



DFES General Circular No: 53/2025

14 April 2025

AFAC Hackathon - Submit Your Business Challenges

As part of the 2025 AFAC Conference (26–29 August 2025) in Perth, DFES will coordinate the inaugural AFAC Hackathon.

From Tuesday to Thursday of the conference week, teams of students and professionals will work intensively to develop proof-of-concept solutions to real-world emergency services challenges. A winning concept and prize will be announced during the conference.

This event follows the success of the 2023 DFES Hackathon, which saw nearly 70 participants explore challenges in the Emergency Public Information space. You can view the 2023 summary video [here](#).

The 2025 event will be bigger, more professionally focused and is expected to attract participants from universities, the tech sector and private industry.

A hackathon is a fast-paced, structured event where diverse teams collaborate on proof-of-concept solutions using data, emerging technology and innovation.

To support this, we are seeking pain points across the organisation that could form the basis of these challenges. These could relate to systems, processes, data, service delivery or operational workflows.

You don't need to provide a solution — just a clear explanation of the issue or gap your area is experiencing.

A short workshop will be held in early June, where selected challenge owners will present and discuss their issues with hackathon participants. Following this, owners (with support from the Media and Corporate Communications team) will be responsible for identifying and preparing relevant data for use during the event. All data will be shared under appropriate non-disclosure agreements.

This is a low-risk, high-reward opportunity to explore innovative ideas and generate practical proof of concepts to long-standing problems. To submit a challenge or find out more, please contact Connor Smith, Business Improvement Coordinator via Connor.Smith@dfes.wa.gov.au.

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