Name	Geoscience Australia
Ministry	The Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER)
Country	Australia
Mandate	Geoscience Australia is the national geoscience public sector organisation. Our mission is to be the trusted source of information on Australia's geology and geography for government, industry and community decision-making. Our work covers the Australian landmass, Australian marine jurisdiction and responsible jurisdictions in Antarctica.
Core Functions	Geoscience Australia supports evidence-based decisions through information, advice and services for a strong economy, resilient society and sustainable environment in six key impact areas: 1. Building Australia's resources wealth to maximise benefits from our mineral and energy resources, now and into the future. 2. Supporting Australia's community safety to strengthen our resilience to the impact of hazards. 3. Securing Australia's water resources to optimise and sustain the use of our water resources. 4. Managing Australia's marine jurisdictions to support sustainable use of our marine environment. 5. Creating a location-enabled Australia to use detailed and fundamental geographic location information to develop the nation. 6. Enabling an informed Australia to equip government, industry and community with geoscience data and information to make informed decisions for our nation.
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Headline / Key Message: Geoscience Australia has been delivering digital mapping tools and technologies for faster, cheaper and smarter decision-making to help save lives and livelihoods during COVID-19.

Description of your organization's response to Covid-19 (250 Words)

The COVID-19 pandemic has really reinforced a slogan that Geoscience Australia has been using for a number of years which is: everything happens somewhere.

This slogan is highlighting that location, the place where something happens, is a key piece of information and is often the starting point for a lot of decision makers at all levels. It's also often the 'key' to joining different data together.

Very quickly during the COVID-19 crisis, location was a major focus, with government, business and the community urgently needing to know where COVID-19 cases were happening and the location of medical facilities, supplies and COVID-19 assessments centres.

In Australia, Geoscience Australia was quickly called on to help, given our expertise in delivering digital mapping tools and technologies for faster, cheaper and smarter decision-making to help save lives and livelihoods during COVID-19.

A key piece of work that Geoscience Australia has been involved in from the very beginning of the crisis has been capturing, revising and hosting digital mapping of the location of COVID-19 assessment centres, on behalf of the Department of Health.

The Department of Health approached Geoscience Australia to do this work because Geoscience Australia has many years of experience in updating and delivering digital mapping through ArcGis On-Line (AGOL) technology.

Geoscience Australia also had a digital mapping expert embedded into the Department of Health, in a Liaison Officer role, to help with communication between the two agencies and to make sure Geoscience Australia's support was put where it was most needed.

The geospatial capabilities, datasets and/or tools deployed for the response (150 words)

One example of data demand that Geoscience Australia has experienced during the pandemic has been a surge in requests for exposure information.

Geoscience Australia's Australian Exposure Information Platform (AEIP) is a free, web-based tool, for users to quickly and easily create exposure reports at any scale or extent across Australia. These exposure reports give users the critical information they need to make decisions pre, during and post hazard events, such as a pandemic.

The reports give a detailed statistical summary of exposure: the number of people, dwellings, other buildings, and agricultural and environmental assets that are within a threat area or hazard event that are likely to be impacted.

During COVID-19, Geoscience Australia prepared several customised requests from the AEIP for the Department of Health at three different geographic area aggregation levels.

Having this exposure information at these three aggregation scales allowed the Department of Health to compare and integrate with other health data, and report information at the same aggregation.

Image of dashboard, datahub or website – Website: https://department-of-health-covid-19-resources-australianhealth.hub.arcgis.com/

Describe what other datasets and their data sources (e.g. from other organization/ministry) used or describe how bringing data from multiple sources together for the response (150 Words)

With Geoscience Australia's expertise and track-record we have become a trusted advisor to many different areas across the Australian Government on matters where location, through digital mapping, is part of decision-making.

On request, Geoscience Australia helped coordinate and deliver the following national datasets during COVID-19 to a central Department of Health data Hub:
- public hospitals,
- private hospitals,
- GP practices,
- intensive care specialists,
- pathology collection centres,
- pathology labs,
- respiratory medicine specialists and
- aged care facilities.

Before COVID-19, these datasets were not easy for users to find and users could not access them from a single, central, trusted location.

Describe what was key to the success of your organization's contribution in the national response to Covid-19 or the achievements made (250 words)

Two areas stand out as key to the success of Geoscience Australia's COVID-19 contribution:

Communication

Geoscience Australia had a digital mapping expert embedded into the Department of Health, in a Liaison Officer role. This role has been critical given how fast-paced the COVID-19 work has been, as it has allowed for clear and concise lines of communication between the two agencies on what was needed and by when.

Adaptability

Geoscience Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been made more challenging because it coincided with the majority of staff working remotely for the first time. Fortunately, the agency had upgraded its ICT not so long ago to Microsoft Office365 in the cloud—making online collaboration much easier with most staff already familiar with the technology.

The move to remote working happened quite quickly at Geoscience Australia, at a time when staff were working closely with the Department of Health, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and other departments on COVID-19 related work. This work was of the highest priority and fast-paced—not the best time to be cleaning out the spare room to set up a home office.

But Geoscience Australia staff have quickly got into their remote working routine and have continued to be very efficient and productive particularly at the height of COVID-19 requests to assist across government.