

## The Next Generation of Data Warehouse at UniSA: The Journey So Far

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### **Abstract:**

2005 saw the commencement of the Stage 1 design of a high performance enterprise data warehouse (edw) that is dynamic, will stand up to change, is scalable and flexible to accommodate both current and known future data streams and will deliver enduring value to the University of South Australia (UniSA).

Driven by the business, in partnership with IT, the project requires its team to work across organisational boundaries into discrete business areas. To date, the project has delivered:

- The foundations of a high-performance, flexible data warehouse architecture.
- Standardised and conformed student and research activity data and reference data ("one version of the truth").
- The foundations of a data quality framework which addresses both intrinsic (data validity, reliability and accuracy) and extrinsic dimensions that relate to the business needs of data consumers (accessibility, timeliness, relevance and conciseness; metadata).
- Better quality reports and cubes in UniSA's management reporting environment, UniSAinfo Reporting.
- Noticeable improvement in speed of complex reports with data from different source systems.
- Support infrastructure and processes to build user understanding of the new products.

A significant benefit of this project has been in the shift of effort for users with a greater emphasis on analysis rather than data gathering. Strategic benefits from Stage 1 have already been realised in this way. The integration of Research Activity has seen the production of a suite of cubes and reports for the foreshadowed national Research Quality Framework (RQF) derived from the edw and delivered to users through UniSAinfo Reporting. UniSA is now a RQF-ready institution.

This presentation will cover the journey that is the UniSA edw; where the major stars are two unlikely areas working closely together with limited resources and little support from the top. The paper highlights the frustrations, the workarounds and what have become the obvious critical success factors to making this project deliver what it has promised.