

The Australian BioCommons Strategic Plan 2023-2028

Implementation Part 2: Engagement & Community Response

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Preface

This document sets out the delivery strategy of the Australian BioCommons.

The delivery strategy starts with the leadership team. That team operates with a shared model of responsibility between (a) two Directors who provide overall leadership and direction for the project as a whole, and (b) four Associate Directors. The six directors in combination lead and direct the activities of a number of divisions.

As of Q1 2024, there are six divisions:

1. **Leadership, Management and Operations:** providing the direction and prioritisation of BioCommons activities and the proper operational, legal and financial administration of the activities arising.
2. **Engagement & Community Response:** engaging with the life science research community to understand their requirements for national collaborative bioinformatics research infrastructure
3. **Platforms and Services:** establishing the bioinformatics platforms and services required by Australian life science researchers as informed through community engagement activities
4. **Human Genome Informatics:** ensuring that infrastructure for human genome data warehousing, sharing and analysis is implemented in Australia that aligns with global best practice
5. **BioCloud:** harmonising and connecting resources, making bioinformatics infrastructure management more efficient and enhancing the dissemination and application of reference methods and data
6. **Training and Communications:** workforce development, uplifting life science researchers skills, building a training capability, communicating to stakeholders, participants and users

This document is focussed on the delivery plans for the **Engagement & Community Response** division.

Note: The text assumes familiarity with the Australian BioCommons Strategic Plan 2023-2028.¹

¹ [doi: 10.5281/zenodo.13626350](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13626350)

Engagement & Community Response

1 Outline

1.1 Purpose

A central component of the BioCommons mission from the outset has been to actively support life science research communities in Australia with community scale digital infrastructure.

The Engagement team's purpose and role is essentially to:

- Generate an understanding of unmet omics bioinformatics infrastructure needs of the Australian life science research community
- Formulate community endorsed views on what infrastructure is lacking and how essential it is for that gap to be filled
- Act as Product Owners to drive the development of researcher relevant infrastructure and services that fill the gaps
- Promote established infrastructure and services back to the Australian research community and, when appropriate, assist members of this community to utilise the services to support their research.

1.2 Approach

In order to ascertain what infrastructure(s) the Australian life science research community require, several approaches will be undertaken in 2023-28 to identify infrastructure gaps, many of which were also undertaken in the 2019-23 period albeit in a less mature mode (see Section 2).

While it is the primary focus of the Engagement Division to document, understand and articulate community requirements, it is also important to note that staff in nearly all other Divisions also routinely engage directly with life science researchers and providers of life science data analysis infrastructure².

In light of this broad engagement approach, a new focus that will be undertaken by the Engagement Division in 2023-28 will be to better ensure that the learnings from all these interactions also feed into the overall Australian BioCommons' understanding of community requirements to ensure this appropriately influences the development of solutions (Section 2.6).

1.3 Ambitions

The ambitions of the Engagement and Community Response Division are to

- To collect life science researcher's bioinformatics infrastructure requirements and develop or facilitate the development of targeted, community endorsed plans for bioinformatics infrastructure deployment for various omics life science research communities and groups.
- To support the vision and mission of Bioplatforms Australia through actively supporting its scientific initiatives and collaborations.

² e.g. the Human Genomics Informatics Division are the group primarily responsible for engaging researchers utilising human genomic data, and the BioCloud and Platforms Divisions routinely interact/engage with a wide range of researchers or computational and bioinformatics infrastructure providers.

- To raise awareness of the existence of existing infrastructure (offered by BioCommons and others where relevant) to Australian life science research communities, and increase their capacity to achieve research excellence.
- To accelerate the development of community-serving data and reference informatics
- To actively support Bioplatforms Australia sponsored facilities with the provision of bioinformatics infrastructure. These particular facilities (a) provide an NCRIS sponsored omics data generation capability for Australia, and (b) underpin Bioplatforms Australia's scientific initiatives and collaborations such as the Framework Initiatives described above.
- In certain circumstances, forge strategic alliances with Australian Research Organisations that focus their attentions on topics of strategic importance to Australia (i.e. Agriculture, Biodiversity or Human Health)

1.4 Success Metrics

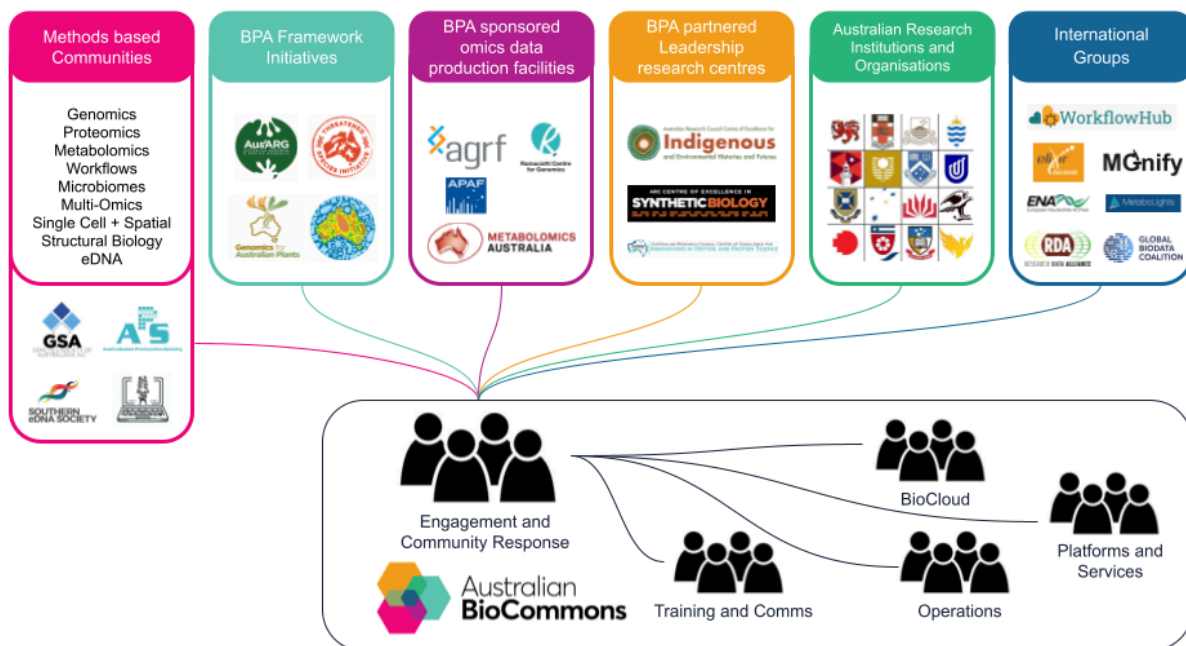
Success will mean:

- An established repertoire of highly utilised bioinformatics infrastructures that have been established in response to community requirements,
- A high level of participation by community members in consultation or community activities, that is sustained (or grows) in numbers of participants, and has an increased depth of active participation by community members in community activities (and ultimately being led by community members themselves),
- BioCommons are seen as influencers in the development of peer infrastructures internationally,
- Increased awareness of, and use of BioCommons Services within Australian research institutions and Organisations,
- Uptake of BioCommons services by various Bioplatforms Australia Framework Initiative and Bioplatforms Australia sponsored facilities as standard tools to realise their missions.

2. Key Mechanisms

Our team often acts as the face of the BioCommons through our engagements with various external communities and groups as summarised in sections 2.1 to 2.7 below.

We then seek to act as champions for these external groups to channel their requirements to other divisions within BioCommons who have the capacity to implement the outputs, particularly the Platforms and Services, BioCloud and Training divisions, as illustrated below. In this process we may assume the role of Product Owner.



2.1 (Methods based) Community Consultations

Broad consultations of various life science research communities are routinely undertaken and actively managed by the Engagement and Community Response Division. These occur in a number of different modes:

2.1.1 Horizon scanning and exploration

Engagement Team members routinely undertake horizon scanning across various aspects of omics informed life science research to monitor advances in these areas which may impact on the infrastructure requirements for researchers. Activities range from informal discussions with researchers through to literature and technology reviews.

2.1.2 Consultations

Engagement Team members organise and manage national community consultations that are open to anyone to participate in around a theme such as:

- a broad domain (genomics, proteomics, metabolomics),
- a specific yet common methodology (genome assembly, genome annotation, data publication etc), or
- a bioinformatics approach (e.g. workflow creation and use, data submission to or data retrieval from international repositories).

Consultation includes a range of activities such as community surveys, meetings and discussions, compilation of user requirements, and usually culminates in the production of:

- an “Infrastructure Roadmap for Australia” which is authored by BioCommons Engagement Team members and documents the theme / area of endeavour,

community requirements, current challenges and infrastructure gaps, and a blueprint for shared infrastructure components that could fill the gaps³, or

- other detailed reports⁴.

2.1.3 Community Engagement Management

For some themes, engagement team members also act as scientific community engagement managers, with the aim of establishing an ongoing, active community focused around the theme.

- In these cases the aim is to establish an environment in which participants self-identify as being members of the community, and eventually actively contribute, collaborate or co-create outputs. It is hoped that participants can actively draw value from the community to impact their research programs.
- Community activities can include activities such as regular community meetings and discussions, where learnings also feed into an “Infrastructure Roadmap for Australia” or other reports as described above.
- In order to scale, one goal of these activities is to ultimately identify ‘community champions’ who are motivated to take on more responsibility for the success, sustainability, and/or running of the community.

For other themes, a Community may have self organised prior to engaging with the BioCommons⁵, and in this case the Community Engagement Managers are sourced from outside the BioCommons.

- In these cases, participants have already self-identified as being members of the community, and are keen to actively contribute, collaborate or co-create outputs.
- Community activities (meetings etc) are led from within the community and may take any form that this type of community deems appropriate.
- If the community wishes to work with BioCommons to deploy solutions, the Community is expected to describe in a Landscape Overview:
 - The theme / problem space (i.e. “What is [theme x] and how is it done?”)
 - The scale of the theme (i.e. “Who / what groups in Australia is/are performing [theme x] and what is their focus?”, including estimates of the community size based on literature landscape scanning)
 - This information is expected to be broadly similar in format to the Introductory sections of the “Infrastructure Roadmaps for Australia” described above, and serve to provide important contextual information to the BioCommons and delivery partners regarding the need. A member of the Engagement Team may support the Community members to produce the Landscape Overview.

2.1.4 Engagement with Established Networks

Engagement team members may also engage directly with established networks related to a theme (e.g. Professional Scientific Societies across Australasia⁶, or self organised groups of Facility Managers⁷). Engagement activities undertaken by the BioCommons Engagement team range from attendance at annual conferences to more in depth activities (e.g. working

³ e.g. Nelson, T., & Christiansen, J. H. (2021). Microbiome Analysis Infrastructure Roadmap for Australia (4.0). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4978308>; Gustafsson, O. J. R., & Christiansen, J. (2022). Proteomics Bioinformatics Infrastructure Roadmap for Australia (4.0). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7460249>

⁴ e.g. Khan, F. Z., & Christiansen, J. H. (2023). Omics Data Publishing to International Repositories from Australia (1.2). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10147703>

⁵ e.g. the Structural Biology Computing Community in Australia <https://australian-structural-biology-computing.github.io/website/>

⁶ e.g. the Genetics Society of AustralAsia <https://genetics.org.au/>, Southern eDNA Society <https://sednasociety.com/>

⁷ E.g. the Australasian Core (Mass Spectrometry) Facilities group <https://australasiancorefacilities.org/>

with a Scientific Society leadership or representatives to plan one or more specific community outputs^{8,9})

In all three mechanisms (Consultations, Community Engagement Management and Engagement with Established Networks), one BioCommons Engagement Team member is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the activities related to each theme area: undertaking consultations or community engagement management, or acting as a Product Owner or champion within the BioCommons to ensure that the requirements of each theme is actively addressed through BioCommons activities.

Note. It is important in the 2023-28 period to revisit previous Infrastructure Roadmaps every 6 months, and make it clearer to the members of each engagement community what services have been implemented to help them, and also what is on the development horizon (ideally, with timeframes for expected completion)¹⁰.

2.2 Bioplatforms Australia Framework Initiatives

[Bioplatforms Australia Framework Initiatives](#) are national scale programs that are aimed at generating shared data assets of national importance.

These initiatives are seeded by Bioplatforms Australia funding for omics raw data generation, but are community led, and also attract significant coinvestment from many research partners (e.g. in sample collection, data analysis etc).

Framework initiatives are managed by a dedicated BPA Framework Project Manager, and are sometimes expected to bring their own relevant bioinformatics expertise to enable the generation of reference data assets from the raw data.

From Q1 2024, for new framework projects:

- The BioCommons Co-Director Engagement will be invited to join the **Advisory Group of the Framework Project**
- The BioCommons Co-Director Engagement and one other Engagement Team member (with either genomic or proteomic/metabolomic oversight) will attend the **Framework Project Kick-Off Meeting**. It is expected 2-3 slides outlining BioCommons and its Services will be presented
- The Co-Director Engagement and one other Engagement Team member (with either genomic or proteomic/metabolomic oversight), along with some members of the Platforms and BioCloud teams will introduce in some detail the BioCommons capabilities and key services to the leadership team and bioinformatics staff within each Framework Project at a **Bioinformatics seminar and Q&A session**¹¹. The information session acts to illustrate how prior Framework Initiatives have utilised or leveraged the standard BioCommons Services.
- Following the initial Bioinformatics seminar and Q&A session, the Engagement Team member (with either genomic or proteomic/metabolomic oversight) will act as a **'concierge' and triage**

⁸ e.g. <https://www.biocommons.org.au/events/genetic-outlier-apr24>

⁹ Gustafsson, O. J. R. (2024). FORUM Report: Connections in Computational Proteomics. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10929402>

¹⁰ Planned approaches are to provide (1) a publicly visible Roadmap progress report which will be found on each Community's BioCommons webpage, and (2) a Trello Board which will be visible to those in the BioCommons project summarising feature backlogs and prioritised development areas across all communities (<https://trello.com/b/BXtBUCh/community-roadmap>)

¹¹ The first such session occurred with the Functional Fungi Initiative Framework project (<https://bioplatforms.com/projects/fungi/>) on 13 March 2024.

service use requirements, and assist Framework project team members to connect directly with the Managers of BioCommons services that have been identified as relevant (e.g. Galaxy Australia ABLeS, Seqera Platform etc)

Where relevant, ongoing engagement involving the BioCommons Engagement team will occur to identify community scale bioinformatics infrastructure gaps.

In some specialised cases - particularly when the Framework Project has a vision for additional, new bioinformatics related infrastructure that is necessary for the project to achieve their goals (and when that infrastructure output will help inform strategic direction of the BioCommons and will also be relevant / repurposable for other Framework Projects and others)¹² BioCommons will work collaboratively with the Framework Project Manager and Members to investigate and potentially establish such infrastructure.

- This work will involve the Scientific Business Analyst from the BioCommons Engagement team to assist define the requirements for any such infrastructure. This work will likely also involve other BioCommons team members (e.g. BioCloud).
- Once defined, this work may or may not directly include Engagement Team members on a day to day basis.

This approach will continue on an as-needs basis through the 2023-2028 period.

2.3 Bioplatforms Australia Facility Network

Bioplatforms Australia invests in genomic, proteomic and metabolomic data capture infrastructure and associated expertise across [15 facilities](#) in six states/territories.

These facilities fall into three Platforms: Metabolomics¹³, Proteomics¹⁴, and Genomics¹⁵, each of which has an overall Convenor¹⁶.

In the 2019-2023 period, engagement with the Bioplatforms Australia Facility Network was undertaken through various mechanisms including the promotion of BioCommons services and operations at Bioplatforms All Hands meetings, encouragement of facility staff to participate in BioCommons coordinated community consultation activities including community meetings (section 2.1 above), and one to one consultations were occasionally undertaken.

Since 2021, all Bioplatforms Australia sponsored facilities have had a contractual obligation to actively investigate the BioCommons offerings and how these could be extended in support of their clients and collaborators (A Gilbert pers comm). In cases where a Facility had a vision for bioinformatics related infrastructure that was necessary for the Facility to achieve their goals (and when that infrastructure output would be relevant for other Facilities and others), the BioCommons has worked collaboratively with Facility members to instigate such infrastructure¹⁷, through co-funded work that was undertaken as part of the “BYOD expansion” project¹⁸, with Engagement team members acting in the role of business analyst.

¹² e.g. Threatened Species Initiative (<https://bioplatforms.com/projects/threatened-species/>), Plant Protein Atlas Initiative (<https://bioplatforms.com/projects/plant-protein-atlas-initiative/>)

¹³ <https://bioplatforms.com/research-platforms/metabolomics/>, <https://www.metabolomics.net.au/>

¹⁴ <https://bioplatforms.com/research-platforms/proteomics/>

¹⁵ <https://bioplatforms.com/research-platforms/genomics/>

¹⁶ <https://bioplatforms.com/executive-management-committee/>

¹⁷ Examples to date include (a) AGRF - HiFi genome assembly workflow development (b) Monash Proteomics & Metabolomics Facility - Installation of Interactive Proteomics Tools on Galaxy Australia, (c) BRF@ANU - Data movement from the facility to the BPA Data Portal.

¹⁸ <https://www.biocommons.org.au/byo-data-platform-expansion>

In the 2023-28 period, we will continue to promote BioCommons services and operations to facility staff at Bioplatforms All Hands meetings.

In addition, engagement team members will convene regular meetings with staff from Bioplatforms supported facilities. These meetings will be grouped around omics data type (genomic, proteomic, metabolomic)

Note that while the focus of this section is BPA sponsored Facilities, there are other, institutional-level focussed omics data producing facilities around Australia¹⁹. The BioCommons Engagement team aims to interact with staff from those facilities where relevant via the Community Engagement activities as described in Section 2.1.

2.4 Leadership Research Centres

ARC Centres of Excellence (CoEs), Industrial Transformation Research Hubs (ITRHs) and Industrial Transformation Training Centres (ITTCs) are multi-institutional collaborative research projects, focussed on a national priority research area. CoEs²⁰ are large projects funded by ARC at \$35M over a 7 year period, and ITRHs²¹ and ITTCs²² are smaller projects funded by ARC at \$5M over a 5 year period.

Bioplatforms Australia partners on these projects in cases where there is a significant focus on life science and omics technology²³, and commits further funding through NCRIS to these projects.

Some of the CoE projects also attract computational resources via an NCI allocation (through the NCI Flagship Allocation Scheme²⁴).

From Q1 2024, for all ARC Centres where Bioplatforms Australia is a partner:

- The A/Director Engagement will contact the Chief Investigator of the ARC Centre to introduce the BioCommons, the services we offer and how we may help support the ARC Centre achieve their research goals.
- In cases where the ARC Centre responds, the A/Director Engagement will manage a consultation process to explore the requirements of the Centre, and identify solutions that may be deployed. Other team members from across BioCommons are expected to participate in these discussions, and to then manage the roll-out of any solutions required.

This consultation process will improve the bioinformatics infrastructure available to participants in these Centres specifically relating to the increased use of BioCommons services (e.g. Galaxy Australia) in a business as usual fashion by Bioplatforms Australia sponsored Leadership Centres.

Note that Bioplatforms Australia is not necessarily the only NCRIS facility supporting each ARC Centre. It has been suggested by the Bioplatforms Australia ARC Project Liaison that engagement could be broader and more coordinated across NCRIS partners associated with each ARC Centre.

¹⁹ e.g. <https://www.uts.edu.au/about/faculty-science/biosciences-and-proteomics-technologies/about-us>, <https://www.sydney.edu.au/research/facilities/sydney-mass-spectrometry.html>, <https://imb.uq.edu.au/sequencing-facility>

²⁰ <https://www.arc.gov.au/funding-research/funding-schemes/linkage-program/arc-centres-excellence>

²¹ <https://www.arc.gov.au/funding-research/funding-schemes/linkage-program/industrial-transformation-research-program/industrial-transformation-research-hubs>

²² <https://www.arc.gov.au/funding-research/funding-schemes/linkage-program/industrial-transformation-research-program/industrial-transformation-training-centres>

²³ https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1oBtXRluY0Yv8gyBy_d2z0yu17HCeMtm2zgC2u5pd-hl/edit#gid=40895082

²⁴ <https://nci.org.au/users/how-access-nci>

2.5 Australian Research Institutions and Organisations

Life science research is undertaken across many Australian research institutions and Organisations (e.g. Universities, CSIRO, Medical Research Institutes, Government Research Departments). Researchers at these institutions and Organisations should be aware of the fully subsidised services available to them through BioCommons and our partners.

The principles of the BioCommons are to support life science research communities in Australia with community scale digital infrastructure. As such, in the 2019-2023 period, the aim of the BioCommons was to focus on active engagement through cross-institutional research collaborations, and not on an institution to institution basis. This approach will remain unchanged in the 2023-2028 period.

In cases where a representative of an Australian Research Institution or Organisation approaches the BioCommons (e.g. staff within the Research Office, Library etc) seeking clarification of how researchers at that institution may participate in BioCommons activities (e.g. Community meetings or Training opportunities), or utilise BioCommons services, the A/Director Engagement will be responsible for coordinating the response from BioCommons by arranging a meeting to discuss requirements and offer solutions. Team members from other Divisions may be present at those meetings.

In regards to Australian Research Organisations that focus their attentions on topics of strategic importance to Australia (e.g. Agriculture, Biodiversity or Human Health), the BioCommons may occasionally approach these Organisations directly to explore strategic alliances (e.g. State Government Departments of Agriculture, Environment).

Note that in the 2023-28 period, it is hoped that a publicly accessible dashboard illustrating use of BioCommons Services at an Institutional or Organisational level will be developed by the BioCommons BioCloud and Operations teams, so that this information is transparent to each Australian Research Institution/Organisation.

2.6 Requirements gathering coordination across BioCommons

To ensure that community requirements for bioinformatics infrastructure from across the broader BioCommons effort are fed into a centralised registry/repository so that the BioCommons can (a) glean a holistic view of requirements, (b) understand demand and therefore decide where to expend effort in any deployment activity, and (c) determine progress in how we are addressing the community's requirements.

Across 2019-23, the Engagement Team has actively maintained a centralised registry of User Stories from our engagements²⁵ and an on-line form that is used by the Engagement Team to populate this registry²⁶. The form is available [here](#).

In the 2023-28 period the Engagement Team will explore ways in which requirements sourced from across the entire BioCommons Hub and beyond can be aggregated and better understood in a holistic fashion. Due to the siloed and disparate nature of how requirements are captured between each division, we envision utilising an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based approach that will be able to access a variety of BioCommons content, and glean insights from this combined corpora of information.

²⁵  Master list 2024 - Requirements Gathered from the Community

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kY8VFZKLcdHODGt6rREX97j735t_BEeh0tbKGTB26AA/edit?resourcekey=gid=2085900367

²⁶ https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOenHA069QDbsN7bQiXuvbML3VZZQEMsQ1KdgzbCUoAC_YuA/viewform?pli=1

2.7 International Engagement

In the 2019-2023 period, the aim of the BioCommons was to foster and strengthen engagements with peer infrastructures and initiatives internationally, and align with existing efforts already being undertaken which would be of benefit to the Australian life science community. For that purpose it:

- Identified community built bioinformatics infrastructure being deployed internationally that the BioCommons can leverage locally; and
- Actively participated in that international community to enhance this bioinformatics infrastructure for all users

Examples of interactions from the 2019-23 period where Engagement Team members have led the BioCommons International engagement include: WorkflowHub²⁷, bio.tools²⁸, MGnify²⁹, ENA³⁰, Metabolights³¹, Workflows Community Initiative (WCI)³², RDA Life Science Data Infrastructure Interest Group³³, the Global Biodata Coalition³⁴, Softberry Ltd³⁵. We have also actively participated in international engagements led by other Divisions across BioCommons, e.g. the Galaxy Community³⁶.

This effort continues in the 2023-28 period.

3. Principles of Engagement

3.1 Australian research community expectations of the Engagement Team

Members of the Engagement and Community Response team are a central contact for the communities, research consortia, facilities, and groups that BioCommons engage with.

The role of the central contact in any engagement has a dual purpose: to represent BioCommons to the group; and, to understand the groups' needs so that they can represent these to BioCommons and partners. Engaged groups, consortia, facilities and communities have diverse needs and the central contact is expected to be aware of relevant BioCommons developments, activities and services.. Through regular engagement channels, the central contact identifies, clarifies and documents the needs of these groups or communities and represents their interests, and requirements to the broader BioCommons team, often becoming a champion of these ideas. This transfer of knowledge via the central contact facilitates coordination of the BioCommons response and the deployment of outputs that will assist members of that community to resolve their challenges, and ultimately, to undertake their research in a streamlined manner.

3.2 How we can help other BioCommons Divisions or Projects

3.2.1. How we can help

- Facilitate conversations / engagements with community members and champions
- Provide indications of what the various communities need

²⁷ <https://workflowhub.eu/>

²⁸ <https://bio.tools/>

²⁹ <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/metagenomics/>

³⁰ <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/browser/home>

³¹ <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/metabolights/>

³² <https://workflows.community/>

³³ <https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/life-science-data-infrastructures-ig/work-statement/>

³⁴ <https://globalbiodata.org/>

³⁵ <http://www.softberry.com/>

³⁶ <https://galaxyproject.org/community/>

- Prioritised/focussed lists of big ticket items
- Provide advice on:
 - General or specific science background / research context,
 - How we gather and document requirements,
 - Administering engagement activities, such as meeting style structure or surveys.
- Provide contextual information on individual or collective needs, and their relevance to the broader national community
- Identify community members for the specific purposes, such as understanding a challenge or need further, e.g. for interrogation of domain area challenges or for testing services and tools.

3.2.2. When to involve us

- From the beginning! Please make sure to invite us to any meetings, include us on early emails or interactions that are related to our communities or expertise areas

3.2.3. How to involve us

- Please give updates in Hub meetings
- CC us on emails (collectively using communities@biocommons.org.au)
- Invite us to meetings
- Make documents and meeting minutes accessible in the Google workspace so they are findable by Hub team members or (authorised) AI-based agents

3.2.4. Who does what and who's best placed to answer your science questions?

The engagement team have expertise in life sciences, biology, and bioinformatics and have responsibility for various activities and practices in the project:

Person	Role(s) in Project	Areas of Professional Expertise	Areas of Responsibility
Jeff Christiansen	Engagement team management	Cell biology, embryology, imaging, general biology and genomics	All
Tiffanie Nelson	Service management and support, community management	Genomics, microbiome	Genomics, microbiome, single cell and spatial omics, multi-omics and general biology
Johan Gustafsson	Service management and support (Finders, How-to Hub, WorkflowHub, Proteomics Lab), community management	Proteomics, mass spectrometry, FAIR	Proteomics, metabolomics, workflows, software and FAIR
Farah Zaib Khan		Workflows, bioinformatics and computational needs and a focus on and	Data movement, cross-cutting topics

		platform building activities	
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3.2.5. Where to find out more about how to work with us

Visit our Intranet Page

<https://sites.google.com/biocommons.org.au/my-hub/divisions/engagement-and-community-response>

3.3 What the Engagement Team needs from other BioCommons Divisions

- Understand our role, how we operate, and how we assist in realising the vision of BioCommons
- We need your assistance to help implement outputs and outcomes for our communities.
- We ask for transparency from other Divisions around these activities so we can be appropriately informed in community interactions and be aware of developments in other areas of the BioCommons when interacting with our communities.
- We need to understand how you would like us to work in order to enable this. e.g. we aspire to work in an agile fashion that is aligned with how other decisions operate.

Appendix - Resource Assignment

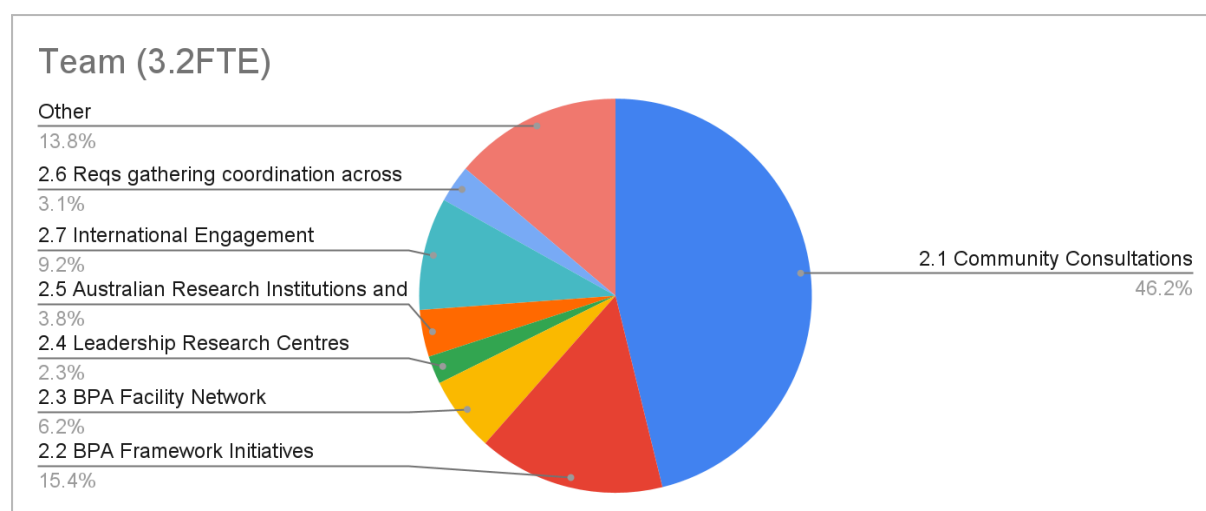
A.1 Overall resourcing

Over the 2023-27 period, staff working in the division are fully funded through ~\$2.6M of Bioplatforms 'Continuity' funds.

Overall effort will equate to 3.2 FTE per year as shown in the table below:

Staffing projection	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	Employers
Co-Director (Engagements)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	UoM
Community Engagement Coordinator	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	QCIF / Griffith U
Community Engagement Manager	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	UoM
Scientific Business Analyst	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	UoM
Totals	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	

The amount of effort undertaken by the whole team towards the various types of activities described in Section 2 is shown in this graph:



Further detail of the effort per staff member with respect to different activities is described in sections A.2 - A.6 below, summarised in tabular format elsewhere³⁷ and visually represented in Section A.7 below.

A.2 Framework Initiatives

For the Framework Project Advisory Committee:

- The Co-Director (Engagements) will be invited to join the advisory committee of selected Framework projects (several hours per year)

For the initial Framework project kick-off meeting:

- Co-Director (Engagements)(1 hour)
- and:
 - for genomics themed projects: Community Engagement Coordinator (1 hour), or
 - for proteomics/metabolomics themed projects: Community Engagement Manager (1 hour)

For an initial bioinformatics kick-off 'webinar' / Q&A event

- Bioplatforms Australia Framework Project Manager (2 hours)
- Co-Director (Engagements) (8 hours per framework (0.1FTE overall))
- Galaxy Australia Manager (3 hours)
- ABLes/Seqera Manager (3 hours),
- and:
 - for genomics themed projects: Community Engagement Coordinator (1 hour), or
 - for proteomics/metabolomics themed projects: Community Engagement Manager (1 hour)

For any ongoing engagement:

- BPA Framework Project Manager and /or a dedicated Framework Bioinformatics coordinator (where they exist) - (0.2FTE est)

³⁷ See <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kqfzpAnByAMG6-yXBOQe8aM6kYKv15CzUJ8FrSbDdo/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

- Engagement Team members (to act as a virtual concierge, to triage service use requirements with Framework participants and service team members prior to Framework participants using the service)
 - Community Engagement Coordinator (0.1FTE) (for genomics themed projects)
 - Community Engagement Manager (0.05FTE) (for proteomics/metabolomics themed projects)
- Service Team members (e.g. Galaxy Australia, ARGA, Apollo, ABLLeS, Seqera)

In cases where a Framework Project comes to BioCommons to propose a project to tailor national infrastructure to support their processes:

- Community Engagement Coordinator - acting in the role(s) of Business Analyst / Product Owner (0.0375FTE - for Genomics related topics)
- Community Engagement Manager - acting in the role(s) of Business Analyst / Product Owner (0.0125FTE - for Proteomics/Metabolomics related topics)
- Members of the Platforms and Services “Tailored Community Impact” team (#FTE/hours TBD)
- Members of Galaxy Australia Team to facilitate Training Events for the Framework Project members (#FTE/hours TBD)
- Staff from the Framework Project (#FTE/hours TBD) - ideally one Bioinformatics coordinator
- BPA Framework Project Manager

In cases where the BioCommons works with a Framework Project to deploy completely new infrastructure:

- Scientific Business Analyst (0.3FTE) (or other role that can define requirements, e.g. BioCloud UX Designer, etc.)
- Other team members (e.g. BioCloud Project Manager and Developers)

As of Q1 2024, there are 10 active framework Initiatives. 2-3 new Framework Initiatives are expected per annum for the 2024-28 period. Note that the level of assistance each project requires with bioinformatics infrastructure varies (K. Scarlett, Pers comm)

A.3 BPA Facilities

For Annual Meetings with Facility Directors:

- Bioplatforms Australia General Manager (Science Programs) and/or Bioplatforms Australia Chief Executive
- Assoc Director - Engagements (0.05FTE)

For preparation and delivery of 1 or 2 webinar-style Q&A sessions per annum for BPA facility staff

- Bioplatforms Australia General Manager (Science Programs)
- Co-Director (Engagements) (0.05FTE)
- Community Engagement Coordinator (0.025FTE)
- Community Engagement Manager (0.025FTE)
- Other staff across the Hub and the Services team (e.g. Galaxy Australia Manager, ABLLeS/Seqera Manager).

In cases where a facility comes to BioCommons to propose a project to tailor infrastructure to support their local business processes:

- Community Engagement Coordinator - acting in the role(s) of Business Analyst / Product Owner (0.0375FTE - for Genomics related topics)

- Community Engagement Manager - acting in the role(s) of Business Analyst / Product Owner (0.0125FTE - for Proteomics/Metabolomics related topics)
- Members of the Platforms and Services “Tailored Community Impact” team (#FTE/hours TBD)
- Staff from the BPA Facility (#FTE/hours TBD)

A.4 Research Centres

For Annual Meetings with BPA partner ARC Centres (estimated at 5 per year):

- Co-Director (Engagements) (0.025FTE)
- Community Engagement Coordinator (0.025FTE)
- Bioplatforms Australia ARC Project Liaison

In cases where the Leadership Centre comes to BioCommons to seek assistance at tailoring national infrastructure to support their local business processes:

- Community Engagement Coordinator - acting in the role(s) of Business Analyst / Product Owner (0.025FTE)
- Members of the Platforms and Services “Tailored Community Impact” team and / or BioCloud Team (#FTE/hours TBD)
- Bioinformatics Staff from the Leadership Centre (#FTE/hours TBD)

A.5 Institutions

Following the initial consultation(s), any subsequent work may or may not directly include Engagement Team members.

Note that in the 2023-28 period, a publicly accessible dashboard illustrating use of BioCommons Services at an Institutional or Organisational level will be developed by the BioCommons Operations team, so that this information is transparent to each Australian Research Institution/Organisation.

A.6 International

For initial high level discussions with new International infrastructures:

- Co-Director (Engagements) (0.05FTE)

For formalised ongoing roles as part of an international effort (acting s a Product Owner or Group Chair):

- Co-Director (Engagements) - Co-chair or RDA Life Science Data Infrastructures Interest Group ³⁸ (0.05FTE)
- Community Engagement Manager - WorkflowHub Product owner ³⁹ (0.1FTE)

Note that many other groups across the Hub team also undertake these types of International Engagement:

- Platforms and Services (Galaxy Australia)
- BioCloud (Gen3)
- Human Genome Informatics (GA4GH)
- Training (TeSS/DReSA)

³⁸ <https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/life-science-data-infrastructures-ig/>

³⁹ <https://about.workflowhub.eu/project/community/#workflowhub-club>

A.7 Effort per Engagement type per Engagement team member

The amount of effort undertaken by team member towards the various types of activities described in Section 2 is shown below:

