

Statement Covering Scope and Intent of Profile Work

The aim of the profile subgroup has been to document how different agencies have implemented ISO 19115-1, to look for consistency in the selection of metadata elements and record how these elements have been implemented. In doing this, the resulting information provides data custodians and metadata users guidance about which of the possible 7000 elements contained within the standard, are seen as important within each business and also whether those elements have been implemented as optional or mandatory. This choice is driven by the business requirements of each agency. However, there is general consistency in which elements that are thought to be important and also how these elements then map to other metadata exchange formats, such as RIF-CS and DCAT.

The information presented here represents the minimum sets of elements that the metadata working group believes are important for custodians to record. Whether these elements are optional or mandatory for an agency is a business decision. However, there are consequences with the way a business implements the ISO 19115-1 standard in mapping to other catalogues, interoperability with other exchange formats and the ability that an agency has to share information outside of its own business systems.

By showing multiple approaches, custodians can make better informed choices about what elements they choose to implement and whether to make them mandatory or not. Through showing mapping to other exchange formats, custodians can now see the consequences of the element implementation within their own profile and maximise their potential for information exchange based on their business needs.

Implementing the metadata elements suggested by the Profile and Technical Sub-Group will realise a range of benefits for data custodians, metadata managers, businesses as a whole and their clients. These include:

- **Improved data discoverability** through enabling machine-to-machine access and integration of data across multiple central metadata repositories (e.g. data.gov.au) and across disciplines using other exchange formats
- **Reduced costs** due to the ability to reuse and share developed codes, applications and services between businesses through consistent implementation of metadata elements within catalogues.
- **Improved efficiency** through client self-service because users will be able to find relevant information quickly and more easily assess appropriate usage of those data and services
- **Reduced business risk and liability** through clear identification of access constraints, licencing and security compliance in metadata statements for data managers and users