers are undertaking a series of short reviews that focus on specific themes related to understanding specific dimensions of disadvantage. Through the short reviews, we will focus on specific datasets needed to explore the issue further as well as to test and pilot ideas for policy or practice innovation. Over time these themes will expand to capture a wider range of datasets and issues.
- **Supporting initiatives undertaken by service providers and/or other researchers**
A critical feature of the BDB-SDE is the collaborative environment. Although built by the Melbourne Institute, the BDB-SDE is an environment that is to be shared and utilised by a range of stakeholders who want to make a difference by understanding and tackling the issues that affect disadvantage in Australia.



Themes of research

While there are many areas of economic disadvantage that need to be addressed, the Breaking Down Barriers project is currently focused on four key research themes that we believe cover issues and answer questions where there are large gaps in knowledge. Closing these gaps in knowledge is crucial to reducing poverty and making an impact on intergenerational disadvantage in Australia.



1. Measurement of income poverty and the importance of employment in driving income poverty:

Understanding income poverty and the importance of employment in driving income poverty is integral to making change to economic disadvantage in Australia.

It is generally agreed that the effects of experiencing poverty for long periods of time are more detrimental than experiencing poverty for short periods. Measuring and understanding individuals and communities that experience poverty and exploring the various onramps, for those at risk and offramps for those who are currently poor, may help us improve services and allow more individuals to exit disadvantage.

Obtaining employment is known to be a key route out of poverty for unemployed people, but for the low paid, an escape from poverty might arise from an increase in one's wages, or in the earnings of one's partner. Similarly, a fall into poverty, or a repeat spell of poverty, might be precipitated by the loss of one's own job, by the loss of one's partner's job, or by a family splitting up. Other changes in household composition, such as the death of a partner, or the birth of a child, can also affect a household's income and disadvantage. Clearly, knowing whether the routes into or out of poverty mainly involve changes in labour market activity (one's own or a partner's) or changes in household composition is important for design of policies seeking to break cycles of disadvantage.

2. Transition from school to young adulthood

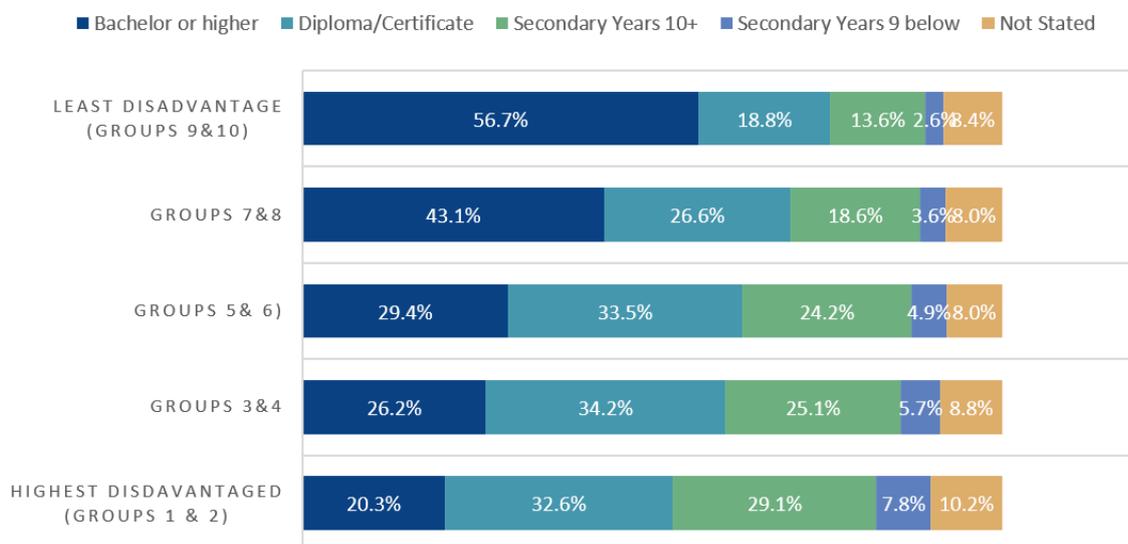
This research theme focusses on understanding the constraints and choices in transitioning from high school to young adulthood and explores the long-term effects that these decisions have on later life outcomes.

The transition from high school into further education or early employment is a key milestone for young adults. Making the right decisions at this point in life will set the pathway towards a future that can be free of poverty and disadvantage or not.

We know that behaviour early in life can be predictive of later life outcomes. Truancy, misbehaviour and criminal activity in adolescence can lead to lower levels of education, income and life satisfaction. Understanding the patterns and effects of behaviour in high school on later life outcomes, recognising the influence of family and community environments is one area of focus.

We also know that education is a key driver in the exit from poverty. Despite policies to support deferral of tuition payments and, regulation of tuition rates, many people living in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods do not complete high school and do not go on to obtain further education or training. There remain stark differences in the decision to pursue training and education beyond high school by students from different economic backgrounds. These differences might reflect that the real or perceived returns to education are low for those from disadvantaged backgrounds and that they still face significant costs to access education or related training programs. Understanding the reasons for this disparity in educational attainment by socio-economic background remains an important open question.

Distribution of residential population aged 30-34 Highest level of education, community level (LGA) disadvantage, 2016



Depicted is educational achievement based on place of residence in 2016 and the classification of the community for that residence. At the age of 25-29, individuals may no longer be living in the same community where she/he grew up. If we focus on those who were in the same house in 2011 & 2016, (e.g. when the individual was 21-24) the statistics would be similar as those reported here.

For this depiction we relied on ABS classification of community disadvantage.

Finally, understanding the employment issues faced by young adults is critical. Paid employment enables young people to leave the parental home, form relationships, and start an independent life, however, there is no certainty as unemployment rates and insecure work is high for young adults, especially those from disadvantaged

backgrounds. In the wake of COVID-19, this population is even more vulnerable now than usual, with young people having been hit disproportionately more than other age groups throughout the pandemic.

3. Incarceration and the effect on children and economic disadvantage:

In Australia, the rate of adult incarceration is currently higher than at any time in the past century, and close to 80,000 children have a parent who is incarcerated. Understanding the consequences of incarceration for economic disadvantage, and for intergenerational disadvantage, could not be more salient.

The relevance of this issue is particularly heightened currently as it is a time of great economic uncertainty. Most forms of crime are known to be counter-cyclical, so the current economic contraction is likely to result in not only greater economic disadvantage, but also increased criminal activity, increased incarceration rates and subsequently greater entrenchment of disadvantage.

We know that incarceration can contribute to entrenched economic disadvantage by reducing the employment and earnings of offenders. This, in turn may lead to welfare dependence and, often, homelessness. If incarcerated offenders are also parents, their disadvantage may be passed on to their children, for example through developmental deficits and poor educational outcomes, creating an intergenerational cycle of disadvantage.

While there has been a growing body of international literature aimed at understanding the impacts of incarceration on offenders and their children, there has been very little such research undertaken in Australia. The increased data linkage capabilities of State and Commonwealth authorities over past years provide an opportunity for us to further understand the impacts of incarceration and develop policies to improve outcomes for offenders and their families.

4. The importance of social infrastructure on economic disadvantage

Understanding how place and community can affect the ability to exit poverty is key to understanding patterns of economic disadvantage and intergenerational poverty.

One of the current research questions is centered around social housing and social infrastructure and exploring its importance and effect on economic disadvantage. Often, individuals living in social housing represent those experiencing more entrenched disadvantage than those in the wider community.

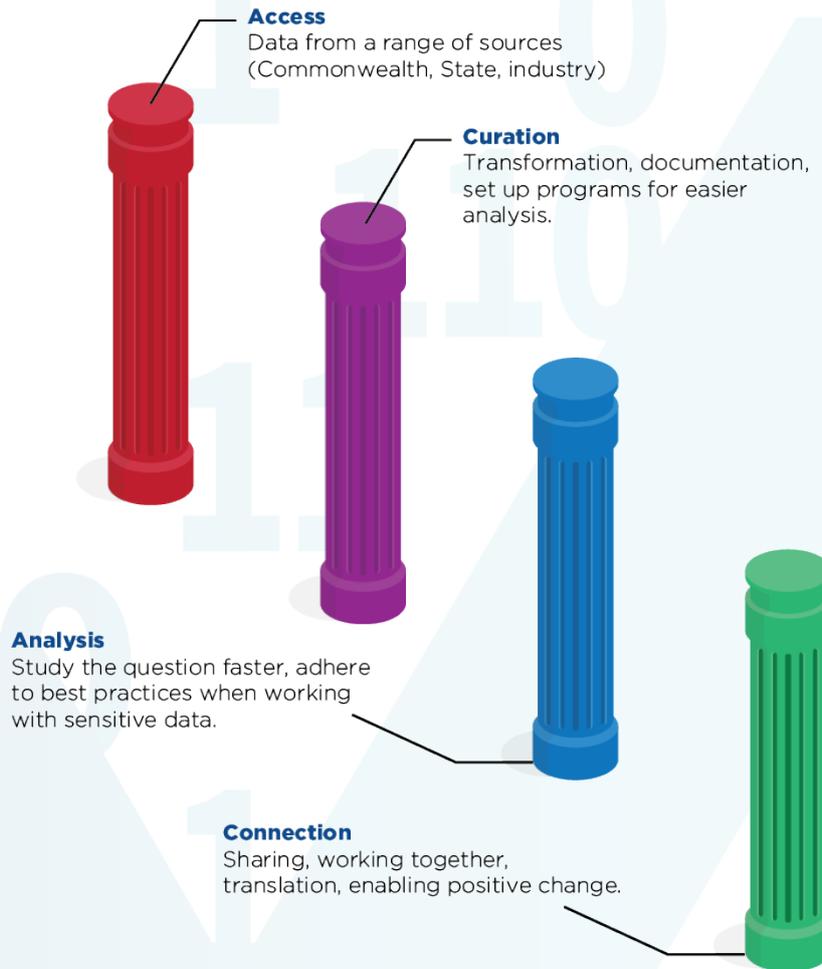
Social housing in Australia has largely followed a practice of placing units in a way that creates a social mix, in turn, creating more socio economically diverse communities, and while this practice is largely recognised as best practice, there may be unintentional consequences on service providers and social infrastructure who are unable to structure their operations to benefit from economies of scale and scope.

Understanding the role that social housing, infrastructure and services play in communities and the constraints that individuals and families face, will allow service providers and policy makers to improve the services and infrastructure that provide offramps to disadvantage.

Breaking Down Barriers Shared Data Environment (BDB-SDE)

The BSB-SDE addresses the need for accessing better data that will allow an increased understanding of the extent, nature, and causes of socio-economic disadvantage.

Built around four pillars, the BDB-SDE aims to make it easier and faster to link analysis with practice and policy. These pillars are key to expanding the knowledge base in this area of study and thus achieving an increase in data-driven policy decisions that will undoubtedly benefit society.



1. Access

There is currently a large array of data generated by Government, private sector, non-profits and individual citizens. Many datasets, however, remain difficult to access, and thus are underutilised by analysts to guide critical social and economic policy decisions and research.

The BDB-SDE addresses the difficulties which analysts often face including accessing unit record data and groups of data so that they can be combined to develop a more extensive analysis on what drives individuals into and out of poverty and disadvantage. For example, if we are trying to understand the role played by post-secondary education and training on helping youth from low-income families move into secure employment and a safe and secure standard of living, then we would need information on educational achievement and constraints as well as employment, family formation and income to understand an individual's progression through school and into the workforce. This would require state government data from school enrolment, attendance, and performance as well as commonwealth data including tax filer data

and information on post-secondary education enrolment decisions including entry into vocational training and university.

Access to these datasets is key to developing a deep and comprehensive understanding of the drivers and issues surrounding disadvantage. The BDB-SDE aims to offer access to this data and allow more researchers, analysts, and policy makers access to information to allow for better data-driven decision making that can make a significant difference.

Access also requires a respect and adherence to the sensitivities and private nature of unit record data. The BDB-SDE will be housed and accessed through a secure data laboratory (MIDL: Melbourne Institute Data Laboratory) which has been certified at a level equivalent of Commonwealth government protected status. For more information on MIDL, please refer the MIDL Information Pack.

2. Curation

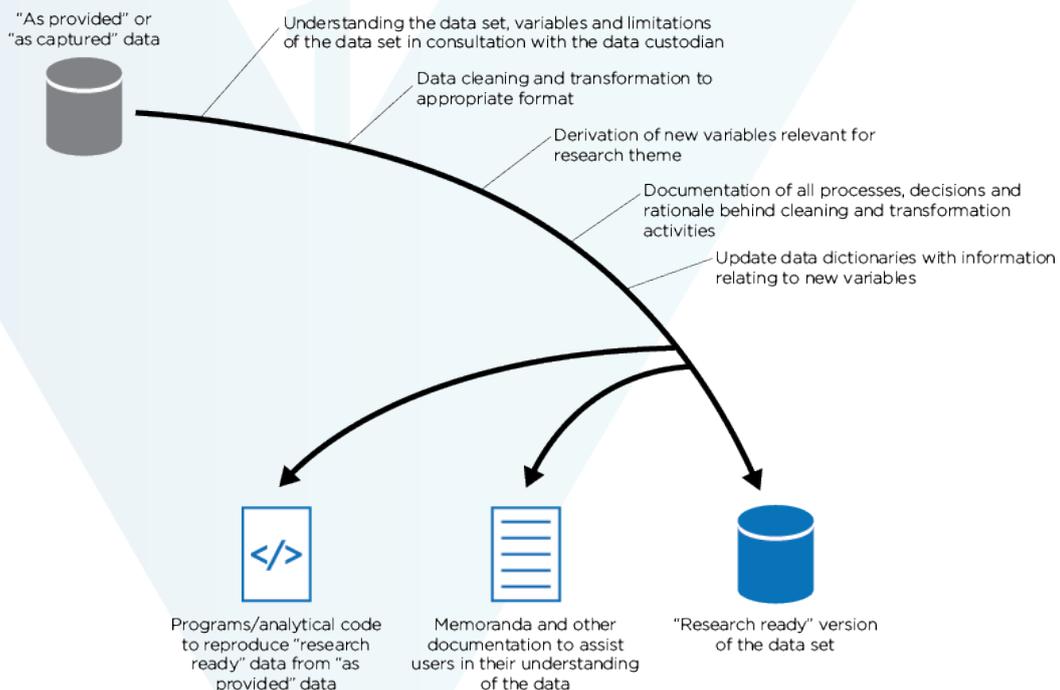
Often when working with administrative data, although ready for use it may not be easily understood by the analyst. The Melbourne Institute’s Data & Analytics team have the capabilities to curate data and develop programs and additional features to assist in the understanding of datasets within the BDB-SDE. This feature aims to allow for faster and more effective analysis.

The curation and data cleaning will give the BDB-SDE the additional advantage of housing ‘research-ready’ data for easier and faster analysis by the researcher. The Melbourne Institute’s Data & Analytics team will perform this function to approved users applying their working knowledge of the data to create a ‘research-ready’ environment for each dataset.

The BDB-SDE will also provide approved users with a range of features including:

- Memoranda, codebooks, and other materials to assist the users in their understanding of the data.
- Access to a sub-sample data set (what we refer to as a “research ready” and/or “working data set”) that contains the popular variables amongst similar researchers.
- Access to programs used to transform and create sub-samples of data sets including the above mentioned “research ready” versions of a dataset.
- Access to memoranda, sample code and derived variables other approved users (within the same SDE) have shared from prior analysis.

Figure 5. Creation of the “research ready” version of a data asset.



This model sets the researcher up for faster analysis of the data, saving them significant time on data cleaning and allowing them to jump straight into vital analysis leading to deeper insights and stronger collaborations. Additionally, the development of shared Memorandums, codebooks and programs developed by MI staff increase the usability, understanding and ease of access to datasets within the BDB-SDE.

Approved users can also contribute to this shared body of knowledge which is housed inside MIDL's information management system (or MIDL Wiki). This unique feature ensures that the evolving and growing body of knowledge will continue help researchers and analysts into the future.

3. Analysis

By housing data in a single secure environment and undertaking curation of these data, researchers and analysts will be able to undertake deeper studies and evaluations that focus on assessing the key drivers of disadvantage and how policy and/or practice may affect and improve disadvantage in Australia. The BDB-SDE enables an information sharing ecosystem that enables researchers to advance their analyses based on work undertaken by others in the same field and/or using the same data sources.

The "shared" component of the BDB-SDE is a critical feature in that it encourages cross-disciplinary and broader collaboration across a range of stakeholders. This collaboration will result in better curation of data, easier linking of measures across data sets, and shorter periods between question development and analysis and reporting.

The BDB-SDE will also lead to increased studies and evaluations of the issues that underpin disadvantage. In addition, through the development of the BDB-SDE, it will be easier to develop relevant data visualisations and enhanced capabilities that will allow increased engagement with service providers and policy influencers that will also permit better evidence-based decision making.

The ability to reconcile data from multiple sources and ensure interoperability of information systems provides significant opportunity to predict, and thus disrupt cycles of disadvantage.

4. Connection

The BDB-SDE is a unique environment that will drive a deeper understanding of the drivers that force many Australians in and out of disadvantage. Its focus on sharing knowledge and working together to solve and identify key themes and problems will create a much-needed connection between data and analysis with decision and policy makers at a state and national level.

This connection with stakeholders is critical to increasing data-driven policies and programs to better service those in disadvantage and thus and enabling a positive change and step towards eliminating entrenched and persistent disadvantage in Australia.



Features of the Breaking Down Barriers SDE

Through a shared data environment (SDE) we can ease the barriers to data access whilst also promoting greater engagement and collaboration by those interested in making a difference.

Described below are the features of the BDB-SDE that are critical for its success and will be instrumental in making a significant impact on eliminating disadvantage in Australia.



01 Good governance, appropriate agreements (data custodians, data users), and related processes



02 Collaboration with data custodians to develop good practices (and rules) for gaining permission to access data



03 Effective (secure) environment for undertaking analyses and for vetting of releases of analyses



04 Strong engagement across (and within) analysts, policy makers and influencers, service providers, communities

Good Governance

The BDB-SDE will be governed by the Melbourne Institute's robust data governance policies and procedures including processes around data protection, user training and all other safeguards to ensure the effective management of data in the environment.

Thorough processes are in place to develop appropriate agreements with each data custodian. These agreements will ensure that the data custodian will be engaged at all points throughout the process and have full oversight and approval of how their data is being accessed and used. Additionally, the data custodian will be required to approve all testing of the data ingress and the clearance and vetting of data from the environment as per the data sharing agreement.

Over time new data sets will be added to the BDB-SDE. When this occurs, approval will be sought from each data custodian to combine the new data set with their existing data in the environment. Data custodians will have full control over which datasets can be accessed together and at what level. Addendums will be added to their individual data sharing agreements based on these decisions.

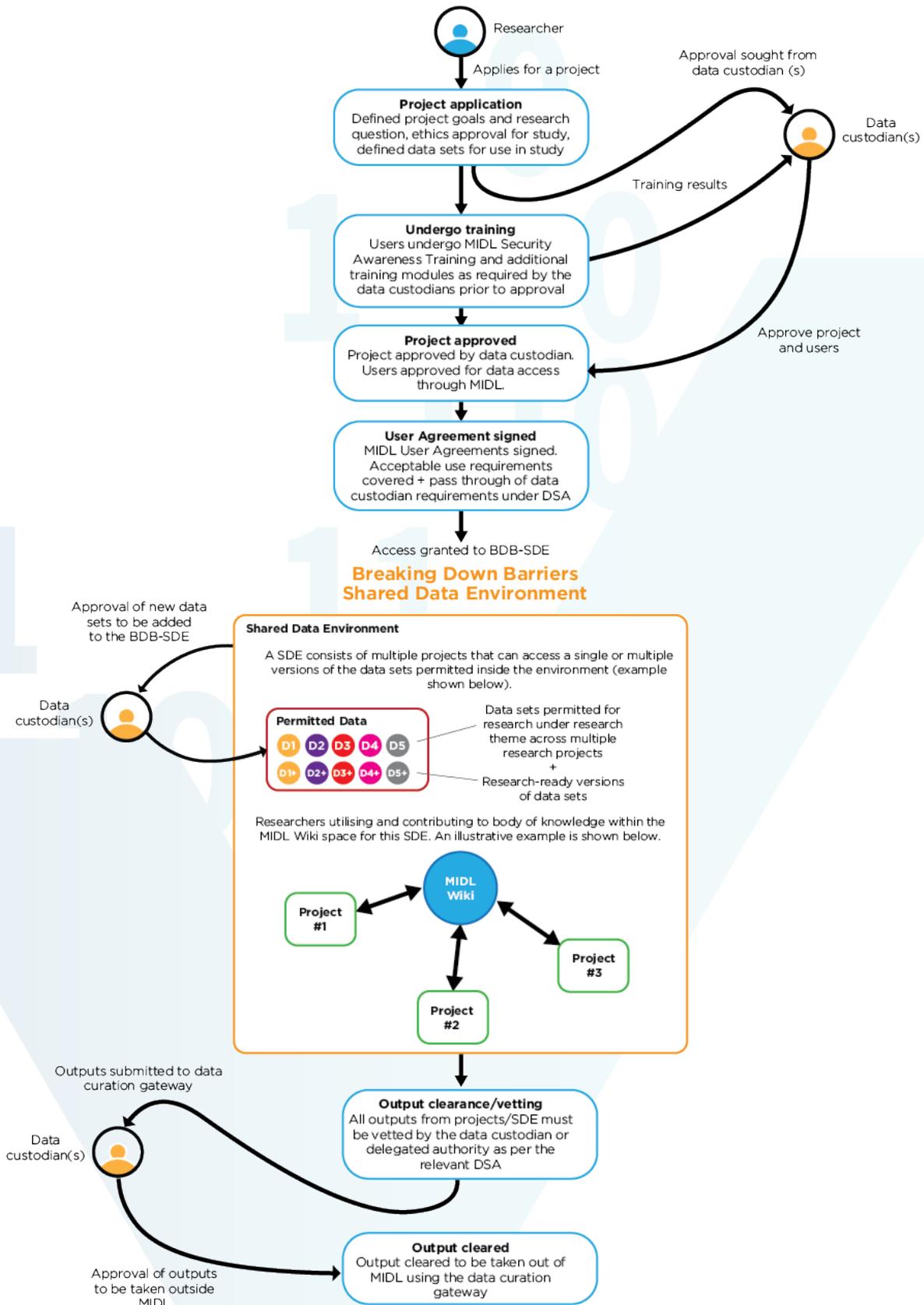
All users must undergo training and complete an authorisation process prior to data access. They will also be required to sign a User Agreement that contains a confidentiality agreement that will stipulate their requirements to maintain data privacy and confidentiality whilst using MIDL and the BDB-SDE. MIDL and the BDB-SDE ensures all governance processes meet the Five Safes Framework to effectively manage disclosure risk.

To find out more about the Melbourne Institute's governance structure and how MIDL achieves application of the Five Safes Framework you can refer to Part 3 of the MIDL Information Pack.

Collaboration

Collaboration between the Melbourne Institute and data custodians will be critical for the success of the BDB-SDE. In addition to data sharing agreements developed before data is entered into the environment, ongoing communication and collaboration with the data custodian will occur to ensure that data custodians are involved in all appropriate parts of the user journey.

Figure 6. User journey to access the BDB-SDE through MIDL.



Data custodians will be involved throughout the user journey process including approving of applications for data access, user training, ongoing approvals of incoming data linking and vetting of any data exiting the BDB-SDE.

The figure below outlines an overview of anticipated data custodian interactions in the user journey. More information on how the data custodian is involved in the processes and procedures of MIDL can be found in Part 3 of the MIDL Information Pack.

Effective (secure environment)

The Melbourne Institute Data Lab (MIDL) and the BDB-SDE will undergo security classification assessment as a PROTECTED system in line with information security controls from the Australian Government Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF) and the Australian Government Information Security Manual (ISM). MIDL, which houses the BDB-SDE incorporates a large range of information security controls to ensure data access, use, storage and transmission are safe and secure. A more detailed overview of these controls is provided in Part 3 of the MIDL Information Pack. These information security controls can be customised at a project-level to comply with data custodian requirements set out in the data sharing agreement.

MIDL and the BDB-SDE applies the Five Safes Framework to all processes to effectively manage disclosure risk and ensures a sufficient level of security so that data custodians can provide data assets with the maximum utility for social and economic research without compromising data privacy. More details on how this is achieved can be found in Part 3 of the MIDL Information Pack.

An Australian Cyber Security Centre approved Information Security Registered Assessors Program (IRAP) assessment of the MIDL platform was completed mid 2022. MIDL was assessed against the information security controls required for a PROTECTED-level system under the ISM and found to be 93% compliant against the assessed controls. MIDL also underwent a penetration test and will undergo annual penetration testing and further IRAP assessments every two years as per MIDL's assurance and audit policies. Assessment activities to ensure MIDL's alignment with ISO/IEC 27001 International Standards is also planned post 2022. MIDL is also planned to undergo an assessment to be an Accredited Data Service Provider (ADSP) under the recently established Data Availability and Transparency Act (DATA) in August 2022.

Strong Engagement

The BDB-SDE emphasises the importance of collaboration and engagement to connect research and analysis with stakeholders who can use the information for social good and to make a real difference. The platform aims to allow not only an increase in studies in the area of disadvantage but for those studies to drive a deeper and more comprehensive analysis.

Connecting this analysis to policy makers, service providers, influencers and communities is key in enacting change in this area. The Melbourne Institute will ensure that the BDB-SDE engages key stakeholders through the introduction of the BDB-SDE Advisory council, visualisations, and other key mechanisms. These activities will ensure that the work undertaken through the BDB-SDE relates to the right audiences to enact change and steps towards eliminating disadvantage in Australia.



Inside the secure environment

The BDB-SDE will sit within the Melbourne Institute Data Lab (MIDL) a secure, purpose built, data enclave that enables virtual access to micro-level data for curation, analysis, and visualisation. MIDL has the ability to house multiple shared data environments which can be described as large ‘super-projects’ that can involve individual users or teams working on projects with either single or multiple datasets albeit on a specific research theme. These large workspaces can see multiple data sets combined and analysed safely inside the environment and allow users to undertake deep study of critical issues important to Australian society.

The key services of MIDL include:

- A virtual computing environment with an increased security posture to host a range of sensitive data assets to approved users for the purpose of research that informs Australian economic and social policy. Data sets may include assets from the Australian Federal Government, state and local governments, service providers and industry. Datasets with security classification up to PROTECTED (or similar in cases where data custodians are outside Government) may be stored and hosted for approved users through MIDL.
- Safe and secure processes to protect data assets of data custodians minimising risk of disclosure.
- Access to a secure information management system (MIDL Wiki) from inside the environment which provides an increased value proposition for both researchers and data custodians. This Wiki page provides users with additional data documentation, “research ready” and a “working data set” versions of data assets as curated by research staff at the Melbourne Institute enabling faster research.
- Ability for researchers to use/combine a range of data sets for analyses fitting a specific research theme through a Shared Data Environment (SDE).
- Access to additional support, data services and engaged research opportunities using Melbourne Institute research and professional staff.

MIDL is serviced by a team at the Melbourne Institute with technical services provided by Cyconsol and the University of Melbourne Business Services. All staff involved in the project undergo security checks and are bound by non-disclosure agreements. Personnel in the Melbourne Institute Data & Analytics team providing data support will hold appropriate security checks and/or security clearances as arranged between the Melbourne Institute and the data custodian.

MIDL and the BDB-SDE has additional security controls in place for reviewing and extracting files from the environment. All data leaving the BDB-SDE will be vetted and approved by the data custodian to ensure no sensitive data are released. These controls may vary between datasets as agreed within data sharing agreements. A more detailed overview of these controls can be found in Part 3 of the MIDL Information Pack.

How can you help?

To bring the BDB-SDE to life and to maximise its effectiveness, the support of various communities including data custodians, researchers, service providers and policy makers is needed.

Outlined below are some examples of how our key stakeholders can work with us to achieve the success of the BDB-SDE and ultimately help to eliminate disadvantage in Australia.

- As a data custodian consider how we can work together to protect the sensitivity of your datasets while allowing for reasonable access for users in the BDB-SDE.
- As a user you can help us shape and build the BDB-SDE by accessing and using the data available for your analysis but also in considering and providing feedback on the types of data that should be included and contributing to the MIDL Wiki and shared body of knowledge.
- As a service provider collaborate with us to help identify emerging issues and priorities and consider how we can work together to combat disadvantage in Australia.
- As a policy maker engage with the analysis and findings from the BDB-SDE and use the data to develop effective policy decisions that can break down the barriers for poverty and disadvantage in Australia.

FAQ's

What is the level of security for housing the data and analysis?

As per Australian government guidelines "PROTECTED" (high business impact protection).

How many users can be accommodated through MIDL & the BDB-SDE?

Access will be through virtual machines. Current capacity is designed for ~70 users.

Will Data Custodians be able to vet projects?

Absolutely. Each data custodian will be able to provide the criteria under which their data can be accessed and/or linked to other data sets.

Will MIDL be a data linking authority?

No. To create the variables that can be used to permit unit record level linking, MIDL / BDB-SDE will use data linking authorities.

What are the IP rights associated with data transformation and document development?

Programs and documents created by Melbourne Institute staff will be owned by the Melbourne Institute/UoM. Programs and documents created by analyst will be owned by the analyst.

Will data be updated on an ongoing basis?

Yes. We will work with each data custodian to develop a schedule that permits the regular updating of data set.

Will users be able to access the BDB-SDE for free?

In most cases, no. The user will be charged a fee that reflects cost-recovery costs.

Can government departments or service providers ask for analyses to be undertaken?

Absolutely. Collaboration is a critical feature of the BDB-SDE.

Can the BDB-SDE be used to test ideas, run pilot projects, and to evaluate policy or practice interventions?

Absolutely. The BDB-SDE is for a range of activities designed to address disadvantage in Australia.

Contact us

For more information on the BDB-SDE, please contact Ms. Kristin Marriner on kristin.marriner@unimelb.edu.au.

For more information on the MIDL secure environment, please contact the MIDL Services Team on MIDL-services@unimelb.edu.au.

