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## Media release

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### GovHack Sydney – starts today!

A 48 hour community competition about coding, creativity and camaraderie, GovHack is not about cracking security or illegally accessing government data or services. It is about communities of coders coming together to create applications, mashups and visualisations using government data.

Held at Intersect's offices this weekend, GovHack Sydney is part of a national competition where community coders assemble teams, take government data sets and build apps.

"Intersect is delighted to sponsor and host this event" said Intersect CEO Dr Ian Gibson. "We are also thrilled to announce that GovHack Sydney is aligned with *Vivid Sydney: LIGHT, MUSIC & IDEAS*. This means that the great apps that come out of GovHack have potential exposure to a far greater audience via Vivid Sydney, a festival that attracts over 500, 000 visitors and has a growing international reach.

Prizes Intersect, Apps for NSW and the NSW Department of Trade and Investment are offering a number of NSW-based prizes.

National prizes are awarded to the best entries, in the broad themes of **Open Government, Digital Humanities** and **Science**. A fourth category of **Data Journalism** has been added this year.

GovHack events coordinator Pia Waugh is excited about this new category, "Data Journalism opens up a whole new audience to GovHack. We have seen a real appetite for data visualisation and better representation of government data in general.

What to expect? GovHack means excellent outcomes, inspiring ideas and amazing people all coming together. Some teams will be very competitive. Most participants will collaborate and appreciate great hacks by other teams. Clever and visionary folk from government will provide amazing data sets. There will be technical support, mentors and lots of prizes on offer.

GovHack 2012 developed applications which inspired agencies to improve their search capability such as [photos.naa.gov.au](http://photos.naa.gov.au) through to analysis tools such as [theopenbudget.org](http://theopenbudget.org). The ABC has even used the same technology to create their own version of The Open Budget.

The GovHack team point out that although the event has over 500 competitors, there are lots of prizes to give out. These will be announced on opening night 31 May. GovHack incorporates national and local prizes around the country, aligned with a theme, a dataset or a functionality.

For more information about GovHack Sydney visit [www.govhack.org](http://www.govhack.org) and [GovHack Sydney Facebook](#) GovHack runs 31 May to 6.30 Sunday 2 June. Prizes will awarded on Thursday 6 June 2013

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*Intersect is a consortium of 11 universities working to identify, develop and deliver world-class ICT enabled platforms to drive the next generation of research and innovation.*