

# Lessons from the pandemic: an Australasian perspective

2nd Open Science Conference  
July 21-23, 2021



**2nd Open Science Conference**

**FROM TACKLING THE PANDEMIC TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE**

Organized by the United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE:** 21-23 July 2021, 8.00 am–12.00 pm EDT



Dr Ginny Barbour  
Director, Open Access Australasia





28 universities across Australia & New Zealand,  
Creative Commons Australia & Tohatoha Aotearoa Commons  
Chair of Executive Committee, Martin Borchert, UNSW  
We collaborate widely across the Australasian sector

### **Principles**

- equity in scholarly communications, to access & publish research
- diverse ecosystem of open access approaches
- integrity and quality in research
- maximisation of the impact of research
- appropriate and respectful use of Indigenous knowledges
- retention of rights by authors or their institutions

# A brief view from Australasia



Open science initiatives triggered by COVID-19

Discussions on a Australian national approach to open research

2021 in Australasian open science

Lessons from the pandemic for the next crisis

# Australasian open science initiatives triggered by COVID-19



Australian Government  
Chief Scientist

COVID-19 Expert Database

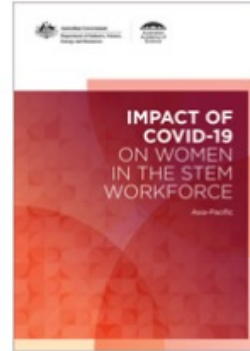
A collaboration between Australia's leading academies  
Championed by Australia's Chief Scientist



Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences



Australian Academy of Technology & Engineering



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT  
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI



Open science: after the COVID-19 pandemic there can be no return to closed working

New Zealand's COVID-19 research response

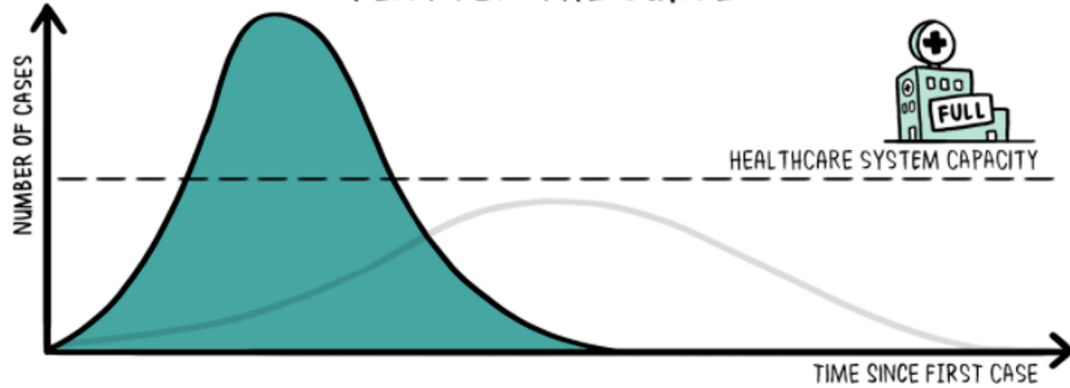
COVID-19 research database



BUILDING A HEALTHY AUSTRALIA

Information for the health and medical research sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

# FLATTEN THE CURVE



@SIOUXSIEW @XTOTL @THESPINOFFTV

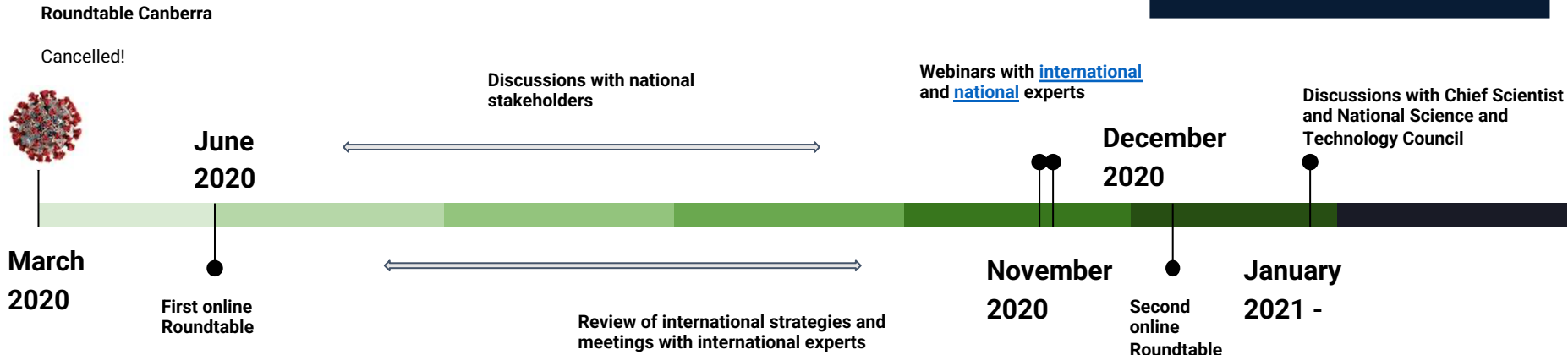
\*ADAPTED FROM @DREWAHARRIS, THOMAS SPLETTSTÖBER (@SPLETTE) AND THE CDC\*  
CC-BY-SA

Some of the best pandemic science communication came from New Zealand!

# Council of Australian University Librarians and Open Access Australasia: discussions on a national approach to open research

Making the case for a national approach for Open Research in Australia

Review of 2020 activities



# Case studies illustrate need for a coordinated approach

## Case Study 1: Policy advisors can't access the research they need

*Barriers to access academic research increases time frame for policy advice*



The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how valuable it is to have immediate, free access to research to inform policy, but this is far from the norm for most research that policy advisors need to review.

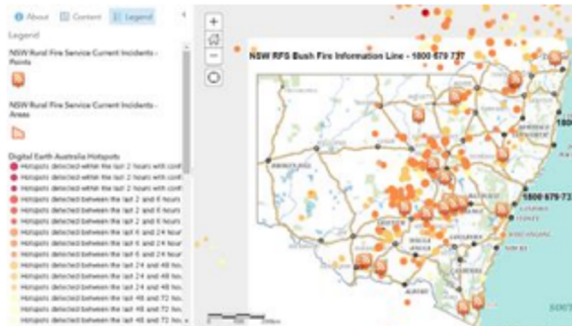
*"Lack of access drastically increases the timeframe for policy work" – Health policy advisor*

Spending on open research neither coordinated nor transparent

Responses to specific issues often siloed by sector & availability

## Case Study 2: Mapping NSW Black Summer Bushfires

*Responding to data gaps in real time*



A map was created from open, yet disparate, data sources to show real time information of fire fronts in NSW during Black Summer, 2019.

Image taken: 20210224, 09:14

*"Difference in the data update times really showed the challenge in what they [firefighters] were dealing with" – map creator*

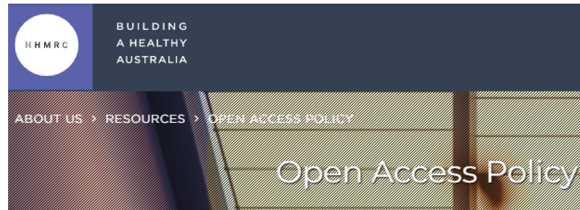
# 2021 in Australasian open science - policy

## Achieving impact from Australian science

Wednesday, 17 March 2021



Dr Foley speaks at the Press Club.



**Australia's Chief Scientist**, Dr Cathy Foley, has named Open Access as one of the key pillars of her strategic work plan, and is the government's champion for Open Access in Australia.

## NHMRC open access policy review

“These advantages of open access publishing have been clearly demonstrated over the last 15 months as governments have relied on emerging science for evidence-based policy to address the COVID-19 pandemic.”

## Position statement - Open Science



**Australian Academy of Science** “maintains that the advancement of scientific knowledge is best served through the free, open, and accessibly distribution of high-quality peer-reviewed research.”



# 2021 in Australasian open science - advocacy & analysis

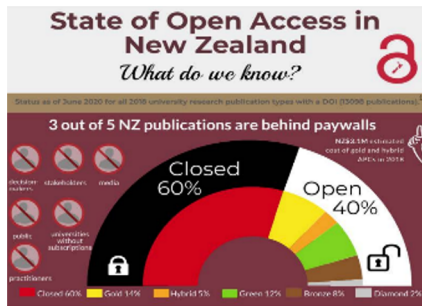


## Advancing Open Scholarship (FAIR)

“Open scholarship and FAIR scholarly practices support the efficient dissemination of knowledge to researchers, students, policy makers and to the wider public, facilitate faster scientific discovery and problem solving, and underpin the integrity of research.”



“What has been made apparent during COVID-19 is the need for a broad conversation about how research publications are disseminated – specifically the need for universal open access to research globally.”



CONZUL open access project “Only two out of five articles by New Zealand researchers are free-to-access”

<https://www.caul.edu.au/programs-projects/advancing-open-scholarship-fair>

<https://oaaustralasia.org/2020/12/21/what-a-year-its-been/>

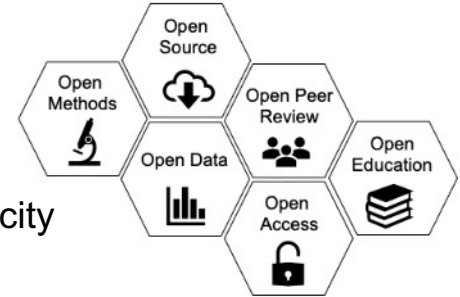
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<https://peerj.com/articles/11417/>

# Lessons from the pandemic for the next crisis

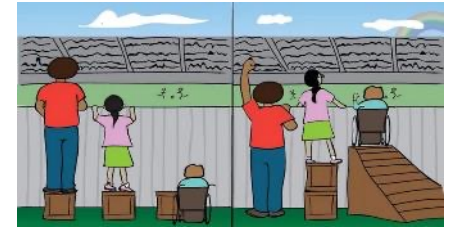
Open science practices are essential across the research life cycle

- these practices were not systematically planned or implemented
- the infrastructure for open science is fragmented, fragile and lacking capacity



The change in how we worked had some positive effects

- a wider range of people could participate in online global conversations
- interest in open book publishing driven by inequity of current models



Free now does not mean open forever

- terms are still being dictated by service providers, not users
- a system-wide shift to a “bibliodiverse” open ecosystem requires political will and global collaboration

**open > free**

Feedback and follow up welcome!

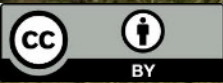
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