



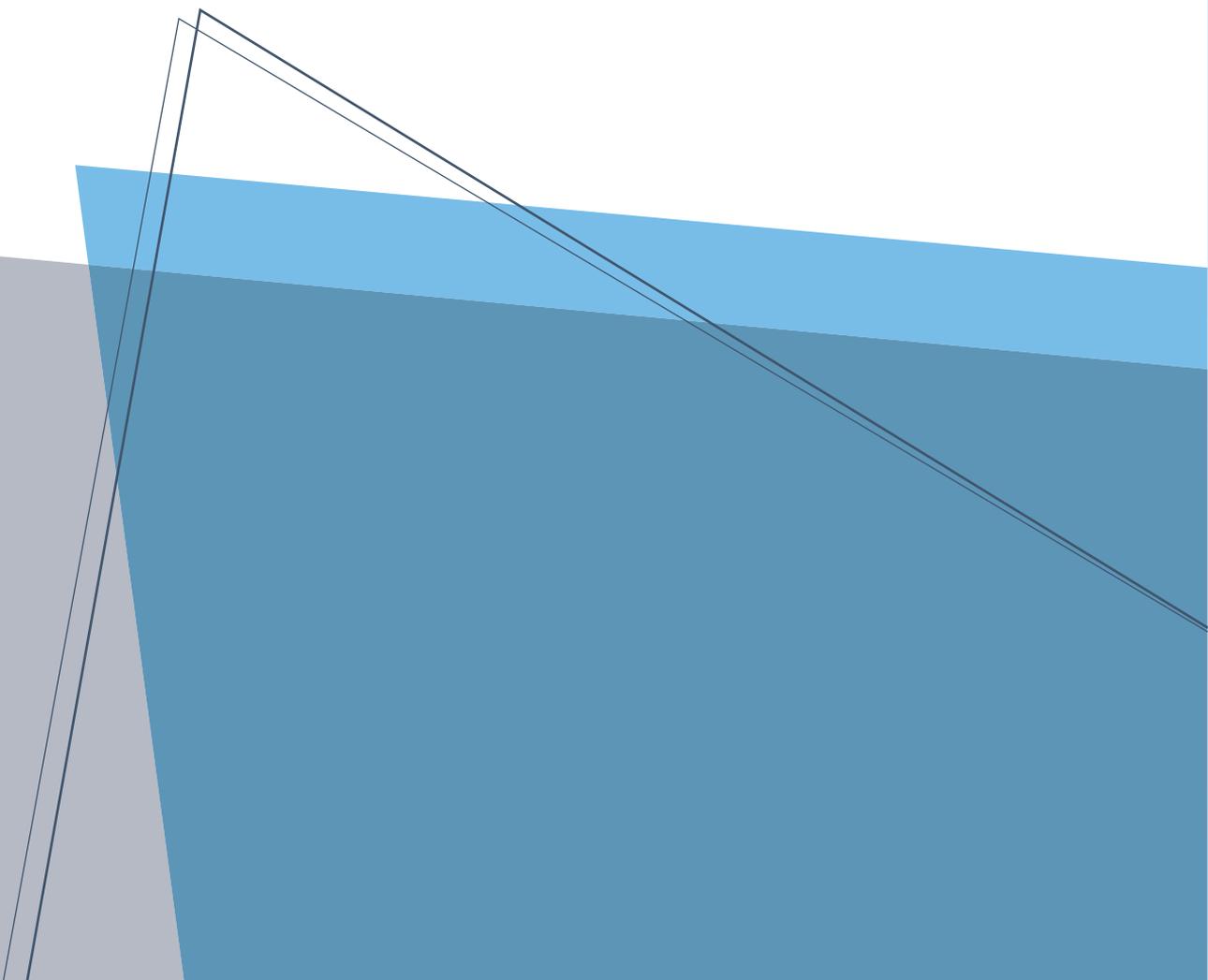
Annual Report **2004-05**

Australian Bureau of Statistics



Annual Report **2004–05**

Australian Bureau of Statistics



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Access to guides to ABS services, and other selected documents, including a comprehensive range of ABS statistics, are available on the ABS web site www.abs.gov.au

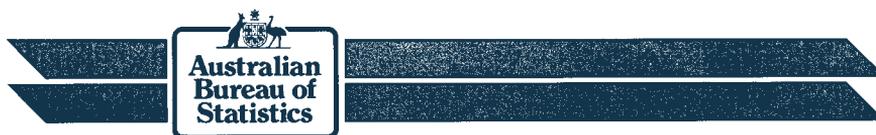
The 2004–05 ABS Annual Report is located at:
www.abs.gov.au

Acknowledgements

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Australian Statistician

The Hon. Chris Pearce, MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

In accordance with the provisions of subsection 24(1) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, I hereby submit to you, for presentation to the Parliament, this report on the operations of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2005.

This report complies with subsection 63(1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*, which requires that I, as Agency Head, must give a report to the Agency Minister, for presentation to the Parliament.

The report is dated on the day I approved the finalised text for printing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Trewin".

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

1 September 2005



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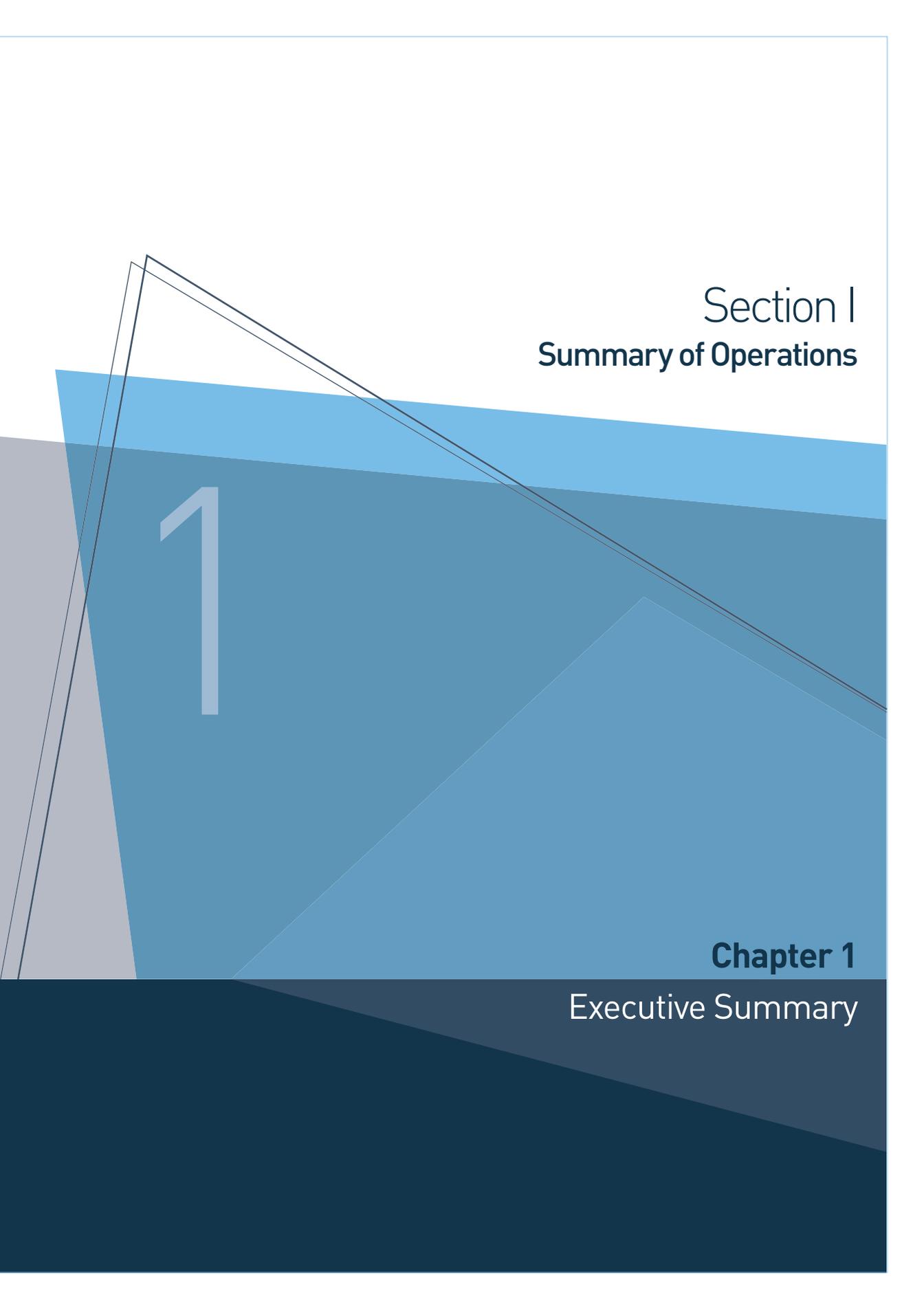
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ABS Mission Statement

We assist and encourage informed decision-making, research and discussion within governments and the community, by providing a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.



Section I
Summary of Operations

1

Chapter 1
Executive Summary

1 Executive Summary

Introduction

2004–05 has been a remarkable year in the history of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). It has been a time for reflection, celebration and looking forward to what the future holds. 2005, the ABS' centenary year, has prompted us to reflect on major historical developments that have led to where we are today and where we want to be positioned in the 21st century. Celebrations to mark the 100 year milestone have been undertaken throughout 2005 and will culminate on 8 December 2005, exactly 100 years after the date on which the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* was proclaimed.



*Dennis Trewin,
Australian Statistician*

The ABS has a fine history and, I believe, has served Australia well. It plays a vital role in an Australian democracy — not just because it delivers information that portrays a mirror on society — but because that information is trusted. This trust has proven important to governments as well and, because of this trust, discussions can focus on what the statistics mean for policy rather than on the integrity of the statistics themselves. Our history has provided a fine shoulder on which to stand as we address the challenges of the future.

In this light it is fitting that in the 2005 Federal Budget additional funding was provided to the ABS to 'upgrade official statistics'. The additional funding will be used to address critical statistical areas that have become increasingly at risk, to implement new international standards, and for statistical work programs to support new government policies such as the longitudinal study of the food industry. The funding also allows the ABS greater flexibility to undertake extra work in the form of potentially new or, extension of, existing projects. The most immediate impact of the additional funding was the ability to make available electronic publications (PDF and HTML based content) and electronic tables (spreadsheet or data cube format which contain publication tables) free of charge on the ABS web site from 1 July 2005. The additional funding will enable the ABS to position itself for the future.

Changes in the external environment will offer the ABS both challenges and opportunities over the next 15 to 20 years. Internal considerations — including trying to meet an ever widening range of client needs with constraints on resources — reinforce the need for the ABS to consider the nature and scope of its business over coming years. In the second half of 2004 the ABS commissioned a review of its strategic positioning into the 21st century and the Allen Consulting Group was retained to undertake

this work. Key findings focussed around relationship management, statistical leadership, national and ABS priorities, and responsiveness.

As part of the centenary celebrations I have presented a number of lectures on the history of the ABS. In March I addressed the National Press Club on the topic '100 years of Truth, Damned Truth and Statistics', describing how a good quality national statistical office is an essential ingredient to an effective democracy. It was the second time that an Australian Statistician has addressed the National Press Club. In June I presented the Sir Roland Wilson Lecture covering the major historical developments that have led the ABS to where it is today, with a special focus on the contributions of Sir Roland Wilson.



The Australian Statistician, Mr Dennis Trewin, addressing the National Press Club

Some of the key statistical and organisational issues and outcomes for the ABS during the year include:

- an upgrade to the ABS web site and the provision, from 1 July 2005, of electronic publications (PDF and HTML based content) and electronic tables (spreadsheet or data cube format which contain publication tables) free of charge on the ABS web site
- approval for the addition of four new topics in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing incorporating questions on the number of children ever born, need for assistance (disability), unpaid work, and household access to the Internet
- the release of a proposal to enhance the value of the 2006 Census
- the release of proposed strategies for the 2006 Census products and services
- the joint hosting of the 55th Session of the International Statistical Institute

- for the 2006 Census, choosing Salmat Ltd to provide call centre infrastructure and IBM Global Services as the industry partner to develop the eCensus system
- the inaugural meeting of the State Accounts User Group to discuss state and territory level economic measurement issues
- the introduction of enhanced seasonal adjustment methodologies into balance of payments, housing, and other lending finance statistics through concurrent seasonal analysis
- the development of a new quarterly Survey of Superannuation using data from the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
- the release of an experimental index measuring price changes for financial services acquired by households
- utilisation of Business Activity Statement data in the estimation method and sample design of the Retail Business Survey
- the release of *Information Paper: The Introduction of Hedonic Price Indexes for Personal Computers* (cat. no. 6458.0) to present the methodology that the ABS proposes to use to adjust computer prices for quality change, and its plans for implementation
- enumeration for the 2004–05 National Health Survey and the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey
- the implementation of Computer Assisted Interviewing in the monthly Labour Force Survey
- the establishment of the Centre for Environment and Energy Statistics to provide leadership in the development of environment and energy statistics
- development of an alternative survey methodology for agricultural collections based on a land parcel frame
- release of *Innovation in Australian Business* (cat. no. 8158.0) presenting results from the Innovation Survey 2003
- release of *Information Paper: ANZSIC 2006 Development, 2004* (cat. no. 1294.0) outlining a joint project between the ABS and Statistics New Zealand to review the existing Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 1993, and develop a revised classification, ANZSIC 2006
- development of a new geographical unit known as Mesh Blocks, that will become the basic building block for all statistical, political and administrative regions in Australia
- installation of an ABS developed ANZSIC autocoder into the Australian Taxation Office
- the inaugural meeting of the National Data Network Interim Governing Board

- the release of an Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics with endorsement of the Boards of Management of each of the three statistical units within the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics
- two industrial agreements listed with the Australian Industrial Relations Commission for certification: *ABS Interviewers Certified Agreement 2005–2008*; and *Data Processing Centre, Certified Agreement 2005–2007*
- undertaking a comprehensive survey of ABS employee opinions covering a number of areas affecting their employment
- a continued and significant contribution to international statistics, and extensive technical assistance to a number of statistical agencies in the Asia–Pacific region
- the formation of a partnership between the ABS and the University of Wollongong in the establishment of a Chair in Statistical Methodology.

These and other developments are expanded upon further throughout this section.

Our work is greatly assisted by the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, chaired by Professor Sandra Harding. The members provide their services without fees and we are very grateful for their contributions. I would like to welcome the appointment of thirteen new members and reappointment of three existing members. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to non-returning Council members, Dr Steven Kates, Ms Betty Hounslow, Dr Martin Parkinson, Ms Anne Nolan, Mr Chris Lock, Mr Haydn Lowe, Mr Peter Jones and Mr George Tomlins for their contribution to ASAC over their combined 36 years of service. Dr Kates and Ms Hounslow have been particularly long serving members (14 years and 7 years respectively), and I wish to acknowledge their dedication and support to the ABS throughout their tenure.

The work of the ABS would not be possible without the continuing cooperation of businesses, households and others who provide the data which form the basis of the statistics produced. The ABS makes a considerable effort in ensuring that we have the trust and confidence of our data providers without which the provision of a quality statistical service would be jeopardised. We have continued our endeavours to reduce the burden placed on data providers through expanding the use of administrative data.

I would once again like to convey my genuine thanks to all businesses and households that assist us in our task by providing the data we need to deliver a quality statistical service to policy-makers, researchers, analysts and the community at large.

Strategic Directions

The ABS establishes its work program in response to current and emerging statistical priorities of users, and within the context of our mission, organisational objectives and overall strategic directions. This strategic directions statement presents the broad objectives the ABS has chosen to pursue which will shape our priorities and the future work program.

The statistical demands of the government and the community are broad ranging and increasing both in volume and complexity. As Australia's national statistical agency, the ABS has a responsibility to respond to these demands in the context of its mission and resource constraints.

Key drivers of ABS strategic directions

The ABS undertakes an ongoing program of consultations seeking input from key stakeholders and clients on their statistical needs, which includes asking them to identify and prioritise areas of demand that are currently unmet. The information from these consultations is used to inform internal priority setting both within specific areas of the organisation and across the whole organisation.

There is a need for the ABS work program to address emerging issues of importance for key clients including:

- evolving client demands for data in a broader range of areas, at more disaggregated levels, delivered more responsively and cost effectively
- increasing complexity of the Australian economy and society, meaning that production of existing statistics is often commensurately more complex
- increasing plurality of data providers driving a need to ensure the overall Australian Statistical System is coordinated and the ABS role in this system is clearly defined
- increasing demands for access to microdata, longitudinal data and (in the future) linked data within a climate of concern about an individual's privacy
- a whole-of-government initiative that is emphasising greater information sharing ('create-once, use-many') and coordinated policy and program delivery across departments
- pressures to improve productivity, create a staff profile more appropriate to future skill needs of the ABS, and attract additional funding to enable expansion of the work program.

In the second half of 2004 the ABS commissioned an external review of its strategic directions. Key findings from the review were:

- the ABS is highly respected for its credibility, impartiality, independence and the quality of its work and outputs. Stakeholders do not want that to change

- clients want the ABS to succeed — they want it to change and remain the main national statistical provider, while simultaneously providing stronger leadership to the Australian Statistical System, including advancing the National Statistical Service
- the external environment in which ABS key clients require and use information has changed. The environment is placing greater emphasis on access to more information, while protecting privacy. At the same time, key client capacity to produce their own statistics has improved. While much good work is underway, the ABS could be doing more to respond to those changes
- clients want the ABS to engage with them, but to do so more effectively than at present. They want the ABS to be more responsive.

Therefore the ABS needs to strengthen its external focus and improve its capacity to respond to new demands. These challenges drive many of the ABS strategic directions.

Key strategic directions

Some current key strategic directions are to:

- develop and lead a National Statistical Service that delivers the statistics required by key users, no matter what their source
- respond better to client demands by:
 - improving engagement with clients so that we are in a position to add value to their work and decision-making
 - improving responsiveness in various ways such as making better use of existing data stores
 - as appropriate, seeking to expand the ABS resource base to allow us to address gaps in client needs.
- increase internal capacity (skills, technology and processes) to provide the ABS with greater flexibility to respond to external changes
- improve the process of determining priorities at a strategic level to increase transparency and engage more effectively with clients
- improve the alignment of the ABS human resource profile with current and future needs
- address the continued and increasing need to make productivity improvements
- increase the use of current and emerging technologies to improve statistical processes, data dissemination and organisational capacity.

The ABS has received additional funding through the 2005–06 Federal Budget of \$45 million over the next four years, with an additional amount of \$31.2 million for census related initiatives.

Some key priorities that will be funded include:

- improved quality and timeliness of the established house price index
- maintaining the quality of the consumer price index
- maintaining the quality of international finance and balance of payments statistics
- improved and expanded measures of productivity
- improved statistics on household income and wealth
- implementation of updates to the United Nations System of National Accounts and the International Monetary Fund Balance of Payments Manual
- implementation of ANZSIC 2006
- implementation of new Australian accounting standards in ABS business surveys
- development of the Business Longitudinal Database
- conducting a longitudinal survey of the food industry
- conducting Natural Resource Management Surveys
- improved quality of census and inter-censal population estimates
- improved quality and use of demographic and social data on Indigenous Australians
- partial funding for free statistical material on the ABS web site
- furthering ABS' statistical leadership of the Australian statistical system
- expansion of the range of data collected in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing to include questions on unpaid work, fertility and household use of the Internet
- development of an eCensus facility
- ABS' role in enabling name and address information to be captured for those persons who 'opt-in' for the 2006 and subsequent censuses, and for the information to be stored by the National Archives of Australia.

Statistical Developments in 2004–05

A statistical highlight for the ABS during 2004–05 was the joint hosting of the 55th Session of the International Statistical Institute. The conference proved to be an excellent opportunity for the international statistical community to congregate and exchange innovative ideas, forge new links and discuss current trends and developments in the statistical world. Theme days covered statistics and finance, environmental statistics and official statistics.



The Hon. Chris Pearce, MP, opening the 55th Session of the International Statistical Institute

The need for the ABS to establish a program of research into new and innovative methods of collecting, analysing and exploiting statistical information has led to the formation of a partnership between the ABS and the University of Wollongong to establish a Chair in Statistical Methodology. The new Chair, a research position as a Professorial Fellow, is located within the Centre for Statistical and Survey Methodology. The Centre will undertake fundamental research and industry focused research with an emphasis on research relevant to official statistics. It will also undertake contract research projects involving statistical or survey methodology. A program of training courses in statistical methodology targeted at ABS staff will also be developed.

The Census of Population and Housing

In 2004–05 significant effort has been committed to planning Australia's fifteenth national Census of Population and Housing to be conducted on 8 August 2006. Numerous discussion papers have been released and extensive user consultation processes undertaken to ensure that the output from the census will reflect the current information needs of Australians.

Following the release of *Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing, ABS Views on Content and Procedures, 2006* (cat. no. 2007.0) and an extensive user consultation process, the Australian Government agreed to include four new topics in the 2006 Census incorporating questions on the number of children ever born, need for assistance (disability), unpaid work, and household access to the Internet. As a consequence, the 2006 Census questionnaire will be one page longer. Extensive testing has indicated that the extra length of the questionnaire is not a concern to householders.



Susan Linacre, Deputy Australian Statistician (seated, second left), chairing the Census Data Enhancement Steering Committee.

The *Discussion Paper: Enhancing the Population Census: Developing a Longitudinal View* (cat. no. 2060.0) presents a proposal to enhance the value of the census. The paper outlines how statistical methods could be used to combine the information provided in the 2006 Census with information provided in future censuses to create a Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset (SLCD). An extensive consultation process was conducted, with many public submissions received. A decision was made to base the SLCD on a 5 per cent sample using statistical matching techniques. Name and address information will continue to be destroyed once census processing is complete, as has been the case for previous censuses.

Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing, ABS Views on Census Output Strategy, 2006 (cat. no. 2009.0), was released to inform census users of the proposed strategies for 2006 Census products and services and to seek their views.

With the continued development in technology, particularly the Internet, and the growing sophistication of the user community, the ABS intends to recast its range of products and services for the 2006 Census. Most electronic products (including CDATE 2006) will only be available via the Internet. A range of new Internet based products will be developed which will make it easier for users of varying levels of sophistication to obtain the data they require. While the range of census publications will be reduced, the range of data that will be made available as standard census output will be expanded. It is proposed that all the profile tables that were released for the 2001 Census will be made available again for the 2006 Census.

Salmat Ltd, a leader in customer communications in Australasia, was chosen to provide call centre infrastructure to handle the 800,000 calls expected for the 2006 Census. Salmat, an Australian owned company,

won the \$4.5 million contract through an open tender process. Salmat will partner with Telstra to deliver technical aspects of the project, which will include the despatch of approximately 1.4 million SMS messages to census collectors, as well as the use of a Natural Language Speech Recognition technology assistant in the management of inbound calls.

IBM Global Services, one of the world's largest consulting services organisations, has been chosen as the industry partner to develop the eCensus system for the 2006 Census.

Macroeconomics

The inaugural State Accounts User Group met to discuss state and territory level economic measurement issues. The State Accounts User Group was formed primarily to provide strategic and conceptual advice on proposed methodologies for the development of enhanced state account statistics, including production based gross state product chain volume estimates. The group also provides a mechanism for promoting discussion to directly address any issues or concerns that key State Accounts' users have with existing methodologies and associated published data, and to identify gaps in the State Accounts dataset and advise on how these gaps might be closed.

Enhanced seasonal adjustment methodologies were introduced into balance of payments, housing, and other lending finance statistics by using concurrent seasonal analysis. These methodologies use available data at the current reference period to estimate seasonal factors for the current and previous months.

A new quarterly Survey of Superannuation was developed based on data from the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. The ABS uses the data in the sectoral compilation of *Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts* (cat. no. 5232.0) and also in the compilation of *Managed Funds, Australia* (cat. no. 5655.0). The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority uses the data to derive measures of the size of the superannuation industry and to monitor trends within the industry.

There was an issue of major concern during the year when, on 18 May 2005, the ABS released revised monthly retail trade statistics for the period July 2004 to March 2005. This followed a number of criticisms of the accuracy of the retail statistics. The ABS took these criticisms seriously and undertook a number of investigations into the accuracy of these statistics. Unfortunately the error was not detected until May 2005. On finding this error, the ABS published the revised statistics as soon as practicable, together with the impact on Gross Domestic Product. An independent review was commissioned which identified several areas where the ABS could improve procedures. The ABS will implement the necessary changes.

Price Indexes

The ABS released an experimental index measuring price changes for financial services acquired by households in *Information Paper: Experimental Price Indexes for Financial Services, 1998 to 2003* [cat. no. 6413.0]. The experimental indexes will be incorporated into the *Consumer Price Index, Australia* [cat. no. 6401.0] from September quarter 2005 in conjunction with the introduction of new weights as part of the 15th Series Review of the Consumer Price Index.

Information Paper: The Introduction of Hedonic Price Indexes for Personal Computers [cat. no. 6458.0] was released to present the methodology that the ABS proposes to use to adjust computer prices for quality change, and its plans for implementation. The ABS has long been aware of the need for improvement in price indexes for personal computers, and progress in this regard has been discussed in the ABS Economic Statistics User Group meetings as well as other forums. When faced with measuring prices for products that undergo rapid quality change, international best practice is to develop hedonic price indexes provided suitable source data are available.

Social Statistics

The ABS has been actively assisting researchers and policy makers in key current projects aimed at improving the information base for children and youth, such as the Longitudinal Study of Australia's Children and the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth. A series of information papers were released during 2004-05 on children and youth statistics.

During 2004-05 the ABS released *Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators, 2005* [cat. no. 1383.0.55.001], and *Measures of Australia's Progress: At A Glance, 2005* [cat. no. 1383.0.55.002]. Extensive user consultation was undertaken to reduce the number of indicators to assist readers in gaining a quick overview of national progress. A suite of 15 headline indicators were chosen by the ABS based on statistical grounds, not on their relative values. Some readers have tried to infer an ABS view about the relative importance of the different aspects of Australian life from the number of aspects discussed under the social, economic and environmental headings, or from the number of headline indicators, or the number of indicators overall. No such inference can or should be drawn. It is not for the national statistical agency to determine what relative importance should be accorded to particular measures.

Enumeration for the 2004-05 National Health Survey (NHS) was completed. The survey collected information from approximately 16,800 households with some additional user funded sample supplementation. Topics collected included health status, risk factors, health related actions, and demography. Information from the survey is expected to be released in early 2006.

In conjunction with the NHS, the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey was undertaken. In the future, it is expected this survey will be conducted six-yearly to coincide with every second NHS. This survey builds on past ABS surveys which have provided Indigenous health information, including the 1995 NHS and the Indigenous supplement to the 2001 NHS. The survey was developed in consultation with representatives from a wide range of organisations representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests. The information collected will assist in formulating, targeting, and monitoring the effectiveness of health policies and programs to improve the health outcomes of Indigenous Australians.

Labour Statistics

Changes were made to the processes used to code industry and occupation data in the monthly Labour Force Survey. These changes resulted in an improvement in the quality of estimates classified by industry and occupation. The classifications used and underlying coding methodology remained unchanged. Aggregate estimates of employment and unemployment were unaffected, and there was no meaningful change in the level of employment classified to any industry Division or occupation Major Group.

The ABS implemented Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI) in the monthly Labour Force Survey. The use of CAI will increase interviewer productivity through improved survey field collection structures and systems, and will result in more flexible and cost effective household survey data collection.

The Environment

There continues to be strong demand for high quality environment and energy statistics to inform policy debate and decision making. The ABS has established a Centre for Environment and Energy Statistics to: provide leadership in the development of environment and energy statistics; coordinate statistical activities including assisting with the development of frameworks and standards and improve data quality, comparability and coverage; and improve the understanding of trends and current issues, particularly across sectors, through its own analysis, and by supporting analysis undertaken by others.

The ABS is now responding to the increase in demand for regional level output environmental and land management statistics. The ABS has commenced work on a biennial Natural Resource Management (NRM) Survey beginning with survey content, the development of survey forms, and survey testing in readiness for a late 2005 despatch.

In parallel with the development of the NRM Survey, the ABS has undertaken development work on an alternative survey methodology for its agricultural collections based on a land parcel frame. This approach

involves contacting the land owners of specific parcels of land, of a known location, and asking them to identify the activities occurring on that land, and any other land under their ownership or management. This is the opposite of what currently occurs where agricultural businesses are surveyed and then the business activities are attributed back to ABS defined areas, for example Statistical Local Areas.

Innovation Statistics

The ABS released *Innovation in Australian Business* (cat. no. 8158.0) presenting results from the Innovation Survey 2003. This survey differed significantly from previous ABS surveys on innovation, with the scope extended to cover most Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) divisions and the use of a broader definition of innovation than currently used internationally. This broader definition is expected to be adopted in international standards from mid-2005.

The ABS continued its support in the development of international statistical standards for science and technology indicators. The ABS participated: as a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development task force on Fields of Science classification for research and development statistics, and as a member of the working party on Indicators for the Information Society; as a participant in the June 2005 National Experts in Science and Technology Indicators meeting; and, through presentations to the biennial Asia-Pacific Information and Communication Technology Technical meeting.

Statistical Infrastructure

Information Paper: ANZSIC 2006 Development, 2004 (cat. no. 1294.0) was released during 2004-05 outlining a joint project between the ABS and Statistics New Zealand to review the existing ANZSIC 1993, and develop a revised classification, ANZSIC 2006. This classification is widely used in both countries for the production and analysis of industry statistics. As well as industry based surveys, results from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing will be published based on the 2006 ANZSIC classification.

Preparation is underway for the 2006 edition of *Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) – Electronic Publication* (cat. no. 1216.0), which will be used for the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. The basic framework for dividing Australia into relevant geographic areas is provided in the ASGC, a hierarchical classification with a number of different types of areas to satisfy different statistical purposes. The ASGC facilitates the standardisation of terminology and the comparability of data across collections. Census data is available for a wide range of geographic areas ranging from the whole of Australia through to a Collection District of a few hundred households.

The ABS has developed a new geographical unit known as Mesh Blocks. These units will be four to five times smaller than the current smallest spatial unit — the Collection District. It is planned that Mesh Blocks will become the basic building block for all statistical, political and administrative regions in Australia. Currently there is a wide range of geographic units in use in Australia and many organisations have adopted their own geographical units to suit their needs, often without reference to units that are used by others. As a result, data cannot be readily integrated and exchanged between organisations and the development of Mesh Blocks will help address this problem. Mesh Blocks will be able to aggregate to any geographical region, resulting in more accurate demographic analysis, which in turn will lead to improved government policy formulation and service delivery. It is estimated Australia will be divided into around 200,000 Mesh Blocks compared to 37,209 Collection Districts. Facilities are being developed to enable an address coder to be used in conjunction with the Geocoded National Address File that will allow addresses to be coded to Mesh Blocks.

Restructuring Progress

Developments in technology and methodology enable the ABS to improve its statistical activities in a number of ways — improving productivity, improving quality, better managing the relationship with data providers, and development of new statistical outputs. For the last three years the ABS has had a Business Statistics Innovation Program in place. It was completed towards the end of 2004–05 and resulted in a number of important improvements, including greatly enhanced productivity. Another program is being put in place to build on the gains. Similarly, changes are being made to our household survey systems to enable productivity improvements, better quality and more timely statistics.

National Statistical Service

During 2004–05 the Australian Taxation Office installed an ABS developed ANZSIC autocoder which has improved the speed and accuracy of ANZSIC coding of Australian Business Register records.

The National Data Network (NDN) is an ABS initiative that will provide infrastructure, protocols, standards, and services to support acquiring, sharing and integration of data across Australia. It is currently being developed to increase the availability, accessibility, and useability of information sources relevant to policy analysis and research — particularly key administrative and survey datasets held by the Australian Government and state and territory agencies.

During 2004–05 the NDN Interim Governing Board held its inaugural meeting. Key outcomes from this meeting included: agreement on the NDN exposure draft content to provide information to interested members and users; discussion of the 'Draft NDN Guiding Principles';

endorsement of the 'Terms of Reference' for the Board; and articulating future directions for the development of the Network. In addition, the ABS released a series of papers relating to the protocols, guidelines and directions of the NDN leading up to the first release of the demonstration phase of the Network in April 2005. For more information about this initiative visit the new NDN web site on www.nationaldatanetwork.org.

An Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics was released and endorsed by the Boards of Management of each of the three statistical units within the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics. Each of the three Boards report through a National Officer Group to a Ministerial Council (Australasian Police Ministers' Council, Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, or Corrective Services Ministers' Conference). The plan seeks to formally develop strong partnerships and, through the establishment of a Steering Committee, to facilitate and guide development activities over the three year life of the plan. The Steering Committee has representation from all lead groups and will assist coordination and collaboration of the 62 activities identified in the plan, involving 20 groups from within and across different subject fields.

Other Developments in 2004–05

Legislation and Governance

There were no changes made to the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* or the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* during 2004–05.

The ABS held two meetings of the Australian Statistical Advisory Council (ASAC) in 2004–05 and one meeting of the State Statistical Forum. These meetings are important to the ABS as they help to identify major economic, social and environmental issues which are of policy significance in the coming three to five years.

During 2004–05 the number of ASAC members increased. The increased membership is expected to provide the ABS with a broader representation of users of statistics.

ASAC assists by advising the ABS on work priorities. Some of the topics discussed which were of particular interest to ASAC were: an update on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing; the strategic positioning of the ABS into the 21st century; electronic dissemination strategies; children and youth statistics; and crime and justice statistics.

During 2004–05 the ABS Audit Committee met four times, providing assurance to the Australian Statistician that: a comprehensive control framework is in place and working effectively for all business systems; the operation and management of all ABS systems are sufficiently adequate to ensure the ABS complies with all its legislative and other obligations; and externally published information generated by these systems is of appropriate quality and conforms with legislative and other

obligations. Internal audits undertaken during 2004–05 included reviews of: the management of personal computers and notebooks; the census payroll system; pre-release of statistics; accounts receivable/payable; and clearance procedures for non-standard outputs.

Through a tender process, Acumen Alliance Pty Ltd was chosen to provide the ABS with internal audit services for the next three years commencing July 2005.

Dissemination Services

The ABS continues to provide users with statistics and related information from all its statistical collections as soon as practicable after the collection of the data.

Enhancements to the ABS web site

The ABS web site remains the primary access point for the majority of users of ABS information. In 2004–05 there has been a continued increase in content and improved functionality on the ABS web site. The web site now consists of approximately 285,000 pages and during 2004–05 the web site users were responsible for around 60 million page views. This is an increase of approximately 30 per cent on 2003–04.

During the year web related developments included: preparations for the release of publications free on the ABS web site from 1 July 2005; a new home page; introduction of a Really Simple Syndication (RSS) facility; improvements to the ABS web site search engine; and release of the CensusAtSchool initiative.

Improving Access to Confidentialised Unit Record Files

During 2004–05 ABS staff conducted Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURF) workshops in all state and territory capital cities. Existing and potential CURF users from the government and university sectors were provided with information regarding all aspects of CURF access and were also invited to provide feedback on existing ABS systems and procedures.

The Remote Access Data Laboratory™ (RADL™) has undergone further development with significant improvements in system usability and in the automatic output clearance functionality. Development of systems associated with the RADL™ will allow operations for ABS staff members to be simplified. There are now 441 registered clients from 51 organisations.

A further enhancement to unit record data access is the establishment of the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL); a secure room or area on ABS premises where clients may access CURFs in an interactive and secure manner. The ABSDL network consists of locked down desktop terminals and a central server where the CURF data is stored. Respondent confidentiality is maintained through a manual output clearance service

provided by the Methodology Division. During 2004-05 the system and procedures underwent pilot testing with selected clients and the complete system will be implemented on 1 July 2005.

Dissemination Channels

The continued move towards greater use of electronic services over traditional hard copy publications has enabled the ABS to provide users with timely statistical information while reducing the cost of dissemination. The ABS Email Notification Service provides clients with links to ABS publications, shortly after the daily 11:30 am release.

In 2004-05 a number of key clients such as the Australian, state and territory government agencies have continued to make extensive use of ABS@, which enables them to access a comprehensive range of ABS statistics through internal Intranets.

There was continued promotion of ABS products and capability in 2004-05. Promotion focused upon increasing the use of key products and services such as the publications *Year Book Australia* (cat. no. 1301.0) and *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0), and continued promotion of the wider ABS capability.

Statistics for Schools

There has also been continuing work with the schools' sector to increase the use of ABS data and to improve the statistical literacy of students. An expanding range of curriculum support material, including lesson plans, is being provided to schools. Since its release at the end of 2002-03, an increasing number of teachers are now using the ABS' school-specific electronic product, *Census for Schools*, in geography, mathematics and other classes. The ABS has begun development of a national CensusAtSchools initiative to coincide with the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

2005 Year Book Australia

The Hon. Chris Pearce, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, launched the 2005 edition of *Year Book Australia* (cat. no. 1301.0) on 21 January 2005 at ABS House. The 2005 edition had as its theme the ABS' celebration of 100 years of official statistics. This provided the opportunity to include, where available, lengthy time series of key economic and demographic statistics, often dating back 100 years.



The Hon. Chris Pearce, MP, and Mr Dennis Trewin at the launch of the 2005 Year Book Australia.

Pricing Review

The review of ABS pricing is continuing and will effectively be finalised by September 2005. The ABS will be following the Australian Government Guidelines on Cost Recovery and Competitive Neutrality. For most products and services there will be no change to the current ABS pricing policy.

Human Resources

Agreement making

Two industrial agreements were listed for certification with the Australian Industrial Relations Commission during 2004–05: *ABS Interviewers Certified Agreement 2005–2008*; and *Data Processing Centre, Certified Agreement 2005–2007*. The Australian Industrial Relations Commission will certify these agreements in July 2005.

In preparation for the employment of non-ongoing employees to staff the Data Processing Centre for the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, the *ABS Interviewers Certified Agreement 2005–2008* was negotiated with the Community and Public Sector Union under section 170LL of the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*. This is a 'greenfields' agreement as no employees have yet commenced.

The *Population Survey Interviewers Certified Agreement 2003–2005* expired on 31 March 2005 and a new agreement, *ABS Interviewers Certified Agreement 2005–2008*, was developed in consultation with the interviewers and their representatives under section 170LK of the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*. This agreement was voted on, and accepted by a majority of interviewers on 24 June 2005.

Learning and Development

There has been a significant increase in ABS staff training attendance over the past 12 months, despite a heavy work program and declining employee numbers. There have been substantial efforts made to improve both the range and relevance of learning activities provided to ABS employees. A capability framework has been developed which describes the skills, behaviours, knowledge and attributes required of all staff in the ABS. In combination with a new learning infrastructure the framework will further improve employee understanding of, and access to, learning, and make a significant contribution to workforce capability profiling and planning. The Learning and Development function continues to examine ways to improve the effectiveness of learning in the ABS. The objective is that all learning activities have a clear line of sight to the achievement of the ABS Corporate Plan through the building of organisational capability to respond to business challenges both now and in the future.

In order to put greater emphasis on statistical skills, a few years ago the ABS established a National Statistical Training Institute. During 2004-05 the Institute significantly increased the number of courses available as well as extending availability to those external to the ABS.

Consultation in the ABS

A number of consultative forums exist within the ABS to provide staff with an opportunity to contribute to a range of issues. An overarching annual National Forum consists of representatives from all ABS consultative forums and unions. The most recent National Forum was held in March 2005. Key issues discussed were: ABS restructures; *ABS Certified Agreement 2003-2006*; remuneration and progression through the salary range; preventing and settling disputes; the ABS Employee Survey 2004; the ABS Diversity Plan and its implementation; progress of the Capability Framework; and recruitment — selection and placement processes.

Employee Opinions Sought

In October 2004, the ABS ran a comprehensive survey of employee opinions covering a number of areas affecting their employment. The final response rate was a very pleasing 97.2 per cent.



ABS Managers show their support for the 2004 Employee Survey

Areas where employees are relatively more satisfied include flexibility of employment conditions, physical environment, working relationships and social environment. Areas that have been identified as warranting priority attention include: levels of satisfaction with the use being made of employee skills/challenging work; information sharing; deadline and workload pressure; and remuneration.

The data reporting phase is complete, and action has been initiated to gain information from staff about the underlying causes in areas of relative dissatisfaction and what they think the solutions might be. Based on this input appropriate actions can be put in place to address issues. Consultation with staff is both at a national level and an operational level.

Recruitment

Recruitment and retention of staff are a priority for the ABS. A number of factors, including additional funding into the ABS through the 2005 Federal Budget, have led to a situation where the ABS needs to recruit significant numbers of new employees in early 2005–06, particularly in Central Office.

The ABS is an organisation which has historically relied heavily upon 'growing its own' through a strong learning and development program available to its base level and graduate recruits. However, there is now recognition the ABS will need to recruit capability at all levels of the organisation if it is to meet higher demands for additional employees. To achieve this, the ABS is: expanding the range of tools available to recruitment panels to test for skills and expertise; streamlining recruitment processes; making advertisements more attractive to non-ABS applicants; and making staff selection a priority across the organisation.

Information Technology

In 2004–05 ABS Information Technology (IT) continued to actively contribute to improving business outcomes through: improvements to business processes; the expansion of ABS services; and realising efficiency savings. Hardware and software changes have maintained and improved the reliability and availability of ABS systems through consolidation of servers and the introduction of clustering and failover mechanisms, and through a new storage area network and associated backup and recovery mechanisms. Systems downtime remains at exceptionally low levels.

The integrity and confidentiality of information continues to be a strong focus and there have been no significant IT security incidents. During the year the ABS obtained independent security certification of the ABS network, implemented an external firewall and upgraded anti-virus, intrusion detection and SPAM filtering capabilities. The ABS has established and leveraged secure virtual private network access, and has established a role to manage initiatives in identity management and simplified sign-on.

The ABS has a focus on business process improvement supported by business process management infrastructure and techniques. A number of areas in the ABS have commenced using the approaches and tools. For example, the Business Statistics Innovation Program has used a partnership between business staff, methodologists and technologists to identify all relevant opportunities for innovation and improvement. Several key components have been released into production, including new tools for statistical estimation, an input data warehouse, quality management systems, and a provider management system. The program also uses advanced telephony to support a recently established service centre.

The ABS is becoming more interested in the use of Open Source technology and its potential to provide government and business with cost effective functionality for statistical and information management purposes. A key initiative is the National Data Network, a national platform for acquiring, sharing and integrating data relevant to policy and research.

The ABS is an active contributor to whole of government IT strategy in the areas of information and technical interoperability.

International Involvement

In 2004–05 the ABS continued its important and valued role in the international statistical community through:

- active contribution to the international statistical activities that are important to Australia and our region
- active and often high level membership of the international statistical community (including influencing the development of international statistical standards and indicators)

- targeted and tailored technical assistance to national statistical agencies in the Asia–Pacific region.

The global launch of the International Comparison Program (ICP) — a statistical initiative established to produce internationally comparable price levels, expenditure values, and Purchasing Power Parity estimates — took place in February 2005. All major international development agencies, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Development Fund use Purchasing Power Parity to analyse economic and social conditions within their areas of concern. Purchasing Power Parity takes into account the cost of a common basket of goods in the countries being compared. The ICP offers them a powerful tool for comparative research on economic and social development. The ABS is actively involved in this program with the Australian Statistician as the Chair of the Global Executive Board; a Deputy Australian Statistician coordinating the work in the Asia–Pacific region; and an Assistant Statistician on the Technical Advisory Board.

The ABS has had a long association with BPS — Statistics Indonesia (BPS) in relation to exchanging statistical information and in increasing the statistical capacity of the Indonesian Statistical Office. It has provided significant statistical training and capacity building in 2004–05. Following the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami — in which BPS lost two district offices with many of their staff and families affected — the ABS provided immediate assistance through the donation of information technology equipment. In June 2005 the ABS was involved in the Department of Treasury instigated fact-finding delegation to Indonesia to advance the Treasury Portfolio Government Partnerships Fund which is designed to provide significant Tsunami recovery aid to Indonesia.

International meetings

The ABS participated in a number of important international meetings and conferences in 2004–05. A highlight of the year was the joint hosting of the 55th Session of the International Statistical Institute.

During the year the ABS conducted high level bilateral discussions with Statistics Canada. These meetings provided opportunities for the chief executives and senior staff of both agencies to pursue statistical and management issues of common concern and to enhance working arrangements between the agencies.

Other international meetings and conferences in which the ABS participated included the:

- 53rd Plenary Session of the United Nations Conference of European Statisticians, held in Switzerland, where the ABS is leading work on developing international guidelines on confidentiality and microdata access

- second meeting of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Committee on Statistics, held in Switzerland immediately after the 53rd Plenary Session of the United Nations Conference of European Statisticians
- third management seminar of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, a subsidiary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific, held in Thailand
- 36th Session of the United Nations Statistics Division — Statistical Commission, held in New York.

A number of other conferences associated with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development were also attended. Representatives of the ABS also attended meetings of the International Association for Official Statistics and the Pacific Regional Meeting of Heads of Planning and Heads of Statistics.

In addition, the ABS participated in expert group meetings on a number of areas such as: statistical classifications and standards; national accounts; and prices and population censuses, including the 22nd Population Census Conference, attended by all countries in the Asia-Pacific region as part of the lead up to the 2010 round of population censuses. The ABS provides the Chair for a number of these expert group meetings.

Visits to the ABS

The ABS received a number of visits from other national statistics offices, statistical agencies and international statistical organisations during the year including Canada, Israel, Malaysia, Mauritius, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, EuroStat, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and the United Nations.

Statistical training and technical assistance

The ABS provides a valuable contribution to international statistical training, including through the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP). The ABS concluded its membership of the SIAP Governing Board in late 2005 when the five-year term of the then Governing Board members ended.

The ABS provides international statistical assistance to countries in the Asia-Pacific region which seek ABS advice and support, and which are high priority for the Australian Government. A multi-year program of assistance to Thailand for strengthening of macro-economic statistics was concluded during the year, resulting in significant improvements to the Thai statistical system. The ABS continued its program of assistance to BPS — Statistics Indonesia in a number of statistical areas.

In addition to planned programs of assistance, the ABS provided statistical advice and capacity building in response to various requests from countries in the region and from international statistical organisations. This included assistance to:

- India on its business register
- UNESCAP in the field of disability statistics
- South Africa on its consumer price index
- Timor L'Este on its first population census since gaining independence
- Thailand on data management systems
- Mongolia on legislation and statistical management.

Financial Position

Within the context of the Portfolio Budget Statements, the ABS has two outputs: (i) Economic Statistics; and (ii) Population and Social Statistics. Table 1 below provides, for 2004–05, a financial summary of ABS outputs and price of outputs against the budgeted figures, and also provides budgeted figures for 2005–06. The full financial statements are provided in Chapter 8, while a detailed summary of outputs by program component is provided in Appendix 2. The ABS budget is prepared under an accrual framework, consistent with the Australian Government Budget requirements.

There was an operating surplus of \$2.984 million in 2004–05. This was a better outcome than the balanced result anticipated at the time of the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements. The surplus in 2004–05 primarily relates to increased revenue due to stronger demand for ABS standard products and information consultancies, and delays in recruitment associated with labour market constraints.

Table 1: Financial resources summary (\$'000)

	Budget 2004-05(a)	Actual 2004-05	Variance	Budget 2005-06(b)
Administered expenses				
Discretionary grants(c)	-	-	-	-
Total administered expenses	-	-	-	-
Price of ABS outputs				
Output Group 1.1 — ABS — national statistical service				
Output 1.1.1 — Economic statistics	145,654	145,440	-214	170,732
Output 1.1.2 — Population and social statistics	142,569	142,359	-210	167,115
Total ABS output	288,223	287,799	-424	337,847
Revenue from government appropriation	269,855	269,964	109	318,622
Revenue from other sources	18,368	20,819	2,451	20,636
Total price of outputs	288,223	290,783	2,560	339,258
Total for outcome 1	288,223	290,783	2,560	339,258
Staff years (number)	2,652	2,630	-22	2,711

(a) Budget 2004-05 — full year budget, including additional estimates.

(b) Budget 2005-06 — budget prior to additional estimates.

(c) The ABS does not administer any discretionary grants.

The breakdown of revenue raised from other sources is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Revenue raised from other sources (\$'000)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Revenue raised from statistics			
Publications			
Subscriptions	922	682	489
Other	628	389	287
Other standard products	8,270	4,603	4,293
Information consultancy	6,388	4,432	4,814
Statistical consultancy	892	833	784
User funded surveys	3,441	3,083	4,465
Other products and services	4,066	4,738	4,100
<i>Total revenue raised from statistics</i>	<i>24,607</i>	<i>18,760</i>	<i>19,232</i>
Other revenue	1,451	680	1,587
Total	26,058	19,440	20,819

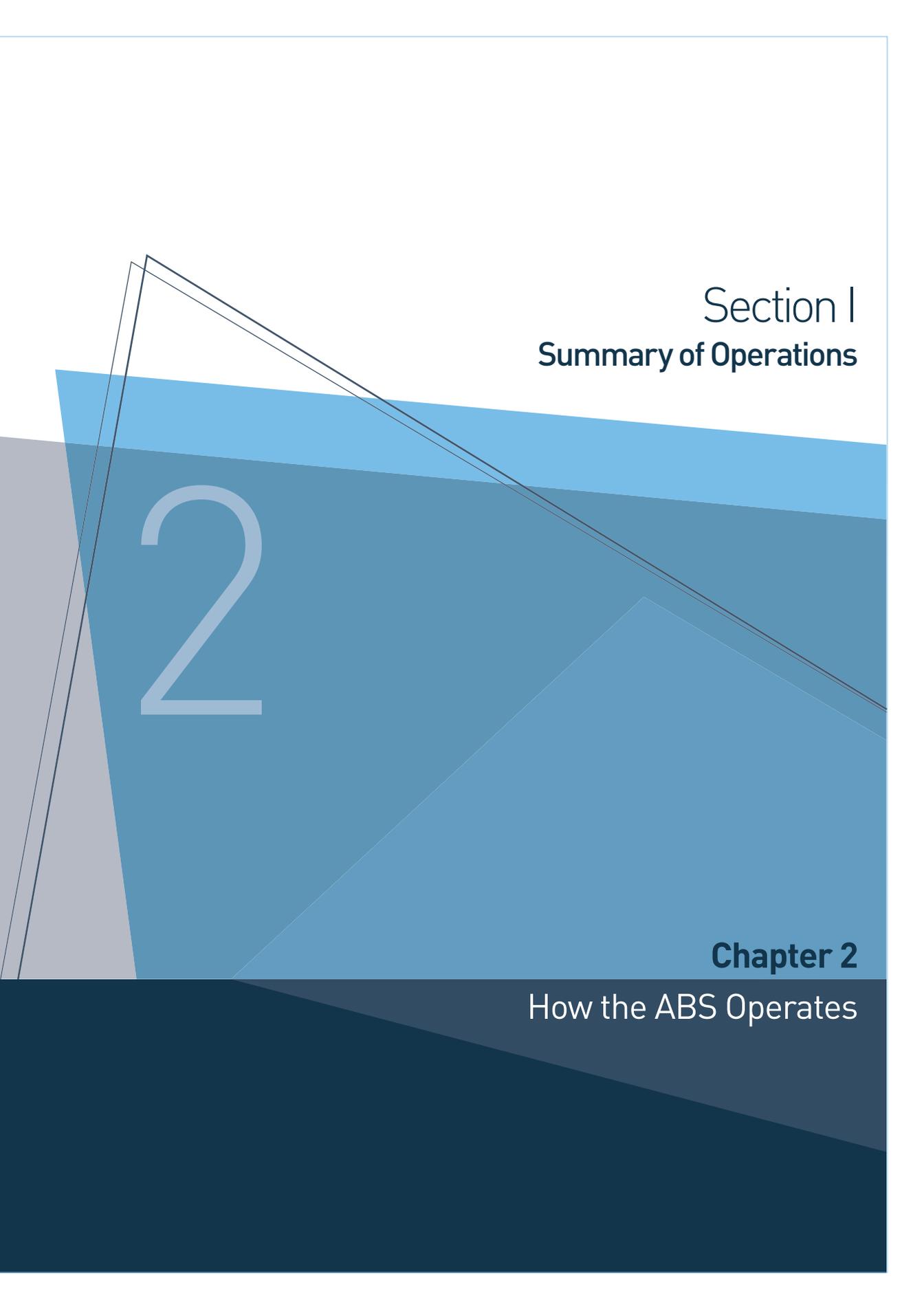
The ABS recorded a 2.5 per cent increase in revenue raised from statistics in 2004-05. The slight increase in total revenue raised was pleasing despite an expectation that total revenue would decline due to the cyclical pattern of revenue from census products.

The increase in user funded surveys and information consultancy revenue reflects the ABS commitment to increasing its engagement with statistical users. Revenue from publications increased for web-based publications and decreased for paper-based publications, reflecting an ABS decision to reduce the number of paper-based products.

Revenue declined from other standard products, such as CDATE add-on products, as did revenue from outposted ABS officers, international consultancies and statistical unit funding.

It is expected there will be a decline in revenue from statistics in future years. This will be as a result of: free access to many statistics on the ABS web site from 1 July 2005; the ABS policy of encouraging self-help facilities; the increasing data availability on the ABS web site; and the increasing use of intermediaries.

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician



Section I
Summary of Operations

2

Chapter 2
How the ABS Operates

2 How the ABS Operates

Introduction

The ABS is Australia's official national statistical agency. It provides statistics on a wide range of economic and social matters, covering government, business and the population in general. It also has an important coordination function with respect to the statistical activities of other official bodies, both in Australia and overseas.

Role of the ABS

Outcome and Objectives

ABS Outcome

The ABS Outcome, as set out in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2004–05, is as follows:

Informed decision making, research and discussion within governments and the community based on the provision of a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.

This outcome is consistent with the ABS Mission as described in the ABS Corporate Plan.

ABS Output

Within the context of the Portfolio Budget Statements, *Output Group 1.1 – Australian Bureau of Statistics – national statistical service*, produces and disseminates statistics in two key areas to meet the above outcome; namely:

Output 1.1.1 – Economic Statistics

Output 1.1.2 – Population and Social Statistics.

Economic statistics are produced predominantly from the ABS business survey program conducted by the Economic Statistics Group, while population and social statistics are produced mainly through the ABS household survey program within the Population Statistics Group.

The ABS statistical programs are supported by service areas which deliver assistance and advice on statistical methods, data and metadata management, information technology, client management, dissemination, human resources and other corporate services. Both areas of statistics involve extensive data collection through censuses, surveys and from administrative data sources.

ABS Objectives

To achieve the ABS Mission, the ABS is pursuing the following objectives in respect of both the Economic Statistics and the Population and Social Statistics Outputs:

- an expanded and improved national statistical service
- an ABS statistical service that is timely, relevant, responsive, and respected for its integrity and quality
- informed and increased use of statistics
- an active contributor to international statistical activities that are important to Australia or our region
- an organisation that encourages learning, innovation, performance and excellence in all it does
- the trust and cooperation of our providers
- strong recognition and support for the ABS amongst decision makers and the community.

Authority and Legislation

Principal legislation determining the functions and responsibilities of the ABS are the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* and the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The functions of the ABS are defined in section 6 of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* as follows:

- (a) to constitute the central statistical authority for the Australian Government and, by arrangements with the governments of the states, provide statistical services for those Governments;
- (b) to collect, compile, analyse and disseminate statistics and related information;
- (c) to ensure coordination of the operations of official bodies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and related information, with particular regard to:
 - (i) the avoidance of duplication in the collection by official bodies of information for statistical purposes;
 - (ii) the attainment of compatibility between, and the integration of, statistics compiled by official bodies; and
 - (iii) the maximum possible utilisation, for statistical purposes, of information, and means of collection of information, available to official bodies;

- (d) to formulate, and ensure compliance with, standards for the carrying out by official bodies of operations for statistical purposes;
- (e) to provide advice and assistance to official bodies in relation to statistics; and
- (f) to provide liaison between Australia, on the one hand, and other countries and international organisations, on the other hand, in relation to statistical matters.'

The *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* also established the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC). Subsection 18(1) of the Act specifies that the functions of the Council are to advise the Minister and the Australian Statistician in relation to:

- '(a) the improvement, extension and coordination of statistical services provided for public purposes in Australia;
- (b) annual and longer term priorities and programs of work that should be adopted in relation to major aspects of the provision of those statistical services; and
- (c) any other matters relating generally to those statistical services.'

Council members are drawn from a wide variety of organisations concerned with most major economic and social issues, as well as from Australian, state and territory governments.

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* provides the Australian Statistician with the authority to conduct statistical collections and, when necessary, to direct a person to provide statistical information. While the ABS always endeavours to seek willing compliance from providers, occasionally the Statistician directs providers to provide required information. Information on notices of direction and prosecutions which follow are shown in Appendix 15.

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires the ABS to publish and disseminate compilations and analyses of statistical information and to maintain the secrecy of information collected under the Act.

The Statistics Determination made by the Minister under section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* enables the Australian Statistician to disclose certain classes of information. Proposals for the collection of information for statistical purposes are tabled in both Houses of Parliament, in accordance with clause 6 of the Statistics Determination. The requests tabled in 2004–05 are shown in Appendix 13. Details of disclosures of unidentified information under clause 7 of the Statistics Determination are shown in Appendix 14.

Organisational Structure and Senior Management

The ABS is led by the Australian Statistician — a statutory office. Appendix 3 lists the senior management team who support the Australian Statistician, and their program responsibilities.

The statistical operations of the ABS are divided into two groups: Economic Statistics Group and Population Statistics Group. Each group is headed by a Deputy Australian Statistician.

Each Deputy Australian Statistician is supported by a First Assistant Statistician, leading the Economic Surveys and Integration Division and the Social and Labour Statistics Division. Other First Assistant Statisticians supporting the statistical operations lead Technology Services, Methodology, Information Management and Census, and Corporate Services Divisions.

The ABS has a central office in Canberra and regional offices located in the eight state and territory capitals. Regional offices are primarily responsible for the delivery of statistical services to their state or territory. All regional offices, apart from the ACT Office, have some responsibilities for national statistical activities.

Under the *Statistics (Arrangements with States) Act 1956*, Australian government and state statistical services have been integrated in all states since 1958 (in Tasmania since 1924). Although not covered by the Act, similar arrangements apply in both territories. In Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania, the Regional Director administering the ABS Regional Office is also the State Government Statistician. Through state and territory statistical services, various fora and consultation processes, there is regular engagement with state and territory governments on statistical priorities. Regional offices have a key role in this engagement.

ABS Corporate Governance

ABS corporate governance arrangements ensure transparency in decision making, operation and accountability by promoting strong leadership, sound management and effective planning and review. The operations and performance of the ABS are subject to both internal and external scrutiny. The results of this scrutiny inform senior management decisions.

The Policy Secretariat program of the ABS has an important role as a focal point for ABS corporate governance. It supports the effective operation of governance forums, ensures the ABS operates within the scope of its authority and legislative basis, and manages ABS audit, review and risk management activities.

Some of the key ABS corporate governance mechanisms are described below.

Internal Scrutiny

Internal scrutiny takes the form of:

- periodic reviews of statistical collections and service functions. In reviews of statistical collections, external users are widely consulted and, in some instances, external users assist the review team. Internal reviews cover both the effectiveness and efficiency of various ABS activities
- benchmarking, which is a key part of the ABS strategy to assess the value for money of its statistical outputs, to understand and learn from best practice and to improve performance
- regular reports from all Assistant Statisticians and Regional Directors to the Executive Meetings
- an internal audit program conducted by external service providers, covering different facets of ABS operations and overseen by the Audit Committee.

The ABS Risk Management Framework and Guidelines, promulgated in 2004, provides a mechanism for monitoring and identifying shifts in the risk exposure and the emergence of 'new' risks. During 2004-05, a program of facilitated risk management workshops was undertaken for 13 key operational areas in order to ensure that risk assessments for these areas were applied consistently and given priority. During the same period, a review of the key enterprise risks resulted in a rationalisation and re-specification of ABS' key enterprise risks.

As required by the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines, the Australian Statistician has certified that the ABS has prepared appropriate fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans and has in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data collection procedures and processes that meet the specific needs of the ABS and comply with the guidelines.

An important feature of ABS corporate governance is the role played by senior management committees which are active in developing policies and strategies, identifying ABS priorities, ensuring appropriate planning and implementation to address those priorities and effective monitoring of ABS activities. The major senior management committees are as follows:

Executive Meetings

Executive Meetings are held weekly and involve the Australian Statistician, the Deputy Australian Statisticians and all First Assistant Statisticians. Regional Directors also provide written input to each meeting. Each Assistant Statistician and Regional Director in the ABS reports to the Executive Meeting in respect of their area of functional responsibility. Their reports cover matters such as significant achievements, indicators of performance, emerging issues, strategies adopted to manage them

and resource management. In addition, the meetings address emerging corporate issues.

ABS Management Meetings

Management Meetings play a major role in determining ABS strategic directions, priorities and resource allocations. The Management Meeting is held twice a year, and agrees on the ABS forward work program, which is presented to the Australian Statistics Advisory Council for consideration and advice before it is finalised. Each Division and Group report annually to the ABS Management Meeting. ABS Management Meetings involve the Australian Statistician, the Deputy Australian Statisticians, First Assistant Statisticians and Regional Directors. Expert advisers are called as required.

Protective Security Management Committee

The ABS maintains a comprehensive security framework, overseen by a Protective Security Management Committee. This security framework ensures that both physical and computer security are maintained. The Committee is a key means by which the ABS meets its legal requirement not to divulge identifiable information, and therefore operate with the trust and confidence of data providers. The Committee is chaired by a Deputy Australian Statistician.

Audit Committee

The ABS Audit Committee provides assurance to the Australian Statistician that: a comprehensive control framework is in place and working effectively for all business systems; the operation and management of all ABS systems are sufficiently adequate to ensure the ABS complies with all its legislative and other obligations; and externally published information generated by these systems is of appropriate quality and conforms with legislative and other obligations. The Committee identifies significant issues of concern or non-compliance.

The ABS Audit Committee is chaired by Ms Susan Linacre (a Deputy Australian Statistician), and comprises four other ABS officers chosen for their personal qualities, experience and skills including their ability to demonstrate independence on matters before the Committee. Throughout 2004–05 the Committee included one experienced external member, Mr Len Early.

The Committee sets a work program for reviews drawing on the outcomes of risk assessments, fraud control plan, recommendations from ABS managers and the Australian National Audit Office. The work program is undertaken by external audit contractors and covers compliance and risk management issues. A broader review program, involving internal and external reviewers, looks at other issues of efficiency and effectiveness.

The Committee meets four times a year and reports to the Executive Meetings as appropriate.

Internal audits undertaken during 2004-05 included reviews of: the Management of Personal Computers and Notebooks; the Census Payroll System; Pre-release of Statistics; Accounts Receivable/Payable; and Clearance Procedures for Non-standard Outputs.

Information Resources Management Committee

The Information Resources Management Committee considers matters of strategic significance concerning data and information management and related policy, and major issues relating to the application of information and communication technology in the ABS. It also has responsibility for the strategic management of cost recovery activities of the information technology and technology services areas of the ABS. The Committee meets a number of times each year, and reports to each Management Meeting and the Executive Meeting as appropriate. It is chaired by the Deputy Australian Statistician, Population Statistics Group, and consists of the Deputy Australian Statistician, Economic Statistics Group, all First Assistant Statisticians, a nominated Regional Director, and appropriate Assistant Statisticians.

Human Resource Strategy Committee

The Human Resource Strategy Committee provides the ABS with high level guidance on key human resource issues. Policy issues that are considered by this Committee include work force planning, staff development and training, remuneration, occupational health and safety, and workplace diversity. The Committee meets several times each year and reports to each Management Meeting and the Executive Meeting as appropriate. It is chaired by the First Assistant Statistician, Corporate Services Division, and involves all First Assistant Statisticians, a nominated Regional Director, and the Assistant Statistician, Business Strategies Branch. In view of the increasing importance of human resource issues, the Australian Statistician will chair this Committee in 2005-06, the two Deputy Australian Statisticians will become members, and the ABS is in the process of extending membership to an external human resource expert.

External Scrutiny

External scrutiny takes the form of:

- consideration by the Australian Statistics Advisory Council. The Council is the key advisory body to the ABS and meets twice yearly to provide input to the directions and priorities of the ABS work program. The Council advises the Australian Statistician and the Minister. An annual report is presented to Parliament

- audits by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), either of ABS operations specifically or as part of cross-agency audits. Audits conducted during 2004–05 by the ANAO which involve the ABS included: Workforce Planning in the Australian Public Service; Forms for Individual Service Delivery; Management and Reporting of Expenditure on Consultants; and Green Office Procurement
- review of statistical activity by various advisory committees and user groups. These include:
 - standing and ad hoc expert advisory groups comprising key government, business, academic and community representatives. The groups provide advice on statistical priorities and developments in fields such as labour, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and welfare, agriculture, economics, housing, environment, mining, statistical methodology, housing, crime and justice, tourism, transport, research and development
 - user groups established to advise the ABS on the concepts, content and dissemination programs of individual major household surveys
 - Australian, state or territory working groups or committees, often attached to ministerial councils, which provide advice on emerging needs, priorities and areas for cooperation
 - advisory boards established for the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics, the National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics, the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics, the National Education and Training Statistical Unit and the National Centre for Rural and Regional Statistics. The boards provide advice on statistical priorities and data standards and monitor and support the implementation of agreed collections. The forward work program for each statistical centre is agreed between the Australian Statistician and the boards.

There were no adverse comments from the ANAO, the Ombudsman, the courts or the tribunals during 2004–05.

Information on Freedom of Information is provided in Appendix 11. Information on Inquiries by Parliamentary Committees and Reports by the Auditor General are provided in Appendix 12. Information on Documents Tabled in Parliament is provided in Appendix 13.

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) was established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* to assist the ABS to fulfil its role. The Council is the key advisory body to the ABS and provides valuable input to the directions and priorities of the ABS work program and reports annually to Parliament. ASAC meets twice yearly.

The current Chairperson of ASAC is Professor Sandra Harding, Deputy Vice Chancellor (International and Development), Queensland University of Technology.

During 2004-05 there were thirteen new appointments to ASAC:

Professor Graeme Hugo, University of Adelaide

Professor Tony Barnes, Northern Territory Treasury

Dr James Moody, CSIRO

Mr Roger Beale, The Allen Consulting Group

Ms Leith Bouly, Bouly Pastoral Company

Ms Elaine Henry, The Smith Family

Mr David Parker, Australian Government — The Treasury

Mr Michael Potter, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr Leigh Purnell, Australian Industry Group

Mr John Spasojevic, Commonwealth Grants Commission

Mr Vin Martin, Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance

Mr David Smith, Western Australia Department of Treasury and Finance

Mr Greg Philp, Tasmanian Department of Treasury and Finance.

More details regarding ASAC can be found in the ASAC Annual Report 2004-05, available on the ABS web site or on request.



ASAC members attending the May 2005 ASAC meeting

Planning

The provision of a high quality national statistical service is a complex management exercise because of the diverse nature of user requirements and, in most instances, the lead time required to develop statistical collections. While the ABS recognises it is impossible to satisfy all demands, in order to maintain relevance it seeks to react positively and responsibly to the demonstrated needs of its users. At the same time, the ABS is conscious of the constraints on public spending and on the workload placed on providers of information for its collections. Continued effort is made to review and, where possible, reduce provider load.

The ABS maintains a three-year forward work program which is rolled forward on an annual basis. The program is based on the set of components described in Appendix 1. Work programs are developed, resources are allocated and performance indicators are established at these and lower levels.

Each year relative priorities and competing resource requirements of all program components are formally and extensively considered by senior management. Particular attention is given to:

- the extent to which particular statistical activities continue to be justified in relation to other work for which a demand has been expressed by users
- the cost imposed on respondents to collections in terms of time and effort
- prospective total resources available to the ABS within the three-year period
- the market potential and revenue implications of the various initiatives proposed
- productivity gains which have been achieved or which might be possible in the future
- the relative share of resources spent on statistical and non-statistical work.

Proposals from managers of program components are considered by senior management, generally following consultation with major users. The proposed forward work program and resource estimates which emerge are then considered by the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC). The work program is finalised in light of ASAC advice.

The culmination of the year's planning cycle is a comprehensive document, the ABS Forward Work Program, which describes for each ABS program, the outputs, clients and uses of the statistical information and the main medium term developments. The document is available for public scrutiny and comment. A copy can be located on the ABS web site or is available on request.

Security

The ABS would not be able to operate effectively without the trust and confidence of data providers. The legal requirement not to divulge identifiable information, and the strong confidentiality and security ethos which permeates the attitudes of ABS staff, are the most important elements of the ABS security screen. They are reinforced by a range of measures relating to the perimeter security of all offices, the security measures protecting the computing environment from any external access, and the security measures implemented for individual data holdings.

Some features of the major elements of the security framework are described below.

Undertakings of Fidelity and Secrecy under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* obliges ABS staff to maintain the secrecy and security of all data reported to, and held by, the ABS. Staff sign an undertaking of fidelity and secrecy under the terms of the Act. The personal responsibility of all staff is a crucial element of ABS culture. It is the foundation upon which the security of ABS data holdings is built.

The ABS has an enviable reputation for the preservation of the secrecy of reported information, and for the protection of its statistical data holdings from unauthorised release. There have been no known cases of any ABS officer breaching the undertaking of fidelity and secrecy.

Physical Security

All ABS premises are physically secure against unauthorised access. Entry is through electronically controlled access systems activated by individually coded access cards and monitored by closed circuit television. Anyone entering ABS premises, apart from reception or defined public access areas, is required to wear an identity pass. Particularly sensitive output data are subject to further physical security measures, including additional access control, supervision and secure storage.

Computer Security

Access to ABS computing systems is based on personal identifiers that are password protected. The computer systems are regularly monitored and usage audited.

Additional access control systems are used to protect any data designated 'sensitive'. Access to sensitive data is only granted under the authority of area line management (the 'owners' of the data) on the basis that access is required by the staff member to carry out their duties.

The ABS computer network has a secure gateway which allows connection to some Internet services. The secure gateway has been established in accordance with Australian Government guidelines and is subject to annual accreditation by the National Communications and Computer Security Advisory Authority, Defence Signals Directorate.

Security Audits

Included in the ABS strategic audit plan is an ongoing program of security audits and reviews of computer systems and the physical environment.

The National Statistical System

The evolution of institutional and legal arrangements has resulted in a National Statistical System for Australia that recognises there are many providers or potential providers of statistical services and the ABS has a responsibility to coordinate or lead the 'system'. The arrangements are set out in the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Key components of the institutional and legal arrangements are as follows:

- by law, the ABS is the central statistical authority, responsible for the provision of statistical services to the Australian, State and Territory Governments and the community more generally
- the Australian Statistician has been given independence with respect to the operations of the ABS
- among its prescribed functions, the ABS has responsibility for coordinating the statistical activities of official bodies to avoid duplication in the collection of data; to maximise the comparability and integration of official statistics; and to ensure the greatest possible reuse of statistical information
- an Australian Statistics Advisory Council has been established to advise the Minister and the Australian Statistician on statistical priorities and the improvement, extension and coordination of statistical services.

Some other providers of information, at the Australian, and state and territory government levels, have their own institutional and/or legal arrangements.

The National Statistical System can be thought of as the set of providers of statistical services and the institutional and legal arrangements which govern their operations. The ABS is at the centre of this System. Although it has the authority to lead the System, it must do it through collaboration rather than direction.

The National Statistical Service

The National Statistical Service is an ABS initiative designed to maximise the usefulness, availability and comparability of government data at both national and state and territory levels. Access to better, broader and more comparable information, better monitoring of the effectiveness and efficiency of program services, improved access to and use made of the data by the wider community, and reduced overall costs for the provision of government information services will ensure improved policy formulation. The direction is consistent with the whole-of-government approach being taken at the Australian Government level, as well as many jurisdictions.

The vision of the National Statistical Service is *'all government agencies working together to deliver the statistics required by Australia'*.

Under section 6(c) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, a key function for the ABS is to improve coordination of the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics produced by other official bodies. In accordance with this Act, the ABS continues to develop the concept of the National Statistical Service by broadening the concept of ABS statistical responsibilities to include not only statistics collected by the ABS, but also data produced or available from other government and non-government agencies. The ABS provides leadership, through collaboration, to the Australian, and State and Territory Governments in making better use of their administrative data so it can provide another source of quality data for statistical purposes. The ABS encourages agencies to adopt a holistic approach to improving the quality of statistics available to users through the application of similar methodologies to administrative and statistical data.

In pursuing the development of the National Statistical Service some of the main achievements in 2004-05 included:

- further developing the National Data Network, a national platform for acquiring data based on shared protocols and facilities
- in close consultation with other agencies, supporting information development plans which identify the issues to be addressed in a particular field of statistics, the available data (both ABS and non-ABS), the additional data needed, and who has carriage for provision of the data
- supporting statistical fora in each jurisdiction to share information on better statistical practice
- providing assistance in the form of outposted statistical officers to the Australian, state and territory governments and agencies with a view to facilitating the access to, and understanding of, statistics, and strengthening statistical coordination across these bodies

- strengthening national statistical centres that have a responsibility for statistics in a particular field, irrespective of the origin of the data source (ABS or elsewhere).

The Statistical Collection Process

The ABS is the key contributor to the National Statistical Service. Its statistical programs are expected to be of a high quality. While the economic and population statistics programs are generally run separately, they are characterised by common statistical principles and many similar procedures. The statistical process involves a range of statistical operations, from developing specifications for statistics based on user information needs through to the delivery of data and support to clients.

Diagram 1 presents the broad stages of a typical survey cycle. It highlights a core set of tasks and activities which form the three broad stages of the statistical collection process: setting up the collection; collection and processing; and informing and explaining. Two overarching functions exist that together ensure ABS products, processes and services are of a high quality and contribute to achieving corporate objectives and delivering on the ABS mission.

Diagram 1: The Statistical Collection Process



Functional Areas Undertaking Statistical Operations

The first stage of the statistical process involves consultation and planning with users. Statistics users are consulted to determine their statistical needs. This information is then used to define the scope, content and frequency of statistical collections. Consultation takes place through: ABS-organised statistics user groups; direct discussion with interested Australian government, state or local agencies, academics, industry bodies, etc.; and through the release of information or discussion papers inviting comment. Consultations cover both needs for data on new or emerging topics, and modifications to existing data collections. Continual consultation should continue throughout the survey cycle with stakeholders to keep them informed on progress and to ensure statistical outputs remain consistent with survey objectives.

The next stage of the statistical cycle encompasses activities associated with data collection, processing and analysis. Data collection activities include survey despatch, data receipt and follow-up of outstanding survey forms. Data may be collected directly from providers through surveys or censuses, or indirectly by accessing data collected by other organisations, particularly Australian government, state and territory administrative agencies. The processing stages of the cycle cover: data entry; checking individual records for completeness; consistency and accuracy; producing aggregate survey results; checking the consistency and validity of aggregated data; and preparing data for public release.

Dissemination and decision support is the final stage of the statistical cycle. These activities include client liaison and marketing. Several areas support these activities. A key objective for the ABS is to maximise the use of ABS and non-ABS statistics by: increasing the visibility and access to statistics; optimising the mix of dissemination channels; and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of information service delivery.

In releasing statistics, the ABS adheres to long established principles that results of statistical collections should be made available as soon as practicable and should be available to all users at the same time. Most Australians are informed of official statistics through the media. The ABS provides publications to media organisations at no cost, and the principal results from ABS publications are highlighted daily in the print and electronic media. The main features of ABS publications are also made available on the ABS web site. A large core set of statistics are made available through public, technical and tertiary libraries across Australia, while members of parliament are provided complimentary access to all ABS publications. The ABS@ and AusStats subscription services provide users with ready access to ABS material in electronic format, including all ABS publications and a range of multidimensional datasets.

The Statistical Clearing House

The Small Business Deregulation Task Force recommended in its 1996 report *More Time for Business* that statistical collections affecting 50 or more businesses and run by, or on behalf of, Australian government departments and agencies, be subject to a central clearance process. The purpose of the recommendation was to ensure that all such surveys were necessary, and if so, were well designed to minimise respondent load and maximise benefit. The clearance process would also be an effective means of monitoring the load imposed on business respondents. In view of its statistical expertise and statutory coordination role, the ABS was asked to administer the clearance process.

The Statistical Clearing House was set up on 1 July 1997 for this purpose. Survey Liaison Officers were identified in each Australian government agency known to have significant business survey activity. The primary role of these liaison officers is to ensure that all Australian government statistical collections are vetted by the Statistical Clearing House, and that the clearance procedures are well understood by survey managers. The Statistical Clearing House Advisory Forum was established to obtain feedback from survey managers and other stakeholders, and to help streamline clearance procedures. Clearance operations began on 1 December 1997.

A significant by-product of the Statistical Clearing House program is the Commonwealth Register of Surveys of Businesses, available on the Internet at www.sch.abs.gov.au. The register lists the statistical collections subject to clearance and information about them provided to the Statistical Clearing House during the clearance process. The register has become an important element of the clearance process as it is the primary means through which organisations with particular data needs can identify collections that have already been conducted, reducing the potential for duplication. To assist those developing surveys, the register site is also used to provide access to information on survey design standards and best practices.

More information on the operations of the Statistical Clearing House can be found in Chapter 5 Performance Information.

Other Aspects of Organisational Management and Monitoring

Australian Public Service Values in the ABS

The Australian Public Service (APS) values are actively promoted and strongly adhered to throughout the ABS. At the highest level, the ABS' Mission Statement reflects APS values relating to the apolitical nature

of the APS as well as the provision of comprehensive, accurate and timely advice:

'We assist and encourage informed decision-making, research and discussion within governments and the community, by providing a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.'

The ABS principles, which are fundamental to the ABS performing its role as an independent provider of statistical information, directly relate to, and are congruent with, APS values. These principles are long standing and strongly upheld by employees. They include:

- relevance — all information provided by the ABS is relevant in terms of timeliness and content
- integrity — data, analysis and interpretation is always apolitical with the highest standards of integrity applied
- access for all — the ABS ensures its statistics can be easily accessed and used by the community, business and governments
- professionalism — the professionalism of employees is actively developed to ensure the ABS has the technical and leadership skills required for the future
- trust of providers — we maintain provider trust by adhering to the highest level of data protection and privacy standards.

The importance of the APS values is reflected and integrated into the day to day management and operations of the ABS. For example employees' obligations to uphold the APS values and abide by the APS Code of Conduct are:

- promoted in training courses from induction through to senior management development programs
- actively applied through personnel management processes
- supported by guidelines and procedures which themselves take account of the APS values
- reflected throughout ABS corporate material which is readily accessible to employees through the ABS Intranet
- promoted via posters and the distribution of bookmarks to all employees and new recruits.

As part of the ABS' 2004 Employee Survey conducted in November 2004, 95 per cent of employees rated their knowledge of the APS values as high or medium. Many questions in the survey were directly or indirectly linked to APS values. These questions were included to ensure that ABS employees are not only familiar with the APS values, but that the values are reflected in their behaviour.

ABS Service Charters

The ABS had two service charters operating during 2004–05.

The *Client Service Charter* describes the relationship between the ABS and users of its products and services. The Charter was developed in consultation with a representative sample of clients, and offers guidance to clients wishing to provide compliments or register complaints on any aspect of client relationship or services. The Charter is available on the ABS web site or on request at any ABS office.

The *Business Surveys Charter* sets out the relationship between the ABS and businesses which provide it with information for statistical purposes. The Charter explains how businesses can seek help from the ABS and provides for businesses to ask for a review of the complaints handling process. The Charter was developed in consultation with representatives of small business and is reviewed annually. Changes were made to the Charter in 2001 to clarify the procedures for obtaining information about ABS collections and for seeking exemptions from completing individual surveys. The Charter is provided to new respondents in collections involving businesses and is available on the ABS web site or on request at any ABS office in English, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Greek and Arabic.

Both the Client Service and Business Surveys Charters include performance standards for the relationships between the ABS and its clients, and its service delivery. Performance against these standards is the subject of ongoing review, as are the Charters themselves.

Social Justice and Equity

ABS support for the *Charter for Public Service in a Culturally Diverse Society* is demonstrated primarily through the provision of statistical information available to government and community groups to assist in developing and monitoring in relevant fields, and by taking action to overcome linguistic and cultural barriers in the collection of data.

The ABS work program takes account of the Charter principles, and meets government needs for information to support social justice policies, by the identification of specific population groups of policy interest in censuses and surveys concerned with various aspects of social wellbeing. Such population groups include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, immigrants, people with disabilities, unemployed people, older Australians, women and children. During 2004–05 the ABS continued to provide data on population, health and welfare, education, employment, unemployment, underemployment, and other topics relating to labour force participation, earnings and income, housing and recorded crime and justice administration.

In 2004-05 the ABS released a range of statistical publications relevant to social justice and equity. Continuing its regular contribution to this area was *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0), an annual publication drawing on the ABS and other official statistics to inform on social conditions and wellbeing in Australia.

Mature Age Persons Statistical Profile: Living Arrangements (cat. no. 4905.0.55.001) was released. This publication utilised information collected in the General Social Survey 2002 findings for persons aged 45-64 years, and included profiles on community life, education and training, health, housing, labour force, living arrangements, as well as population and cultural diversity.

Data from the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers was published in *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings* (cat. no. 4430.0). The confidentialised unit record file became available in December 2005 (cat. no. 4430.0.00.001).

The ABS provided extensive statistical support to the Productivity Commission in producing the 2005 edition of the 'Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage' report commissioned by the Council of Australian Governments. The field phase of the 2004-05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) continued from August 2004 to June 2005. The NATSIHS is part of the ongoing ABS Indigenous household survey program and is specifically designed to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health issues. It comprises a much larger sample (approximately 10,000 people) than previous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander supplements to the National Health Survey. Results for the states and territories are expected to be released in the first half of 2006.

Government approval for the 2006 Census topics was obtained in 2004-05. This includes the new 'Need for Assistance' topic, which measures a person's need for assistance in core activities of mobility, self-care and communication, and the 'Unpaid Work/Caring' topic which will include questions on unpaid care of children and others, unpaid domestic activities, and volunteering undertaken through an organisation.

Commonwealth Disability Strategy

In 1994 the Australian Government introduced the Commonwealth Disability Strategy (CDS) as a planning framework to assist Australian government agencies to meet their obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. The CDS was significantly redesigned following a review conducted in 1999. A revised CDS was launched in October 2000 containing a Guide to the Performance Reporting Framework. This framework identifies five key roles that Australian government agencies may perform. These are: Policy Advisor; Regulator; Purchaser; Provider; and Employer.

In the context of the CDS the ABS performs two roles — it is a provider of statistical services and an employer. Reporting of the ABS' performance against these key roles, as required by the Performance Reporting Framework, is presented in Appendix 6. The ABS will continue to progress the implementation of the CDS in 2005–06.

In addition to its role as a provider and employer, the ABS has an important function in terms of providing information about disabilities to assist informed decision making by policy advisers. The ABS has released information from the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers in *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings* (cat. no. 4430.0). The statistics shown in the publication provide information on disability prevalence in Australia, the nature and extent of disability and associated needs for care and support, as well as the impact of the caring role on carers. Further data of relevance to the issue are available as electronic table sets: *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Disability and Long Term Health Conditions* (cat. no. 4430.0.55.001); *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Disability and Long Term Health Conditions, Tables 12 to 19* (cat. no. 4430.0.55.002); *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Caring in the Community* (cat. no. 4430.0.55.003); and *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Caring in the Community, Tables 17 to 24* (cat. no. 4430.0.55.004).

The ABS has successfully developed and tested questions designed to identify people in need of assistance due to a severe/profound disability and will collect this information in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. The ABS also contributes to national and international discussions on the development of standards for the measurement of disability.

Ecologically Sustainable Development

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requires agencies to report on aspects of its performance as it relates to ecologically sustainable development. The ABS has two key roles in respect of this issue. The first of these is in relation to the ABS mission/outcome of providing statistics on the environment and environmental issues to enable informed decision making. The second role is in respect of ABS operations and its impact on the environment, and the steps being taken by the ABS to minimise that impact.

The ABS response to the five components of section 516A(6) as required by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* is described below.

Section 516A(6)(a) How the activities of the organisation, and the administration of legislation by the organisation, accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development

The ABS charter is to provide a high quality statistical service to the government and the community. The ABS operates primarily in an office based environment and is progressively moving from paper to electronic products.

The ABS has reduced paper consumption by increasing the number of publications available electronically. There has been a 41 per cent decrease in the number of publication titles printed, and a 59 per cent decrease in the number of publication copies printed, between 2003-04 and 2004-05. The availability of free publications on the ABS web site is expected to further reduce paper consumption.

The introduction of computer assisted interviewing has further reduced paper use. It is estimated that the elimination of paper questionnaires in the Population Survey Operations area has led to a reduction of approximately 7.2 million pages of high quality A4 paper.

The ABS is in the process of implementing electronic records management to reduce the number of new paper file creations. There has been a steady decrease in file creations since 1998 when 3,616 files were created nationally in comparison to 920 files created in 2004.

In most procurement activities the ABS has incorporated environmental clauses as part of the tender and evaluation process. Environmental considerations are also incorporated into the market testing process for new leases.

Section 516A(6)(b) How the outcomes specified in a relevant Appropriations Act contribute to ecologically sustainable development

The ABS receives appropriation for the purpose of informing the government on social, economic and environmental matters which are integrated into government policy.

The environment component of the ABS Economic Statistics program collects and publishes information about environment and energy statistics, including environment accounts. The component is involved in the coordination of data collection, research and analysis and implementing international environmental accounting frameworks.

During 2004-05 the ABS released a range of publications relevant to environmental issues. These included:

- *Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices* (cat. no. 4602.0)
- *Water Use on Australian Farms, 2002-03* (cat. no. 4618.0)
- *Domestic Use of Water and Energy, South Australia* (cat. no. 4618.4)
- *Environment Expenditure, Local Government, Australia* (cat. no. 4611.0)

During 2004–05 the ABS undertook development work on surveys of natural resource management activities of farmers and on water management by the water supply industry. The results of these surveys should be published by the end of 2006.

Section 516A(6)(c) Effect of the organisation's activities on the environment

The operation of the ABS contributes to a range of impacts on the environment through its use of electricity, petrol, water, paper and other materials consumed and through its generation of waste.

Section 516A(6)(d) Measures being taken by the organisation to minimise the impact of its activities on the environment

The ABS is implementing measures to minimise the effect of its operations on the environment by:

- reducing paper consumption by: increasing the number of publications available electronically; introducing electronic filing; and computer assisted interviewing
- ABS energy per person remaining less than 10,000 MJ consistent with the Australian Greenhouse Office 2002–03 energy target of 10,000MJ or less per person
- heavily weighting energy ratings when making purchasing decisions for whitegoods
- where possible, using remanufactured and recycled cartridges for photocopiers, faxes and printers and recycling all ABS used printer cartridges
- where possible, consuming 'green energy' (10 per cent of energy consumed in ABS House is 'green energy')
- considering the Greenhouse Vehicle Guide (GVG) when purchasing government vehicles. Approximately 35.1 per cent of ABS fleet vehicles has a GVG score of 10.5 or better as at the end of the 2004–05 financial year. The ABS has positively contributed to the Australian Government reaching its target of 28 per cent of vehicles with a GVG rating better than 10 by 2005
- recycling paper in all offices and actively recycling bottles, cans and cartons in ABS central office
- introducing paper with a 10 per cent recycled content in ABS central office
- ensuring appropriate facilities, including storage, for staff wishing to use bicycles to travel to and from work
- dual flush toilets are installed in Central Office to reduce water consumption.

Section 516A(6)(e) Mechanisms, if any, for reviewing and increasing the effectiveness of these measures

The ABS is in the process of completing energy audits in three offices — Central Office, New South Wales Office, and Western Australia Office. Further energy audits will be undertaken next financial year. The ABS Environmental Management System is being updated to align with the new ISO14001 standards.

Further Information on the ABS

Principle documents providing additional information on the operations of the ABS include:

- ABS Corporate Plan
- Forward Work Program 2005–06 to 2007–08
- Client Service Charter
- Business Surveys Charter.

These documents are available on the ABS web site or on request.

A wide range of additional information about the ABS, including the legislative framework and pricing policy, is available on the ABS web site.



Section II
Special Articles

3

Chapter 3
International Engagement

3 International Engagement

Introduction

International engagement is of fundamental importance to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Under section 6 (1) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, one of the functions of the Bureau is to 'provide liaison between Australia, on the one hand, and other countries and international organisations, on the other hand, in relation to statistical matters'.

The ABS is committed to international engagement and has stated in its Corporate Plan that it wishes to be 'an active contributor to international statistical activities that are important to Australia or our region'.

The ABS' international engagement aims to:

- compare statistics between Australia and other countries, particularly those published by international agencies such as the OECD and the IMF
- support high priority statistical programs such as the International Comparison Program
- support Australia's aid program and its objectives. The ABS undertakes an extensive amount of capacity building work aimed at improving the official statistics produced by developing nations. Our technical assistance program also contributes long term to the availability of comparable statistical information from countries in the Asia-Pacific region
- contribute to the development of international statistical standards and to liaise with colleagues on emerging issues. This ensures standards and statistical developments reflect the Australian user interest, aid international comparability where that is meaningful, and provide a contribution to international datasets for cross-country studies
- access research and investigations undertaken in other agencies to improve Australian statistics and statistical practice
- develop the skills and experience of ABS staff so they can make an effective contribution to Australian statistics in the future
- position the ABS to influence international statistical developments in areas of interest to Australia.

These objectives align with Principle 10 of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics available on the United Nations web site at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/goodprac/bpaboutpr.asp?ReclD=10>

'Principle 10 Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.'

The sharing of information and practices, as well as cooperation in the joint development of statistical standards, international statistical activities etc is an essential ingredient for continuous improvement of the quality and range of official statistics in all countries and the efficiency of their production. A lot of this cooperation is facilitated by various international activities supported by international statistical and other agencies and professional associations.

Technical cooperation, either organized bilaterally amongst agencies or organized through international organizations and activities, is important for the development of the range and quality of official statistics in the developing countries. Programs and institutions are available for statisticians to receive statistical training relevant to the production of official statistics.'

The ABS and International Engagement

The ABS' international engagement takes the form of:

- participation in international statistical meetings, conferences, seminars and working groups
- bilateral exchange and cooperation with statistical agencies of developed countries
- provision of data to international agencies
- technical assistance to developing countries in our region.

The range of the ABS' international contributions is expanded below.

Assist statistical capacity building in developing countries

The United Nations Statistical Commission has repeatedly emphasised technical cooperation efforts need to be nationally owned by the recipient, demand driven and tailored to the local needs, as well as effectively coordinated among the various international donors. It has also emphasised that capacity building efforts require further investment in those countries with the least developed statistical services.

For Australia, the single objective of our aid program, as stated by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), "is to advance Australia's national interest by assisting developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development". The policy objective is progressed through five guiding themes that link poverty reduction with individual aid activities: governance; globalisation; human capital; security; and sustainable resource management.

Statistics capacity building is mostly viewed as part of the 'governance' theme, though it impacts on the other guiding themes also. More specifically, statistical aid aims to provide statistics which will improve the planning and decision making in the recipient country, by governments

and others, and thus in the longer term work to encourage development and alleviate poverty.

The aim of the ABS in providing assistance is to encourage developing countries to establish good statistical policies and methodologies through the transfer of ABS knowledge and practical skills. The ABS does not normally undertake statistical work for other countries. Rather, the aim is to help them to help themselves. Hence an important criterion which the ABS examines before responding to requests for assistance, is the expected long-term benefit that will result to the statisticians in the recipient country from the help provided. It is important for a country to ensure it has the capacity to maintain expertise developed as a result of assistance.

Australia's aid program, sponsored through AusAID, is concentrated in South-East Asia, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Island countries, with selective engagement in South Africa, Africa and the Middle East. The program's focus on the Asia-Pacific region is an indication of Australia's strong engagement with the region and commitment to working in partnership to meet its considerable development challenges.

Consistent with these priorities, the ABS gives priority in its technical assistance effort to the South Pacific and South-East Asian countries. Countries currently being assisted include East Timor, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Tonga, Thailand and Vanuatu.

Requests for ABS assistance can be on an ad hoc basis in response to emerging needs, or form part of a formal and often long-term program of assistance. Currently the following formal programs of assistance are in place:

Australia — Indonesia Government Sector Linkages Program
 Thailand — Strengthening of Macro-economic Statistics Project
 Philippines — Australia Governance Facility

ABS technical assistance comprises four main categories:

- a. ABS staff undertaking statistical consultancies or conducting training courses in another country (generally for one month or less)
- b. ABS staff contributing to workshops or seminars arranged by international organisations
- c. staff from other countries visiting the ABS for study tours or training
- d. providing documentation on ABS practices.

The ABS works closely with Statistics New Zealand in providing technical assistance, and with the Statistics Program at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (formerly the South Pacific Commission) which coordinates technical assistance to Pacific Island countries in statistics across a wide range of subject matters.

Examples of recent assistance and training provided by the ABS

Thailand

In 2005 a significant program of assistance to Thailand was successfully concluded. The multi-year program of assistance to Thailand for Strengthening Of Macro-Economic Statistics (SOMES) resulted in significant improvements to the Thai statistical system.

In the wake of the Asian economic crisis of 1997 to 1998, the Royal Thai Government saw the need to develop and use more accurate and timely macro-economic data and analysis to support informed decision making on issues of economic and social development policy. A program of assistance was delivered over the period 1999 to 2001. A second phase was delivered over the period 2002 to 2005 and included many individual Thai agencies involved in the production of national statistics. Economic statistics advisory and technical assistance services were undertaken both in Australia and in Thailand.

A considerable number of staff from the ABS and various Royal Thai Government agencies participated, contributing to ensuring future sustainability. Through this program, staff of the various agencies developed skills now being used to collect, compile and publish better and more timely macro-economic statistics for Thailand than would otherwise be the case.

The Thailand program 'Strengthening Of Macro-Economic Statistics' was particularly well received by AusAID and the Thai Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTEC). Ms Raviprapa, from the Project Coordination Committee, commented that "the program was considered to be the most successful of AusAID's current bilateral programs with Thailand". Mr Thanop Panyapattanakul, the DTEC representative, endorsed Ms Raviprapa's comments, "In my opinion, the AusAID/DTEC's endorsement of the success of the program reflects the enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism of each Thai agency involved, the ABS and all contributing staff".

Indonesia

The ABS has had a long and cooperative relationship with the Indonesian national statistical agency under a Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies identifying a number of areas including: economic and population statistics; data dissemination; and methodological issues.

In 2005, under the Government Sector Linkages Program, two significant programs of assistance to Indonesia were completed — Cooperation in Statistics in Indonesia Phase II and Phase III. The knowledge and skills gained are expected to contribute to the improvement in statistics in Indonesia in the medium to long term.

Timor L'Este

Recently the ABS provided significant assistance to Timor L'Este on its first population census since gaining independence.



Mr Paul Lowe (front row, second left) with Timor L'Este population census collectors

Asia and the Pacific

The ABS provided assistance to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the field of disability statistics. This involved a number of countries including India and Fiji.

Influence the development of international statistical standards

Australia collaborates on international developments such as standards setting for key statistics. It helps ensure that such standards or statistical developments reflect the Australian user interest and aids international comparability where that is meaningful, including contributing to international datasets for cross-country studies.

Collaboration on the development of international standards has always been a key element of ABS international involvement. Examples of work in which the ABS is currently involved are:

System of National Accounts

Released in 1993, the System of National Accounts (SNA) — the international standard for national accounts statistics — has shown itself to be a robust and resilient publication. However changes in the economic environment take place continuously and this necessitates the updating of the 1993 SNA to maintain its relevance. A revised version of SNA93 is currently underway with a publication target date of 2008.

The ABS is heavily involved in the revision of SNA93. Much of the work will be progressed by an international expert group known as the Canberra Group on Non-financial Assets which is chaired by the ABS. The ABS is also represented on the high level group of experts who will provide advice on proposed changes to SNA93.

Balance of Payments Manual

The fifth edition of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Balance of Payments Manual (BPM5) was also released in 1993. The IMF has commenced a review of the BPM with a view to publishing a sixth edition, BPM6, in 2008.

The review will consider a range of matters in the areas of the theoretical framework, new and emerging issues, and clarifications of existing recommendations. Many of the matters to be considered are also relevant to the national accounts. Therefore in order to maintain consistency between the SNA and the BPM the two standards are being updated in parallel.

The ABS will also contribute significantly to the review of the BPM, including through its participation in the IMF's Balance of Payments Statistics Committee.

Industrial Classifications

The ABS is actively involved in both the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) redevelopments.

The ISIC is updated every five years with the aim of maintaining relevance while avoiding major disruptions in the time series. The next update, due in 2007, will focus on promoting the degree of comparability across the activity classifications used around the world.

In collaboration with Statistics New Zealand, work is currently being undertaken to redevelop the ANZSIC and in so doing is aiming for international conformity at the second level of the ISIC hierarchy.

Australia's contribution to international statistical decision-making

Participation in international fora enables ABS staff to advocate the Australian perspective of statistical matters, to engage with subject leaders, and to remain abreast of international developments.

ABS involvement is actively sought in international meetings and workshops, working groups, and collaborations on statistical matters. The ABS participates in a number of international groups for development and improvement in specific aspects of statistics, and in a number of international statistical meetings, conferences, seminars and working

groups, where the topics are important to the ABS specifically and where it can make a valuable contribution. These include:

- United Nations Statistical Commission
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Sub-Committee on Statistics
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
- OECD Committee on Statistics
- International Statistical Institute
- Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation
- a number of international groups on specific aspects of statistics, such as the International Monetary Fund’s Balance of Payments Statistics Committee and the Advisory Group on National Accounts.

The ABS is a member of various governing and advisory bodies. For example, the ABS is playing a significant role in the International Comparison Program, a global statistical initiative established to produce internationally comparable price levels, expenditure values, and Purchasing Power Parity estimates. All the major international development agencies, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Development Fund use Purchasing Power Parity to analyse economic and social conditions within their areas of concern. The ABS is actively involved in this program, with the Australian Statistician Chairing the Global Executive Board, a Deputy Australian Statistician coordinating the work in the Asia–Pacific region, and an Assistant Statistician on the Technical Advisory Board.

There was one disappointing development during the 2004–05. Despite the outstanding success of the ESCAP Sub-Committee on Statistics and its predecessor, the ESCAP Committee of Statistics, it was decided to discontinue it in the name of United Nations reform. Almost all Heads of National Statistical Offices attended these meetings, at their expense, and the meetings discussed, and agreed upon, statistical matters of regional importance. Australia has played an active leadership role on these Committees for about 20 years. Coordinated statistical effort in the region will diminish as a consequence.

Bilateral exchange and cooperation with statistical agencies of developed countries

In addition to participating in formal and informal international forums, the ABS maintains close relationships with a number of national statistical agencies in developed countries. These relationships provide opportunities for sharing experiences on the latest technologies and

developments, or for benchmarking specific activities. Agencies with which the ABS maintains strong bilateral relationships include:

- Statistics New Zealand
- Statistics Canada
- Korean National Office of Statistics
- United Kingdom Office for National Statistics
- Statistics Netherlands
- Statistics Sweden
- various United States statistical agencies

From time to time ABS staff are given opportunities to be employed in international agencies or national statistical organisations, usually on a short-term contract. These opportunities provide valuable professional development for the staff involved and assist in furthering global approaches to statistical matters.

Provision of data to international agencies

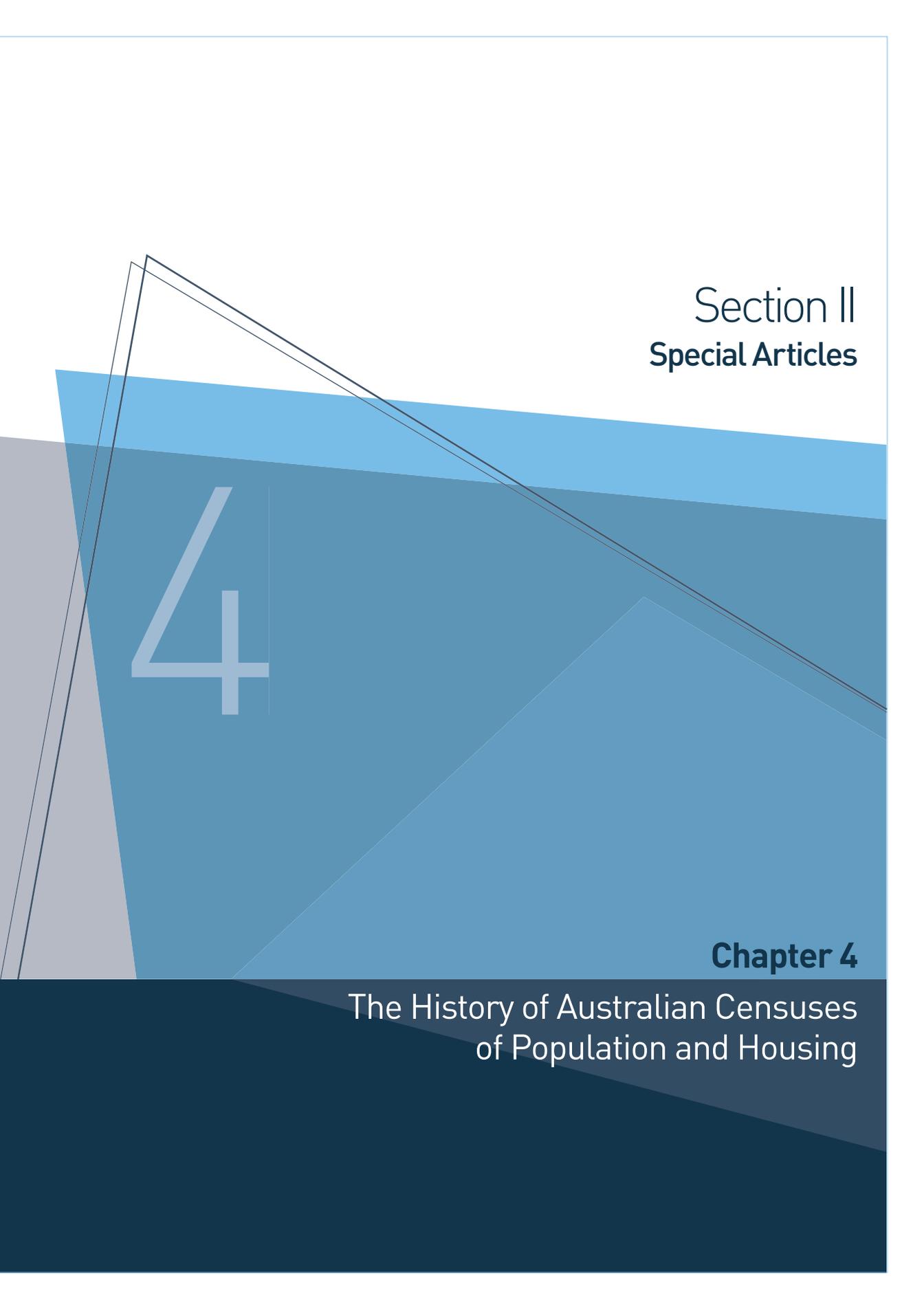
The ABS fulfils Australia's obligation to provide Australian statistics to various international organisations to meet the needs for data for economic and social analysis by the international organisations. The organisations include the United Nations and its specialised agencies (including the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Labour Organization), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the International Monetary Fund.

Conclusion

The sharing of information and practices, as well as cooperation in the joint development of statistical standards, on production and dissemination of statistics, and the provision of technical assistance and capacity building, is an important and essential ingredient for continuous improvement of the quality and range of official statistics in all countries.

Australia benefits from its international involvement in many ways. Australian foreign policy objectives of strengthening democracy and promoting economic development and stability are supported when statistics in developing countries are improved. Our involvement in setting international statistical standards allows the ABS to: represent Australia's interest; contribute to advancing methodological thinking; and strengthen Australia's statistics while improving their international comparability.

Amongst the international statistical community Australia is considered an 'excellent international citizen'. ABS input is valued for its methodological rigour, non-partisan approach and our willingness to provide energy and leadership to the wide range of international activities described in this chapter.



Section II
Special Articles

4

Chapter 4

The History of Australian Censuses
of Population and Housing

4 The History of Australian Censuses of Population and Housing

Introduction

For 100 years the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and its predecessor the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, has provided a national statistical service to the Australian, State and Territory Governments, Australian businesses, educational institutions, and the Australian community as a whole.

The type of statistical service provided, and the way in which it has been delivered, has changed markedly over the past 100 years. This change can be well illustrated by considering the evolution of the population censuses in Australia.

The Early Years — Colonial Statistics

Australia has a history of regular population stocktakes from the time of the first British settlement. Arthur Phillip, in his reports back to England, included statistical information such as population numbers, tables relating to livestock in the settlement through to reports on the soldiers and provisions, and a general report on the sick and the number of deaths since landing in Australia.

In the early days of the colony Governors were required to report annually on the number of births and deaths, and records from population 'musters' exist for almost every year from 1790 to 1825. The first formal census of the modern type was held in New South Wales in 1828. It had been recognised that the previous proclamations by the Governor calling free citizens to muster had no legal force, and this census was authorised by an Act of the New South Wales Legislative Council, *9 Geo. IV., No. 4*, dated 30 June 1828. What was distinctively new in this census was the first distribution of printed forms by responsible persons 'by whom, as well as by respective Householders, who can write, each Form is to be signed when duly filled up'¹.

The mainstream of official statistics in Australia began with the *Blue Book*. This was the annual report required by all Australian colonies back to the Colonial Office. When self-government was obtained in 1855, the early colonies — New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania — no longer had the obligation to produce statistics to meet the requirements of the Colonial Office and as a result statistical information began to diverge in both content and timing.

For the 1891 Census the colonies agreed on a common day, on a common core to the schedules, and on the compilation of the returns on a common principle. This was an important achievement, and it meant that a major stumbling block for uniformity in the 1881 Census, forming a common occupational classification, had been overcome.

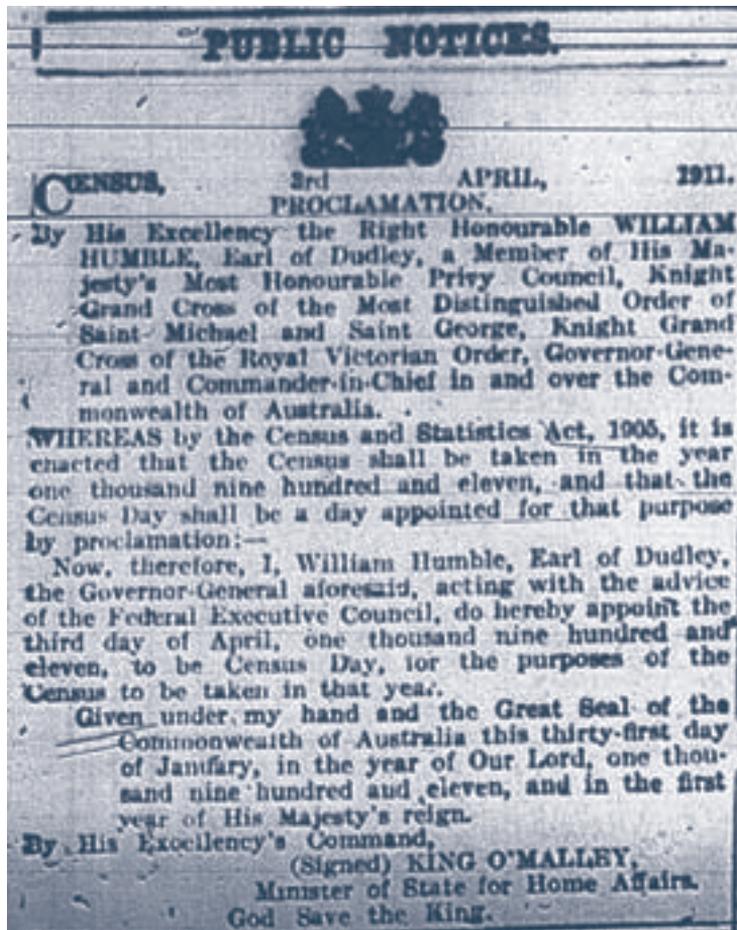
Statistics for the new nation

The Australian statistical landscape, prior to and immediately following Federation, was coordinated by frequent Conferences of Statisticians, involving the Statists (the Heads of the State Statistical Offices). The meetings were to discuss statistical issues and agree on measures to aid in the consistency of statistics across the states and it was through these meetings that some of the Statists were beginning to see the advantages in the prospect of a national statistical authority that might lend its weight to the decisions of the conferences.

Federation was seen as a catalyst of statistical uniformity. In framing the Australian Constitution, the founding fathers had given the Commonwealth Government of Australia '... power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to: ... (xi) census and statistics'. The Statists all agreed the new nation should have a responsibility and a capacity to undertake statistical inquiry.

The first major statistical business of the 20th Century was the 1901 Census. In March 2001 a Conference of Statisticians, including a representative from New Zealand, was held in Sydney to arrange the uniform collection of the 1901 Census. A concerted effort was made between the states to make the 1901 Census fully compatible between colonies. Unfortunately effort to achieve uniformity was more concerted in some colonies than others, and therefore was not entirely successful. From the outset it was generally accepted that the population estimates would be used as a basis for apportioning funds to, or for, the states. However the method of determining the final estimate eventually came into question, with each state proposing a different approach. This became the major problem associated with the 1901 Census. Following another two Conferences, the states eventually agreed on a uniform basis for determining the population in 1903.

The Australian Federal Parliament passed the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (C&S Act) on 8 December 1905. The C&S Act stated that a census should be taken '... in the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven and in every tenth year thereafter'. At a conference of State and Commonwealth Ministers in the following year, it was resolved 'the general statistical departments should be handed over to the Commonwealth' and the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was formed.



1911 Census Proclamation

The first Commonwealth Census was undertaken in Australia at midnight between 2 and 3 April 1911.

Two small cards were required to be completed for the 1911 Census – a household card and a personal card. The census personal card comprised 14 questions for the householder, and the household card consisted of a further five questions. Particulars collected included name, sex, date of birth, marital status, current marriage date, number of children, relationship to head of household, blindness and deaf-mutism, birthplace, nationality and race, length of residence in the Commonwealth, religion, education, occupation, type of building, building materials, number of rooms, and owner/renter status.

The 1911 Census attempted to measure attainment of university qualifications. Unfortunately the quality of data received on this topic was so poor that the information was never released. It was 1966 before another attempt was made to obtain this information.

Tabulation of census data was undertaken in Melbourne and completed almost entirely by hand. Staff were required to physically sort more than four million cards and count them for each tabulation.

Results from the 1911 Census took a lengthy time to release, and were further delayed by the commencement of World War I. Three volumes of results were planned. Volumes II and III were released in September 1914, however Volume I (which included the Statistician's Report) was not released until 1917.

The second national census was held at midnight between 3 and 4 April 1921. The content of the census was similar to the first, and the topic 'cause of unemployment' was added to the schedule. Based on a recommendation from the Victorian Statistician, staff from state Electoral Branches were used to collect and distribute the 1921 Census forms.

The data was tabulated using automatic machine tabulation equipment for the first time. Hollerith machinery was hired from England for this purpose. Seven months after the census date, basic data from the 1921 Census were released in bulletins, the first being a count of the population of the states and territories. The Statistician's Report and a full summary and analysis of the census was not released until 1927.

By 1930 it was apparent that Australia was in the midst of a major Depression and a decision was made to delay the scheduled 1931 Census, and to do so meant a change to the C&S Act was required. In 1930, the C&S Act was amended by the addition of the words '... or at such other time as is prescribed'. Ultimately, the need for information on the impact of the Depression, as well as the realisation that the census would stimulate economic activity by providing employment and business opportunities, resulted in government approval of a census to be held in 1933.

The 1933 Census was the first census after the Bureau moved to Canberra, and as such it was the first to be tabulated in Canberra.

New topics on industry, orphanhood, foreign languages, war service and income were included.

Updating the detailed maps of all areas of Australia is a by-product of a census. For the 1933 Census, the compilation of maps took around nine months and employed 60 survey draftsmen.

The census form was a single schedule, with the particulars for each individual in a household listed. Dimensions of the new form were large and required triple folding to obtain the size of a foolscap sheet. Personal slips were available for those who requested them.

The post-war agenda

The fourth Commonwealth Census was expected to be in the early 1940s, however it was delayed because of World War II. At the end of the War the Bureau commenced working towards a new census, to be held in 1947.

Several of the questions from the 1933 Census were removed and a number of new questions included. The 1947 Census marked a major change in the Bureau's assessment of employment data items. In the published results the Bureau departed from the long tradition of publishing data on 'bread-winners' to embrace the new concept of 'economically active' or 'labour force'. Retired men on independent means were previously classified as 'bread-winners', but in the 1947 Census this group was classified as being 'not economically active'.

In 1954, for the first time, the processing of the census was decentralised with three processing centres instead of one. The processing centres took varying times to complete their work, and there was some evidence they were not consistent in their coding. This finding made the Bureau wary of decentralised processing for future censuses. Also for the first time, international organisations were mentioned in the Statistician's Report as having an influence on the development of the Australian Census. In particular the Statistical Office of the United Nations was commended in relation to the development of uniform standards, definitions and procedures.

The 1954 Census marked a major change in the use of punch card operators, with the introduction of Hollerith Mark Sense Gang Punches. They automated card punching, and staff that could mark the cards largely replaced skilled punch card operators. These were then punched automatically as the marks were read using an electrical conductivity sensing technique. Until this census there was a strong demarcation between male coding jobs and female punching tasks and in 1954 women began to be used to code the data in substantial numbers.

Sampling techniques were used for the first time for the 1954 Census to obtain data on married couples and their families.

Big ideas and new beginnings

The 1961 Census put timing back on track for a decennial (ten-yearly) census and paved the way for quinquennial (five-yearly) censuses. Additions to the schedule included: questions on qualifications for current occupation; state of usual residence for those temporarily absent from their homes; the existence of a television in the home; and for those living on farms, the distance to their local post office and the size of their holding. A question on qualifications was used to assist in coding occupation data. A question on state of usual residence appears to have been the Bureau's first attempt at obtaining some form of *de jure* measurement of the population (according to the place of usual residence rather than the place of enumeration).

The Australian Classification of Occupations used in the 1961 Census was adapted from the principles embodied in the first International Standard Classification of Occupations, published in 1958 by the International Labour Organisation.

The Bureau was eager to centralise data processing once more for the 1961 Census because of coding inconsistencies in the 1954 Census. The size of the workforce, as well as the machinery, required a larger space than the Bureau was able to rent on a short-term basis, therefore two centres were utilised in Sydney. The coding inconsistency problem was avoided as all coding was processed at one site while the second site undertook preliminary data editing. The cards were then sent to Canberra for final tabulation.

The 1966 Census was one of many firsts:

- the first census to be held five years after the previous census
- the first time the number of questions on the census schedule increased substantially (from 15 in 1961 to 24 in 1966)
- testing of the schedule was introduced for the first time
- the first time a computer was used for processing the census
- quality control methods were introduced to help ensure the accuracy of census coding
- 'community profiles' were introduced – a standard set of tabulations covering most census topics for every geographic area from individual collection districts to the whole of Australia. Community profiles remain the most popular tables produced from the census data to this day
- microfiche replaced paper publications for the majority of census tabulations
- tabulations were made available on magnetic computer tape
- clients could request tailored tabulations of census data
- thorough coding of family structures

- post-enumeration surveys were introduced with the aim of checking the accuracy of census figures. These surveys provide an estimate of the undercount of a census which has become a key measure of the success of Australian censuses.

In 1967 the Commonwealth Government held a referendum that resulted in the removal of section 127 (as well as part of another section) from the Australian Constitution. This section had been the barrier to the Bureau including counts of Aboriginal people (but not Torres Strait Islanders) in published census figures.

Theoretically this should have simply resulted in the addition of the number of Aboriginal people to population estimates as the Bureau had been counting Aboriginal people, though not including their numbers in the published results. However consideration of the treatment of the counts on Aboriginal people proved problematic. There was also a difficulty with the question. Previously the Bureau had attempted to identify 'Aboriginality' from the race question, which included asking people to identify what proportion they were of various 'races'. In 1971 the Bureau completely redesigned the question on 'race', and identification for people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin was requested.

In 1973 the Whitlam Labor Government established the Committee on Integration of Data Systems known as the Crisp Committee after its Chairman, L.F. Crisp. The Government had been concerned about recent discrepancies in statistics from various Commonwealth departments and the lack of statistical data on key areas of the economy, and believed this could interfere with its reform agenda. As a result, the Committee 'undertook wide ranging investigations of Australia's statistical system'².

The Crisp Committee reported in March 1974. It recommended the establishment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics as the central statistical authority with full statutory powers, administratively independent of any department and thereby perceived to be policy neutral. The Australian Statistician was to be a statutory appointee vested with the powers of a head of department under the *Public Service Act 1975*. This led to the development of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Under this Act the Australian Bureau of Statistics was established with the role of the central statistical authority for the Australian Government and, by arrangements, for the governments of the states and territories.

The 1976 Census was developed during a period of great change in Australia's history. The Whitlam Government was eager to see statistics to support the major social changes it envisioned for the country. The number of personal questions increased to 41 and the dwelling questions to 12. The new topics went before both Houses of Parliament and were passed without objection from the Opposition, which held control of the Senate.

In the two months prior to census day there was considerable public debate about privacy and the census. The concerns were regarding the nature of some of the questions asked and whether the respondent's

name was necessary on the schedule. The Treasurer requested the Law Reform Commission to investigate privacy and the census and to make any recommendations it thought necessary to improve census privacy. This resulted in a major investigation for which the Bureau had to justify its census processes and questions.

The census was conducted on 30 June 1976. Preliminary checking and processing were conducted in the states, with the main processing again taking place in Sydney. Only basic data on age, sex, marital status and birthplace could be tabulated as budgetary constraints meant the Bureau could not proceed with processing the rest of the information collected, and only 50 per cent of the 1976 Census forms were processed. The post-enumeration survey established there had been a higher under-enumeration for the 1976 Census than for previous censuses.

Up until the 1976 Census the population estimates were based directly on the census population counts. From 1976, these counts were adjusted for under-enumeration as measured in the post enumeration survey to determine the estimated resident population. Australia is believed to be the first country to do so formally, although others have since followed.

In light of the privacy concerns expressed in the lead up to the 1976 Census, the Law Reform Commission released its report in 1979 on Privacy and the Census. The report endorsed the importance of the census and agreed that the processes used were appropriate, including the requirement for householders to supply their names on the form. Many of its recommendations were adopted by the ABS, including one that there should be an intensive advertising and publicity campaign to explain the census and the measures taken by the ABS to protect confidentiality. Perhaps of even more importance was a change by the ABS to a more open and public approach in developing each census.

The beginnings of public engagement

The 1981 Census saw more public consultation than any previous census. From late in 1977 the Bureau advertised in major newspapers seeking public submissions on the content of the census, as well as approaching Australian government departments, state departments and civil liberty organisations. Over 1,600 submissions were received for topic inclusions (with 40 new topics suggested) and only 60 or so for topic exclusions. Questions on income, one of the more controversial topics in the 1976 Census, received a great deal of support.

The Bureau began to focus on encouraging a greater understanding of the value of census data in the population at large and in the 1981 Census there were 31 questions.

This census saw the development of new procedures to enumerate Indigenous Australians. A special census form was developed for Indigenous peoples located in remote areas. For the first time new

services were made available for other ethnic groups including multilingual brochures and telephone interpreters.

Data from the 1981 Census were made available on maps, microfiche and magnetic tape as well as the usual publications. Social Atlases were produced for the first time.

The modern census era

Significant change in the collection procedures was undertaken in the 1986 Census. Since the 1921 Census, the Australian Electoral Commission had been used to organise and supervise the distribution and collection of census forms. For the 1986 Census the Bureau took over the management of the collection in New South Wales and Victoria due to industrial relations issues occurring in those states at the time. This proved successful and the Bureau decided to adopt this procedure for future censuses in all states. A whole new field collection system was developed.

In 1983 amendments were made to the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* requiring that all topics included in a census were to be prescribed by a regulation. Previously there was a list of topics in the Act that were required to be asked, and any other topics had to be prescribed by regulation.

The 1986 Census saw a range of new media for data releases. In particular diskettes and CD-ROMs were adopted as vehicles for data release. The main feature of the CD-ROM product was the combination of census data with mapping data and software so that clients could easily map the data.

The census day was moved from 30 June to 6 August for the 1991 Census to avoid all school holiday periods. For the first time each ABS regional office took over the management of field operations from the Australian Electoral Commission. This census also marked the start of regular consultations with the Office of the Federal Privacy Commissioner on operational procedures.

Processing of the 1991 Census used optical mark recognition to capture information on the form, significantly reducing the time required for data entry. Computer assisted coding was used for the questions which required coding. This had the dual benefits of reducing the manual coding load and improving coding consistency.

This census also saw the first edition of *Census Update*, released in September 1991, with the aim of maintaining a regular flow of information to clients on the census. The publication is still released periodically today.

In 1993 an Interdepartmental Committee was asked to consider options to reduce the cost of the census. The two possible alternatives — reducing frequency or reducing content — were found to be 'not feasible' and the Committee recommended that a five-yearly, full content, census would continue.

In the lead up to the 1996 Census there were murmurs of concern about privacy issues through the community, reminiscent of the 1976 Census. However by census day media opinion appeared to have swung back in favour of the census and few complaints were raised in the media over privacy.

A major change for the 1996 Census was the use of Geographic Information Systems to generate the printed census maps for census collectors which involved using a single electronic map database that covered the whole of Australia.

The most significant change for the 1996 Census was in the release of the data. In a two-phase release process, with those topics that could be easily processed released first. The majority of results were released by 15 July 1997, less than twelve months after the census, and the Adelaide Advertiser described the 1996 Census as 'a beautiful set of numbers'³.

In 1998 the Australian Government decided that people would be given the opportunity to have their personal details, with name identification, preserved for release in 99 years by the National Archives of Australia; an initiative of the Centenary of Federation celebrations. Slightly more than 50 per cent of the Australian population chose to opt into the 'Time Capsule Project'.

Reflecting the expansion of new technologies, questions on the use of personal computers at home and of the Internet were added to the 2001 Census.

The 2001 Census was the first to use intelligent character recognition that could capture both tick box and textual information from the census form, allowing most of the textual information to be automatically coded. Images of the census form were used during processing rather than the paper census forms. For the first time also, the World Wide Web became a key part of the data release strategy including release of the community profiles.

Detailed results from the 2001 Census were the quickest release ever of an Australian census; 11 months after census day.

Conclusion — The future of the Australian Census of Population and Housing

Increased awareness of the importance of the census for the community has steadily grown over the past 100 years. As the desire to understand more about the community in which we live grows within our society, and governments at all levels embrace 'evidence based planning and policy', so does the significance of the census.

Advancements in technology will result in some significant changes in the future. Developments in technology for Internet based data collection, for those who choose to respond in this way, are underway. This has

the potential to significantly reduce census costs as well as improve the quality of the data collected. While it will be possible to complete the 2006 Census form on the Internet, it is in the long term that major cost savings will be realised. Advancements in technology will also change the means by which census data can be disseminated to the users of this information.

Changes in topics will continue to occur to reflect the statistical needs of the Australian, State and Territory Governments and the community as a whole. Four new topics will be included in the 2006 Census, incorporating questions on: the number of children ever born; the need for assistance (disability); unpaid work; and household access to the Internet.

The ABS will continue to look for innovative ways to improve the statistical usefulness of census data for the Australian community as a whole; for example, the Census Data Retention project and the Census Data Enhancement project. The Census Data Retention project provides the opportunity for Australians to have their personal details preserved for release in 99 years from census day. As previously offered in the 2001 Census, this opportunity will be made available in the 2006 Census and in all censuses thereafter. In *Discussion Paper: Enhancing the Population Census: Developing a Longitudinal View* (cat. no. 2060.0) the ABS proposes to enhance the value of the 2006 Census data by combining it with future censuses. In recent years there has been a recognition of the importance of data to help understand how people move through changes over time and what factors influence these changes. In its existing form the census provides a 'snapshot' about Australian people and households once every five years. The creation of a Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset (SLCD), combining census data over time, would provide the means to identify patterns of change in social and economic circumstances for individuals and households over time, and the increased information would enhance decision-making processes. The SLCD will be based on a 5 per cent sample using statistical matching techniques. Name and address information will continue to be destroyed after publishing as has been the case for previous censuses.

The Census of Population and Housing continues to be the most detailed and important source of statistical information for small geographic areas and population groups produced in Australia. In a world where information abounds and there are often several sources for similar information, there is still no source that comes close to competing with the fine level of detail available from the census.

Endnotes

1 G.H. Knibbs, *The Private Wealth of Australians and its Growth* as ascertained by various methods together with a report A Report of the War Census 1915, CBCS, Melbourne, 1918, pp. 8-13, 19.

2 Miller, John, 2000 Interview.

3 Adelaide Advertiser, 17 July 1997



Section II
Special Articles

Special Articles in Previous
Annual Reports

Special Articles in Previous Annual Reports

Special articles have been included in most ABS annual reports to present information and views on important longer-term or broad issues affecting the national statistical service. A list of the articles in previous annual reports is presented below. The year of the annual report in which the article appeared and the relevant section of the report, are shown in brackets.

What the ABS Does (1975–76, Section 2)

The Collection of Information (1976–77, Section 2)

Forward Planning in the ABS (1977–78, Section 2)

Preparations for the 1981 Census of Population and Housing (1978–79, Section 2)

The Accuracy and Reliability of Estimates of National Income and Expenditure (1979–80, Section 2)

Minimising Reporting Burden (1980–81, Section 2)

A Decade's Work Program (1981–82, Section 2)

The ABS Program of Population Surveys (1983–84, pages 7 to 11, supplemented by Appendix 5)

The ABS Program of Industry Collections (1984–85, pages 8 to 13, supplemented by Appendix 5)

Dissemination of Statistics by the ABS (1985–86, pages 9 to 14)

ABS Corporate Plan (1986–87, Chapter 2)

Health Statistics and the Report of the Better Health Commission (1986–87, Chapter 3)

The Role of a National Statistical Office (1986–87, Appendix 10)

Statistics and Privacy (1987–88, Chapter 3)

Media Liaison for ABS Health Survey (1987–88, Appendix 12)

A Quart out of a Pint Pot (1988–89, Chapter 2). This article examines how the ABS increased significantly the range, timeliness and quality of its statistical products and services over the preceding 13 years, with a static level of resources.

Household Expenditure Surveys in Australia: A Chronology (1988–89, Appendix 15)

Complaints to the Australian Press Council (1988–89, Appendix 16)

The ABS in the Marketplace (1989–90, Chapter 2)

The 1991 Census of Population and Housing (1990–91, Chapter 2, Population Census)

Security of ABS Data Holdings (1992–93, Chapter 3)

Reducing Respondent Load (1992–93, Chapter 2)

The 1996 Census of Population and Housing (1993–94, Chapter 2)

Retirement of Mr Ian Castles, AO, Australian Statistician, 1986–1994 (1994–95, Chapter 1)

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (1994–95, Chapter 2)

Developments in the Australian National Accounts (1995–96, Chapter 2)

The Destruction of Census Forms (1995–96, Chapter 3)

The Pint Pot Revisited (1996–97, Chapter 2)

The 1996 Census of Population and Housing (1996–97, Chapter 3)

The Destruction of Census Forms (1997–98, Chapter 2)

Recent Developments in Price and Labour Cost Indexes (1997–98, Chapter 3)

Review of the ABS Household Survey Program (1998–99, Chapter 2)

ABS Experience in Workplace Relations (1998–99, Chapter 3)

Retirement of Mr Bill McLennan CBE, AM, Australian Statistician, 1995–2000 (1999–2000, Chapter 2)

Servicing Regional Data Requirements (1999–2000, Chapter 3)

Statistical Benchmarking as a Means of Improving Performance (1999–2000, Chapter 4)

Research and Analysis in the ABS (2000–01, Chapter 3)

The 2001 Census of Population and Housing (2000–01, Chapter 4)

Measuring Australia's Progress (2001–02, Chapter 3)

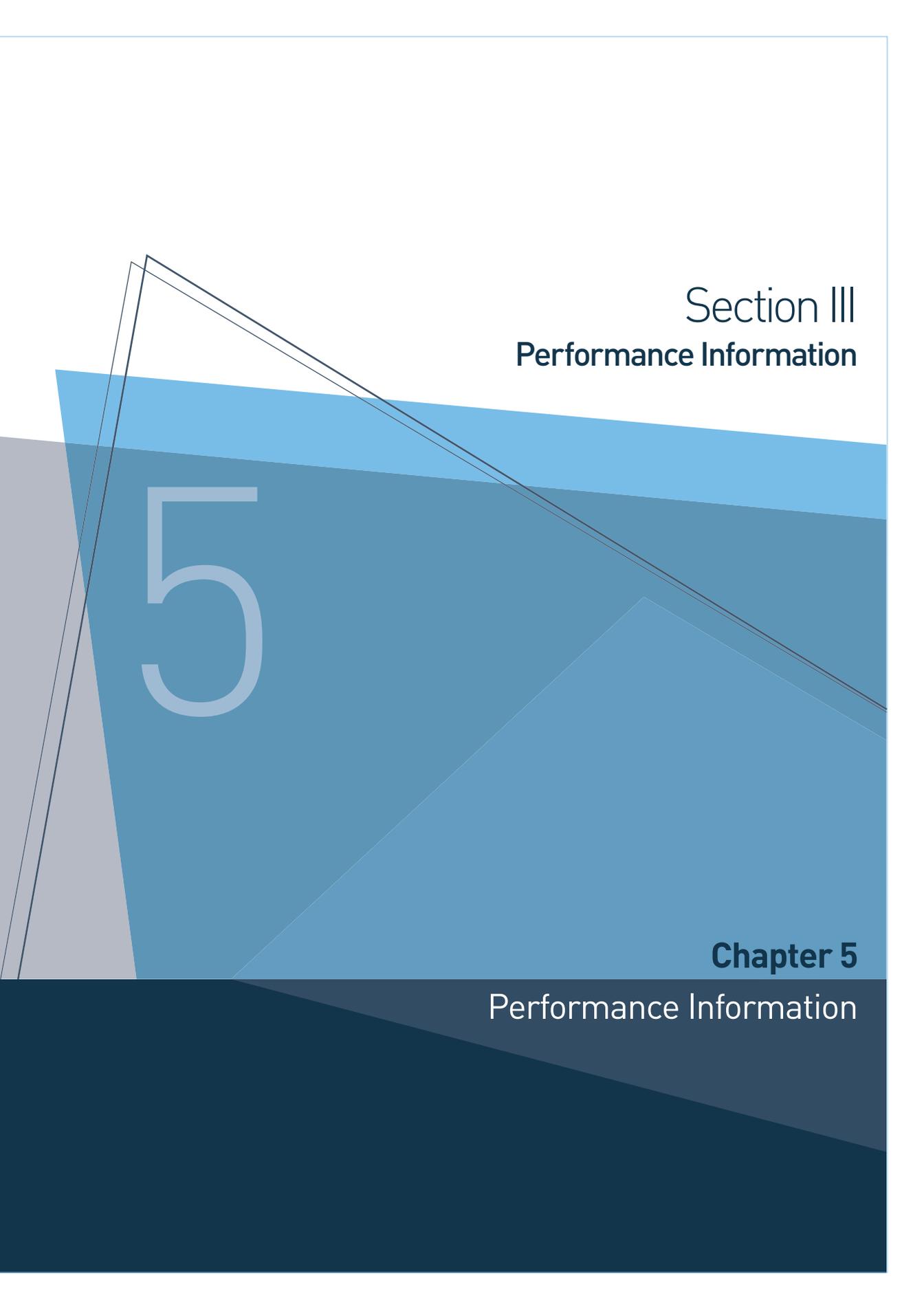
The International Comparison Program (2001–02, Chapter 4)

Access to ABS Microdata: Issues and Developments (2002–03, Chapter 3)

Population Estimates: Importance, Complexity and Controversy (2002–03, Chapter 4)

Progress on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (2003–04, Chapter 3)

Developments in Regional Statistics (2003–04, Chapter 4)



Section III
Performance Information

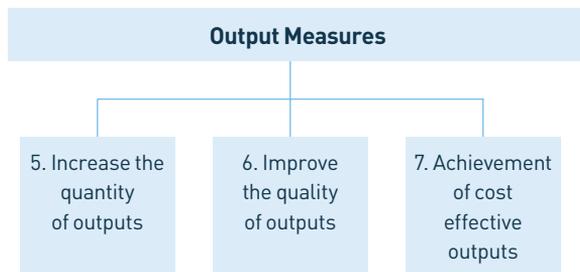
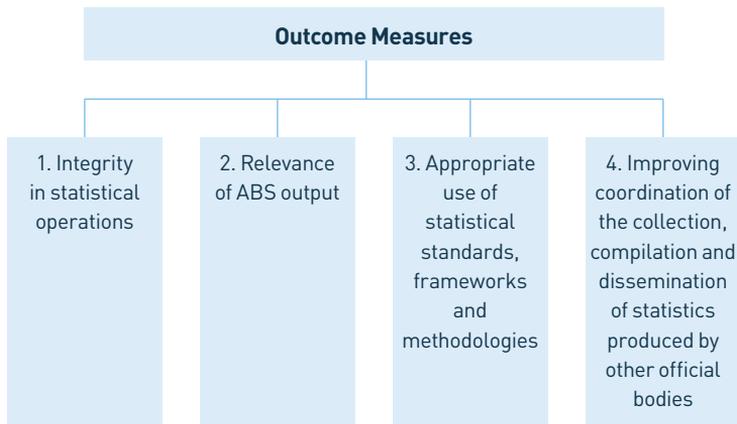
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Chapter 5
Performance Information

5 Performance Information

This chapter outlines the performance of the ABS in 2004–05 in terms of its outcomes and outputs as specified in the 2004–05 Portfolio Budget Statements presented to Parliament in May 2004.

ABS OUTCOME
Informed decision-making, research and discussion within governments and the community based on the provision of a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service



Outcome Measures

1 Integrity in Statistical Operations

Performance Measures

1.1 An objective statistical service, as demonstrated by:

- **Release of reliable/accurate statistics**
- **Open statistical process**
- **Trust and cooperation of providers**

ABS data, analysis, and interpretations are objective, and the ABS always publishes its statistics in ways which explain and inform without advocating a particular position.

The ABS statistical system is open. The ABS sets and publishes, in advance, the dates for the release of all its statistics. Access to statistics that are under embargo is strictly controlled under publicly known arrangements. The methodologies and approaches followed are based on sound statistical principles and practices, disseminated widely, and open to scrutiny.

1.1 An objective statistical service, as demonstrated by:

- **Release of reliable and accurate statistics**
- **Open statistical process**
- **Trust and cooperation of providers**

Release of reliable and accurate statistics

Key measures for demonstrating reliable and accurate statistics include high response rates, extent of revisions, low sample errors and the timeliness of ABS statistics. Performance Measure 6.1 demonstrates the ABS has maintained high response rates in its major economic and social surveys and provided statistics which are subject to low sample errors and relatively minor revisions. As shown in Table 9 there was no change in the timeliness of major economic indicators during 2004–05, however the ABS did improve its timeliness for other general releases.

A key element of this performance indicator is the availability of information to enable users to make their own assessment of quality. Information on these aspects of reliability and accuracy, as well as extensive information on the statistical methods used in collections, are routinely provided in concepts, sources and methods publications, the explanatory notes in publications, and at the Statistical Clearing House web site www.sch.abs.gov.au. Additionally, details of major revisions to published data are described in the explanatory notes of the relevant publication.

Processing errors in the data may lead to the publication of a corrigenda or a complete reissue of a publication as it is ABS policy to publish corrected data as soon as possible. In 2004-05 there were nine corrigenda and eight reissues out of a total of 733 catalogued releases. Most significantly, the March 2005 edition of *Retail Trade, Australia* (cat. no. 8501.0) was reissued on 18 May 2005 after it was identified that the benchmark files used in estimation had not been correctly updated. Retail trade data was revised for the period July 2004 to March 2005. The impact of the error on movement estimates was most significant in the first month of each quarter, but there were minor revisions to movement estimates for the remaining two months of the quarters.

Open statistical process

The Australian Statistician determines which statistics are to be collected after full discussion with users, clients and the Australian Statistics Advisory Council.

The ABS continues to maintain close contact with its users through a variety of mechanisms, including:

- a State Statistical Forum
- user groups
- bilateral discussions with key clients
- standing committees
- outposted statistical officers
- conferences and seminars
- day to day contact in the course of disseminating data.

The ABS Forward Work Program for 2005-06 to 2007-08, published in hard copy and also available on the ABS web site, demonstrates the open statistical process by describing ABS outputs, clients and uses of statistical information, as well as the proposed main medium term developments over the next three years.

The ABS is open about the methods used in producing statistics. The Methodology Division in the ABS is responsible for providing specialist services to meet new and ongoing demands in statistics. The Division's key roles are advising statistical areas on appropriate statistical methods, and being the ABS' conscience on the quality of statistical outputs. Supporting the work of the Methodology Division is the Methodology Advisory Committee (MAC) consisting of professional statisticians external to the ABS. MAC meets twice yearly and provides a forum for peer review of methodological developments in the ABS. Some of the issues considered by MAC in 2004-05 include:

- synthesising results for the Northern Territory and Queensland based on a Western Australia survey of Aboriginal children

- a methodology for producing synthetic microdata for income in non-survey years
- exploring methodologies for the House Price Index
- the general application of significance editing to economic collections.

Information about new statistical standards, frameworks, concepts, sources and methodologies are regularly published in a range of information papers and other publications, in hard copy or electronically. The release of these papers is one element in ensuring the public is informed about the statistical process.

Some specific examples of the open statistical processes in 2004–05 include:

- establishment of the State Accounts User Group to provide strategic and conceptual advice on proposed methodologies for the development of enhanced state account statistics
- agreement by the Rural and Regional Statistics Advisory Group of future statistical priorities as identified in the Regional Statistics Information Development Plan
- conduct of a workshop with key stakeholders to discuss content and details of the 2005–06 Agricultural Census, and the release of *Information Paper: Agricultural Census: ABS Views on Content and Procedures, 2005–06* (cat. no. 7103.0) as part of these consultations
- release of *Discussion Paper: Enhancing the Population Census: Developing a Longitudinal View* (cat. no. 2060.0) accompanied by a series of seminars and meetings with interested parties seeking comment on the proposal to bring census data together over time and with other specified datasets. The ABS commissioned a Privacy Impact Assessment of the proposal, and as part of the ongoing consultation process requested the views of the Australian public on the Assessment. The Privacy Impact Assessment, the ABS' response to the Assessment, and the submissions lodged by the Australian community can be found on the ABS web site.

Ongoing ABS research is often published in professional papers and may be presented to conferences in Australia and abroad. The papers are also generally available on the ABS web site. These papers and conferences provide the ABS with valuable peer review and suggestions in the development of new statistical products. A full list of papers presented in 2004–05 is provided at Appendix 16. Some of the topics presented at conferences include:

- *International migration: conceptual and measurement puzzles* — presented to the 12th Biennial Conference of the Australian Population Association

- *Measuring violence against women in Australia* — presented to the United Nations Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe Conference of European Statisticians, Work Session on Gender Statistics
- *Treatment of owner-occupied housing in Australia: concepts and practices* — presented to the OECD Consumer Price Index Seminar
- *Surveying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: strategies and methodologies of the Australian Bureau of Statistics* — presented to the 21st International Symposium on Methodology
- *Identifying and measuring the impacts of selected drivers of socioeconomic development* — presented to the 55th International Statistical Institute Conference.

The ABS continues to advertise, up to twelve months in advance, all scheduled release dates for publications. Daily press and media releases inform users of publications being released each day. This information is available on the ABS web site. The release of all publications is subject to a strict embargo policy that ensures impartiality, an essential element of integrity.

The ABS has contributed its own policies on collection and dissemination of statistics to the United Nations web site on Good Practices in Official Statistics.

Trust and cooperation of providers

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (C&S Act) obliges ABS staff to maintain the secrecy and security of all data provided to the ABS under the C&S Act, and held by the ABS. Staff sign an undertaking of fidelity and secrecy under the terms of the C&S Act to ensure they are fully aware of the requirements on them. There have been no known cases of an ABS officer breaching the undertaking of fidelity and secrecy.

The ABS has an enviable reputation for preserving the secrecy of reported information, whether it is provided in response to an ABS survey or as administrative data, and for the protection of its statistical data holdings from unauthorised release.

The efficiency of ABS operations and the quality of the data collected are enhanced through maintaining the trust and cooperation of the providers of data. Integral to that process has been:

- the development of the *Business Surveys Charter*
- careful form design
- close liaison with business and other representative groups
- balancing the needs of users for information against the load placed on businesses in providing that information.

Each year over 100,000 businesses are selected in ABS economic surveys, some are in more than one survey. In 2004–05 a total of 300 businesses wrote to the ABS regarding provider load issues, a reduction of 97 since the previous year. Every letter received is responded to in writing by the ABS and, as provided for in the ABS *Business Surveys Charter*, if the complainant is dissatisfied with the response they can refer the matter to the ABS Complaints Review Officer. During 2004–05, two complainants requested the Complaints Review Officer to review the outcome of their complaint. Satisfactory outcomes for the complainant were received in each case.

Table 1: Complaints from business survey data providers

	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
Number of complaints	550	427	397	300

The ABS' household survey program continues to have the trust and cooperation of the public and as a result is able to achieve high response rates. For further information see Performance Measure 6.1.

As part of its internal audit program, the ABS regularly audits the use of Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs), released under the provisions of clause 7 of the Ministerial Determination. This is to ensure that the requirements relating to the management and use of the files, which are agreed to by users in a legally binding undertaking, comply with the regulations. The most recent audit report into CURFs was issued in April 2004, and it confirmed that users of confidentialised unit record files are complying with the conditions specified in the undertakings. Another audit of confidentialised unit record files has commenced and will be reported on in the 2005–06 ABS Annual Report.

2 Relevance of ABS Output

Performance Measures

2.1 Statistical output which meets the needs of key users of economic and social data in terms of:

- Support to decision making
- Demonstrated by a high level of use

2.2 Openness of the planning process

The ABS directs its efforts to the best interests of the Australian community by ensuring that data needed for policy and research purposes are available when required. Good statistical planning, with an understanding of the current and future needs of users, is essential.

The ABS recognises that its statistical outputs must be timely and able to relate to other data so as to be relevant to informed decision making,

debate, and discussions. To ensure data can be integrated, appropriate statistical frameworks such as the System of National Accounts are essential. To assist data users with interpretation of its statistics, the ABS provides analyses and explanations on data produced.

2.1 Statistical output which meets the needs of key users of economic and social data in terms of:

- **Support to decision making**
- **Demonstrated by a high level of use**

Support to decision making

The ABS provides official statistics across a wide range of economic and social matters for government, business and the Australian community.

Apart from the extensive range of existing publications and data which provide support to decision makers on a range of ongoing policy issues, the ABS continues to monitor and anticipate users' needs through the development of new surveys, statistics, and research. The ABS seeks advice from the Australian Statistics Advisory Council to assist it in identifying the future social, economic, and environmental issues of policy significance. In addition, as part of the national statistical service, the ABS cooperates with Australian, state and territory government agencies to release statistics required by key users, which are collected as a by-product of administrative systems.

Some of the key outputs and initiatives that demonstrate where the ABS is improving support to decision makers in 2004-05 include:

- education and training statistics — the release of *Information Paper: Measuring Learning in Australia — Plan to Improve the Quality, Coverage and Use of Education and Training Statistics* (cat. no. 4231.0). Improved information will further support decision making by policy makers and those delivering education and training. It will also further assist research and discussion in the wider community on learning issues and outcomes
- crime and justice statistics — the release of *Information Paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice* (cat. no. 4520.0) which identifies key crime and justice issues, the data sources available to address those issues, and suggested strategies to address data gaps and deficiencies. Together these will assist policy development and inform research in this field of statistics
- Indigenous statistics — the ABS provides ongoing support for a wide range of clients and decision makers in accessing and analysing Indigenous statistics from ABS and administrative collections, such as the Coalition of Australian Governments 2005 reports: *Review of Government Services*; and *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage*. The ABS also released an expanded confidentialised unit record file from the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social

Survey, providing users with the capacity to analyse the survey results by detailed data item and across state and sub-state geography

- tourism statistics — extending the scope of the Survey of Tourist Accommodation to include a range of smaller accommodation units as a result of recommendations in the 2003 *Tourism White Paper, a Medium to Long Term Strategy for the Australian Tourism Industry*. State tourism organisations and industry organisations expressed a very strong requirement for changes to the survey enabling the measurement of the ‘state of health’ of the tourism industry
- population estimated — the ABS population estimates are provided to the Electoral Commissioner for use in determining representation of the states and territories in the House of Representatives. Information describing the current requirements under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* and the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* were released in *Information Paper: Determining Seats in the House of Representatives — Legislative Requirements for Provision of ABS Statistics* [cat. no. 3107.0.55.002]
- price indexes — the ABS undertook research into methodologies to improve the timeliness of the House Price Index, which will assist the Australian Government and the Reserve Bank of Australia in determining policy
- water issues — the ABS released *Water Use on Australian Farms* (cat. no. 4618.0). The Water Survey — Agriculture 2002–03 — was developed in response to strong demand for nationally consistent information on water use, particularly from government agencies responsible for the environment, natural resources, and agriculture and related industries. The survey forms part of a suite of natural resource management surveys conducted by the ABS
- environment — the ABS conducted a trial of land parcel surveys using cadastres rather than the traditional business survey frame. The design and output from land parcel survey frames would be beneficial to decision makers because they could be tailored to particular regions (for example, National Action Plan and Natural Heritage Trust regions, and water catchments) and for some specific issues (for example, salinity and weed management)
- health statistics — the ABS released a number of publications from the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers: *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2003* (cat. no. 4430.0); *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Disability and Long Term Health Conditions, 2003* (cat. no. 4430.0.55.001); and *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Caring in the Community, 2003* (cat. no. 4430.0.55.003). The information released will be used primarily for policy and program development and the provision of services, particularly in the areas of employment and training, aged care, transport, income support and respite care

- innovation statistics — the ABS released *Innovation in Australian Business* (cat. no. 8158.0), which presents results from the Innovation Survey 2003. The survey was conducted with funding from the Department of Education, Science and Training and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources. It differed significantly from previous ABS surveys on innovation, with the scope being extended to cover most ANZSIC divisions and use of a broader definition of innovation than currently used internationally. This broader definition is expected to be adopted in international standards from mid-2005.

An important component of the ABS output strategy has been the release of Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) and the Remote Access Data Laboratory™ (RADL™) to enable users to undertake more detailed analysis of data. In 2004-05 the ABS made available 297 CURFs, an increase of 85 CURFs from the previous year. There were 441 registered users from 51 organisations approved to access RADL™ as at 30 June 2005.

Chapters 6 and 7 contain detailed information on the components of the ABS statistical work program and improvements to the coverage of official statistics.

Demonstrated by a high level of use

The ABS delivers results from all statistical collections as soon as practicable after the reference period, and makes them available to all users at the same time.

The ABS provides statistics and related information to users via many mechanisms, including:

- printed publications, available for purchase through e-commerce on the ABS web site and for existing subscribers, until 1 January 2006 from the ABS national subscription service
- free electronic copies of publications, available for download from the ABS web site from 1 July 2005
- free access to all published statistics to national, state, university and many public libraries across the nation as part of the ABS Library Extension Program (LEP). Users can also access complete Census Community Profile Series and Classification Counts through the facility known as CLIB2001. CLIB is a census product provided free of charge to LEP-eligible libraries
- complimentary media subscriptions to the AusStats service which provides electronic access to all ABS publications and time series data, recognising the media is the means by which many Australians discover official statistics
- a free national telephone inquiry service for brief information requests

- free access on the ABS web site to key statistics, summary publications, explanatory and conceptual material on ABS statistics, and a growing number of information directories
- ABS@ and AusStats subscription services to provide users with ready access to ABS publications and to a range of multidimensional datasets in electronic format.

Free access to ABS data is also provided through media releases, media enquiries, and via the distribution of ABS reports to media offices and to members of parliament.

Accesses to ABS statistical information increased further during 2004–05. This is particularly evident in the use of the ABS web site where there was a 20 per cent increase in web site accesses. This follows on from substantial increases in previous years and reflects, in part, the expanding range of data made available on the web site.

The LEP is a partnership between the ABS and libraries which assists in the provision of ABS information to the community by providing LEP member libraries with free access to published ABS statistics. This initiative, known as eLEP, is an example of ABS' innovative service provision and the roll out of eLEP has continued at a very pleasing rate over the last financial year.

The LEP Excellence Award was established this year to recognise and reward LEP libraries for excellence in raising their communities' awareness, understanding and use of ABS information.

Subscribers to ABS@ increased to 13 with the New South Wales and Western Australia Governments and CSIRO signing up to the service during the year. For an annual fee, ABS@ is replicated daily into the Intranets of key client organisations enabling their staff to easily access ABS information.

The number of subscribers to publications continued to fall in 2004–05. The key reason was the reduction in the number of hard copy publications produced — a consequence of ABS' policy to make the ABS web site our primary mechanism for dissemination. Many subscribers elect to access ABS information through eLEP, AusStats or the ABS' e-commerce system, while others are availing themselves of the increasing amount of information available on the ABS web site.

The number of enquiries to all the most basic dissemination services (Internet Inquiry Service, National Information and Referral Service, Dial-a-Statistic-1900 and CPI Infoline) reduced by more than 10 per cent since 2003–04. This is indicative of the enhanced self help facilities now available on the ABS web site.

The ABS is undertaking a number of projects aimed at expanding the use of ABS data while also taking a more active role in determining ways to improve the statistical literacy of students. These include working with the schools' sector to expand the range of curriculum support

material provided, and coordinating the implementation of a national 'CensusAtSchools' initiative to coincide with the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

Table 2: Accesses to selected dissemination services

	Type of Access	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Web site	Accesses	27,659,711	38,712,367	48,383,816	60,573,254
AusStats	Downloads	355,810	655,782	948,956	962,872
ABS@(a)	Subscribers	8	10	10	13
Internet inquiry service	Emails	15,636	20,036	21,136	14,208
National Information and Referral Service	Calls completed	119,020	100,197	85,556	60,820
Publications(b)	Subscribers	9,654	6,257	4,063	3,227
Dial-a-statistic-1900	Calls	8,452	7,853	6,354	5,444
CPI infoline	Calls	7,333	8,363	7,982	7,035
Library Extension Program	Libraries	515	515	519	518
Secondary providers	Number	65	(c)107	(d)140	(d)132
Remote Access Data Laboratory(e)	Organisations with access	-	13	39	51

(a) Relates to the total number of organisations using the service (including some state and territory governments) at 30 June 2005. (b) Numbers as at 30 June 2005. (c) Includes 38 secondary distributors who include ABS data on their non-charging web sites. (d) Includes 54 secondary distributors who include ABS data on their non-charging web sites. (e) Service commenced in 2002-03.

The level of media reporting over recent years, by medium, is shown in Table 3. Reporting on the ABS and its statistics in the media has decreased in 2004-05. The decrease is predominantly attributed to the decline in reporting on general information about Australians, as the release of 2001 Census of Population and Housing products slows. Media reporting is expected to increase in 2005-06 as awareness campaigns for the 2006 Census intensify.

Table 3: Media reporting, by placement

Year	Radio, television and Internet news placements	Newspaper and magazine placements	News releases issued
2001–02	7,088	11,138	156
2002–03	6,774	13,580	168
2003–04	12,642	(a)10,431	193
2004–05	10,157	10,103	133

(a) The ABS engaged a new media monitoring service for newspaper and magazine placements in 2003–04. As a result, the information for 2003–04 is not directly comparable with earlier years.

As shown in Table 4, the Australian media's use of AusStats continued to increase in 2004–05, although the rate of increase has slowed. This year followed a doubling of the use of AusStats compared to 2003–04, after complimentary access was provided to the media for the purposes of reporting. Targeted marketing and ongoing training programs also contributed to the continuing increase in the usage of AusStats by the media.

The online suite of regional indicators available on the ABS web site — the National Regional Profile — has seen the largest increase in usage by the media in 2004–05.

Table 4: AusStats usage by media (files downloaded)

Year	Publications	Time series spreadsheets	Census	Data cubes	National Regional Profile (b)	Total
2001–02	494	390	72	51	–	1,007
2002–03	2,034	1,721	1,339	167	–	5,261
2003–04(a)	3,681	4,768	1,757	464	139	10,809
2004–05	4,157	4,665	1,529	607	656	11,614

(a) Figures for 2003–04 have been revised. (b) National Regional Profiles were released in 2003–04.

2.2 Openness of planning process

ABS planning processes and decisions are open, relevant and independent. The ABS manages this by maintaining a rolling three-year forward work program which is published on the ABS web site, and this develops and allocates resources to program outputs. The external dialogue which forms such an important element of the ABS planning process is also critical to ensuring the relevance of ABS statistical output. In establishing its forward work program, the ABS is advised by the following user groups:

- Australian Statistics Advisory Council
- State Statistical Forum
- state government advisory groups
- various other formal user groups comprising, as relevant, Australian, state and territory government agencies, academics, business organisations, unions, and community groups.

These include:

- Economic Statistics User Group
- Business Longitudinal Database Advisory Group
- State Accounts User Group
- Innovation Survey Technical Reference Group
- Time Use Survey Advisory Group
- Technical Advisory Group on Indigenous Mortality
- Census Indigenous Enumeration Strategy Working Group
- Personal Safety Survey Advisory Group.

During 2004–05 a review of the Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum was conducted. A number of recommendations were implemented aimed at improving the extent to which this group represents a whole of state government view in providing input to the ABS.

Extensive consultation is also undertaken with key users in the development of specific collections once a decision has been made to include the collection in the forward work program. The information obtained through these forums is supplemented with information gathered from bilateral discussions with key clients, conferences and seminars, outposted statistical officers, and day to day contact with clients in the course of disseminating and advising on the use of data.

The process of refreshing the ABS' highest level circulation of ABS strategic directions, the ABS Corporate Plan, began in 2004–05. Consultations have taken place with key external stakeholders, including Australian Statistics Advisory Council members, clients and other selected statistical agencies.

3 Appropriate use of statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies

Performance Measures

3.1 Lead the development of national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, and their implementation within the broader Australian statistical system

3.2 Contribute to the development of key international standards, frameworks and methodologies, and implement them as appropriate

A key function of the ABS is to ensure appropriate use of statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies. The ABS' role in respect of statistical standards, and providing advice and assistance in relation to statistics, is detailed in the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* as a specific function of the ABS.

3.1 Lead the development of national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, and their implementation within the broader Australian statistical system

An important ABS activity is the development and implementation of national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies which are applied, as appropriate, to all ABS statistical collections, including business and household surveys. A number of publications outlining statistical standards were issued during 2004–05.

The ABS is active in encouraging other Australian, state and territory government agencies to adopt these standards, frameworks and methodologies in their statistical activities.

Achievements during 2004–05 included:

- registration of definitional metadata for a number of collections in preparation for migration to the Input Data Warehouse (IDW). The IDW is a managed unit record data store that aims to service collection activities (including editing), analysis, research and management needs between initial data capture until movement of data to the managed output data store
- the ABS' provision to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) of automatic coding packages for use in the coding of businesses on the Australian Business Register according to their industrial activity. The coding package is now fully operational in the ATO business coding environment
- completion of the final draft for the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 and the design of support tools such as automatic coders and correspondences
- development of the revised *Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG)* (cat. no. 1249.0)
- development of the revised *Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG)* (cat. no. 1266.0)
- development of the revised *Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL)* (cat. no. 1267.0)
- development of the revised suite of Standards for Statistics on the Family, Household and Income Unit, replacing Standards for Statistics on the Family
- contribution to the development of standards, definitions and terminologies relevant to ageing statistics

- release of the first edition of *Labour Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6351.0.55.001) providing information on what the indexes measure and outlining the various sources of the price information used to compile the indexes
- release of *Information Paper: Field of Children and Youth Statistics* (cat. no. 4910.0) which provides important background and contextual material for the Children and Youth Information Development Plan
- release of *Information Paper: Measuring Learning in Australia: Dictionary of Standards for Education and Training Statistics* (cat. no. 4232.0.55.001). It is expected the Dictionary will be used by government, academic and private sector organisations in data collection activities, and will improve the comparability and consistency of education and training data derived from different sources.

3.2 Contribute to the development of key international standards, frameworks and methodologies, and implement them as appropriate

The ABS continues to be an active member of the international statistical community, contributing significantly to the development of key international statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies. Some of the international developments in 2004-05 that the ABS has contributed to, or participated in, include:

- the development of updated international national accounts standards, including hosting a key expert group meeting on the measurement of non-financial assets
- reviewing standards governing the compilation of international economic accounts, particularly to the revision of the Balance of Payments Manual
- the development of international statistical standards for science and technology indicators: as a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) task force on Fields of Science classification for research and development statistics and the OECD Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society; as a participant in the National Experts in Science and Technology Indicators meeting; and through presentations to the biennial Asia-Pacific Information and Communication Technology Technical meeting
- assisting international organisations in the development of standards and providing training on issues relating to the collection of disability statistics for countries in the Asia-Pacific region (through the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)
- continued development of a framework for definitional metadata relating to ABS economic data that is consistent with the international standard for metadata (ISO 11179)

- the development of a conceptual framework for definitional metadata relating to ABS household collections that is consistent with an international standard for metadata (ISO 11179)
- input into the upcoming release of the revised United Nation's Central Product Classification.

In addition, the ABS has implemented, or is in the process of implementing, new international standards and frameworks. Some of these include:

- development and testing of the 2006 Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey. This is part of an international round of surveys being coordinated by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. It is jointly funded by the ABS, the Department of Education Science and Training, and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
- adaption of the International Accounting Standards for use in ABS financial statistics. The changes are outlined in *Information Paper: Impact of the Implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards on ABS Statistics* (cat. no. 1279.0)
- release of *Innovation in Australian Business* (cat. no. 8158.0), which presents results from the Innovation Survey 2003. The survey was conducted with funding from the Department of Education, Science and Training and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources. It differed significantly from previous ABS surveys on innovation, with the scope being extended to cover most ANZSIC divisions and the use of a broader definition of innovation than currently used internationally. This broader definition is expected to be adopted in international standards from mid-2005.

The ABS also provides assistance to statistical agencies in developing nations in implementing current international standards. Assistance in 2004-05 include:

- providing technical assistance and training material on accumulation accounts for the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
- presenting regional training courses on international accounts statistics in Mongolia and Suva
- completing a second phase of assistance, of 30 months, to Thailand to strengthen its macro-economic statistics
- providing expert advice and training to Timor L'este in conducting its first population census since gaining independence
- providing technical assistance to Statistics South Africa to improve their Consumer Price Index
- providing technical assistance to a number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The ABS also contributes to the development of key international standards, frameworks and methodologies by the prominent positions held by ABS officers on a number of international groups concerned with the development of standards. In 2004-05 these included:

- Mr Dennis Trewin, Australian Statistician
 - Chair of the Sub-Committee on Statistics of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
 - Chair of the International Comparison Program Global Executive Board, World Bank
 - Chair of the Conference of European Statisticians Task Force on Confidentiality and Microdata
- Mr Peter Harper, Deputy Australian Statistician, Economic Statistics Group
 - Chair of Canberra Group II on the Measurement of Non-financial Assets
 - Member of the Advisory Expert Group for the 1993 System of National Accounts Update
 - Member of the Regional Advisory Board for the Asia-Pacific International Comparison Project
- Ms Susan Linacre, Deputy Australian Statistician, Population Statistics Group
 - Council member of the International Statistical Institute
 - Chair of Working Group 1: Standards and Frameworks and a Core Set of Outputs, United Nations Expert Group on Population and Housing Censuses.

4 Improving coordination of the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics produced by other official bodies

Performance Measures

4.1 Statistical Clearing House activity

4.2 Assisting other official bodies with the integration of administrative and statistical data, including outposting ABS officers and providing training on statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies

4.3 Identifying, storing and disseminating statistics from other official bodies

Under section 6(c) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, a key function for the ABS is to 'ensure coordination of the operations of official bodies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and related information'. It achieves this by managing the reporting load

placed on businesses by Australian government agencies, and through the development of the National Statistical Service which aims to deliver the statistics required by key users, no matter what the source.

4.1 Statistical Clearing House activity

The primary objective of the Statistical Clearing House (SCH) is to reduce the reporting burden placed on business providers by Australian government agencies (including the ABS). The SCH pays particular attention to eliminating duplication in business surveys, and ensures that surveys conducted follow good statistical methodologies and practices. In view of its statistical expertise and statutory coordination role, the ABS was empowered to administer the clearance process.

Table 5 presents the number of survey reviews at various stages of completion for 2004–05. Throughout the year 116 reviews were completed, with two resulting in approval to proceed. SCH intervention has resulted in 71 instances of improved survey design and/or reduced provider load.

Table 5: Statistical Clearing House — status of reviews for statistical collections, 2004–05

	Completed	In Progress
ABS	33	6
Other	83	12
Total	116	18

For 2004–05, the annualised load imposed on providers by non-ABS surveys reviewed by the SCH has been estimated at 34,107 hours. The annualised load for non-ABS surveys has reduced by more than 30 per cent since 2003–04, in part due to a fall in the number of reviews completed by the SCH.

Table 6: Statistical Clearing House — completed reviews of statistical collections

Year	ABS	Other	Total
2000–01	40	70	110
2001–02	38	77	115
2002–03	52	117	169
2003–04	33	87	120
2004–05	33	83	116

The SCH's Australian Government Business Surveys Register (available on the Internet at www.sch.abs.gov.au) provides access to information on collections that have already been conducted including survey design standards and best practices for organisations developing surveys.

Metadata relating to 965 surveys are currently disseminated on the SCH web site.

4.2 Assisting other official bodies with the integration of administrative and statistical data, including outposting ABS officers and providing training on statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies

The ABS continued in 2004–05 to develop the National Statistical Service (NSS) by broadening the concept of ABS statistical responsibilities to include not only statistics collected by the ABS, but also data produced or available from other government and non-government agencies. The ABS provides leadership to Australian, state and territory government agencies in making better use of their administrative data so that it can provide another source of quality data for statistical purposes. The ABS encourages agencies to adopt a holistic approach to improving the quality of statistics available to users through the application of similar methodologies to administrative and statistical data.

In pursuing the development of the National Statistical Service some of the main achievements in 2004–05 include:

- further developing the National Data Network, a national platform for acquiring data based on shared protocols and facilities, including the release of a National Data Network demonstration system
- supporting statistical fora in each jurisdiction to share information on better statistical practice.

One of the ways the ABS achieves its objective of providing leadership is by developing Information Development Plans (IDPs). The intention of the IDP is to identify, in close consultation with key users, the issues to be addressed in a particular field of statistics, the available data (both ABS and non-ABS), the additional data needed and who has carriage for provision of the data. IDPs assist the ABS in improving the quality, coverage and use of statistics examined which will better support decision making by policy makers and assist research and discussion in the wider community on relevant issues and outcomes. There are a number of IDPs, in various states of progress, addressing statistical topics such as crime and justice, children and youth, information and communication technology, mining, manufacturing, education and training, rural and regional statistics, and emergency management.

Achievements during 2004–05 included:

- release of an information development plan for the education and training sector, *Information Paper: Measuring Learning in Australia – Plan to Improve the Quality, Coverage and Use of Education and Training Statistics* (cat. no. 4231.0). The improvement in information will better support decision making by policy makers and those delivering education and training. It will also better assist research and discussion in the wider community on learning issues and outcomes

- release of *Information Paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice* (cat. no. 4520.0) which identifies key crime and justice issues, the data sources available to address those issues, and suggested strategies to address data gaps and deficiencies
- release of *Information Paper: Children and Youth Information Development Plan — Project Plan* (cat. no. 4909.0) which aims to improve the quality and quantity of data available on this population group and facilitate access to this data.

Another way the ABS achieves its objective of providing leadership is by outposting statistical officers to Australian, state and territory government agencies with a view to facilitating access to, and understanding of, statistics, and strengthening statistical coordination across these bodies. A total of 41 ABS officers were outposted to Australian, state and territory government agencies during 2004–05, an increase of 4 from the previous year. The majority of these outpostings were short term placements.

Table 7: Government organisations with ABS outposted officers, 2004–05

	Long term	Short term
Australian	8	1
State and territory	8	24
Total	16	25

Examples of new partnerships with Australian, state and territory government agencies to identify and utilise a greater range of administrative data that are currently under way include:

- forming a partnership with the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority to utilise administrative data in the compilation of the sectoral compilation of *Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts* (cat. no. 5232.0) and also in the compilation of *Managed Funds, Australia* (5655.0). The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority uses the data to derive measures of the size of the superannuation industry and to monitor trends within the industry
- signing a Memorandum of Understanding between Family and Community Services, the Australian Institute of Family Studies, and the ABS in relation to the management of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, and undertaking a range of survey services for wave 2 of the Study.

Some of the key achievements in assisting Australian, state and territory government agencies through statistical consultancies, statistical analysis, modelling of existing ABS or client data, and statistical training or seminars for clients and users include:

- providing an outposted ABS officer to the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries to investigate improvements in

survey methodology, and compare fisheries data between the states and Tasmania

- assisting the Tasmanian Department of Treasury and Finance to analyse Tasmanian employment by industry labour force estimates in assessing the volatility of the estimates
- organising and presenting a number of training courses in New South Wales and Victoria involving key state agencies to assist clients to understand the indicators and how the statistics can be used
- the release of a joint publication with the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, *Older People, New South Wales* (cat. no. 4108.1)
- providing data and advice to the Office of Senior Victorians to assist with developing a series of wall charts about older people
- developing a paper 'Queensland Seniors: Ageing Well?' presented at the Council of the Ageing and National Seniors Association symposium
- assessing the impact of rising house prices on the Western Australia economy to assist the community to understand the recent changes in the market conditions
- reviewing Western Australia housing projections with a view to improving the estimates
- creating a joint unit with the South Australian Government to work on statistical projects that will assist in the development of government policy.

4.3 Identifying, storing and disseminating statistics from other official bodies

As part of its commitment to provide an expanded and improved national statistical service, the ABS plays a significant role in identifying, storing and disseminating statistics from other official bodies, particularly those derived from administrative systems. Examples during 2004-05 include:

- obtaining agreement from non-ABS agencies to load their metadata from specified data collections on to the proposed Directory of Statistical Sources
- developing a new quarterly Survey of Superannuation, based on data collected by the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority
- introducing, in the July 2004 issue of *Retail Trade, Australia* (cat. no. 8501.0), estimates using a new sample design and an improved estimation method utilising Business Activity Statement data provided by the Australian Taxation Office

- expanding the National Regional Profile on the ABS web site to provide a time series of headline indicators for Australia's regions.

In recent years the ABS has also produced a range of statistical directories to provide users with information on sources of statistics (both from the public and private sectors) for particular topics. Some of the directories include:

- government finance statistics
- superannuation related statistics
- education and training statistics
- transport statistics
- culture and leisure statistics
- prices statistics
- energy statistics.

Output Measures

5 Increase the quantity of output

Performance Measure

5.1 Increase the range of statistics disseminated

5.2 Innovative outputs

During 2004–05 the ABS continued to increase its outputs by increasing the range of statistics disseminated and by producing new and innovative products.

5.1 Increase the range of statistics disseminated

ABS printed and electronic publications, released by subject matter and frequency for 2001–02 to 2004–05, is detailed in Table 8. This table presents indicators of the volume of outputs for the ABS. The total number of publications released in 2004–05 was 733, a slight increase over 2003–04.

Table 8: ABS releases (a) classified by subject matter, year and frequency (number)

Subject Matter/Year	Annual	Quarterly	Monthly	Other	Total
Economic and finance releases					
2002-03	23	58	86	3	170
2003-04	9	40	61	11	121
2004-05	11	33	47	5	96
Industry releases					
2002-03	17	123	75	20	235
2003-04	15	91	70	27	203
2004-05	26	78	63	28	195
Population and migration releases					
2002-03	46	4	18	99	167
2003-04	35	4	18	56	113
2004-05	36	3	24	14	77
Labour releases					
2002-03	9	42	69	12	132
2003-04	6	41	52	12	111
2004-05	6	50	36	33	125
Social analysis releases					
2002-03	14	4	-	27	45
2003-04	13	4	-	64	81
2004-05	14	3	-	44	61
Other general releases					
2002-03	31	24	42	15	112
2003-04	34	19	36	9	98
2004-05	30	16	118 (b)	15	179
Total					
2002-03	140	255	290	176	861
2003-04	112	199	237	179	727
2004-05	123	183	288	139	733

(a) Includes catalogued publications and other products, but excludes reprints and corrigenda. (b) Catalogue numbers assigned to the Reserve Bank of Australia spreadsheets.

Another indicator of the volume of outputs is the number of pages on the ABS web site. The number of pages on the ABS web site has decreased slightly from 308,000 pages in 2003–04 to 285,000 pages in 2004–05, due to the removal of the Integrated Regional Data Base data reference guide.

The extent to which the ABS has extended the range of statistics disseminated is perhaps best demonstrated by the large range of new publications or products released during 2004–05. Some of the more topical include:

- *Australian Outward Foreign Affiliates Trade, 2002–03* (cat. no. 5495.0), containing survey results on the number, industry, sales, purchases, employment, and wages and salaries of foreign affiliates of Australian resident enterprises
- *Contribution of Gambling to Retail Estimates* (cat. no. 8501.0.55.003), presenting information about net proceeds received from licensed gambling activities undertaken by businesses in the pubs, taverns, bars and clubs (hospitality) industries. These industries are called 'Hotels and licensed clubs' in *Retail Trade, Australia* (cat. no. 8501.0)
- *Apparent Consumption of Alcohol, Australia* (cat. no. 4307.0.55.001), providing estimates of the quantity of beer, wine and spirits available for consumption for the years 1996–97 to 2002–03. It also includes an estimate of the apparent consumption of these products by persons aged 15 years and over
- *Private Sector Construction Industry, Australia* (cat. no. 8772.0), based on output from the 2002–03 Construction Industry Survey which collected information on the structure and performance of the construction industry
- *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia* (cat. no. 5625.0) presenting an experimental series on projected capital expenditure which aims to provide more guidance to users of capital expenditure expectations data
- *Environment Expenditure, Local Government, Australia* (cat. no. 4611.0), presenting estimates of expenditures and revenues relating to environment protection and natural resource management by local government authorities of Australia
- *Water Use on Australian Farms 2002–03* (cat. no. 4618.0), presenting estimates of agricultural irrigation water use and management in Australia in 2002–03. The estimates have been compiled from the first detailed collection of data on irrigation water use and management from irrigating agricultural establishments
- *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009* (cat. no. 3238.0), which contains experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Australia based on the 2001 Census of Population and

Housing. It also contains experimental projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population for the period 2002 to 2009

- A series of publications on disability statistics, *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings* (cat. no. 4430.0); *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Disability and Long Term Health Conditions, 2003* (cat. no. 4430.0.55.001); and *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Caring in the Community* (cat. no. 4430.0.55.003)
- *Sexual Assault in Australia: A Statistical Overview* (cat. no. 4523.0), providing a statistical overview of the prevalence of sexual assault in Australia, and providing an analysis of currently available information across the whole field of sexual assault
- *Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2002-03* (cat. no. 4130.0.55.001), providing information on housing costs such as rates, mortgage and rent payments
- *Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview* (cat no. 4172.0), a companion publication for the compendia on sport statistics released in the previous year
- *Perspectives on Regional Australia: Women's Employment in Urban, Rural and Regional Australia, 2001 Census* (cat. no. 1380.0.55.001). This publication was the first in a series of reports analysing a range of topics with a particular focus on regional Australia
- *Mature Age Persons Statistical Profile: Living Arrangements* (cat. no. 4905.0.55.001) providing an insight into the characteristics of mature age persons
- a series of information papers on children and youth statistics, *Information Paper: Key Issues Relating to Children and Youth* (cat. no. 4908.0); and *Information Paper: Field of Children and Youth Statistics* (cat. no. 4910.0)
- *Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators* (cat. no. 1383.0.55.001), a new annual electronic publication which complements the biennial *Measures of Australia's Progress* (cat. no. 1370.0), and presents an update of the headline dimensions (and the headline indicators within those dimensions) covering the key areas of economic, social and environmental progress in Australia.

5.2 Innovative outputs

In addition to the new statistics released in the publications listed in Performance Measure 5.1, the ABS has conducted research which has led to the release of innovative new estimates, classifications and publications. Research undertaken includes:

- an experimental index measuring price changes for financial services acquired by households, released in *Information Paper: Experimental Price Indexes for Financial Services, 1998 to 2003* (cat. no. 6413.0). The experimental indexes will be incorporated into the consumer price

index in the September quarter 2005 publication in conjunction with the introduction of new weights as part of the '15th Series Review'

- the development and implementation of hedonic price indexes for personal computers, including the release of *Information Paper: The Introduction of Hedonic Price Indexes for Personal Computers* (cat. no. 6458.0)
- the introduction of concurrent seasonal analysis into balance of payments, housing and other lending finance statistics to improve the accuracy and consistency of the seasonally adjusted series.

Other innovative outputs released by the ABS in 2004–05 include:

- release of *Australian Industry* (cat. no. 8155.0); *Mining Operations, Australia* (cat. no. 8415.0); and *Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (cat. no. 8221.0), which presented 2001–02 and 2002–03 results using the new Australian Business Register based population framework
- release of *Information Paper: Experimental Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Taxation and Income Support Data, 1995–96 to 2000–01* (cat. no. 6524.0). Estimates were compiled using a combination of aggregated individual income tax data from the Australian Taxation Office and aggregated income support data from the Department of Family and Community Services.

Some of the outputs, both basic (on CD-ROM) and expanded confidentialised unit record files using the Remote Access Data Laboratory™ during 2004–05, were results from the:

- 2002–03 Survey of Income and Housing
- 2002 General Social Survey
- both the 1999 and 2002 cycles of the Child Care Survey.

6 Improve the quality of outputs

Performance Measures

6.1 Achieve or exceed timeliness, statistical reliability, response rates and accuracy objectives:

- **Timeliness**
- **Statistical reliability**
- **Response rates**
- **Accuracy**

6.2 Conduct ongoing research and reviews of quality, and implement their recommendations:

- **Outlines of ABS statistical reviews**
- **Innovative practices — improvements to existing collections as a result of research and development**

The quality of ABS outputs is critical to ensuring the ABS achieves its mission of assisting informed decision-making. The ABS measures the quality of its outputs with reference to their timeliness, statistical reliability, collection response rates and accuracy.

6.1 Achieve or exceed timeliness, statistical reliability, response rates and accuracy objectives:

- **Timeliness**
- **Statistical reliability**
- **Response rates**
- **Accuracy**

Timeliness

The timeliness of ongoing series is measured by the gap between the reference period and the date of publication of results. The ABS continues to adhere to preannounced release dates and make improvements, where possible, to the timeliness achieved. Table 9 presents information on the timeliness for ABS monthly and quarterly publications for main economic indicator statistics, and other general releases.

The average number of days elapsed between the end of the reference period and the release of data for main economic indicator statistics has remained constant in 2004–05. The average release time for quarterly other general releases has improved from last year due to a reduction in the days taken to release the comprehensive tourist accommodation small area data, and releasing two new publications in electronic format only.

**Table 9: Time between end of reference period and release of data
(average number of elapsed days)**

Year	Main economic indicator statistics		Other general releases	
	Monthly	Quarterly	Monthly	Quarterly
2001–02	29	51	34	78
2002–03	28	49	33	74
2003–04	29	51	26	85
2004–05	29	51	25	75

Statistical reliability

The ABS has recently introduced concurrent seasonal analysis into the balance of payments, housing and other lending finance statistics to improve the accuracy and consistency of the seasonally adjusted series. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses the data available at the current reference period to estimate seasonal factors for the current and previous months. Under this method, the estimates of the seasonal factors are fine tuned as new original estimates become available each period. The seasonally adjusted estimates are subject to revisions at each reference month as the estimates of seasonal factors are improved. This method eliminates the need for projecting forward factors.

As discussed in Performance Information 1.1 there was an issue of major concern regarding the reliability of ABS statistics during the year when, on 18 May 2005, the ABS released revised monthly retail statistics for the period July 2004 to March 2005. An independent review was commissioned by the ABS to identify the areas where improvements could be made to procedures and the ABS will implement the necessary changes to ensure the error is not repeated.

One measurable component of statistical reliability is revisions to data. Revisions are generally measured by their size and frequency over time. The ABS aims to minimise revisions as much as possible through effective sample and methodological design. It is also ABS policy to inform users of any significant revisions, and where appropriate, to revise past time series and advise users accordingly. Information on revisions to the Gross Domestic Product and the Current Account Deficit is provided below.

Revisions to quarterly Gross Domestic Product

Table 10 describes the revisions to quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the past several years. In particular, it shows the difference between the first estimate of GDP and that estimate one year later, in terms of the mean revision and the mean absolute revision expressed as percentage points. The figures continue to show that revisions to quarterly GDP in recent years remain relatively small (mean absolute revision), but with some increase in the most recent year. Zero mean revision figures

indicate that the revisions to quarterly GDP over the year have been offsetting. Despite the revisions to quarterly GDP being quite small, efforts to further improve the estimates are ongoing. In particular, there will be investigations into the larger revision in the most recent year to determine if it is due to systemic factors.

Table 10: Revisions to gross domestic product, percentage change(a)

Year	Difference between first estimate and estimate one year later	
	Mean absolute revision % points	Mean revision % points
1999–2000	0.1	0
2000–01	0.2	0
2001–02	0.2	0
2002–03	0.1	0
2003–04(b)	0.3	0.3

(a) Seasonally adjusted chain volume measure. (b) Figures based on three quarters of GDP data.

Revisions to the quarterly Current Account Deficit

Table 11 shows the revisions to the quarterly Current Account Deficit averaged over the financial year for 1999–2000 to 2003–04. Similar to Table 10, the mean revision shows the percentage difference between the first estimate of the current account deficit, and that estimate one year later, averaged over the four quarters for the year. The mean absolute revision shows the average absolute values of the mean revision. The revisions to the current account deficit are expressed in percentage terms however, rather than percentage points as is the case with the revisions to GDP.

A decreasing trend in the mean absolute revisions to the quarterly current account deficit since 1999–2000 is shown in Table 11. The smaller the revision, the more likely the released estimates are reliable. Although the mean absolute revision for the latest complete financial year is considered very good at around two per cent, earlier years' figures of around five per cent were also considered acceptable. Between 2000–01 and 2002–03 the revisions to the quarterly current account deficit have been in the same direction.

Table 11: Revisions to current account deficit, level estimates(a)

Year	Difference between first estimate and estimate one year later	
	Mean absolute revision %	Mean revision %
1999–2000	5.4	0.3
2000–01	4.3	–1.2
2001–02	3.1	–2.9
2002–03	2.3	–2.3
2003–04 (b)	1.3	1.2

(a) Original data. (b) Figures based on three quarters of the data.

Response rates

The ABS has consistently had very high response rates. Past international benchmarking studies have shown these response rates compare favourably with other international statistical organisations.

Since response rates vary little over time, especially for sub-annual surveys, it is more appropriate to report against target response rates than changes in the rates from year to year. Table 12 shows that except for the Labour Force Survey, response rates for selected economic collections either achieve or exceed the target response rates set by the ABS. The Labour Force Survey response rate is an average of the monthly response rates available throughout 2004–05, and is only 1 percentage point lower than the target response rate. Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI) was embedded into the Monthly Population Survey in 2004–05 after a phase-in period beginning at the end of 2003. Analysis of response rates indicates that CAI response rates have been consistently lower than those achieved in the previous environment. This result was expected as interviewers were new to the CAI system, procedures and processes. The ABS is predicting rates will improve in the future with increased experience and training of interviewers.

Response rates for the Australian Industry Survey and the Manufacturing Survey conducted in 2004–05 are not yet final. However, past experience has shown that these figures either remain stable or may rise as surveys are finalised. Both surveys already exceed target response rates.

It is important to note that in regard to business surveys, follow up procedures tend to focus on the more significant businesses, that is, those with typically high sales or employment relative to the rest of the industry. For example, the response rate for businesses in the manufacturing survey might be 92 per cent, but the businesses that have responded may comprise 96 per cent of the total employment in the industry.

Table 12: Response rates for selected economic indicators

Survey	Target response rate (%)	2003-04 actual response rate (%) (a)	2004-05 actual response rate (%) (a)
<i>Labour Force, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6202.0)	97	97	96
<i>Labour Price Index, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6345.0)	98	98	99
<i>Retail Trade, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8501.0)	96	95	96
<i>Australian Industry</i> (cat. no. 8155.0) (b)(c)	90	92	(d)91
<i>Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia</i> (cat. no. 5625.0)	80	89	89
<i>Business Indicators, Australia</i> (cat. no. 5676.0)	80	87	85
<i>Building Activity, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8752.0)	95	96	95
<i>Manufacturing Industry, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8221.0) (b)	90	91	(d)92
<i>Museums, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8560.0) (b)(e)	90	-	90
<i>Public Libraries, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8561.0) (b)(f)	95	95	95
<i>Tourism Marketing Expenditure, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8691.0) (b)(e)	70	-	89

(a) Average response rates over the year for sub-annual surveys. (b) Annual surveys. The response rates refer to surveys conducted in the year listed, but for which the reference period is one year prior. (c) The response rate for this survey is based on the Economic Activity Survey direct collection. (d) Response rates were not finalised as at end June 2005. (e) Due to changes in scope and coverage the current year's survey is not directly comparable with historical surveys. (f) Previous survey was conducted in 1999-2000.

The response rates for selected social surveys are listed in Table 13. High response rates were achieved for social surveys in 2004-05, and in all but one case the target response rate was exceeded. The only survey in which the target response rate was not achieved was the expenditure, income,

housing and wealth component of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey. Despite not achieving the target, the result is considered acceptable. Target response rates are not provided for the Energy Use and Conservation, Education and Work, and Childcare Surveys since they are supplementary surveys to the Monthly Population Survey.

Table 13: Response rates for selected social surveys

Survey	Target response rate (%)	Previous survey actual response rate (%)	2004-05 actual response rate (%)
<i>Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings</i> (cat. no. 4430.0) (a)	84	84	89
<i>National Health Survey: Summary of Results</i> (cat. no. 4364.0) (b)	90	92	93
<i>Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices</i> (cat. no. 4602.0)	n.a.	94	93
<i>Education and Work, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6227.0)	n.a.	94	93
<i>Child Care, Australia</i> (cat. no. 4402.0)	n.a.	96	94
<i>Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results</i> (cat. no. 6530.0) (c)	73	73	71
<i>Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6523.0) (c)(d)	80	77	87

n.a. — Not applicable

(a) The survey was previously conducted in 1998. (b) 2004-05 figures are preliminary. (c) Presents results from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2003-04. Approximately 7,000 households responded to the expenditure, income, housing and wealth questions while a subset of approximately 4,400 households (including 300 households which had not provided adequate expenditure information) responded to the income, housing and wealth questions. The response rates provided are for each component. The additional 300 households are not included in the response rate for the income, housing and wealth component. (d) The 2002-03 Survey of Income and Housing collected income and housing data only.

Accuracy

While all ABS outputs maintain high levels of accuracy in all tables, graphs and text, two types of error are possible in estimates based on sample surveys: sampling error, and non-sampling error. Sampling errors occur because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all units of the population in the survey is given by the standard error. It is ABS policy that standard errors are included in survey publications, along with the descriptions of other types of errors to which outputs may be subject. Non-sampling errors arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data and can occur in any statistical collection. The ABS ensures non-sampling errors are minimised by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing and editing procedures.

The following example illustrates the use of the standard error in quantifying sampling error for unemployed persons in the Labour Force Survey. The published original level estimate for unemployed persons in Australia in May 2005 was 542,200. The calculated standard error for this estimate was 9,000. The standard error is then used to interpret the level estimate. For example:

- there are approximately two chances in three that the real number of unemployed persons falls within the range of 533,200 to 551,200 (i.e. 542,200 plus or minus 9,000)
- there are approximately 19 chances in 20 that the real number of unemployed persons falls within the range of 524,200 to 560,200 (i.e. 542,200 plus or minus 18,000).

The magnitude of standard errors varies between collections due to factors such as the sample size and the value of the estimate in question. Therefore it is impossible to compare standard errors between different surveys or even between variables within the same survey. The Relative Standard Error (RSE), obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers, is a much more useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer also to the size of the estimate. The RSE is also a good indicator for comparing the accuracy of estimates between surveys.

Tables 14 and 15 present a summary view of the accuracy for key aggregates from a number of major ABS publications as expressed by their RSE. The low RSE in both tables highlights the accuracy of ABS' statistical collections. In most cases the RSE for the selected economic and social surveys have remained stable in 2004-05. One of the larger increases in RSE occurred for Company Gross Operating Profit in the Business Indicators Survey. The reason for this increase was mainly due to an expanded scope (from 30,000 companies to one of several hundred thousand), with the inclusion of modelled data for small businesses.

Although not previously conducted, the Tourism Marketing Expenditure Survey shows a much higher RSE than other surveys in these tables. While considered acceptable, this result was due to the wide diversity of business operations included in the scope of this survey. Detailed information is available from the publications, or the concepts, sources and methods publications associated with the collections themselves.

Table 14: Range of relative standard errors for selected economic indicators(a)

Survey	Key aggregate	2003–04 Relative standard error (%)	2004–05 Relative standard error (%)
Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)	Unemployed Persons in Australia	1.6	1.6
<i>Retail Trade, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8501.0)	Total Retail Turnover in Australia	0.9	0.8
<i>Australian Industry</i> (cat. no. 8155.0) (b) (c)	Total income (all industries)	0.4	0.4
<i>Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia</i> (cat. no. 5625.0)	Actual new capital expenditure, Australia	1.3	1.5
<i>Business Indicators, Australia</i> (cat. no. 5676.0)	Company gross operating profit	1.1	1.7
<i>Building Activity, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8752.0)	Value of work done	0.8	0.6
<i>Manufacturing Industry, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8221.0) (b) (c)	Sales and services income	0.3	0.5
<i>Museums, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8560.0) (b)(d)	Total income	n.a.	1.8
<i>Public Libraries, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8561.0) (e)	Total income	n.a.	0.9
<i>Tourism Marketing Expenditure, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8691.0) (b)(d)	Total income	n.a.	8.4

(a) For sub-annual surveys the relative standard error is an average over the year for the available periods. (b) The relative standard errors refer to surveys conducted in the year listed, but for which the reference period is one year prior. (c) 2004–05 figures are preliminary. (d) Due to changes in scope and coverage the current year's survey is not directly comparable with historical surveys. (e) Previous survey in 1999–2000 was a Census of Libraries.

Table 15: Range of relative standard errors for selected social surveys

Survey	Key aggregate	Previous survey relative standard error (%)	2004-05 relative standard error (%)
<i>Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings</i> (cat. no. 4430.0) (a)	Number of persons with a disability	0.5	1.2
<i>Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results</i> (cat. no. 6530.0)	Total goods and services expenditure, Australia	0.8	0.8
<i>Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6523.0)	Mean equivalised disposable income	0.7	0.8

(a) The survey was previously conducted in 1998. There was a different standard error estimation method used between the 1998 and the 2003 survey. For this reason the relative standard errors are not directly comparable.

6.2 Conduct ongoing research and reviews of quality, and implement their recommendations:

- **Outlines of ABS statistical reviews**
- **Innovative practices — improvements to existing collections as a result of research and development**

Outlines of ABS statistical reviews

The ABS reviews its statistical collections regularly to ensure its statistics are of good quality and continuing relevance. Some reviews cover all aspects of a particular collection from user requirements, through to data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination. Other reviews focus on particular elements of collections, such as the methodology.

In reviews of statistical collections, external users are widely consulted and, in some instances, external users assist the review team.

Reviews in 2004-05 include:

- completion of a number of internal reviews to examine the monthly Retail Trade statistics
- completion of an independent review, commissioned by the ABS, to examine the 'Retail Trade Statistics Error'. Mr John Cornish, recently retired Chief Methodologist at Statistics New Zealand, made a number of recommendations to help prevent or minimise a repeat occurrence of similar errors in ABS survey systems and to help detect similar errors sooner in operation

- completion of a major review of ABS statistics on working arrangements. The purpose and scope of the working arrangements review was to inform data users of some of the issues involved in compiling the data, and to collect detailed information about their data needs
- completion of a review into the treatment of the non-observed economy in the national accounts, which found that it was considered unlikely the current estimates of Gross Domestic Product understate, to any significant degree, missed non-observed activity in the economy
- conduct of a major 'fitness for purpose' review of the Survey of Motor Vehicle Use to critically assess how well the outputs meet the needs of users. Key users of the data noted that while the survey is producing the right data items, frequency, and level of detail, enhanced accuracy is an area in which the ABS could focus future development work
- completion of a review of ABS' population estimates and processes by Dr Douglas Norris of Statistics Canada to assess the methodology used to produce the estimates and their overall quality. Although this review did not identify any major problems with the estimates program, a number of recommendations were made to which the ABS is in the process of responding
- conduct of a review of the conceptual basis and commencement of methodological development work for estimating net overseas migration accounting for frequent border crossing patterns of both long term visitors to Australia and Australian residents living overseas long term to improve the quality of the statistics
- commencement of a review of national crime surveys, with input from key stakeholders, with a view to developing and implementing a new model for collecting indicators of crime and safety, taking account of the key information needs and frequency required.

Innovative practices — improvements to existing collections as a result of research and development

Apart from the ongoing reviews of ABS statistical collections, research and development in subject matter areas continues to result in innovative practices for the collection and compilation of data. The results of innovative practices are twofold. First, it leads to more reliable and accurate statistics. Second, it may lead to reduced provider load.

Some of the innovative practices introduced or developed during 2004–05 include:

- full implementation of computer assisted interviewing in the monthly Labour Force Survey
- development of national standards for use in Computer Assisted Telephone Interview surveys of health for inclusion in the National Health Data Dictionary

- recruitment of Indigenous Engagement Managers who will play a crucial function in rolling out the ABS Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy
- successful testing of new imputation methodology for the 2006 Census which involves using dwelling structure and credible source information on the number of persons that is obtained from collectors in the field
- successful transition to data sourced from the exports component of the Customs Cargo Management Re-engineering project
- a move to a new quarterly Survey of Superannuation, based on data collected by the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority
- improvements to the accuracy of the monthly retail trade statistics while reducing the cost to the business community of providing data. A significant reduction in sample size, and hence provider load, for the Retail Business Survey was achieved by implementing a generalised regression estimation methodology with a new sample design utilising the Australian Taxation Office Business Activity Statement item 'Total sales'. The application of the improvements led to an error in the statistics, and on finding this error, the ABS published the revised statistics as soon as practicable, together with the impact on Gross Domestic Product. An independent review was commissioned which identified several areas where the ABS could improve procedures and the ABS will implement the necessary changes
- under the Business Statistics Innovation Program, the centralisation of all regular annual surveys in the New South Wales Office, to facilitate greater consistency of processes leading to more coherent data
- development of the land parcel survey methodology, including trials in New South Wales and Queensland. Previously the ABS had conducted such surveys using the Australian Business Register.

7 Achievement of cost effective outputs

Performance Measures

- 7.1 Conduct efficiency reviews and audits, and implement their recommendations**
- 7.2 Test operating efficiencies of statistical activities by benchmarking internally and externally**
- 7.3 Market test a number of non-statistical activities to identify possible outsourcing opportunities**
- 7.4 Minimise provider load**

The ABS regularly reviews its statistical and non-statistical activities to ensure that it is achieving cost effective outputs. A review of statistical activities in particular is one method of ensuring that business provider load is minimised.

7.1 Conduct efficiency reviews and audits, and implement their recommendations

Efficiency reviews and audits may be initiated by senior management and by the ABS Audit Committee to assess whether resources are being used effectively and efficiently to achieve the ABS' objectives.

Major reviews addressing efficiency issues which commenced, or were completed, during 2004–05 include the following areas:

- marketing services
- Economic Statistics Data Centre
- ABS pricing policy
- Population Statistics Group organisation restructure.

The main outcomes of the above reviews were improvements to operations through more efficient use of the ABS staffing resource and of alternative data sources.

7.2 Test operating efficiencies of statistical activities by benchmarking internally and externally

Benchmarking is a key part of the ABS strategy to assess the value for money of its statistical and non-statistical outputs to understand and learn from best practice and to improve performance. The ABS views the process of benchmarking as an ongoing exercise, enabling the organisation to achieve continuous improvement across a variety of its outputs.

Benchmarking currently being undertaken within the ABS includes comparisons between ABS statistical collections; comparisons between the operations of other international statistical agencies and the ABS; and

comparisons of corporate service functions between other Australian, state and territory government agencies and the ABS. These are outlined below.

Comparisons between ABS statistical collections

The ABS has been developing and introducing an effort recording system into the Economic Statistics output during 2004-05. Already reports can be viewed that will allow point in time analysis of expenditure on individual project and the end-to-end framework.

Comparisons between the operations of a number of international statistical agencies and the ABS

The ABS continues to benchmark its functions and services against a range of international agencies. The ABS has found the most effective mechanism for benchmarking functions and services arises from bilateral discussions with particular agencies. Detailed comparisons of particular statistical or non-statistical work programs often result from such discussions, and following more detailed comparisons, the ABS reviews practices and methods as necessary with the aim of achieving the best outcomes and outputs possible from its resource allocation.

During 2004-05 the ABS jointly hosted the 55th Session of the International Statistical Institute. The conference proved to be an excellent opportunity for the international statistical community to congregate and exchange innovative ideas, forge new links, and discuss current trends and developments in the statistical world. Theme days covered statistics and finance, environmental statistics, and official statistics.

Bilateral discussions were conducted in 2004-05 with Statistics Canada. Topics included: the 2006 Census of Population and Housing; support for secondary data analysis; development of Internet based services for information dissemination; new developments in social statistics; health statistics; Indigenous people statistics; measures of social cohesion; measures of Australia's progress; use of taxation data systems for official statistics; business respondent relations; collection infrastructure for household surveys; international relations; and more general organisational issues. The discussions proved very beneficial for senior staff of both agencies.

Comparisons of corporate services functions between other Australian, state and territory government agencies

The ABS continues to participate in benchmarking studies with other Australian government agencies.

In 2004–05 the ABS reviewed the *Audit Committee Charter* and the *Internal Audit Charter* to reflect the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Audit Committee best practice guidelines. Following discussions at the May 2005 Audit Committee meeting, a small number of changes to the *Audit Committee Charter* were proposed with new paragraphs on conflict of interest and induction. The *Internal Audit Charter* was rewritten, the majority of which was editorial rather than content.

7.3 Market test a number of non-statistical activities to identify possible outsourcing opportunities

Over the past few years the ABS has outsourced a number of key functions including:

- printing and distribution services
- a range of training courses relating to information technology
- leadership and management training
- internal audit
- staff counselling services
- legal advice
- building maintenance
- the supply and distribution of stationery.

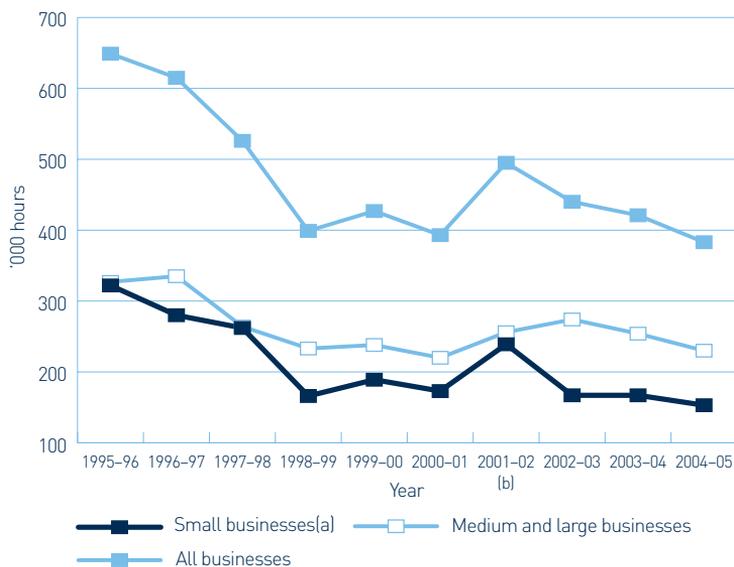
There were no additional outsourcing opportunities identified in 2004–05, although major contracts were signed for the development and conduct of an Internet option for the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and for call centre services associated with the census.

7.4 Minimise provider load

In order to fulfil its mission of providing information to support discussion, debate and decision making, the ABS is required and empowered to collect information from businesses. At the same time the ABS is conscious that the needs of users for information must be balanced against the load placed on businesses providing that information.

Figure 1 shows the provider load (measured in thousands of hours taken to complete statistical forms) imposed on businesses by the ABS for 1995–96 through to 2004–05.

Figure 1: Provider load imposed on businesses by the ABS (hours '000)

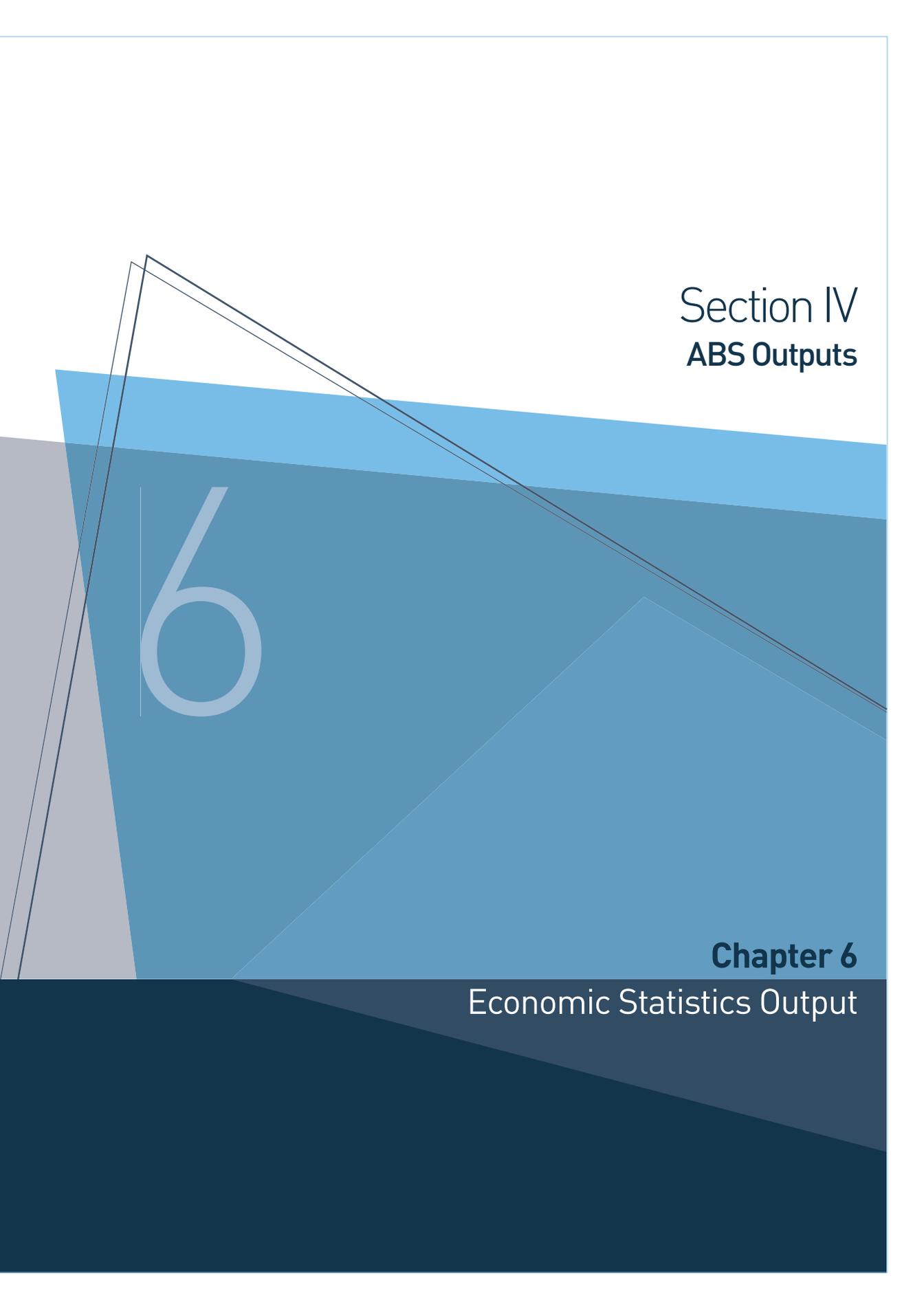


(a) Defined as businesses with less than 20 employees or a derived estimate of employees of less than 20. (b) Higher provider load estimates for 2001-02 reflect the conduct of the five-yearly Agricultural Census.

The ABS is committed to reducing the reporting load placed on businesses. This is consistent with government policy, and the recommendations of the Australian Government’s 1996 Small Business Deregulation Task Force. The task force found the ABS accounted for approximately 1 per cent of total business compliance costs, and since 1995-96 total ABS provider load on businesses has been substantially reduced. The average total load on all businesses for the past five years has been approximately 427,000 hours, or 34 per cent lower than for 1995-96. For small businesses, the average total load over the past five years has been approximately 180,000 hours, or 44 per cent lower than in 1995-96.

Throughout 2004-05 the ABS implemented the following initiatives to reduce the reporting load it placed on businesses:

- introduction of changes to the Building Activity Survey which involved estimating the contribution to published estimates from smaller house renovations from their approval value, rather than by direct collection. This resulted in a reduction of 8 per cent in provider load
- a move to a new quarterly Survey of Superannuation based on data collected by the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority
- further standardisation of local government forms and collection methodology in cooperation with local government grants commissions and departments of local government.



Section IV
ABS Outputs

6

Chapter 6
Economic Statistics Output

6 Economic Statistics Output

Description

The Economic Statistics program provides a range of statistics that are used by governments, businesses and community groups to: formulate and assess economic policies (at both macro and micro level); evaluate economic performance; understand the drivers of economic growth; and understand the structure of, and emerging trends in, the Australian economy. State, territory and regional dimensions to these issues are important, and emphasis is given to servicing these statistical needs. The international comparability of economic statistics is a key aspect, of which the ABS plays an active role.

The ABS framework for economic statistics is based on the United Nations *System of National Accounts 1993* (SNA). The SNA provides a comprehensive framework for compiling economic data in a coherent and consistent manner for the purposes of economic analysis.

At the broad level, the activities undertaken within the Economic Statistics program include:

- collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of economic, environment and energy statistics
- coordination of the statistical activities of other agencies through the Statistical Clearing House, participation in national and state statistical committees, ABS outposted officers, and statistical consultancy services
- provision of professional statistical support
- development, maintenance and promotion of statistical standards, classifications and frameworks for the collection of economic statistics.

The work schedule of the Economic Statistics program is determined after extensive consultation with governments, businesses and community groups, and with the advice of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council. In determining the work program account is taken of the:

- needs of key users
- benefit of statistics to decision makers and researchers
- load on providers
- availability of skilled resources to undertake the work
- costs associated with the activities.

Individual components within the Economic Statistics program have close links with: a wide range of government departments and agencies providing data; users of statistical information; and clients of the statistical

coordination and consultancy services. The statistical activities of other agencies complement the activities of the Economic Statistics program, resulting in a comprehensive national statistical service.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the Economic Statistics program is enhanced by significant and wide ranging input from the ABS corporate and statistical support areas. These inputs include methodological, technological, dissemination, human resource and financial support.

Appendix 1 lists the components of the Economic Statistics program.

Outputs

The Economic Statistics program disseminates its statistical information through a range of printed and electronic products and services.

During 2004–05 the Economic Statistics program produced 291 individual printed and electronic publication releases directly related to economic statistics. A range of concepts, sources and methods publications, information papers, and information development plans were also produced.

The output measures in Chapter 5 present an aggregated record of achievements of the Economic Statistics program against identified performance indicators of quality, effectiveness and efficiency during 2004–05.

Review of Components

The remainder of this chapter reviews the activities and achievements of each component of the Economic Statistics program during 2004–05.

National Accounts

The national accounts component produces statistics which form the core of the Australian system of national accounts. These statistics summarise, in a systematic and comprehensive way, the economic transactions that take place within the Australian economy and between Australia and the rest of the world. The usefulness of the accounts derives largely from the way in which data from a number of sources are brought together and presented in a conceptually consistent way, both for a given period and over time. Australia's national accounts essentially accord with the recommendations contained in the 1993 issue of the System of National Accounts — the international standard for national accounts statistics.

Senior staff attend meetings of the Joint Economic Forecasting Group, which comprises major Australian government economic policy agencies, to provide advice on the statistics used as input to the forecasting process.

Achievements during the year included:

- completion of a review into the treatment of the non-observed economy in the national accounts
- establishment of the State Accounts User Group to discuss state and territory level economic measurement issues
- substantial progress on the development of an Information and Communication Technology satellite account
- progress on the development of updated international national accounts standards including the hosting of a key expert group meeting on the measurement of non-financial assets
- publication of detailed input–output tables for 1998–99, *Australian National Accounts: Input–Output Tables — Electronic Publication* (cat. no. 5209.0.55.001)
- publication of feature articles on ‘The terms of trade effect and the national accounts’ in *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (cat. no. 5206.0) and ‘100 Years of Change in Australian Industry’ in *Australian System of National Accounts* (cat. no. 5204.0)
- provision of technical assistance to the statistical agencies of Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia in relation to the compilation of national accounts statistics.

International Accounts

The international accounts component produces statistics and related information on the balance of payments, the international investment position and globalisation indicators. Balance of payments and international investment position statistics are published quarterly and annually, international trade in goods and services statistics are published monthly, and globalisation indicators are published periodically.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of *Australian Outward Foreign Affiliates Trade, 2002–03* (cat. no. 5495.0) containing survey results on the number, industry, sales, purchases, employment, and wages and salaries of foreign affiliates of Australian resident enterprises
- development of the Survey of Foreign Currency Exposure. The survey collected information on the hedging practices and foreign currency exposure of Australian companies. Results will be published in November 2005
- introduction of memorandum items for tourism related services credits and debits in *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (cat. no. 5302.0)

- publication of feature articles, 'Kangaroo Bonds' and 'Foreign Ownership of Equity' in the September quarter 2004 *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (cat. no. 5302.0)
- a significant contribution, through the preparation of papers and participation in international forums, to the review of international standards governing the compilation of economic accounts, particularly to the revision of the Balance of Payments Manual
- participation in a joint international accounts workshop with Statistics New Zealand
- presentation of regional training courses on international accounts statistics in Mongolia and Suva
- the introduction of concurrent re-analysis, enhancing seasonal adjustment for balance of payments statistics.

International Trade

The international trade component produces statistics on the value, composition, destination and source of Australia's international trade in goods and services. These statistics are available on a range of output media and can be tailored to meet the needs of individual clients. A theme page for international trade on the ABS web site provides users with an extensive set of reference material.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of feature articles, 'Australia's Exporters, 2003-04' and 'Australia's Importers, 2003-04' on the ABS web site, concurrently with the publication *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia* (cat. no. 5368.0)
- successful transition to data sourced from the exports component of the Customs Cargo Management Re-engineering project
- successful updating of benchmarks, and improving methodologies for international trade in services education credits and travel debits, with results to be released for September quarter 2005
- participation in a biennial international merchandise trade conference involving the ABS, Statistics Canada, Statistics New Zealand, HM Customs and Excise, and the United States Census Bureau
- assistance to international visitors from Indonesia on merchandise trade in services and balance of payments compilation, and from Viet Nam and Japan on trade in services.

Financial Accounts

The financial accounts component produces, as part of the Australian system of national accounts, statistics on the financial profile of each sector of the economy and the markets for various categories of financial instruments. Information on inter-sectoral financial transactions is also provided.

The component also produces statistics on the lending activity of financial institutions such as banks, building societies, finance companies, credit unions, unit trusts and superannuation funds.

Achievements during the year included:

- a move to a new quarterly Survey of Superannuation, based on data collected by the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority
- quality assurance and data confrontation work on general insurance data in conjunction with the National Accounts component to reconcile the respective published data series
- the introduction of concurrent re-analysis, enhancing seasonal adjustment in housing and other lending finance statistics
- release of the annual venture capital survey results to an accelerated timetable
- providing technical assistance and training material on accumulation accounts for the Statistical Institute of Asia and the Pacific.

Public Sector Accounts

The public sector accounts component provides government finance statistics for the Australian, state and territory governments, their public non-financial and financial corporations, local governments, and universities. In addition to a range of annual publications, quarterly statistics are compiled for inclusion in the national accounts, and detailed financial statistics about individual local government authorities are provided on request. The component provides advice on the statistics used as input to the forecasting work of the Public Sector Subcommittee of the Joint Economic Forecasting Group.

Achievements during the year included:

- further standardisation of local government forms and collection methodology in cooperation with local government grants commissions and departments of local government. The revised quarterly form has resulted in a significant reduction in provider load
- release of the quarterly electronic publication *Government Finance Statistics, Australia, Quarterly, Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 5519.0.55.001) moved to the day prior to the release of the quarterly publication *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (cat. no. 5206.0)

- the first release of accruals based government financial statistics time series spreadsheets on the ABS web site.

Prices

The prices component is responsible for compiling the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a range of Producer Price Indexes (PPI) and International Trade Price Indexes (ITPI), and the Labour Price Index (LPI).

The CPI measures the change each quarter in the cost of purchasing a fixed basket of consumer goods and services. The PPI include price indexes of inputs and outputs of manufacturing industry; materials used in the building industry; outputs of selected service industries; and the supply of commodities to the Australian economy in a 'stage of production' framework. The ITPI are price indexes for exports and imports. The LPI measures the change in the price of labour services resulting from market pressures, and is unaffected by changes in the quality and quantity of work performed.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of an experimental index measuring price changes for financial services acquired by households in *Information Paper: Experimental Price Indexes for Financial Services, 1998 to 2003* (cat. no. 6413.0). The experimental indexes have been updated each quarter and will be incorporated into the CPI in the September quarter 2005 publication in conjunction with the introduction of new weights as part of the '15th Series Review'
- development and implementation of hedonic price indexes for personal computers, including the release of *Information Paper: The Introduction of Hedonic Price Indexes for Personal Computers* (cat. no. 6458.0)
- the inclusion of a new series on non-wage labour costs to the renamed publication *Labour Price Index, Australia* (cat. no. 6345.0), previously known as *Wage Cost Index, Australia* (cat. no. 6345.0)
- release of the first edition of *Labour Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6351.0.55.001) providing information on what the indexes measure and outlines the various sources of the price information used to compile the indexes
- continued technical assistance to Statistics South Africa to improve their CPI by setting up an interviewer program for collecting prices data
- further assistance to the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank in setting up the Asia/Pacific region component of the 2005 International Comparison Program; support to the global program through chairing the Executive Board and being an active participant in the Technical Advisory Group.

Business Indicators

The business indicators component produces a range of sub-annual indicators of current economic activity. These indicators include monthly estimates of turnover by retail and selected service industries and economy wide quarterly estimates of company profits, sales, inventories, wages and new capital expenditure. The capital expenditure series include both actual and expected expenditure. The program also produces quarterly estimates of mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure. The data from the business indicators program are essential inputs into the compilation of quarterly and annual national accounts and input-output tables.

Achievements during the year included:

- introducing, in the July 2004 issue of *Retail Trade, Australia* (cat. no. 8501.0), estimates using a new sample design and an improved estimation method utilising Business Activity Statement data provided by the Australian Taxation Office
- incorporating more sophisticated modelling into the seasonal adjustment process for the majority of the retail trade series and a changed treatment of the trading day component for all series
- introducing a quarterly electronic release *Contribution of Gambling to Retail Estimates* (cat. no. 8501.0.55.003) on the ABS web site
- the introduction of a new experimental series on projected capital expenditure which aims to provide more guidance to users of capital expenditure expectations data.

Economy Wide Statistics

The economy wide statistics component is responsible for a range of annual statistics on the financial operations and performance of businesses in the Australian economy. The outputs from this activity provide key inputs into the compilation of Australia's national accounts.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of *Australian Industry* (cat. no. 8155.0) which presented 2001-02 and 2002-03 results from the Economic Activity Survey. These were the first results published using the new Australian Business Register based population framework. Included in the publication were estimates on the old and new basis to enable the backcasting of national accounts series and to assist external users to understand the changes introduced. Also included, to assist data interpretation, was information on how these data compare with other ABS data
- conduct of an expanded Economic Activity Survey for the 2003-04 reference year to provide data for the preparation of Tourism Satellite Accounts

- finalisation of collection strategies to enable the release of Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006 based estimates for 2004–05 and 2005–06 with the 2006–07 estimates
- the centralisation of all regular annual surveys in the New South Wales Office to facilitate greater consistency of processes leading to more coherent data
- provision of assistance to BPS — Statistics Indonesia regarding development of their economic census.

Business Demographics

The business demographics component produces statistics on the size, structure and characteristics of businesses to assist policy makers, researchers and the community to analyse the performance of businesses in the economy.

Achievements during the year included:

- development of requirements for the 2005 Survey of Characteristics of Small Business Owners as a supplementary survey to the June Monthly Population Surveys. This survey covers an extended set of topics including reasons for operating a business from home, barriers to employment of staff, source of business advice and involvement in exporting. The results of this survey are due for release in April 2006
- continued development of a Business Longitudinal Database (BLD) with support from an external advisory group. The development of a business characteristics survey to support the BLD into the future has commenced; the first survey will be conducted in 2006 in respect of 2004–05
- development of a conceptual framework for the Business Entries and Exits series, and the release of *Experimental Estimates, Entries and Exits of Business Entities, Australia* (cat. no. 8160.0.55.001) covering 2001–02, 2002–03 and 2003–04.

Innovation and Technology

The innovation and technology component provides statistics on innovation, research and experimental development, and information technology. Information technology includes statistics on the demand for information technologies by businesses, government, households and farms, and on the supply and distribution of information technology and telecommunications goods and services.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of *Innovation in Australian Business* (cat. no. 8158.0), which presents results from the Innovation Survey 2003. The survey was conducted with funding from the Department of Education, Science and Training and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources. It differed significantly from previous ABS surveys on innovation, with the scope being extended to cover most ANZSIC divisions and use of a broader definition of innovation than currently used internationally. This broader definition is expected to be adopted in international standards from mid-2005
- release of *Household Use of Information Technology, Australia* (cat. no. 8146.0) which contains a range of new and detailed statistics about the use of computers and the Internet by selected population groups, persons with a disability, persons aged 60 years and over, Indigenous persons, and children
- the inclusion of questions on biotechnology research and development in the 2003-04 reference year Survey of Research and Experimental Development — Businesses. Output from this survey will be released in September 2005
- in conjunction with stakeholders, substantial progress towards the compilation of an Information Development Plan for the fields of information and communication technology statistics, and science and innovation statistics
- contribution to the development of international statistical standards for science and technology indicators as:
 - a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) task force on Fields of Science classification for research and development statistics
 - a member of the OECD Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society
 - a participant in the National Experts in Science and Technology Indicators meeting
 - presenters at the biennial Asia-Pacific Information and Communication Technology Technical meeting.

Agriculture

The agriculture component provides statistics on the structure, performance and production of the agriculture industry. Data collected and disseminated includes monthly information on livestock slaughtering, quarterly information on poultry slaughtering and wool receivals by brokers and dealers, and detailed annual information on the operations of farm businesses including commodity production and other characteristics such as farm business and land management practices. User funding by industry associations is provided to obtain detailed information about vineyards, and for apples and pears. Every five years a census of farm businesses is undertaken to provide a comprehensive picture of the sector and to provide detailed regional and commodity data. The next census will be in respect to the 2005–06 reference year and will be despatched in June 2006.

A range of derived statistics, including estimates of the value of agricultural commodities produced, is also provided by the agriculture component.

Achievements during the year included:

- finalisation of a strategy to use the Australian Business Register as the source of the population for agriculture collections
- release of the inaugural *Apparent Consumption of Alcohol, Australia* (cat. no. 4307.0.55.001), to be released annually on the ABS web site. This publication provides estimates of the quantity of beer, wine and spirits available for consumption for the years 1996–97 to 2002–03. It also includes an estimate of the apparent consumption of these products by persons aged 15 years and over
- completion of a detailed analysis of the vegetation questions collected under contract for the Department of Environment and Heritage
- publication of a feature article, 'Seasonal and trend influences in lamb slaughtering', in the June quarter 2004 *Livestock Products, Australia* (cat. no. 7215.0)
- release of *Information Paper: Agricultural Census: ABS Views on Content and Procedures 2005–06* (cat. no. 7103.0) and conduct of a workshop with key stakeholders as part of the user consultation in developing the 2005–06 Agricultural Census.

Mining

The mining component conducts annual surveys of the mining, electricity, gas, water and sewerage industries to provide statistics on the structure, financial operations, performance, and other characteristics of these industries. The component also conducts quarterly collections of actual and expected mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure. Information on mineral and petroleum production is obtained from state administrative sources.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of *Mining Operations, Australia* (cat. no. 8415.0) which presented 2001–02 and 2002–03 results using the new Australian Business Register based population framework. Included in the publication were estimates on the old and new basis to enable the backcasting of national accounts series and to assist external users to understand the changes introduced
- publication for the first time in the September quarter 2004 *Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia* (cat. no. 8412.0) mineral exploration expenditure data based on whether the expenditure was related to existing deposits or new deposits
- completion of a draft Mining Information Development Plan (IDP) which brings together the information needs of users, the existing information available and the identified gaps. The IDP will be refined and finalised following further consultation with stakeholders
- a successful meeting of the Mining User Advisory Group.

Manufacturing

The manufacturing component provides statistics on the structure, performance and production of the manufacturing industry. Data collected and disseminated include selected commodity production statistics and, from an annual survey, extensive statistics on the structure, financial operations, performance, and other characteristics of the manufacturing industry.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of *Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (cat. no. 8221.0) which presented 2001–02 and 2002–03 results using the new Australian Business Register based population framework. Included in the publication were estimates on the old and new basis to enable the backcasting of national accounts series and to assist external users to understand the changes introduced

- finalisation of collection strategies to enable the release of Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 based estimates for 2004–05 and 2005–06 with the 2006–07 estimates
- completion of the first round of user consultations regarding the draft Manufacturing Information Development Plan.

Construction

The construction component produces regular indicators of activity for the three components of construction: residential building; non-residential building; and engineering construction. It also produces periodic statistics on the structure, performance and characteristics of the construction industry. The component undertakes and publishes analytical work on an ad hoc basis which explores the relationship between construction activity and societal changes and general economic conditions and developments.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of *Private Sector Construction Industry, Australia* (cat. no. 8772.0) based on output from the 2002–03 Construction Industry Survey which collected information on the structure and performance of the construction industry
- publication of a feature article 'Work in the pipeline in current prices', in September quarter 2004 *Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary* (cat. no. 8755.0) relating to construction activity that has been approved, but as yet, has not been undertaken. The article included estimates for the value of work not yet done as well as estimates on the number of dwellings approved, but not yet commenced. Tables on this subject are now included in each issue of the publication
- publication of a feature article 'Are we building on smaller blocks?', in July 2004 *Building Approvals, Australia* (cat. no. 8731.0) relating to the move towards building larger houses on smaller residential blocks in Australia
- introduction of changes to the Building Activity Survey which involved estimating the contribution to published estimates from smaller house renovations from their approval value, rather than by direct collection. This resulted in a reduction of 8 per cent in provider load without any significant affect on the published series.

Transport

The transport component provides monthly statistics on sales of new motor vehicles, annual statistics of motor vehicle use, and the associated annual motor vehicle censuses which provide data on the characteristics of the Australian vehicle population. The component is responsible for statistical leadership activities in the field of transport statistics, including the development and promotion of standard transport statistical frameworks and classifications.

Achievements during the year included:

- extensive consultation with the Survey of Motor Vehicle Use (SMVU) data users to identify their data requirements. This consultation is part of a major 'fitness for purpose' review of the SMVU undertaken to critically assess how well the outputs meet the needs of users
- publication of user funded national rail freight surveys for 2001-02 and 2002-03
- introduction of separate identification of sport utility vehicles in New Motor Vehicle Sales outputs in *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (Electronic Publication)* (cat. no. 9314.0).

Service Industries

The service industries component produces statistics on the size, structure, operations and output of a range of Australian service industries. Surveys typically cover a standard set of financial operations information together with a set of activity information tailored to each survey topic.

Achievements during the year included:

- completion of the round of 2002-03 surveys with the release of: *Television, Film and Video Production, Australia* (cat. no. 8679.0); and *Performing Arts, Australia* (cat. no. 8697.0)
- release of the 2003-04 publications: *Museums, Australia* (cat. no. 8560.0); *Public Libraries, Australia* (cat. no. 8561.0); and *Tourism Marketing Expenditure, Australia* (cat. no. 8691.0)
- methodological research and user consultations for surveys of sport; gambling; and pubs, clubs and taverns to be conducted in respect of 2004-05
- survey development and methodological research for the planned 2005-06 surveys of the wholesale and retail trade industries.

Tourism

The tourism component produces quarterly statistics on the supply and demand for tourist accommodation in Australia, released in *Tourist Accommodation, Australia* (cat. no. 8635.0) and associated products. These data are a key input into the policy and planning activities of government and industry, particularly at the regional level.

The component also undertakes a strong coordination role, working in partnership with key clients to identify data needs and ensure the availability of a suite of relevant tourism statistics. Other activities include the research and development of tourism performance indicators and the development and promotion of tourism statistical frameworks, standards and concepts.

Achievements during the year included:

- extending the scope of the quarterly Survey of Tourist Accommodation to include a range of smaller accommodation providers
- research and analysis to develop a quarterly tourism gross value added indicator.

Environment

The environment component collects and publishes environment and energy statistics, including environment accounts. Within these fields, the component plays a coordinating role in the collection of data, undertaking research, and implementing international environmental accounting frameworks for new collections and current data holdings.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of the following publications: *Environment Expenditure, Local Government, Australia* (cat. no. 4611.0); *Water Use on Australian Farms 2002–03* (cat. no. 4618.0); and *Domestic Use of Water and Energy, South Australia* (cat. no. 4618.4)
- continued development of the water accounts including: significant contributions to the development of a United Nations Manual on Water Accounting; the establishment of a survey of the water supply and sewage industry; and production of experimental estimates of regional water use by agriculture for 2000–01
- development of the land parcel survey methodology, including trials in New South Wales and Queensland
- contributions to the State of the Environment Report due for release in 2006.

Statistical Coordination

The statistical coordination component aims to extend and strengthen the National Statistical Service by improving the value and the use of statistical outputs. The component promulgates good practices in the design, collection and documentation of statistics, and operates the Australian Government Statistical Clearing House which seeks to reduce the load on businesses and to ensure that the quality of surveys to businesses is sufficient to provide the information needed. The component supports several inter-agency fora for coordinating efforts to improve the National Statistical Service. It also supports people producing statistics by providing training, disseminating good practice and developing tools for improving, sharing and acquiring statistics.

Achievements during the year included:

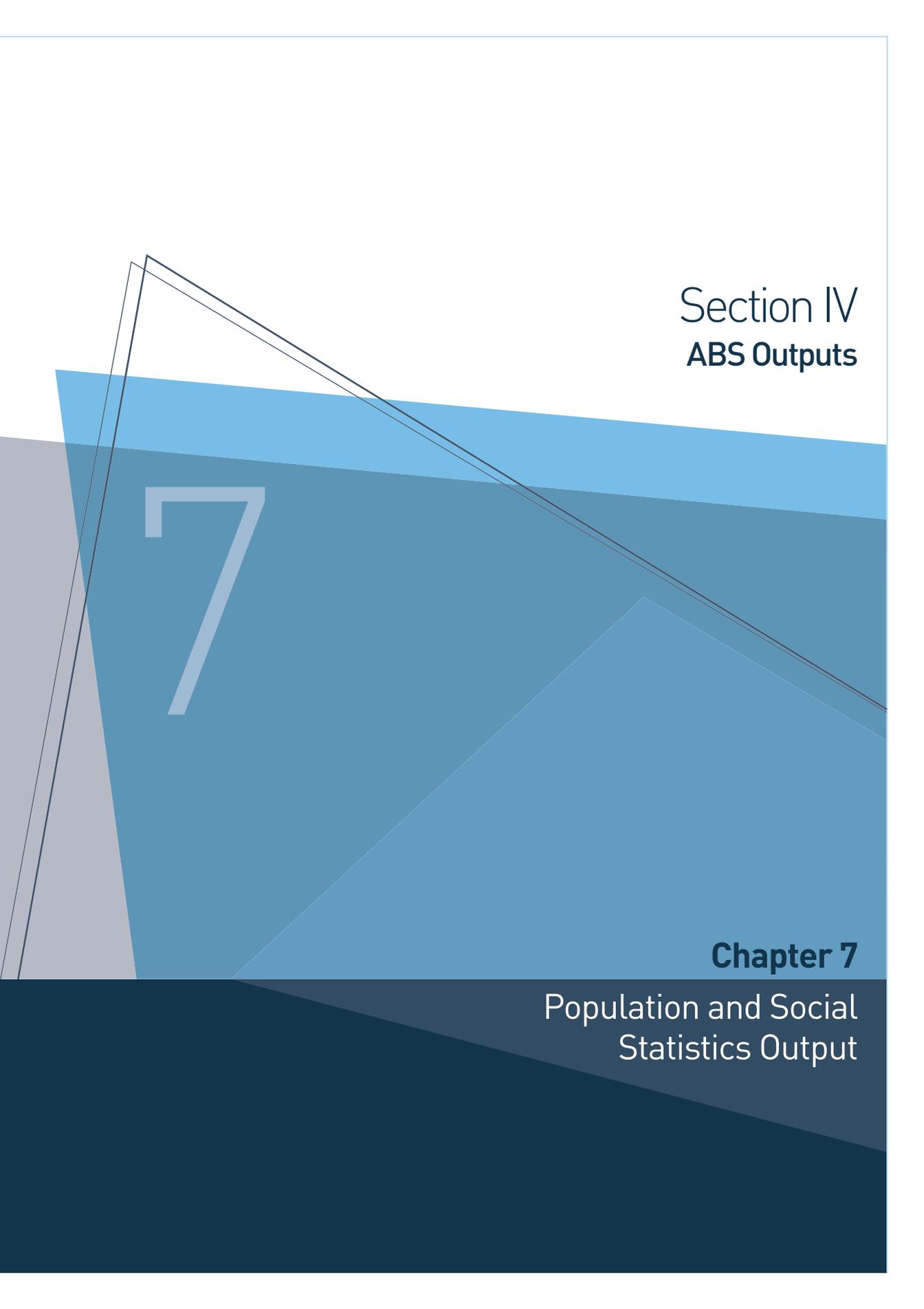
- development of a search facility to assist users of data identify relevant data from across Australian, state and territory government agencies
- production of an online Better Practice Checklist for the publication of statistical data
- completion of 107 reviews, of which 62 per cent resulted in an improvement to the survey or a reduction in provider load
- release of the National Data Network demonstration system and establishment of a National Data Network web site www.nationaldatanetwork.org
- provision of cost recovery statistical consultancy services to 18 agencies
- conduct of 15 training programs and a seminar series on best practice in collecting and using statistical information.

Australian Economic Indicators

The Australian Economic Indicators sub-component publishes *Australian Economic Indicators* (cat. no. 1350.0), a monthly compendium of key national, state and international economic time series. It also contains feature articles and provides a quarterly review of the economy.

Achievements for the Australian Economic Indicators sub-component during the year included:

- publication of 15 feature articles addressing a range of statistical topics and issues
- improvements to the content and presentation of the 'quarterly review of the economy'.



Section IV
ABS Outputs

7

Chapter 7

Population and Social
Statistics Output

7 Population and Social Statistics Output

Description

ABS population and social statistics are concerned with describing Australia's population, its size and distribution, and the social wellbeing of the population. Underlying the notion of social wellbeing is a range of fundamental human needs and aspirations, each of which can be linked to an area of social concern. These have been encapsulated as they have evolved over the years by the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and others. Not surprisingly, governments have implicitly identified with this range of needs and aspirations and they have become the focus of social policy and program and service delivery, and are reflected in many of the structures of government.

The ABS framework for social statistics, as published in *Measuring Wellbeing: Frameworks for Australian Social Statistics* (cat. no. 4160.0), is built around a number of areas of social concern: health; family and community; housing and neighbourhood; education and training; work; income; crime and justice; culture-leisure; and population. The population statistics framework also includes a second dimension which focuses on population groups which are of particular interest to the community and to governments, for reasons such as their special need or disadvantage. This dimension of the framework includes: older people; children; youth; families with children; long-term unemployed; lone parents; people with disabilities; carers; recipients of various government benefits; low income earners; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons; and people whose language background is other than English.

The Population and Social Statistics program operates in response to the statistical needs of governments and the wider community, taking into account the public and private costs associated with collecting, processing and disseminating statistical information on population and social issues.

At the broad level, the activities undertaken within the Population and Social Statistics program include:

- collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of population, social, and labour statistics
- coordination of the statistical activities of other agencies through the Statistical Clearing House, participation in national and state statistical committees, ABS outposted officers, and statistical consultancy services
- provision of professional statistical support

- development, maintenance and promotion of statistical standards, classifications and frameworks for the collection of population, social and labour statistics.

The work schedule of the Population and Social Statistics program is determined after extensive consultation with governments, businesses and community groups, and with the advice of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council. In determining the work program, account is taken of the:

- needs of key users
- benefit of statistics to decision makers and researchers
- load on providers
- availability of skilled resources to undertake the work
- costs associated with the activities.

Individual components within the Population and Social Statistics program have close links with a wide range of government agencies providing data; users of statistical information; and with clients of the statistical coordination and consultancy services. The statistical activities of other agencies complement the activities of the Population and Social Statistics program, resulting in a comprehensive national statistical service.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the Population and Social Statistics program is enhanced by significant and wide ranging input from the corporate and statistical support areas. These inputs include methodological, technological, dissemination, human resource, and financial support.

Appendix 1 lists the components of the Population and Social Statistics program.

Outputs

The Population and Social Statistics program disseminates its statistical information through a range of printed and electronic products and services.

During 2004–05 the Population and Social Statistics program produced 263 individual printed and electronic publication releases directly related to population and social statistics. A range of concepts, sources and methods publications, information papers, and information development plans were also produced.

Output measures in Chapter 5 present an aggregated record of achievements of the Population and Social Statistics program against identified performance indicators of quality, effectiveness and efficiency during 2004–05.

Review of the Components

The remainder of this chapter reviews the activities and achievements of each component of the Population and Social Statistics program during 2004–05.

Census of Population and Housing

The Census of Population and Housing component develops and conducts the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. The results, together with measures of the census undercount, are used to revise population estimates for each of the states and territories, and to provide detailed statistics on Australia's population and its housing within small geographic areas and for small groups within the population. These statistics are used for electoral purposes, for the distribution of government funds, and for a variety of planning, administration, policy and research activities of government, business and other users.

Achievements during the year included:

- approval of the 2006 Census topics by the Australian Government
- completion of enumeration plans for each state and territory and for special population groups, particularly Indigenous people
- development of infrastructure, and preparation of materials to support enumeration activities including procedures, training, recruitment and pay systems, field communications and transport of materials
- release of *Discussion Paper: Enhancing the Population Census: Developing a Longitudinal View* (cat. no. 2060.0) accompanied by a series of seminars and meetings with interested parties seeking comment on the proposal of bringing census data together over time and with other specified datasets
- conduct of a major test of 20,000 households in Victoria to test the integration of electronic with traditional census collection methods and question design
- completion of the first 2006 Census processing system integration test
- reaching an agreement with the Community and Public Sector Union on *Data Processing Centre, Certified Agreement 2005–2007* for the 2006 Census
- successful testing of new imputation methodology for the 2006 Census
- release of *Information Paper: 2006 Census of Population and Housing, ABS Views on Census Output Strategy* (cat. no. 2009.0), accompanied by a series of meetings with potential data users seeking views on dissemination options for the 2006 Census

- delivery of a prototype Internet based dissemination system
- further progress made on the eCensus Project, a project which enables Australians to submit their 2006 Census forms electronically.

Geography

The geography component is responsible for developing and maintaining geographic products, services and standards for use by the ABS and its clients. Activities include the annual production of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification and associated products, provision of geographic information systems, geocoding, and mapping services to the ABS.

Achievements during the year included:

- assessment of the quality of the Geocoded National Address File (GNAF) released by Public Sector Mapping Agencies Australia Ltd, and provision of recommendations for its continuous improvement
- development of a web service geographical coder (addresscoder@abs) for matching addresses to the GNAF and assigning them a standard geographical code
- design and development of Mesh Blocks, a new micro level of Australian statistical geography. Mesh Blocks will be implemented in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing outputs and in other statistical outputs where appropriate
- quarterly releases of *National Localities Index, Australia* (cat. no. 1252.0.55.001) on the ABS web site. This is the ABS statistical local area coding tool soon to be replaced by addresscoder@abs
- development of the Geographic Information System infrastructure and management of the design of census Collection Districts for the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

Demography

The demography component produces estimates of the Australian population by age, sex, country of birth, Indigenous status, registered marital status and geographical distribution, and estimates of families and households. Statistics are produced regularly on births, deaths, overseas arrivals and departures, and internal migration. Projections of the population, families and households, according to specified demographic assumptions, are published on a regular basis and produced for individual clients. Population benchmarks are provided for use in the ABS and other population surveys.

Achievements during the year included:

- quarterly releases of population estimates for Australia, states and territories in *Australian Demographic Statistics* [cat. no. 3101.0] with improved timeliness of the December Quarter 2004 issue for use under *A New Tax System (Commonwealth–State Financial Relations) Act 1999*
- conduct of the annual Population Estimates Technical Workshop with representatives of each state and territory government to explain and discuss methodological issues associated with the compilation of population estimates for use under *A New Tax System (Commonwealth–State Financial Relations) Act 1999*
- release of *Information Paper: Determining Seats in the House of Representatives — Legislative Requirements for Provision of ABS Statistics* [cat. no. 3107.0.55.002], describing the current requirements under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* and the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* for ABS population estimates to be provided to the Electoral Commissioner for use in determining representation of the states and territories in the House of Representatives
- conduct of an external Review of ABS Population Estimates and Processes by Dr Douglas Norris of Statistics Canada
- release of *Demography Working Paper 2004/3 — Calculating Experimental Life Tables for Use in Population Estimates and Projections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* [cat. no. 3106.0.55.003]
- release of *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009* [cat. no. 3238.0]
- conduct of a review of the conceptual basis and commencement of methodological development work for estimating net overseas migration accounting for frequent border crossing patterns of both long term visitors to Australia and Australian residents living overseas long term
- release of additional seasonally adjusted and trend statistical series and commentary for short-term visitor arrivals by country of residence and short-term resident departures by country of destination in *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia* [cat. no. 3401.0]
- provision of demographic methods advice to the Productivity Commission in support of the Economic Implications of an Ageing Australia Research Report
- investigation and assessment of alternative methods for estimating net undercount in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing with a specific emphasis on Indigenous communities and remote areas.

Labour Statistics

The labour statistics component provides information on: the composition and characteristics of the labour force; operations of the labour market; and earnings, labour costs and other conditions of employment. It is also responsible for developing and promoting standard statistical concepts, definitions and classifications in these areas.

Labour force statistics are based on data collected in the Labour Force Survey, a monthly survey of approximately 30,000 households. These statistics provide timely estimates of employment and unemployment, together with basic demographic data, enabling various characteristics of the employed and unemployed to be analysed. In addition, supplementary surveys are run in conjunction with the Labour Force Survey to collect more detailed data on specific labour market issues.

Topics covered by supplementary surveys in 2004–05 included job search experience, employee earnings, employee benefits, trade union membership, underemployment, forms of employment, persons not in the labour force, labour force experience, and labour force and other characteristics of migrants.

A new Multi-purpose Household Survey, first conducted over 2004–05, will provide information on barriers and incentives to labour force participation, as well as retirement and retirement intentions.

The component also produces: quarterly statistics on industrial disputes, average weekly earnings, job vacancies, and public sector employment and earnings; biennial statistics on the distribution and composition of employee earnings, hours, and methods of setting pay; and periodic statistics on employers' labour costs.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of feature articles in *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0) on topics including: mature-age people and the labour force; part-time and full-time labour force participation; people who work few hours; job search experience; and health, disability, age and labour force participation
- publication of statistics on employee earnings, hours and methods of setting pay in *Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia* (cat. no. 6306.0)
- completion of a major review of ABS statistics on working arrangements
- release of *Information Paper: Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey* (cat. no. 6232.0) detailing the major underlying concepts and questions used in the Labour Force Survey, including recent changes made to the questionnaire
- implementation of computer assisted interviewing in the monthly Labour Force Survey

- release of confidentialised unit record files and accompanying technical papers on the Remote Access Data Laboratory from the Survey of Employment and Unemployment Patterns and the Survey of Employment Arrangements and Superannuation.

Health Statistics

The health statistics component is responsible for social analysis related to health and the community, and for providing information on health and disability. It is also responsible for developing and promoting standard statistical concepts, definitions and classifications in these areas. The component produces statistics on many aspects of health including causes of death, health status and risk factors, use of health services by the population, and statistics about private health establishments, disability, ageing and carers and population groups such as persons with a disability, aged persons, families, women and children.

Achievements during the year included:

- enumeration of the 2004–05 National Health Survey, with results due for release in early 2006
- release of several web-based publications and articles:
 - *Musculoskeletal Conditions in Australia: A Snapshot* (cat. no. 4823.0.55.001)
 - *Cancer in Australia: A Snapshot* (cat. no. 4822.0.55.001)
 - *Mental Health in Australia: A Snapshot* (cat. no. 4824.0.55.001)
 - *Injury in Australia: A Snapshot* (cat. no. 4825.0.55.001)
 - *Characteristics of People Reporting Good or Better Health* (cat. no. 4828.0.55.001)
 - *Health of Children* (cat. no. 4829.0.55.001)
 - *The Health of Older People, Australia* (cat. no. 4827.0.55.001)
 - *Private Hospitals, Australia* (cat. no. 4390.0)
- release of *Causes of Death, Australia* (cat. no. 3303.0); and *Suicides: Recent Trends, Australia* (cat. no. 3309.0.55.001)
- release of *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings* (cat. no. 4430.0); *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Disability and Long Term Health Conditions, 2003* (cat. no. 4430.0.55.001); and *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Caring in the Community* (cat. no. 4430.0.55.003)
- contribution to international work in the development of health and disability statistics by assisting international organisations in the development of international standards and provision of training on issues relating to the collection of disability statistics for countries

in the Asia/Pacific region (through the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific).

Education and Training Statistics

The education and training statistics component is primarily undertaken by the National Centre for Education and Training Statistics (NCETS). Statistics on schools, school students and staff are compiled from collections conducted in cooperation with the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs and released annually. Government schools data are collected initially by state and territory education departments, and non-government schools data are initially collected by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). Statistics on educational attainment, participation in education and training, and transition from education to work are produced from regular household surveys and from the Census of Population and Housing.

The National Education and Training Statistics Unit, a partnership with the NCETS and other government agencies, works to promote greater comparability of information across the different education and training sectors.

The ABS also has a major role in statistical leadership and coordination across all sectors of education and training, and is represented on each sector's peak statistical committee.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of the Information Development Plan for the sector, *Information Paper: Measuring Learning in Australia — Plan to Improve the Quality, Coverage and Use of Education and Training Statistics* (cat. no. 4231.0)
- release of *Information Paper: Measuring Learning in Australia: Dictionary of Standards for Education and Training Statistics* (cat. no. 4232.0.55.001)
- progressing the work program of the National Education and Training Statistics Unit for 2003–04 to 2005–06, which includes projects to review the ABS school apparent retention rates, develop a skills and qualifications profile, develop quality statistics on early childhood education, and develop indicators for labour market outcomes
- enumeration of the 2005 Survey of Education and Training
- development and testing towards a 2006 Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey as part of an international round of surveys being coordinated by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, jointly funded by the ABS, DEST and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Crime and Justice Statistics

The crime and justice statistics component is primarily undertaken by the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics which is responsible for leadership of national statistical activity relating to crime and justice, including crime victimisation surveys. It produces national statistics and analyses about crime and justice, including reported and unreported crime, criminal court processes and resulting sentences including custodial and community-based orders. It coordinates data collection activities within the ABS, and across other public agencies relating to this field, and provides a statistical service which includes provision of statistical information, training of data providers, advice on statistical standards, and development of quality control procedures.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of the national Information Development Plan for crime and justice which identifies key crime and justice issues, the data sources available to address those issues, and suggested strategies to address data gaps and deficiencies
- release of *Sexual Assault in Australia: A Statistical Overview* (cat. no. 4523.0)
- development of the 2005 Personal Safety Survey, including conduct of a pilot test and dress rehearsal in preparation for the enumeration from August to November 2005
- development and enumeration of the 2005 National Crime and Safety Survey
- commencement of a review of national crime surveys, with input from key stakeholders, with a view to developing and implementing a new model for collecting indicators of crime and safety, taking account of the key information needs, and frequency required.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics component covers the activities of the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (NCATSIS) together with the development and conduct of ABS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander surveys. NCATSIS has responsibility for the leadership and coordination of national statistical activity on Australia's Indigenous peoples, both across the ABS and more broadly, including consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and working in collaboration with a broad range of external agencies to achieve relevant and appropriate information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NCATSIS undertakes analyses of data on selected topics of major social significance in the field. NCATSIS also plays a role in Indigenous data development.

The key elements in the component include the development, conduct and dissemination of results from both the six-yearly National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and the six-yearly National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey. Both these surveys are designed to produce Australian, state and territory estimates for remote and non remote areas. The component implements an Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy to maintain rapport with Indigenous communities and organisations on data collection and use and for assistance in the development of the Indigenous Enumeration Strategy for the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

Achievements during the year included:

- enumeration of the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, with results due for release in February 2006
- release of a confidentialised unit record file from the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey providing users with the capacity to analyse the survey results by detailed data item and across state and sub-state geography
- recruitment of Indigenous Engagement Managers for ABS regional offices in each state and in the Northern Territory and are a crucial element in the implementation of an ABS Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy
- ongoing support for a wide range of clients in accessing and analysing Indigenous statistics from ABS and administrative collections, including the 2005 reports released by the Coalition of Australian Governments: 'Review of Government Services'; and 'Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage'.

Living Conditions Statistics

The living conditions statistics component provides information about the material living conditions of the Australian population with an emphasis on areas of social concern, and population groups at risk of disadvantage. Household income, wealth, expenditure, consumption, housing, superannuation and other aspects of material living conditions are central to monitoring material wellbeing. Related areas of measurement and analysis include financial hardship and financial stress which help to provide a wider picture of the material circumstances and living conditions of Australians.

Material wellbeing statistics describe the circumstances and situation of the population and monitor changes in living conditions over time. The statistics are used to support policy development, program delivery and program evaluation of key government agencies involved in social security, taxation, housing, and community and family services provided in support of people in need. The statistics provide information on needs

for, and impacts of, programs and service provision, and can be used to assess areas of unmet need.

The component produces statistics from a range of social surveys in the areas of housing, income, superannuation and household expenditure.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of *Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia* (cat. no. 6523.0)
- finalisation of a restricted dataset from the 2003–04 Household Income and Expenditure Survey for use in rebenchmarking the Consumer Price Index
- publication of *Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2002–03* (cat. no. 4130.0.55.001); a web-based release which provides information on housing costs such as rates, mortgage and rent payments
- release of confidentialised unit record files from the 2002–03 Survey of Income and Housing.

Family and Community Statistics

The family and community statistics component provides information about family and community wellbeing with an emphasis on areas of social concern and population groups. The component provides statistics from a variety of collections including the Census of Population and Housing, the General Social Survey, the Labour Force Survey and its supplements on families and child care, and from special social surveys on time use and on aspects of the community such as volunteering and social capital. A further dimension is the provision of statistics for various population sub-groups including women and men, couples and one parent families, and carers.

Family and community statistics focus on outcomes and status within the population, including the demand for, and use of, services, and monitor changes over time. The statistics are used to support policy development, program delivery and program evaluation of key government agencies involved in social security, taxation, community, and family services. The statistics provide information on needs for, and impacts of, programs and service provision, and can be used to assess areas of unmet need.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of *Family Characteristics, Australia* (cat. no. 4442.0)
- release of confidentialised unit record files from the 2002 General Social Survey
- release of confidentialised unit record files on the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory from both the 1999 and 2002 cycles of the Child Care Survey

- development and enumeration of a June 2005 Child Care Survey
- development of a November 2005 Pregnancy and Work Survey.

Culture and Recreation Statistics

The culture and recreation statistics component is undertaken primarily by the National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics, which has responsibility for the coordination of national statistical activity in the fields of culture and recreation and in the field of migrants. The component provides expertise within the ABS regarding the collection and analysis of data related to these fields, as well as informing external users about the available statistics, relevant classifications and standards, and appropriate data analysis.

In addition to regular publications on Book Retailers, Book Publishers, and Government Funding to Culture, other achievements during the year included:

- analysis of participation in sport for both adults and children using multivariate techniques to assess a range of social, demographic, and other leisure participation factors
- release of *Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview* (cat. no. 4172.0), which is a companion publication for the compendia on sport statistics released in 2003–04
- release of *Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia* (cat. no. 6281.0); and *Involvement in Organised Sport and Physical Activity, Australia* (cat. no. 6285.0)
- release of a report on Volunteers in Sport, including a brief review of literature on this topic
- development of new survey questions to explore barriers and motivators of sport participation, including a literature review on this topic
- release of a paper assessing the feasibility for establishing a Sport and Recreation Satellite Account
- investigation of user data requirements in the area of migrant statistics with a view to establishing an ABS work program in this area in future years.

Rural and Regional Statistics

The Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre is responsible for providing leadership for, and coordination and integration of, regional statistics in the ABS. The National Centre is the focus for user liaison on regional statistical needs including those relevant to key government policy issues.

Achievements during the year included:

- expansion of the National Regional Profile on the ABS web site to provide a time series of headline indicators for Australia's regions
- agreement reached, by the Rural and Regional Statistics Advisory Group, of future statistical priorities as identified in the Regional Statistics Information Development Plan
- provision of statistical support to the Department of Transport and Regional Services on the design and population of a regional evaluation framework for assessing the status of regions
- release of *Perspectives on Regional Australia: Women's Employment in Urban, Rural and Regional Australia, 2001 Census* (cat. no. 1380.0.55.001); and *Information Paper: Experimental Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Taxation and Income Support Data, 1995-96 to 2000-01* (cat. no. 6524.0).

Ageing Statistics

The ageing statistics component is primarily undertaken by the National Ageing Statistics Unit which was established by the ABS in 2002 in response to an increased interest in the ageing of the Australian population and associated issues. The unit provides leadership and coordination of national statistical activity in the field of ageing, including promotion of relevant standards, definitions and methodologies. It also promotes an holistic understanding of ageing issues within the ABS and undertakes statistical research and analysis on ageing topics.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of a series of *Mature Age Persons Statistical Profile: Living Arrangements* (cat. no. 4905.0.55.001) to provide an insight into the characteristics of mature age persons
- contribution to the development of standards, definitions and terminologies relevant to ageing
- the production of a regular newsletter and ABS web site theme page on ageing issues.

Children and Youth Statistics

The children and youth statistics component includes the National Children and Youth Statistics Unit (NCYSU), whose primary goal is to improve the body of statistics that relate to children and young people in Australia. In pursuit of this goal, the NCYSU has a leadership and coordination role in the field of children and youth statistics, which includes supporting relevant and important survey development and reporting initiatives within and outside the ABS.

The component also includes ABS statistical advice and support for the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) under a partnership

arrangement with the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) and the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS).

Achievements during the year included:

- progress in the development of the Children and Youth Information Development Plan (IDP). The IDP will highlight the priority data demands in this field of statistics, the associated supply of data, and the key data gaps and deficiencies. In turn, this will shape the direction of statistical development activities for children and youth statistics
- release of *Information Paper: Children and Youth Information Development Plan – Project Plan* (cat. no. 4909.0); *Information Paper: Key Issues Relating to Children and Youth* (cat. no. 4908.0); and *Information Paper: Field of Children and Youth Statistics* (cat. no. 4910)
- involvement in a range of significant statistical development activities, including Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth initiatives and the 'A Picture of Australia's Children' project
- signing a Memorandum of Understanding between FaCS, the AIFS and the ABS in relation to the management of LSAC, and undertaking a range of survey services for wave 2 of LSAC.

Social Analysis and Reporting

The social analysis and reporting component produces reports that inform the government and the community of social conditions and progress in Australia. The reports draw together data and analysis from within the ABS and from a range of other sources. The reports include analysis of current circumstances, how circumstances have changed over time, how different groups of people have been affected, and how various factors may have accounted for observed trends. The reports provide information on the wellbeing of the population, the extent of need and disadvantage in society, the progress that is being made towards social goals, the interrelationships between economic, social and environmental aspects of life, and whether life in Australia is improving.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of *Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators* (cat. no. 1383.0.55.001) — a new annual electronic publication which complements the biennial *Measures of Australia's Progress* (cat. no. 1370.0) and presents an update of the headline dimensions (and the headline indicators within those dimensions) covering the key areas of economic, social and environmental progress in Australia
- release of *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0) — an annual flagship publication containing articles on contemporary social issues and a range of social statistics showing the changes that have taken place in various areas of social concern (such as health, work, and family and community).

State and Territory Statistical Services

The State and Territory Statistical Services (STSS) component provides a flexible and responsive service to meet priority statistical needs of state and territory governments and other important state and territory based clients, in addition to those met by ongoing statistical outputs of the ABS. The STSS project supports the ABS objective of an expanded and improved National Statistical Service within each state and territory. The work is undertaken by ABS regional offices and generally takes the form of statistical consultation (such as design, development and conduct of a survey), statistical analysis, dissemination of state-based ABS and other statistics, modelling of existing ABS or client data, statistical training, and the presentation of seminars for a broad range of clients. ABS staff are also outposted to state or territory government agencies to carry out specific short-term statistical assignments.

Through this component, the ABS participates in bodies established by state or territory governments to coordinate their statistical activities and requirements in line with national statistical service objectives. This component also maintains bilateral contact with state and territory government departments and agencies in order to be aware of their needs for statistics, their statistical activities and their use of information from existing collections, and to encourage the adoption of uniform statistical standards and practices.

Achievements during the year, by regional office, are listed under four broad topics.

Development and release of statistical products including:

New South Wales

- production and release of an annual state publication encompassing key areas of economic and social importance in *New South Wales in Focus* (cat. no. 1338.1)

Victoria

- release of 2001 Census data compiled for the Best Start project which describes a range of characteristics of Victorian children (0–8 years) to the Victorian ABS@consultancy container

Queensland

- release of *Research Paper: Workplace Functions in Regional Labour Markets, Queensland 1976 to 2001* (cat. no. 6601.3)
- release of an article '2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey' for Queensland in Review on the ABS web site

Western Australia

- research and publication of a range of analytical articles in the Western Australia Statistical Indicators publication in response to identified Western Australia Government statistical priorities

South Australia

- contribution to a South Australian profile compiled by a not for profit organisation which has a collaborative arrangement with the state government
- development of feature article style publication *SA Stats* [cat. no. 1345.4]

Tasmania

- review and development of substantial new non-ABS content for the web-based releases of Statistics — Tasmania and Regional Statistics

Australian Capital Territory

- development and release of the monthly feature article style publication *ACT Stats* [cat. no. 1344.8.55.001] covering different statistical topics of relevance to the Australian Capital Territory community.

Reviews and assessments of state and territory agency data holdings including:

New South Wales

- quality assessment of 50 non-ABS datasets from 27 agencies (state and national)
- agency approval for the use of datasets in the Families First Outcomes evaluation, New South Wales Regional Profile, and *New South Wales in Focus* [cat. no. 1338.1]
- agency approval for loading of dataset metadata to the ABS Directory of Statistical Sources from 13 agencies
- contributing to discussion on data gaps and as a result further developing state data holdings

Victoria

- data confrontation exercise examining the quality of birth statistics for Victoria

Queensland

- assessment of a range of ABS and non-ABS administrative datasets for use in intercensal population estimates for the Queensland Aboriginal Councils and Islander Council areas

Western Australia

- assessment of average water use, perinatal statistics and hospital separations data
- continued research on the development of an inventory of state government data holdings

South Australia

- a review of hospital separation data
- agency needs analyses for the Attorney General's Department and the Department of Water, Land, Biodiversity and Conservation

Northern Territory

- assessment of 21 non-ABS datasets covering the fields of climate, labour force, education and training, income, law and public safety, health, transport, housing, agriculture and fisheries, mining and energy, and tourism

Australian Capital Territory

- assessment of a number of administrative datasets for use in intercensal population estimates.

Statistical assistance to state and territory governments with regard to strategic projects including:

New South Wales

- release of a joint publication with the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care: *Older People, New South Wales* (cat. no. 4108.1)
- data collection, evaluation, and the production of a number of reports to be released in October 2005 utilising the Families First Outcomes Framework
- development of a State Supplementary Survey on Housing Choices culminating in the release of *Housing Choices, NSW* (cat. no. 3240.1) and additional tables for New South Wales Housing

Victoria

- provision of advice to the Department of Human Services regarding the development of a data dictionary for an integrated data collection on homelessness, and to the Office of Senior Victorians to assist with developing a series of wall charts about older people
- provision of outposted ABS officers to the Department of Treasury and Finance to assist with improving the flow and quality of government finance statistics; and to the Departments of Premier and Cabinet, Treasury and Finance, Sustainability and Environment, Infrastructure and Victorian Communities to provide statistical advice and support

- support to the Victorian Community Indicators Project by conducting a stocktake of existing local community indicator projects and initial identification of existing data sources that might be used to populate new community indicators

Queensland

- development of a State Supplementary Survey on Housing Motivations and Intentions culminating in the release of the publication *Housing Motivations and Intentions, Queensland* (cat. no. 8710.3.55.001)
- coordinating ongoing consultation between the ABS and other government agencies for the Fitzroy Land Parcel Frame Trial
- development of a paper 'Queensland Seniors: Ageing Well?' presented at the Council of the Ageing and National Seniors Association symposium
- provision of outposted ABS officers to: the Queensland Government to assist with survey design, collection and analysis of the new Environmental Profile Survey; the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries to investigate improvements of survey methodology and data comparisons between states for fisheries data; and to the Office of Economic and Statistical Research to facilitate state government input to the 2005 state statistical priorities process, and to provide statistical and coordination support for collaborative projects and consultations

Western Australia

- development of a State Supplementary Survey on Home Safety and Security
- assessment of the impact of rising house prices on the Western Australia economy
- review of the Western Australia housing projections
- provision of outposted ABS officers to: the Western Australia Police Service; the Ministry for Justice in Western Australia; the Office for Children and Youth; and the Across Government Domestic Violence Working Group to assist with strategic projects such as: data quality improvement; developing statistical frameworks and reporting mechanisms; and production of statistical indicator publications

South Australia

- creation of a joint unit with the South Australian Government working on statistical projects informing government policy
- development of competitiveness indicators, custom industry profiles, and measures to assess progress against the South Australian Strategic Plan

- creation of a land sales and land valuation dataset for Australia with disaggregation to regional levels
- a report on South Australian children and youth
- investigation of merging agricultural commodity data with estimated irrigation water usage to provide a complete picture of irrigation by water management region
- analysis of data from the State Supplementary Survey of Domestic Use of Water and Energy

Tasmania

- provision of outposted ABS officers to: the Department of Police and Public Safety; the Department of Justice; the Department of Health and Human Services; and the Department of Treasury and Finance, for assistance in strategic projects such as improving data comparability and quality, developing statistical metadata and reporting frameworks
- analysis of Tasmanian employment by industry labour force estimates to assist the Department of Treasury and Finance in assessing the volatility of the estimates
- commencement of a scoping study into the possibility of producing, or facilitating, the collection of interstate trade data for use by the Department of Treasury and Finance

Northern Territory

- completion of a review and provision of feedback to the Northern Territory Department of Education, Employment and Training on regional labour markets, including workforce trends, labour force data and skills profiles
- completion of an outposted ABS officer to Arts Northern Territory which resulted in a field tested questionnaire available for use in collecting information on the point-of-sale value of Indigenous visual arts and crafts

Australian Capital Territory

- provision of outposted ABS officers for work on the Australian Capital Territory Spatial Plan and Digital Divide.

Continuing engagement with state and territory governments about their strategic statistical requirements and their contribution to further development of the National Statistical Service including:

New South Wales

- ongoing development of an Emergency Management Information Development Plan by way of a working group consisting of all state and territory emergency services agencies as well as relevant Australian government departments and agencies

Victoria

- review of the Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum and the implementation of associated recommendations aimed at improving the extent to which this group represents a whole of state government view in providing input to the ABS
- organisation and presentation of a number of training courses to assist clients to understand statistics available and how statistics can be used

Queensland

- investigation of the Australian Taxation Office Business Activity Statements for use as indicators of regional business performance

Western Australia

- continued research on the development of an inventory of state government data holdings

South Australia

- continuing development of indicators for the state strategic plan

Tasmania

- development of a set of headline indicators and the provision of strategic advice on the development of a Tasmanian community survey
- finalisation of a framework for Tasmanian participation in the National Data Network

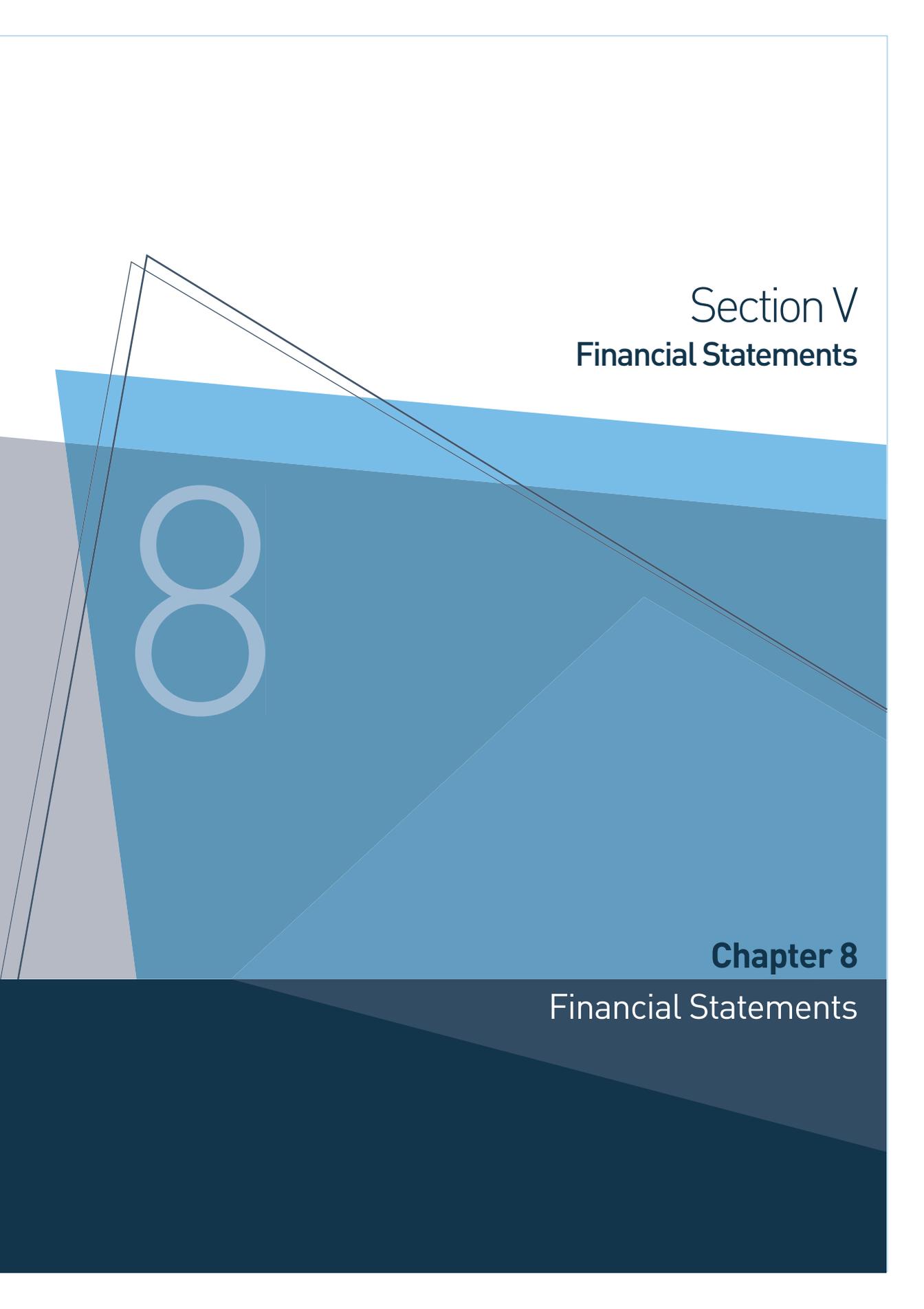
Northern Territory

- the provision of an ongoing outposted ABS officer to Northern Territory Treasury to facilitate statistical coordination across the Northern Territory Government, including providing support to the Northern Territory Statistical Liaison Committee, and to manage discrete project work such as progressing improvements in Indigenous identification in the Northern Territory Government's personnel system

- the formation of a Statistical Priorities Advisory Committee within the Northern Territory Government to identify whole-of-Northern Territory Government strategic directions and consequent data needs
- working with the Northern Territory Government to obtain a high level of cooperation with the 2006 Census, resulting in the appointment of a Research Projects Manager (Census) in the Northern Territory Treasury to progress this work within the Northern Territory Government
- obtaining agreement from non-ABS agencies to load their metadata from specified data collections on to the proposed Caretaker's Directory of Statistical Sources

Australian Capital Territory

- continued progression of a whole of government Information Development Plan
- development of an implementation plan for the Disability Housing and Community Services Information Development Plan.



Section V
Financial Statements

8

Chapter 8
Financial Statements

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONTENTS

1. Audit Report
2. Chief Executive Statement
3. Statement of Financial Performance
4. Statement of Financial Position
5. Statement of Cash Flows
6. Schedule of Commitments
7. Schedule of Contingencies
8. Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Treasurer

Scope

The financial statements and Chief Executive's responsibility

The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by the Australian Statistician and Chief Finance Officer;
- Statements of Financial Performance, Financial Position and Cash Flows;
- Schedules of Commitments and Contingencies; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2005.

The Australian Statistician is responsible for preparing financial statements that give a true and fair presentation of the financial position and performance of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and that comply with accounting standards, other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, and the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*. The Australian Statistician is also responsible for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

Audit approach

I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you. My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive, rather than conclusive, evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

While the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting was considered when determining the nature and extent of audit procedures, the audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

I have performed procedures to assess whether, in all material respects, the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, accounting standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' financial position, and of its performance as represented by the statements of financial performance and cash flows.

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601
Centenary House 19 National Circuit
BARTON ACT
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

The audit opinion is formed on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used, and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Australian Statistician.

Independence

In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the ethical requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Bureau of Statistics:

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' financial position as at 30 June 2005 and of its performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with:
 - (i) the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders; and
 - (ii) applicable accounting standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia.

Other Statutory Matters

As detailed in Note 19A of the financial statements, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has contravened section 83 of the Constitution and has therefore breached section 48 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

Australian National Audit Office



Carla Jago
Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
12 August 2005

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN AND
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2005 are based on properly maintained financial records (except for those matters detailed in Note 19) and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.



Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

12 August 2005



Mark Whybrow
Chief Financial Officer

12 August 2005

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
for the year ended 30 June 2005

	Notes	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Revenues from Government	4A	269,855	250,981
Goods and services	4B	19,232	18,760
Revenue from sale of assets	4C	112	229
Other revenues	4D	1,584	551
Revenues from ordinary activities		<u>290,783</u>	<u>270,521</u>
Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)			
Employees	5A	192,256	187,565
Suppliers	5B	66,633	54,037
Depreciation and amortisation	5C	24,969	26,526
Write-down of assets	5D	75	3
Value of assets sold	4C	61	320
Other expenses		<u>3,160</u>	<u>2,903</u>
Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)		<u>287,154</u>	<u>271,352</u>
Borrowing costs expense	6	<u>645</u>	<u>818</u>
Net surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities	12	<u>2,984</u>	<u>(1,647)</u>
Net debit to asset revaluation reserve	12	(1,457)	-
Total Changes in Equity other than those resulting from transactions with the Australian Government as owner		<u>1,527</u>	<u>(1,647)</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2005

	Notes	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash	7A	9,514	12,755
Receivables	7B	8,314	4,746
Accrued revenue		1,411	495
Total Financial Assets		19,239	17,996
Non-Financial Assets			
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	8A,C	33,603	37,091
Inventories	8D	21	42
Intangibles	8B,C	86,147	80,196
Other non-financial assets	8E	7,610	7,989
Total Non-Financial Assets		127,381	125,318
Total Assets		146,620	143,314
LIABILITIES			
Interest Bearing Liabilities			
Loans	9A	8,847	10,033
Leases	9B	239	949
Other interest bearing liabilities	9C	1,453	30
Total Interest Bearing Liabilities		10,539	11,012
Provisions			
Employees	10A	67,812	67,391
Other provisions	10B	-	19
Total Provisions		67,812	67,410
Payables			
Suppliers	11A	8,891	5,591
Unearned revenue	11B	2,964	4,353
Other payables		142	203
Total Payables		11,997	10,147
Total Liabilities		90,348	88,569
NET ASSETS		56,272	54,745
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	12	11,497	11,497
Reserves	12	6,062	7,519
Retained surpluses	12	38,713	35,729
TOTAL EQUITY	12	56,272	54,745
Current Assets		23,376	22,206
Non-Current Assets		123,244	121,106
Current Liabilities		42,664	43,651
Non-Current Liabilities		47,684	44,918

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

for the year ended 30 June 2005

	2005	2004
Notes	\$'000	\$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash Received		
Goods and services	19,096	20,274
Appropriations	266,000	250,981
Net GST received from ATO	6,429	5,923
GST Receipts from customers	1,697	1,833
Total Cash Received	293,222	279,011
Cash Used		
Employees	(191,875)	(183,813)
Suppliers	(64,627)	(57,462)
Borrowing costs	(645)	(818)
GST Payments to suppliers	(6,784)	(5,911)
Net GST paid to ATO	(1,724)	(1,897)
Total Cash Used	(265,655)	(249,901)
Net Cash From Operating Activities	13 27,567	29,110
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Cash Received		
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	112	229
Total Cash Received	112	229
Cash Used		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(8,854)	(8,797)
Purchase of intangibles	(20,170)	(17,346)
Total Cash Used	(29,024)	(26,143)
Net Cash Used By Investing Activities	(28,912)	(25,914)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Cash Received		
Appropriations – contributed equity	-	247
Total Cash Received	-	247
Cash Used		
Repayment of debt	(1,186)	(1,117)
Repayment of lease liability	(710)	(1,989)
Repayment of other interest bearing liabilities	-	(353)
Capital use charge paid	-	-
Return interest to Official Public Account	-	-
Total Cash Used	(1,896)	(3,459)
Net Cash Used By Financing Activities	(1,896)	(3,212)
Net Decrease in cash held	(3,241)	(16)
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	12,755	12,771
Cash at the End of the Reporting Period	7A 9,514	12,755

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES**

as at 30 June 2005

Contingent liabilities	Guarantees		Claims for damages/costs		Total	
	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Balance from previous period	-	-	5,650	6,371	5,650	6,371
New	-	-	296	-	296	-
Re-measurement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liabilities crystallised	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obligations expired	-	-	485	721	485	721
Total Contingent Liabilities	-	-	5,461	5,650	5,461	5,650
Contingent assets	Guarantees		Claims for damages/costs		Total	
	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Balance from previous period	-	-	-	-	-	-
New	-	-	-	-	-	-
Re-measurement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets crystallised	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expired	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Contingent Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Contingencies	-	-	-	-	-	-

The ABS has a number of leases, which have “make good” clauses in them. These clauses constitute a liability as they require the ABS to remove fit out and the like that have been installed as part of our tenancy. The previous experience of the ABS however, where leases have been terminated, is that we have not been required to undertake the work. On this basis we consider that it is unlikely that we will be required to meet these obligations in the future. Because of this presumption the amounts have not been included on the Statement of Financial Position for the ABS.

New leases are being negotiated without a make good provision.

The current cost is used as a proxy for net present value assuming that inflating the current estimates to get to costs up to 14 years out and then discounting will produce approximately the same result.

Details of each class of contingent liabilities and assets, including those not included above because they cannot be quantified or are considered remote, are disclosed in Note 14: Contingent Liabilities and Assets.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS**

as at 30 June 2005

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
BY TYPE		
Capital Commitments		
Infrastructure, plant and equipment ¹	<u>2,343</u>	<u>1,045</u>
Total Capital Commitments	<u>2,343</u>	<u>1,045</u>
Other Commitments		
Operating leases ²	<u>270,505</u>	257,486
Other commitments	<u>18,356</u>	16,978
Total Other Commitments	<u>288,861</u>	274,464
Commitments Receivable	<u>(25,669)</u>	<u>(24,134)</u>
Net Commitments by Type	<u>265,535</u>	<u>251,375</u>
BY MATURITY		
Capital Commitments		
One year or less	<u>2,343</u>	<u>1,045</u>
Total Capital Commitments	<u>2,343</u>	<u>1,045</u>
Operating Lease Commitments		
One year or less	<u>28,055</u>	22,054
From one to five years	<u>97,897</u>	93,146
Over five years	<u>144,553</u>	142,286
Total Operating Lease Commitments	<u>270,505</u>	<u>257,486</u>
Other Commitments		
One year or less	<u>10,771</u>	8,132
From one to five years	<u>5,886</u>	5,539
Over five years	<u>1,699</u>	3,307
Total Other Commitments	<u>18,356</u>	16,978
Commitments Receivable	<u>(25,669)</u>	<u>(24,134)</u>
Net Commitments by Maturity	<u>265,535</u>	<u>251,375</u>

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

¹ Plant and equipment commitments are primarily contracts for purchases of furniture and fittings for new building fitout.

² Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

<i>Nature of lease</i>	<i>General description of leasing arrangement</i>
Leases for office accommodation	Lease payments are subject to annual increase in accordance with upwards movements in the Consumer Price Index. The initial periods of office accommodation leases are still current and each may be renewed for up to five years at the ABS's option, following a once-off adjustment of rentals to current market levels.
Agreements for the provision of motor vehicles to senior executive officers	No contingent rentals exist. There are no renewal or purchase options available to the Agency.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 1:	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
Note 2:	Adoption of AASB Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards from 2005-2006
Note 3:	Events Occurring after Reporting Date
Note 4:	Operating Revenues
Note 5:	Operating Expenses
Note 6:	Borrowing Costs Expense
Note 7:	Financial Assets
Note 8:	Non-Financial Assets
Note 9:	Interest Bearing Liabilities
Note 10:	Provisions
Note 11:	Payables
Note 12:	Equity
Note 13:	Cash Flow Reconciliation
Note 14:	Contingent Liabilities and Assets
Note 15:	Executive Remuneration
Note 16:	Remuneration of Auditors
Note 17:	Average Staffing Levels
Note 18:	Financial Instruments
Note 19:	Appropriations
Note 20:	Special Accounts
Note 21:	Specific Payment Disclosures
Note 22:	Reporting of Outcomes

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Objectives of the Australian Bureau of Statistics

The mission and outcome of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is to assist and encourage informed decision making, research and discussion within governments and the community, by providing a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.

The ABS is structured to produce the aforementioned outcome through its Economic statistics and Population and Social statistics groups. Indirect costs for Support Services have been allocated to the Economic and Population and Social statistical areas in these Financial Statements.

ABS's assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses are those items that are controlled by the ABS and are used by the ABS to produce its outputs.

Administered items are those items that are controlled by the Government and managed or overseen by the ABS on behalf of the Government. The ABS does not administer any items on behalf of the Government.

Further information on ABS outcomes and outputs can be found in this Annual Report.

The continued existence of the ABS in its present form, and with its present programs, is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the ABS's administration and programs.

1.2 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are required by section 49 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act) and are a general purpose-financial report.

The statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (or FMOs, being the *Financial Management and Accountability Orders (Financial Statements for reporting periods ending on or after 30 June 2005)*);
- Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board; and
- Consensus Views of the Urgent Issues Group.

The statements have also been prepared having regard to the Explanatory Notes to Schedule 1, and Finance Briefs issued by the Department of Finance and Administration.

The Statements of Financial Performance and Financial Position have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets, which, as noted, are at valuation. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Assets and liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under agreements equally proportionately unperformed are not recognised unless required by an Accounting Standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the Schedule of Commitments and the Schedule of Contingencies (other than unquantifiable or remote contingencies, which are reported at Note 14).

Revenues and expenses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance when and only when the flow or consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

1.3 Changes in Accounting Policy

The accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements are consistent with those used in 2003-04.

1.4 Revenue

Revenues from Government

Revenues from Government are revenues relating to the core operating activities of the ABS. Amounts and other details are given in Note 4A "Revenue from Government".

Appropriations to the ABS for its departmental outputs are recognised as revenue to the extent that they have been received into the ABS's bank account or are entitled to be received by the ABS at year-end.

Appropriations to the ABS for departmental capital items are recognised directly in equity, to the extent that the appropriations have been received into the ABS's bank account or are entitled to be received by the ABS at year-end.

In 2004-2005 the ABS did not require or receive administered appropriations.

Other Revenue

Sales of goods and services include revenue from the sale of publications and other products and the provision of statistical services. Revenue from sale of goods is recognised upon delivery of goods to customers. Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts or other agreements to provide services.

Receivables for goods and services are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts. A provision is made for any doubtful debts based on a review of all outstanding accounts as at year-end (refer Note 7B). Bad debts are written off during the year in which they are identified.

Revenue from disposal of non-current assets is recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when and only when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated (Note 4D). Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as revenue at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition

Miscellaneous revenues include contributions from officers towards the provision of communications services and motor vehicles and contributions and fees associated with conferences and seminars. Revenues controlled by the ABS are recognised as departmental revenue.

1.5 Unearned Revenue

Unearned revenue includes revenue from subscriptions to statistical publications through various points including the internet, provision of statistical consultancies and revenue from other agencies for statistical surveys. It is recognised on a proportional basis as the service is provided (Note 11B).

1.6 Transactions with the Government as Owner

Equity injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any savings offered up in Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements) are recognised directly in Contributed Equity in that year.

1.7 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for services rendered by employees are recognised at the reporting date to the extent that they have not been settled.

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits) and annual leave are measured at their nominal amounts. Other employee benefits expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are also measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

All other employee benefit liabilities are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the ABS is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration, including the ABS's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave has been determined by use of the Commonwealth's shorthand method which is based on a standard profile table developed by the Commonwealth Actuary in the mid 1990s. The standard profile under the shorthand method is consistent with the profile of ABS.

In 2004-05 there has been no change to the assumptions used that would cause a material movement to the present value of the long service leave liability.

The employee entitlement provision includes superannuation on-costs payable to those employees who take their annual and long service leave prior to resignation or retirement. No superannuation is payable by the ABS when leave is cashed out on resignation or retirement.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy payments where the ABS has formally identified positions as excess to requirements and a reliable estimate of the amount of the payments could be determined.

The ABS has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has offered severance packages to employees on a voluntary basis.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Superannuation

Staff of the ABS are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme and the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme. The liability for their superannuation benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course.

The ABS makes employer contributions to the Australian Government at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the cost to the Government of the superannuation entitlements of the ABS's employees.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the final day of the year.

1.8 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases which effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all of the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of leased non-current assets and operating leases under which the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

Where a non-current asset is acquired by means of a finance lease, the asset is capitalised at the present value of minimum lease payments at the inception of the lease and a liability recognised at the same time and for the same amount. The discount rate is the interest rate implicit in the lease. Leased assets are amortised over the period of the lease. Lease payments are allocated between the principal component and the interest expense.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a basis that is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets. The net present value of future net outlays in respect of surplus space under non-cancellable lease agreements is expensed in the period in which the space becomes surplus.

Lease incentives taking the form of 'free' leasehold improvements and rent holidays are recognised as liabilities. These liabilities are reduced on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

1.9 Borrowing Costs

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred except to the extent that they are directly attributable to qualifying assets, in which case they are capitalised. The amount capitalised in a reporting period does not exceed the amounts of costs incurred in that period.

1.10 Cash

Cash means notes and coins held and any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

1.11 Financial Instruments

Accounting policies for financial instruments are stated in Note 18.

1.12 Accrued Revenue

The ABS accrues revenue at the time that the goods are provided and/or the services are performed.

1.13 Acquisition of Assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition.

1.14 Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Non-current assets that have a limited useful life (depreciable assets) are stated at cost, except as indicated in Note 8. Assets originally costing \$2,000 or more (\$1,000 for IT assets and purchased software, and all Internally Generated Software assets) are capitalised in the year of acquisition. Component items purchased separately but which are configured into larger items such as office work stations and personal computer workstations and associated software are considered to be depreciable assets if the aggregate cost is \$2,000 or more.

Revaluations

Basis

Infrastructure, plant and equipment are carried at cost and fair value. Revaluations undertaken up to 30 June 2002 were done on a deprival basis. Revaluations done since that date have been on the fair value basis. This change in accounting policy is required by Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1041 *Revaluation of Non-Current Assets*.

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

<i>Asset Class</i>	<i>Fair Value Measured at:</i>
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	Market selling price

The financial effect of this change in policy relates to those assets recognised at fair value for the first time in the current period where the measurement basis for fair value is different to that previously used for deprival value. The financial effect of the change is given by the difference between the fair values obtained for these assets in the current period and the deprival-based values recognised at the end of the previous period.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

The financial effect by class is as follows:

<i>Asset Class</i>	<i>Increment / (Decrement to asset class)</i>	<i>Contra Account</i>
IT Hardware	2005: (\$1,457,629) 2004: (nil)	Asset revaluation reserve

Total financial effect for 2004-05 is to decrease the carrying amount of IT Hardware by \$1,457,629, and decrease the asset revaluation reserve by \$1,457,629.

Frequency

The ABS has implemented its progressive revaluations as follows:

- (i) in 2004/05 all IT hardware was revalued using the fair value basis.
- (ii) in 2002/03 all furniture and fittings, office equipment, plant, leasehold incentives and leasehold improvements were revalued using the fair value basis;
- (iii) in 2001/02 all computer hardware assets were revalued using the deprival basis;
- (iv) in 2000/01 furniture and fittings, and leasehold improvements held at the Data Processing Centre had their lives adjusted to be fully depreciated by the disposal date of December 2002.

Assets in each class acquired after the commencement of the progressive revaluation cycle are reported at cost for the duration of the progressive revaluation then in progress.

Conduct

An independent qualified valuer conducts all valuations.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Depreciation

Depreciable infrastructure, property plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the ABS using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation. Leasehold improvements are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the lesser of the estimated useful life of the improvements or the unexpired period of the lease.

Depreciation rates (useful lives) and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate. Residual values are re-estimated for a change in prices only when assets are revalued. Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable assets are based on the following useful lives:

	2005 Life in Years	2004 Life in Years
Computer hardware	3 to 10	3 to 10
Furniture and fittings	10	10
Plant	10	10
Office equipment	5	5

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 5C.

1.15 Impairment of Non-Current Assets

Non-current assets carried at up to date fair value at the reporting date are not subject to impairment testing.

Non-current assets carried at cost or fair value, which are not held to generate net cash inflows, have been assessed for indications of impairment. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset is written down to the higher of its net selling price and, if the entity would replace the asset's service potential, its depreciated replacement cost.

1.16 Intangibles

Internally Generated Software

In its role as Australia's national statistical agency, the ABS builds and maintains a significant set of internally generated software (IGSW) assets. These assets are added to over time in line with the increasing range of statistical information sought by government, business and the general community, and the increasing use of technology, particularly in relation to collection, analysis and dissemination activities.

All software developed in-house since 1 July 1994 has been capitalised (Note 8B). The costing methodology capitalises direct salary and on costs, applicable information technology costs and some direct external costs. General, administration and overhead costs relating to software development have not been capitalised. The data capture systems in place were further refined to collect data in line with the requirements of Schedule 1.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

In accordance with AASB 1041 IGSW that had previously been revalued in 1996, was deemed to be at cost as at 1 July 2001. From 1 July 2002, Schedule 1 no longer requires the application of the recoverable amounts test in Australian Accounting Standard AAS10 *Recoverable Amount on Non-Current Assets* to the assets of agencies when the primary purpose of the asset is not the generation of net cash inflows. Schedule 1 now requires such assets, if carried on the cost basis, to be assessed for indications of impairment. The carrying amount of impaired assets must be written down to the higher of its net market value selling price or depreciated replacement cost. The software assets held by the ABS are currently written off once identified as reaching obsolescence.

Purchased Software

Purchased software assets are stated at cost where the asset cost more than \$1,000. Assets below this threshold are expensed at the time of purchase.

Amortisation

The ABS has long term commitments to surveys and data collection programs. These are supported by software packages that are required to be maintained for the same time period as the data collection and analysis programs to ensure consistency in approach and of data treatment. The maximum useful life of some relevant packages is currently 28 years.

The estimated useful lives of the major asset classes are as follows:

	<u>2005</u> <u>Life in Years</u>	<u>2004</u> <u>Life in Years</u>
Computer software – proprietary	5	5
Computer software – internally generated	2 to 28	2 to 28

The aggregate amount of amortisation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 5C.

1.17 Historical Statistical Data

Statistical data accumulated over many years is stored for reference purposes. While having no value for accounting purposes historical time series data plays an important part in the operations of the ABS as Australia's official statistical provider. The cost of storing and maintaining this data is treated as an operating expense.

1.18 Capital Work in Progress

Capital work in progress represents two main asset types: software assets under development and office refurbishments. Work in progress is disclosed in the infrastructure, plant and equipment and intangibles balances.

Software assets are not depreciated until the year in which the development phase is completed and the asset is operational. Where use of the asset commences after substantial completion of the development phase, but some improvements or enhancements to the system continue to be made, the date of substantial completion is treated as the date of completion and depreciation commences from that date.

1.19 Inventories

Inventories comprise items held for resale that are considered significant and are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value (Note 8D). As part of the rationalisation of product delivery services physical inventory items held were reduced significantly in previous financial years. Most products are now available electronically or printed on request.

Consumable stores and supplies are considered to be immaterial and have been expensed at the time of purchase.

1.20 Other Non-Financial Assets

Other non-financial assets include prepayments for maintenance contracts, office rent, rights to childcare places at Bluebell Childcare Centre, security and subscriptions (Note 8E).

1.21 Insurance

The ABS is insured for risks through the Government's insurable risk managed fund called 'Comcover'. Workers compensation is insured through the Government's Comcare Australia.

1.22 Taxation

The ABS is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- for receivables and payables.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

1.23 Rounding

Amounts have been rounded to the nearest \$1,000 except in relation to the following notes:

- (i) act of grace payments and waivers;
- (ii) agency appropriations;
- (iii) remuneration of executives;
- (iv) remuneration of auditors; and
- (v) special accounts.

1.24 Comparative Figures

Where necessary and practicable, comparable figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in these financial statements.

1.25 Foreign Currency

Transactions denominated in a foreign currency are converted at the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Foreign currency receivables and payables are translated at the exchange rates current as at balance date.

Note 2: Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards from 2005-2006.

The Australian Accounting Standards Board has issued replacement Australian Accounting Standards to apply from 2005-06. The new standards are the Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS). The International Financial Reporting Standards are issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. The new standards cannot be adopted early. The standards being replaced are to be withdrawn with effect from 2005-06, but continue to apply in the meantime, including reporting periods ending on 30 June 2005.

The purpose of issuing AEIFRS is to enable Australian reporting entities reporting under the *Corporations Act 2001* to be able to more readily access overseas capital markets by preparing their financial reports according to accounting standards more widely used overseas.

For-profit entities complying with AEIFRS will be able to make an explicit and unreserved statement of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as well as a statement that the financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

AEIFRS contains certain additional provisions that will apply to not-for-profit entities, including Australian Government agencies. Some of these provisions are in conflict with IFRS, and therefore the ABS will only be able to assert that the financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Accounting Standard AASB 1047 Disclosing the Impacts of Adopting Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards requires that the financial statements for 2004-05 disclose:

- an explanation of how the transition to AEIFRS is being managed;
- narrative explanations of the key policy differences arising from the adoption of AEIFRS;
- any known or reliably estimable information about the impacts on the financial report had it been prepared using AEIFRS; and
- if the impacts of the above are not known or reliably estimable, a statement to that effect.

The purpose of this Note is to make these disclosures.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Management of the transition to AEIFRS

The ABS has taken the following steps for the preparation towards the implementation of AEIFRS:

- The ABS's Audit Committee is tasked with oversight of the transition to and implementation of the AEIFRS. The Chief Finance Officer is formally responsible for the project and reports regularly to the Audit Committee on progress.
- The plan requires the following key steps to be undertaken and sets deadlines for their achievement:
 - All major accounting policy differences between current AASB standards and AEIFRS were identified by 30 June 2004.
 - System changes necessary to be able to report under the AEIFRS, including those necessary to capture data under both sets of rules for 2004-05 are complete. This includes the testing and implementation of those changes.
 - A transitional balance sheet as at 1 July 2004 under AEIFRS was completed and presented to the Audit Committee on 15 December 2004.
 - An AEIFRS compliant balance sheet as at 30 June 2005 was also prepared during the preparation of the 2004-05 statutory financial reports.
 - The 2004-05 balance sheet under AEIFRS will be reported to the Department of Finance and Administration in line with their reporting deadlines.
- The plan also addresses the risks to successful achievement of the above objectives and includes strategies to keep implementation on track to meet deadlines.
- To date, all major accounting and disclosure differences and system changes have been identified.

Major changes in accounting policy

The ABS believes that the first financial report prepared under AEIFRS ie. at 30 June 2006, will be prepared on the basis that the ABS will be a first time adopter under AASB 1 *First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards*. Changes in accounting policies under AEIFRS are applied retrospectively i.e. as if the new policy had always applied except in relation to the exemptions available and prohibitions under AASB 1. This means that an AEIFRS compliant balance sheet has to be prepared as at 1 July 2004. This will enable the 2005-06 financial statements to report comparatives under AEIFRS.

Changes to major accounting policies are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Management's review of the quantitative impacts of AEIFRS represents the best estimates of the impacts of the changes as at reporting date. The actual effects of the impacts of AEIFRS may differ from these estimates due to:

- continuing review of the impacts of AEIFRS on the ABS operations;
- potential amendments to the AEIFRS and AEIFRS Interpretations; and
- emerging interpretation as to the accepted practice in the application of AEIFRS and the AEIFRS Interpretations.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Infrastructure, plant and equipment

It is expected that the 2005-06 *Finance Minister's Orders* will continue to require property plant and equipment assets to be valued at fair value in 2005-06.

Those assets not at fair value as at 1 July 2004, have fair values estimated for them as at that date. These values will be reflected in the transitional Statement of Financial Position at 1 July 2004 when this is used to provide opening equity balances for the comparative figures in the 2005-06 financial statements. The impact of this change on these financial statements would be to decrease Hardware Assets by \$37,937,071, reduce Accumulated Depreciation by \$34,583,221, and reduce the asset revaluation reserve by \$3,329,247 and opening retained earnings by \$24,603.

There is no impact on the 30 June 2005 Hardware Asset values, as the ABS completed a revaluation, at fair value, consistent with AGAAP. This revaluation took place on 30 June 2005.

Borrowing costs related to qualifying assets are currently capitalised. It is expected that the FMOs for 2005-06 will elect to expense all borrowing costs under AEIFRS. Borrowing costs associated with the ABS leasehold improvements of \$422,049 incurred during 2001-02 were capitalised at 30 June 2002.

Capitalised borrowing costs will need to be adjusted. The impact of this change on these financial statements would be to reduce leasehold improvements by \$422,049, associated accumulated depreciation by \$126,614 and retained earnings by \$295,435. No borrowing costs were capitalised subsequent to 30 June 2002.

Intangible Assets

The Australian Equivalent on Intangibles does not permit intangibles to be measured at valuation unless there is an active market for the intangible. The ABS's internally-developed software is specific to the needs of the Bureau and is not traded.

The ABS currently recognises internally-developed software assets on the cost basis. The gross carrying amounts include assets that were first recognised at a deprival value on 30 June 1996. The recognition of these assets was made through retained earnings under AAS29 transitional provisions. Assets measured at deprival value were subsequently deemed to be cost under transitional provisions available on the introduction of AAS 38 *Revaluation of Non-current Assets* in 2000-01 and AASB 1041 of the same title in 2001-02. The existing carrying cost of assets originally measured at deprival value is nil.

There will be no impact on the ABS from the move to AEIFRS.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Impairment of Infrastructure, plant and equipment

The ABS's policy on impairment of non-current assets is at note 1.15.

Under AEIFRS these assets will be subject to assessment for impairment and, if there are indications of impairment, an assessment of the degree of impairment. (Impairment measurement must also be done, irrespective of any indications of impairment, for intangible assets not yet available for use). The impairment test is that the carrying amount of an asset must not exceed the greater of (a) its fair value less costs to sell and (b) its value in use. 'Value in use' is the depreciated replacement cost for assets that would be replaced if the ABS were deprived of them.

The most significant changes are where there is indication of asset impairment. These assets may be required to be written down if costs to sell are significant.

Employee Benefits

The provision for long service leave is measured at the present value of estimated future cash outflows using market yields as at the reporting date on national government bonds.

AEIFRS requires that annual leave that is not expected to be taken within 12 months of balance date to be discounted. After assessing the staff leave profile, the ABS expects a certain amount of the annual leave balance will not be taken in the next 12 months. Consequently, the initial adjustment for non-current annual leave will be reflected in the transitional Statement of Financial Position at 1 July 2004 when this is used to provide opening equity balances for the comparative figures in the 2005-06 financial statements.

The impact of the changes on these financial statements would have the effect of reducing the Provision for Recreation Leave (Current) by \$2,505,340, reducing the Provision for Super On-Costs (Current) by \$410,468; increasing Provision for Recreation Leave (Non-Current) by \$2,367,295, increasing the Provision for Super On-Costs (Non-Current) by \$387,851; and increasing retained earnings by \$160,662.

Financial Instruments

AEIFRS include an option for entities not to restate comparative information in respect of financial instruments in the first AEIFRS report. It is expected that the Finance Minister's Orders will require entities to use this option. Therefore the amounts for financial instruments presented in the ABS 2004-05 primary financial statements are not expected to change as a result of the adoption of AEIFRS.

ABS will be required by AEIFRS to review the carrying amounts of financial instruments at 1 July 2005 to ensure they align with the accounting policies required by AEIFRS. It is expected that the carrying amounts of financial instruments will be impacted by the write off of the doubtful debts general provision.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Reconciliation of Impacts – AGAAP to AEIFRS

	30 June 2005 [*]	1 July 2004
	\$'000	\$'000
Reconciliation of Departmental Equity		
Total Departmental Equity under AGAAP	56,272	54,745
Adjustments to accumulated results	(134)	(198)
Adjustments to other reserves	-	(3,329)
Total Equity under AEIFRS	56,138	51,218
Reconciliation of Departmental Accumulated Results		
Total Departmental Accumulated Results under AGAAP	38,713	35,729
Adjustments:		
Write-down of non-current Recreation Leave Liability to Net Present Value	161	164
De-recognition of Interest Capitalisation	(295)	(338)
Recognition of IT Hardware to fair value	-	(24)
Total adjustments to accumulated results as at the end of transition to AEIFRS	(134)	(198)
Total Accumulated Results under AEIFRS	38,579	35,531
Reconciliation of Departmental Reserves		
Total Departmental Reserves under AGAAP	6,062	7,519
Adjustment:		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	(3,329)
Total Departmental Reserves under AEIFRS	6,062	4,190
Reconciliation of Departmental Contributed Equity		
Total Departmental Contributed Equity under AGAAP	11,497	11,497
Adjustments	-	-
Total Contributed Equity under AEIFRS	11,497	11,497
Reconciliation of Net surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities for year ending 30 June 2005		
Net Surplus under AGAAP	2,984	
Adjustments:		
Movement in non-current Recreation Leave Liability	3	
Depreciation and amortisation		
Depreciation on IT Assets brought to Fair Value	838	
Amortisation of Interest Capitalised	42	
Net surplus from ordinary activities under AEIFRS	3,867	

* 30 June 2005 total represents the accumulated impacts of AEIFRS from the date of transition.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 3: Events Occurring after Reporting Date

There have been no events occurring subsequent to balance date that would affect the Australian Bureau of Statistics Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2005.

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 4: Operating Revenues		
<u>Note 4A: Revenues from Government</u>		
Appropriations for outputs	269,855	250,981
<i>Total revenues from government</i>	<u>269,855</u>	<u>250,981</u>
<u>Note 4B: Goods and Services</u>		
Goods	5,140	5,632
Services	14,092	13,128
<i>Total sales of goods and services</i>	<u>19,232</u>	<u>18,760</u>
Provision of goods to:		
Related entities	2,510	2,497
External entities	2,630	3,135
<i>Total sales of goods</i>	<u>5,140</u>	<u>5,632</u>
Rendering of services to:		
Related entities	6,881	5,820
External entities	7,211	7,308
<i>Total rendering of services</i>	<u>14,092</u>	<u>13,128</u>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 4C: Net Gains from Sale of Assets</u>		
Infrastructure, plant and equipment:		
Proceeds from disposal	112	229
Net book value of assets disposed	<u>(61)</u>	<u>(320)</u>
<i>Net gain/(loss) from disposal of infrastructure, plant and equipment</i>	<u>51</u>	<u>(91)</u>
Total proceeds from disposals	112	229
Total value of assets disposed	<u>(61)</u>	<u>(320)</u>
TOTAL net gain/(loss) from disposal of assets	<u>51</u>	<u>(91)</u>
<u>Note 4D: Other Revenue</u>		
Other Revenue	1,476	451
Resources received free of charge	<u>108</u>	<u>100</u>
	<u>1,584</u>	<u>551</u>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Note 5: Operating Expenses		
<u>Note 5A: Employee Expenses</u>		
Wages and salary	156,808	155,383
Superannuation	28,543	27,964
Leave and other entitlements	8,795	7,836
Interviewers wages and superannuation	9,013	8,215
Census wages and superannuation	123	29
Separation and redundancies	2,249	-
Other employee expenses	1,881	1,309
Total employee benefits expense	207,412	200,736
Worker compensation premiums	2,604	2,392
Total employee expenses	210,016	203,128
Less amounts capitalised in respect of internally generated software	(17,760)	(15,563)
Total employee expenses	192,256	187,565

<u>Note 5B: Supplier Expenses</u>		
Goods from related entities	1,004	1,178
Goods from external entities	19,731	13,920
Services from related entities	2,310	3,464
Services from external entities	23,896	18,389
Operating lease rentals*	19,692	17,086
Total supplier expenses	66,633	54,037

* These comprise minimum lease payments only.

Note 5C: Depreciation and Amortisation

(i) Depreciation

Other infrastructure, plant and equipment	10,435	12,549
(ii) Amortisation		
Intangibles – Computer Software	14,216	13,947
Lease Incentives	318	30
Total amortisation	14,534	13,977
Total depreciation and amortisation	24,969	26,526

The aggregate amounts of depreciation or amortisation expensed during the reporting period for each class of depreciable assets are as follows:

Leasehold improvements	1,449	1,352
Plant and equipment	9,304	11,227
Internally developed software – in use	14,216	13,947
Total depreciation and amortisation	24,969	26,526

No depreciation or amortisation was allocated to the carrying amounts of other assets.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Note 5D: Write Down of Assets		
<i>Financial assets</i>		
Bad and doubtful debts expense	1	3
<i>Non-financial assets</i>		
Hardware – write off on disposal	74	-
<i>Total write-down of assets</i>	<u>75</u>	<u>3</u>

Note 6: Borrowing Costs Expense

Loans	588	658
Leases	57	160
<i>Total borrowing costs expense</i>	<u>645</u>	<u>818</u>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Note 7: Financial Assets		
<u>Note 7A: Cash</u>		
Special accounts	129	92
Departmental	9,385	12,663
Total cash	9,514	12,755
 <u>Note 7B: Receivables</u>		
Goods and services	1,834	2,227
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(35)	(35)
	1,799	2,192
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	1,180	817
Sundry receivables	180	437
Appropriations receivable ¹	5,155	1,300
Total receivables (net)	8,314	4,746
Receivables is represented by:		
Current	8,314	4,746
Total receivables (net)	8,314	4,746

All receivables are current assets.

Credit terms are net 30 days (2004: 30 days)

Appropriations receivable undrawn are appropriations controlled by the ABS but held in the Official Public Account under the Government's just-in-time draw down arrangements.

¹ In 2004-05 and 2002-03 the ABS returned \$3,855,000 and \$1,300,000 respectively to the Official Public Account, which was surplus to working cash requirements. These can be redrawn at any time.

Receivables (gross) are aged as follows:		
Not overdue	8,120	4,655
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	155	76
30 to 60 days	11	41
60 to 90 days	58	4
More than 90 days	5	5
	229	126
Total receivables (gross)	8,349	4,781

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
The provision for doubtful debts is aged as follows:		
Not overdue	-	-
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	-	-
30 to 60 days	-	26
60 to 90 days	30	4
More than 90 days	5	5
Total provision for doubtful debts	35	35

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
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Note 8: Non-Financial Assets

Note 8A: Infrastructure, plant and equipment

Infrastructure, plant and equipment

- work in progress	386	896
- at cost	8,615	20,225
- accumulated depreciation	(1,276)	(6,299)
	<u>7,339</u>	<u>13,926</u>
- at 1998-99 valuation (deprival)	-	34,491
- accumulated depreciation	-	(32,392)
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,099</u>
- transferred in - out of cycle (cost)	108	108
- accumulated depreciation	(105)	(101)
	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>
- at 2000-03 valuations (fair value)	28,778	24,471
- accumulated depreciation	(11,549)	(4,308)
	<u>17,229</u>	<u>20,163</u>
- at 2004-05 valuation (fair value)	8,646	-
- accumulated depreciation	-	-
	<u>8,646</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment (non-current)	33,603	37,091

All revaluations are independent and are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated in Note 1.14. In 2002-03 and 2004-05, revaluations were conducted by an independent valuer, the Australian Valuers Office (AVO).

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
<u>Note 8B: Intangibles</u>		
<i>Computer software</i>		
Computer software – in progress (non-current)	45	-
Internally developed - in progress (non-current)	9,656	7,162
ANZSCO and ANZSIC capitalization – in progress (non-current)	<u>3,364</u>	<u>2,072</u>
	<u>13,065</u>	<u>9,234</u>
Internally developed - in use (non-current)	142,885	128,922
Purchased software	22,915	20,565
Accumulated amortisation	<u>(92,718)</u>	<u>(78,525)</u>
	<u>73,082</u>	<u>70,962</u>
<i>Total intangibles</i>	<u>86,147</u>	<u>80,196</u>

Note 8C: Analysis of Infrastructure, plant, equipment and intangibles

TABLE A – Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of Infrastructure, plant and equipment (IP&E) and intangibles

Item	Other IP&E S'000	Computer Software S'000	TOTAL S'000
As at 1 July 2004			
Gross book value	80,192	158,721	238,913
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	(43,101)	(78,525)	(121,626)
Net book value	37,091	80,196	117,287
Additions by purchase	8,854	20,170	29,024
from acquisition of operations	-	-	-
Net revaluation increments/(decrement)	(1,457)	-	(1,457)
Depreciation/amortisation expense	(10,753)	(14,216)	(24,968)
Reclassifications	(9)	9	-
Recoverable Amount write-downs	(74)	-	(74)
Write-offs	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
From disposal of operations	-	-	-
Other disposals	(49)	(12)	(61)
As at 30 June 2005			
Gross book value	46,532	178,865	225,398
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	(12,930)	(92,718)	(105,648)
Closing Net book value	33,603	86,147	119,750

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 3C: Analysis of Infrastructures, Plant, Equipment and Intangibles

TABLE B – Assets at valuation

Item	Other IP&E \$'000	Computer Software \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
As at 30 June 2005			
Gross value	37,424	-	37,424
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	(11,549)	-	(11,549)
Net book value	25,875	-	25,875
As at 30 June 2004			
Gross value	58,962	-	58,962
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	(36,700)	-	(36,700)
Net book value	22,262	-	22,262

TABLE C – Assets held under finance lease

Item	Other IP&E \$'000	Computer Software \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
As at 30 June 2005			
Gross value	1,708	-	1,708
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	(1,293)	-	(1,293)
Net book value	415	-	415
As at 30 June 2004			
Gross value	1,736	-	1,736
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	(1,011)	-	(1,011)
Net book value	725	-	725

NB All assets held under finance leases were revalued in 2002-03. Amounts shown are revalued amounts and are also included in Table B above.

Note 3C: Analysis of Infrastructure, plant, equipment and intangibles

TABLE D – Assets under construction

Item	Other Infrastructure, plant & equipment S'000	Computer software S'000	TOTAL S'000
Gross value at 30 June 2005	386	13,065	13,451
Gross value at 30 June 2004	896	9,234	10,130

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 8D: Inventories</u>		
Finished goods (cost)	<u>21</u>	<u>42</u>
Inventories held for sale	<u>21</u>	<u>42</u>
Inventories not held for sale (cost)	-	-
Total inventories	<u>21</u>	<u>42</u>

All departmental inventories are current assets.

Note 8E: Other Non-Financial Assets

Prepayments comprising of:

Information technology	69	3
Software licenses	1,183	964
Office rent	5,534	5,702
Childcare places	42	84
Subscriptions	184	45
Other	<u>598</u>	<u>1,191</u>
Total prepayments	<u>7,610</u>	<u>7,989</u>

Other non-financial assets is represented by:

Current	4,116	4,170
Non-Current	<u>3,494</u>	<u>3,819</u>
Total prepayments	<u>7,610</u>	<u>7,989</u>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Note 9: Interest Bearing Liabilities		
<u>Note 9A: Loans</u>		
Loans from Government	<u>8,847</u>	<u>10,033</u>
Maturity schedule for loans:		
Payable:		
Within one year	1,261	1,187
In one to five years	5,887	5,539
In more than five years	<u>1,699</u>	<u>3,307</u>
Total loan liability	<u>8,847</u>	<u>10,033</u>

The loan was issued in 2001-02 and is repayable in quarterly instalments beginning in 2001-02 and ending in 2010-11. The interest rate implicit in the loan is 6.12%.

Note 9B: Leases

Finance lease commitments

Payable:

Within one year	190	768
In one to five years	<u>72</u>	<u>262</u>
Minimum lease payments	262	1,030
Deduct: future finance charges	<u>(23)</u>	<u>(81)</u>
Net lease liability	<u>239</u>	<u>949</u>

Lease liability is represented by:

Current	172	710
Non-Current	<u>67</u>	<u>239</u>
Net lease liability	<u>239</u>	<u>949</u>

Lease fitout incentive movement

Balance at 1 July	949	2,938
Repaid during the year	<u>(710)</u>	<u>(1,989)</u>
Total Lease Fitout Incentive Liability	<u>239</u>	<u>949</u>

Finance leases exist in relation to certain major office equipment assets. All leases are non cancellable and for fixed terms of ten years. The interest rate implicit in the leases averaged 6.16% (2004: 6.16%). The lease assets secure the lease liabilities. The ABS guarantees the residual value of all assets leased. There are no contingent rentals.

Note 9C: Other Interest Bearing Liabilities

Lease incentives	<u>1,453</u>	<u>30</u>
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Other interest bearing liabilities are represented by:

Current	-	30
Non-Current	<u>1,453</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other interest bearing liabilities	<u>1,453</u>	<u>30</u>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Note 10: Provisions		
<u>Note 10A: Employee Provisions</u>		
Salaries and wages	690	6,204
Leave	64,547	59,425
Superannuation	115	1,085
Separations and redundancies	2,460	677
<i>Aggregate employee entitlement liability</i>	<u>67,812</u>	<u>67,391</u>
Current	29,234	31,571
Non-current	38,578	35,820
<i>Aggregate employee entitlement liability</i>	<u>67,812</u>	<u>67,391</u>
 <u>Note 10B: Other</u>		
Surplus Lease Space	-	19
 <i>Surplus Lease Space is represented by:</i>		
Current	-	6
Non- Current	-	13
Total Surplus Lease Space	<u>-</u>	<u>19</u>
Balance as at 1 July	19	24
Reduction due to sacrifice of economic benefits made during the period	(19)	(5)
	<u>-</u>	<u>19</u>
 Note 11: Payables		
<u>Note 11A: Supplier Payables</u>		
Trade creditors	8,878	5,561
Sundry creditors	13	30
<i>Total supplier payables</i>	<u>8,891</u>	<u>5,591</u>
 Supplier payables are represented by:		
Current	8,891	5,591
Non-current	-	-
<i>Total supplier payables</i>	<u>8,891</u>	<u>5,591</u>
Settlement is usually made net 30 days.		
 <u>Note 11B: Unearned Revenue</u>		
Receipts received in advance	2,964	4,353
<i>Total unearned revenue</i>	<u>2,964</u>	<u>4,353</u>
All unearned revenue are current liabilities.		

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 12: Equity

Note 12.A: Analysis of Equity

Item	Accumulated Results		Asset Revaluation Reserves		Contributed Equity		TOTAL EQUITY	
	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July	35,729	37,376	7,519	7,519	11,497	11,250	54,745	56,145
Net surplus/deficit	2,984	(1,647)	-	-	-	-	2,984	(1,647)
Net revaluation increments/(decrement)	-	-	(1,457)	-	-	-	(1,457)	-
Transactions with owner:								
Distributions to owner:								
Returns on capital								
Dividends								
Returns of capital								
Restructuring								
Returns of contributed equity								
Contributions by owner:								
Appropriations/(equity injections)						247		247
Transfers to/(from)/between reserves								
Closing balance as at 30 June	38,713	35,729	6,062	7,519	11,497	11,497	56,272	54,745

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Note 13: Cash Flow Reconciliation		
<i>Reconciliation of cash per Statement of Financial Position to Statement of Cash Flows</i>		
Cash at year end per Statement of Cash Flows	9,514	12,755
Statement of Financial Position items comprising above cash: 'Financial Asset – Cash'	9,514	12,755
<i>Reconciliation of net surplus to net cash from operating activities:</i>		
Net surplus/(deficit)	2,984	(1,649)
Depreciation /amortisation	24,969	26,526
Net write down of non-current assets	75	-
Loss on disposal of assets	(51)	91
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	(3,568)	829
(Increase) / decrease in accrued revenues	(916)	(229)
Increase / (decrease) in unearned revenue	(1,389)	756
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	21	16
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments	379	845
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	421	3,469
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	3,300	(1,467)
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	1,361	(72)
Increase / (decrease) in other provisions	(19)	(5)
Net cash from operating activities	<u>27,567</u>	<u>29,110</u>

Note 14: Contingent Liabilities and Assets

Quantifiable Contingencies

The Schedule of Contingencies reports a contingent liability as at 30 June 2005 in respect of a number of leases with make good clauses in them of \$5,461,000 (2004: \$5,650,000). New leases are being negotiated without a make good provision.

Unquantifiable Contingencies

There have been no unquantifiable contingencies identified by the ABS for the financial year 2004-05 (2004: Nil).

Remote Contingencies

There have been no remote contingencies identified by the ABS for the financial year 2004-05 (2004:Nil).

Note 15: Executive Remuneration

The number of executives who received or were due to receive remuneration of \$100,000 or more:

	2005	2004
	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>
\$100,000 to \$109,999	1	-
\$110,000 to \$119,999	1	-
\$120,000 to \$129,999	-	-
\$130,000 to \$139,999	4	4
\$140,000 to \$149,999	5	4
\$150,000 to \$159,999	2	8
\$160,000 to \$169,999	10	6
\$170,000 to \$179,999	2	3
\$180,000 to \$189,999	1	2
\$190,000 to \$199,999	3	2
\$200,000 to \$209,999	-	1
\$210,000 to \$219,999	2	1
\$220,000 to \$229,999	3	
\$230,000 to \$239,999	-	1
\$300,000 to \$309,999	-	-
\$310,000 to \$319,999	1	1

	2005	2004
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
The aggregate amount of total remuneration of executives shown above.	\$6,027,137	\$5,593,352

The aggregate amount of separation and redundancy/termination benefit payments during the year to executives shown above.	<u>NIL</u>	<u>\$85,612</u>
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Total remuneration includes the actual salary earned by SES officers, actual employer superannuation contributions and an actual cost of the non-salary component of the SES packages (e.g. provision of a car and accrued leave entitlements).

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>

Note 16: Remuneration of Auditors

Financial statement audit services are provided free of charge to the ABS.

The fair value of the services provided was:

	<u>108,310</u>	<u>100,000</u>
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Included in the amount disclosed above for 2005 is an amount of \$12,100 arising from work done on the opening balance sheet to be prepared under the Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards.

	2005	2004
	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>

Note 17: Average Staffing Levels

The average staffing levels for the ABS during the year, measured on a full time equivalent basis were:

	<u>2,630</u>	<u>2,743</u>
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Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 18: Financial Instruments

Note 18A: Terms, Conditions and Accounting Policies

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms & conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
Financial Assets		Financial assets are recognised when control over future economic benefits is established and the amount of the benefit can be reliably measured.	
Cash	7A	Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Interest on cash at bank is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Monies in the ABS' bank accounts are swept into the Official Public Account nightly.
Receivables for goods and services	7B	These receivables are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and or doubtful debts. Collectability of debts is reviewed at balance date. Provisions are made when collection of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.	All receivables are with entities internal and external to the Commonwealth. Credit terms are 30 days (2004:30 days).
Other Receivables	7B	Payments made by the ABS for which it expects re-imbursment from other entities are recognised as receivables at their nominal amounts when such payments are made.	Input tax credits receivable from ATO and invalidity payments receivable from Comsuper are included in this item.
Appropriation Receivable	7B	An appropriation receivable is recognised where some portion of the ABS annual appropriation remains undrawn at the end of the financial year.	Appropriation receivable can be drawn down as cash for capital expenditure or for payment of unfunded liabilities.
Accrued Revenue		Revenue accrues and is recognised at the time the goods are provided and/or the services are performed.	As for receivables.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Financial Instruments	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms & conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
Financial Liabilities		Financial liabilities are recognised when a present obligation to another party is entered into and the amount of the liability can be reliably measured.	
Government Loans	9A	The loan is carried at the balance yet to be repaid. Interest is expensed as it accrues unless it is directly attributable to a qualifying asset.	At the reporting date, the ABS had a loan to the Department of Finance and Administration for 7 years with the weighted averaged interest rate of 6.1%.
Finance Lease Liabilities	9B	Liabilities are recognised at the present value of the minimum lease payments at the beginning of the lease. The discount rates used are estimates of the interest rates implicit in the leases.	At reporting date, the ABS had finance leases with terms averaging three years and a maximum term of five years. The interest rate implicit in the leases averaged 6.16% (2004: 6.16%). The lease assets secure the lease liabilities.
Payables and Sundry Creditors	11A	Creditors and accruals are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).	Settlement is usually made net 30 days.
Other Payables	11C	Other payables are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled.	Primarily comprises of GST Payable to ATO. Settlement is usually made net 30 days.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 18B: Interest Rate Risk

Financial Instrument Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate						Non-Interest Bearing			Total		Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate			
	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	1 year or less		1 to 5 years		> 5 years		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 %	2005 %
			2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000									
Financial Assets																	
Cash at Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,514	12,755	9,514	12,755	-	-	-	-
Receivables for goods and services (gross)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,834	2,227	1,834	2,227	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other receivables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,360	1,254	1,360	1,254	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Appropriation receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,155	1,300	5,155	1,300	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Accrued revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,411	495	1,411	495	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,274	18,031	19,274	18,031	146,620	143,314		

Financial Liabilities																	
Government loans	-	-	1,261	1,187	5,887	5,539	1,699	3,307	-	-	-	8,847	10,033	6.1	6.1		
Finance lease liabilities	-	-	172	710	67	239	-	-	-	-	-	239	949	6.2	6.2		
Payables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,878	5,561	8,878	5,561	n/a	n/a		
Sundry creditors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	30	13	30	n/a	n/a		
Other payables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	142	203	142	203	n/a	n/a		
Total	-	-	1,433	1,897	5,954	5,778	1,699	3,307	-	9,033	5,794	18,119	16,776	90,348	88,569		

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 18C: Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	Notes	2005		2004	
		Total Carrying Amount \$'000	Aggregate Net Fair Value \$'000	Total Carrying Amount \$'000	Aggregate Net Fair Value \$'000
Departmental Financial Assets					
Cash at bank	7A	9,514	9,514	12,755	12,755
Receivables for goods and services (net)	7B	1,799	1,799	2,192	2,192
Other receivables	7B	1,360	1,360	1,254	1,254
Appropriation receivable	7B	5,155	5,155	1,300	1,300
Accrued revenue		1,411	1,411	495	495
Total Financial Assets		19,239	19,239	17,996	17,996
Financial Liabilities (Recognised)					
Government loans	9A	8,847	8,847	10,033	10,033
Finance lease liabilities	9B	239	239	949	949
Trade creditors	11A	8,878	8,878	5,561	5,561
Sundry creditors	11A	13	13	30	30
Other payables	11C	142	142	203	203
Total Financial Liabilities (Recognised)		18,119	18,119	16,776	16,776

The net fair values of cash and non-interest-bearing monetary financial assets approximate their carrying amounts.

The net fair values of the finance lease, lease incentives and surplus lease space are based on discounted cash flows using current interest rates for liabilities with similar risk profiles.

The net fair values for trade creditors are approximated by their carrying amounts.

Note 18D: Credit Risk Exposures

The ABS's maximum exposures to credit risk at reporting date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Statement of Financial Position.

The ABS has no significant exposures to any concentrations of credit risk.

All figures for credit risk referred to do not take into account the value of any collateral or other security.

Note 19: Appropriations

Note 19A: Accrual of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) for Ordinary

Annual Services Appropriations

Particulars	Departmental Outputs	Total
Year ended 30 June 2005		
Balance carried from previous year	\$ 14,422,727	\$ 14,422,727
<i>Unspent prior year appropriations – invalid s31¹</i>	14,422,727	14,422,727
Adjusted balance carried from previous period	-	-
Appropriation Act (No.1) 2004 – 2005 – basic appropriation	269,558,000	269,558,000
Appropriation Act (No.3) 2004 – 2005 – basic appropriation	297,000	297,000
Refunds credited (FMAA s30)	-	-
Appropriations to take account of recoverable GST (FMAA s30A)	6,811,601	6,811,601
Adjustments to 'net appropriations' (FMAA s31)	8,184,268	8,184,268
Adjustment of appropriations on change of entity function (FMAA s32)	-	-
Appropriation lapsed or reduced	-	-
30 June 2005 variation – s31²	27,144,109	27,144,109
Total Appropriations Available for payments	311,994,978	311,994,978
Payments made (GST inclusive)	(296,329,106)	(296,329,106)
Appropriations credited to Special Accounts	-	-
Balance of Authority to Draw Cash from the CRF for Ordinary	15,665,872	15,665,872
Annual Services Appropriations		
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Cash at bank and on hand	9,513,605	9,513,605
Add: Appropriations not drawn from the OPA	5,155,000	5,155,000
Add: Receivables – Goods and services – GST receivable from customers	1,180,389	1,180,389
Add: Return of contributed equity	-	-
Less: Payable – Suppliers-GST portion	(183,122)	(183,122)
Total	15,665,872	15,665,872

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Particulars	Departmental Outputs	Total
<i>Year ended 30 June 2004 (comparative period)</i>		
Balance carried from previous year	\$ 14,633,928	14,633,928
Appropriation Act (No.1) 2003-2004	250,441,000	250,441,000
Appropriation Act (No.3) 2003-2004	540,000	540,000
Refunds credited (FMAA s30)	-	-
Appropriations to take account of recoverable GST (FMAA s30A)	5,974,573	5,974,573
Annotations to 'net appropriations' (FMAA s31)	22,337,231	22,337,231
Total appropriations available for payments	293,926,732	293,926,732
Cash payments made during the year (GST inclusive)	(279,504,005)	(279,504,005)
Appropriations credited to Special Accounts	-	-
<i>Balance carried to the next period</i>	14,422,727	14,422,727
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Cash	12,507,996	12,507,996
Add: Appropriations Receivable	1,300,000	1,300,000
Add: Appropriations not drawn from the OPA	-	-
Add: Receivables - Goods and services - GST receivable from customers	816,669	816,669
Add: Return of contributed equity	-	-
Less: Other payables - Net GST payable to the ATO	(201,938)	(201,938)
<i>Total</i>	14,422,727	14,422,727

Note 19A: Acquittal of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) for Ordinary Annual Services Appropriations (continued)

Footnotes:

(1) Under Section 31 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (the FMA Act), the Minister for Finance may enter into a net appropriation agreement with an agency Minister. Appropriation Acts nos. 1 and 3 (for the ordinary annual services of government) authorise the supplementation of an agency's annual net appropriation by amounts received in accordance with its Section 31 Agreement eg. receipts from charging for goods and services.

One of the conditions that must be satisfied under Section 31 of the FMA Act in order for an annual net appropriation to be increased lawfully in this way is that the Agreement is made between the Finance Minister and the agency Minister or by officials expressly delegated (where permitted) or authorised by them. An agency's Chief Executive is taken to be so authorised.

Delegates for the Minister of Finance/Finance officials and ABS Senior Officers executed our Section 31 Agreements covering the period 1997 to 2004. Whilst we have operated and recorded Section 31 monies as though a valid agreement existed, ABS signatories did not have an express delegation or authority for signing the agreement, with the result that our agreements were ineffective and we did not have control over Section 31 monies. Evidence supports that on balance the ABS had an ineffective Section 31 Agreement in 1998-99 although signed copies of this agreement could not be located.

Our current Section 31 Agreement was made on 7 March 2005 between our Chief Executive as an authorised delegate for the Treasurer and an authorised delegate for the Minister for Finance. Acknowledging the ineffectiveness of the agreements between 1997 and 6 March 2005. The 7 March 2005 agreement was varied on 24 June 2005, with effect from 30 June 2005, to capture retrospectively all monies that were subject to an ineffective prior agreement. This variation does not validate past breaches of section 83 of the Constitution.

Accordingly:

- amounts disclosed in previous financial years as available for spending under our departmental outputs appropriations up to 30 June 2004 were overstated by \$122.4m – of this amount, \$14.4m was unspent as at 30 June 2004 and was incorrectly reflected in the balance brought forward to 1 July 2004;
- the 30 June 2005 Variation to our agreement increased our appropriation by the amount of invalid receipts (\$189.0m) – of this amount, \$182.2m is not available to be spent, being \$53.9m related to receipts from 1997-1999 which lapsed and \$128.3m from 1999 to 2005 which has already been spent;
- in addition, spending up to and including 30 June 2004 totalling \$108.0m, and totalling \$20.3m in 2004-05, was made without the authority of the Parliament, in contravention of Section 83 of the Constitution; and
- therefore, resulting in a breach of section 48 of the FMA Act.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 19A: Acquitital of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) for Ordinary Annual Services Appropriations (continued)

A year-by-year analysis of overstatement of the departmental output appropriations and overspending is given below.

	97-98	98-99	Total Pre-accrual budgeting	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Sub-total	04-05	Total
	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m
Receipts affected	29.6	24.3	53.9	23.0	22.7	24.0	30.4	22.3	122.4	12.7	135.1
Unspent	8.1	11.3	19.4	10.4	-7.2	20.1	-8.7	-0.2	14.4	-7.6	6.8
Amount spent without appropriation	21.4	13.0	34.4	12.6	29.9	3.9	39.1	22.5	108.0	20.3	128.3

(2) This amount represents receipts of \$135.1m appropriated by the variation of 30 June 2005 for the period 1999 to 2005, less the amount spent prior to 2004-05 of \$108.0m.

FMAAA = Financial Management & Accountability Act 1997

Act 1 = Appropriations Act (No. 1) 2004-2005

Act 3 = Appropriations Act (No. 3) 2004-2005

There were no savings offered up during the year and there have been no savings offered up in previous years that are still ongoing.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 19B: Acquired Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) for Other than Ordinary Annual Services Appropriations

Particulars	Non-operating		Total
	Equity	Loans	
<i>Year ended 30 June 2005</i>	\$	\$	\$
Balance carried from previous year	247,000	-	247,000
Appropriation for reporting period (Act 4) Available for payments	-	-	-
Payments made (GST inclusive)	247,000	-	247,000
<i>Balance of Authority to Draw Cash from the CRF for Other Than Ordinary Annual Services Appropriations</i>	(247,000)	-	(247,000)
Represented by:			
Cash			
Appropriations not drawn from OPA			
<i>Total</i>			

There were no savings offered up during the year and there have been no savings offered up in previous years that are still ongoing.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 19B: Acquittal of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) for Other than Ordinary Annual Services Appropriations (continued)

Particulars	Non-operating		Total
	Equity	Loans	
<i>Year ended 30 June 2004 (Comparative Period)</i>	\$	\$	\$
Balance carried from previous year	-	-	-
Total annual appropriation	-	-	-
Appropriation for reporting period (Act 4) 2003-04	247,000	-	247,000
Available for payments	247,000	-	247,000
Payments made during the year	-	-	-
Balance carried to the next year	247,000	-	247,000
<i>Represented by:</i>			
Cash	247,000	-	247,000
Appropriations not drawn from the OPA	-	-	-
Total	247,000	-	247,000

There were no savings offered up during the year and there have been no savings offered up in previous years that are still ongoing.

Note 20: Special Accounts**Note 20 A: Trust Fund and Other Trust Moneys**

Legal Authority: *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*
Section 20.

This account is non-interest bearing.

This account has two purposes:

Purpose 1: For the receipt of moneys temporarily held on trust or otherwise for the benefit of a person other than the Commonwealth. Any money held is thus special public money under section 16 of the *FMA Act 1997*.

Purpose 2: This account holds moneys advanced to the Australian Bureau of Statistics by COMCARE for the purpose of distributing compensation payments made in accordance with the *Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1998*. Where ABS makes payments against accrued sick leave entitlements pending determination of an employee's claim, permission is obtained in writing from each individual to allow ABS to recover the payments from the moneys in the account.

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
<i>Purpose 1:</i>		
Balance carried forward from previous year	62,487	15,939
Receipts during the year from customers	36,668	46,548
Available for payments	99,155	62,487
Payments made to customers	-	-
Balance carried forward to next year	99,155	62,487
<i>Purpose 2:</i>		
Balance carried forward from previous year	30,000	30,000
Receipts during the year	1,048,036	779,708
Available for payments	1,078,036	809,708
Payments made	1,048,036	779,708
Balance carried forward to next year	30,000	30,000
Total	129,155	92,487
Represented by:		
Cash	129,155	92,487

Note 20B: Services for Other Governments and Non-Agency Bodies

Legal Authority: Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997
Section 20.

Purpose: For expenditure in connection with services performed on behalf of other Governments and bodies that are not FMA agencies.

The ABS does not incur any expenditure in connection with services performed on behalf of other Governments and bodies that are not FMA agencies.

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Balance carried forward from previous year	-	-
Receipts during the year	-	-
Available for payments	-	-
Payments made	-	-
<i>Balance carried forward to next year</i>	-	-
Total	-	-
Represented by:	-	-
Cash	-	-

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Note 21: Specific Payment Disclosures		
No 'Act of Grace' payments were made during the reporting period, and there are no amounts owing as at year end.	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>
No waivers of amounts owing to the Commonwealth were made pursuant to subsection 34(1) of <i>(the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997.)</i>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>
No payments were made under the 'Defective Administration Scheme' during the reporting period.	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>
No payments were made under s73 of the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> during the reporting period. (2003: No payments made)	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 22: Reporting of Outcomes**Note 22A: Net Cost of Outcome Delivery**

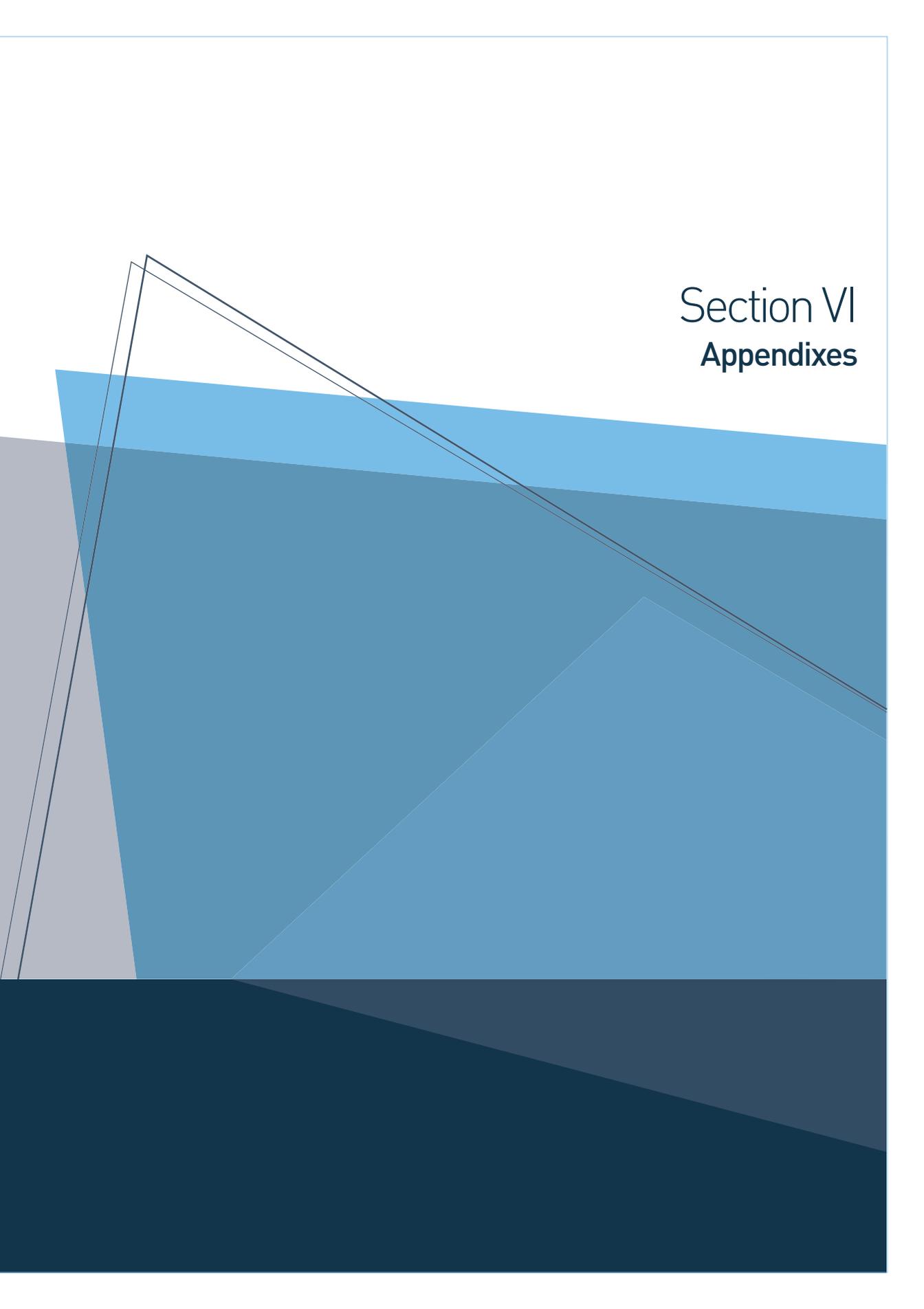
	Outcome 1		Total	
	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Departmental	287,799	272,170	287,799	272,170
Total expenses	287,799	272,170	287,799	272,170
<i>Costs recovered from provision of goods and services to the non-government sector</i>				
Departmental	9,841	10,443	9,841	10,443
Total costs recovered	9,841	10,443	9,841	10,443
<i>Other external revenues</i>				
Departmental	-	-	-	-
Interest on cash deposits	-	-	-	-
Revenue from disposal of assets	112	229	112	229
Reversals of previous asset write-downs	-	-	-	-
Other	1,475	451	1,475	451
Goods and Services Revenue from Related Entities	9,391	8,317	9,391	8,317
Total Departmental	10,978	8,997	10,978	8,997
Total other external revenues	10,978	8,997	10,978	8,997
Net cost/(contribution) of outcome	266,980	252,730	266,980	252,730

Outcome 1 is described in Note 1 (a). Net costs shown include intra-government costs that are eliminated in calculating the actual Budget outcome.

Note 21B: Major Classes of Departmental Revenues and Expenses by Output Groups and Outputs

Outcome 1	Output Group 1.1						Outcome 1 Total	
	Output Group 1.1.1			Output Group 1.1.2			2005	2004
	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
<i>Departmental expenses</i>								
Employees	87,553	102,615	184,703	84,949	192,256	187,564		
Suppliers	39,345	29,575	36,288	24,461	66,633	54,036		
Depreciation and amortisation	11,371	14,510	13,598	12,016	24,969	26,526		
Other expenses	1,795	2,212	2,146	1,832	3,941	4,044		
Total departmental expenses	131,064	148,912	156,735	123,258	287,799	272,170		
<i>Funded by:</i>								
Revenues from government	122,942	137,341	147,022	113,740	269,964	251,081		
Sale of goods and services	8,758	10,262	10,474	8,498	19,232	18,760		
Other non-taxation revenues	723	372	864	308	1,587	680		
Total departmental revenues	132,423	147,975	158,360	122,546	290,783	270,521		

Output Group 1.1 - National Statistical Service
Output Group 1.1.1 - Economic Statistics
Output Group 1.1.2 - Population and Social Statistics



Section VI
Appendix

Appendix 1 Program Structure

ABS Program Structure, 2004–05

	Program Components
Economic Statistics Output(a)	National Accounts International Accounts International Trade Financial Accounts Public Sector Accounts Prices Business Indicators Economy Wide Statistics Business Demographics Innovation and Technology Agriculture Mining Manufacturing Construction Transport Service Industries Tourism Environment Statistical Coordination Australian Economic Indicators
Population and Social Statistics Output(a)	Census of Population and Housing Demography Labour Statistics Health Statistics Education and Training Statistics Crime and Justice Statistics Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics Living Conditions Statistics Family and Community Statistics Culture and Recreation Statistics Rural and Regional Statistics Ageing Statistics Children and Youth Statistics Social Analysis and Reporting Geography State and Territory Statistical Services

Program Components

Corporate and Statistical Support	Mathematical Statistics Business Register Business Methods Analytical Services Economic Statistics Standards Population Statistics Standards Population Statistics Infrastructure Dissemination Marketing and Public Affairs Client Services Library Services Information Technology Bureau Technology Application Data Management Technology Research Business Income Tax Data Economic Statistics Data Centre Executive People Management Financial Resources Corporate Planning and Secretariat Property and Facilities Management International Relations Economic Statistics Group Support Population Statistics Group Coordination and Support Methodology Division Business Office Information Management Business Infrastructure Technology Services Division Support Corporate Services Division Support
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(a) The outputs of the ABS are generated using inputs from the corporate and statistical support components. The statistical components contributing to each output are listed under the relevant Output heading. The support components contribute to both the Economic Statistics and Population and Social Statistics Outputs.

Appendix 2 Estimates of Cost by Output and Component

Table 2.1: Estimates of cost by output and component, year ended 30 June 2005 (\$'000)

Output Group 1.1 — ABS — National Statistic Service	Full Costs	%
<i>Output 1.1.1 — Economic Statistics</i>		
National Accounts	12,169	5.1
International Accounts	9,417	3.9
International Trade	5,968	2.5
Financial Accounts	4,522	1.9
Public Sector Accounts	5,992	2.5
Prices	24,016	10.1
Business Indicators	5,627	2.4
Economy Wide Statistics	4,563	1.9
Business Demographics	2,020	0.8
Innovation and Technology	5,869	2.5
Agriculture	7,126	3.0
Mining	2,445	1.0
Manufacturing	5,780	2.4
Construction	6,921	2.9
Transport	3,439	1.4
Service Industries	14,501	6.1
Tourism	1,711	0.7
Environment	4,285	1.8
Statistical Coordination	3,365	1.4
Australian Economic Indicators	1,328	0.6
Total Output 1.1.1 — Economic Statistics	131,064	54.9

Output Group 1.1 — ABS — National Statistic Service	Full Costs	%
<i>Output 1.1.2 — Population and Social Statistics</i>		
Census of Population and Housing (a)	49,228	n.a.
Geography	7,511	3.1
Demography	9,786	4.1
Labour Statistics	24,316	10.2
Health Statistics	7,828	3.3
Education and Training Statistics	4,774	2.0
Crime and Justice Statistics	5,480	2.3
Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Statistics	14,094	5.9
Living Conditions Statistics	4,190	1.8
Family and Community Statistics	4,551	1.9
Cultural and Recreation Statistics	1,577	0.7
Rural and Regional Statistics	2,555	1.1
Ageing Statistics	596	0.2
Children and Youth Statistics	1,347	0.6
Social Analysis and Reporting	3,900	1.6
State and Territory Statistical Services	15,002	6.3
Total Output 1.1.2 — Population and Social Statistics	156,735	45.1
Total ABS Output excluding Census (a)	238,571	100.0
Total ABS Output	287,799	—

(a) The cost of the Census of Population and Housing component varies so widely over the five-yearly census cycle that it distorts the percentages applying to other statistical components. Accordingly, the full cost of the Census of Population and Housing has been excluded from the calculation of percentages.

n.a. not applicable.

Appendix 3 Top Structure, Staff and Program Component Responsibilities

Top structure, staff and program component responsibilities — as at 30 June 2005

Top structure and staff responsibilities	Program component
AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN	
<i>Dennis Trewin</i>	Executive
ECONOMIC STATISTICS GROUP	
<i>Peter Harper</i>	Business Indicators
National Accounts Branch	
<i>Carl Obst</i>	National Accounts
International and Financial Accounts Branch	
<i>Bronwyn Driscoll</i>	International Accounts
	International Trade
	Financial Accounts
Prices Branch	
<i>Paul McCarthy</i>	Prices
	Public Sector Accounts
Economic Surveys and Integration Division	
<i>Denis Farrell</i>	Economic Statistics
	Group Support
	Environment
Industry Statistics Branch	
<i>Paul Sullivan</i>	Economy Wide Statistics
	Service Industries
	Transport
	Tourism
	Construction
	Mining
	Manufacturing
	Agriculture

Top structure and staff responsibilities	Program component
Integration, Coordination and Innovation Branch	
<i>Steve Crabb</i>	Business Demographics Economic Statistics Standards Business Income Tax Data Innovation and Technology Business Methods
Economic Statistics Data Centre Branch	
<i>Robin Slater</i>	Economic Statistics Data Centre Business Register
POPULATION STATISTICS GROUP(a)	
<i>Susan Linacre</i>	
Population Statistics Infrastructure Branch	
<i>Ian Brodie-Reed</i>	Population Statistics Infrastructure Population Statistics Standards
Social and Labour Statistics Division	
<i>Barbara Dunlop</i>	Social Analysis and Reporting Population Statistics Group Coordination and Support
Labour and Demography Statistics Branch	
<i>Garth Bode</i>	Labour Statistics Demography
Social Conditions Statistics Branch	
<i>Bob McColl</i>	Living Conditions Statistics Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics Family and Community Statistics
Health, Education and Crime Statistics Branch	
<i>Sally Goodspeed</i>	Health Statistics Education and Training Statistics Crime and Justice Statistics

Top structure and staff responsibilities	Program component
OTHER DIVISIONS	
Methodology Division	
<i>Geoff Lee</i>	Methodology Division Business Office Statistical Coordination
Analytical Services Branch	
<i>Marion McEwin</i>	Analytical Services Australian Economic Indicators
Statistical Services Branch	
<i>Frank Yu</i>	Mathematical Statistics
Information Management and Census Division	
<i>Siu-Ming Tam</i>	Information Management Business Infrastructure
Census and Geography Branch	
<i>Paul Williams</i>	Census of Population and Housing Geography
Information Services Branch	
<i>Steve Matheson</i>	Dissemination Client Services Marketing and Public Affairs(b)
Data Management Branch	
<i>Graeme Oakley</i>	Data Management Library Services
Technology Services Division	
<i>Jonathan Palmer</i>	Technology Services Division Support
Technology Infrastructure Branch	
<i>Chris Duffy</i>	Information Technology Bureau
Technology Application Branch	
<i>Jenine Borowik</i>	Technology Application
Technology Research Branch	
<i>Don Bartley</i>	Technology Research

Top structure and staff responsibilities	Program component
Corporate Services Division	
<i>Graeme Hope</i>	Corporate Services Division Support Financial Resources
Policy Secretariat Branch	
<i>Teresa Dickinson</i>	Corporate Planning and Secretariat International Relations Marketing and Public Affairs(b)
Business Strategies Branch	
<i>Greg Bray</i>	People Management
Business Operations Branch	
<i>Kerrie Duff</i>	Property and Facilities Management
REGIONAL OFFICES(c)	
New South Wales	
<i>John Struik</i>	
Victoria	
<i>Vince Lazzaro</i>	
Queensland	
<i>Malcolm Greig (Acting)</i>	Ageing Statistics(d)
Western Australia	
<i>Alan Hubbard</i>	Children and Youth Statistics(d)
South Australia	
<i>Ian Crettenden</i>	Rural and Regional Statistics(d) Culture and Recreation Statistics(d)
Tasmania	
<i>Dick Crockett</i>	
Northern Territory	
<i>Robyn Elliott</i>	
Australian Capital Territory	
<i>Jon Hall</i>	

(a) Includes some programs in Regional Offices. (b) Program is split between specified branches. (c) Includes the State and Territory Statistical Services component. (d) The program forms part of the Population Statistics Group.

Appendix 4 Staffing Overview

Table 4.1: Number of full time equivalent (a) staff employed under the Public Service Act 1999: by program components (b) and location (staff years)

Program components	2002-03										2003-04			2004-05		
	Total	Total	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total	NT	ACT	Total	
National Accounts	54	58	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	
International Accounts	55	46	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	
International Trade	26	26	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	
Financial Accounts	22	16	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	
Public Sector Accounts	36	32	23	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	
Prices	146	147	67	17	9	3	40	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	142	
Business Indicators	54	49	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	
Economy Wide Statistics	33	25	4	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	
Business Demographics	2	7	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	
Innovation and Technology	34	37	11	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	
Agriculture	53	36	7	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	34	
Mining	6	5	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	
Manufacturing	53	36	2	24	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	
Construction	42	45	1	-	1	-	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	
Transport	25	23	3	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	

continued

Table 4.1: Number of full time equivalent (a) staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*: by program components (b) and location (staff years)
 — continued

Program components	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05							
	Total	Total	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total
Service Industries	64	45	13	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Tourism	10	8	2	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	8
Environment	23	24	13	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	18
Statistical Coordination	8	14	10	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	15
Australian Economic Indicators	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Census of Population and Housing	130	86	93	5	6	3	2	3	1	2	2	117
Demography	49	42	25	2	1	11	1	4	1	3	-	48
Labour Statistics	107	87	40	-	-	-	38	-	-	-	-	78
Health Statistics	26	26	12	-	1	13	-	-	-	-	-	26
Education and Training Statistics	18	16	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Crime and Justice Statistics	25	22	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics	23	20	7	-	2	2	2	-	1	7	-	21
Living Conditions Statistics	12	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Family and Community Statistics	11	13	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Culture and Recreation Statistics	11	10	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10

continued

Table 4.1: Number of full time equivalent (a) staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*: by program components (b) and location (staff years)
 — continued

Program components	2002-03		2003-04										2004-05	
	Total	Total	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total	ACT	Total
Rural and Regional Statistics	17	15	-	-	2	2	-	7	2	1	1	1	1	15
Ageing Statistics	4	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Children and Youth Statistics	-	4	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Social Analysis and Reporting	20	14	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Geography	19	20	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
State and Territory Statistical Services	80	88	-	22	20	13	21	14	9	2	5	5	5	106
Mathematical Statistics	85	83	48	5	7	2	3	6	3	-	-	-	-	74
Business Register	42	38	4	-	28	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	40
Business Methods	60	55	10	15	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Analytical Services	32	30	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Economic Statistics Standards	17	18	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Population Statistics Standards	52	43	55	5	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	68
Population Statistics Infrastructure	202	199	79	17	15	17	11	9	4	3	-	-	-	155
Dissemination	137	121	52	9	16	7	6	6	4	3	3	3	3	106
Marketing and Public Affairs	23	19	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14

continued

Table 4.1: Number of full time equivalent (a) staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*: by program components (b) and location (staff years)
 — continued

Program components	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05							
	Total	Total	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total
Client Services	44	38	6	19	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
Library Services	21	19	13	3	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	22
Information Technology Bureau	236	211	164	7	10	5	4	7	8	1	-	206
Technology Application	212	215	167	7	8	12	7	10	10	1	-	222
Data Management	12	14	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Technology Research	5	3	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	5
Business Income Tax Data	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Economic Statistics Data Centre	42	102	78	49	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	131
Executive	46	47	1	8	6	15	7	5	5	6	2	55
People Management	133	128	72	2	1	-	-	15	-	-	-	90
Financial Resources	23	21	11	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Corporate Planning and Secretariat	13	12	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Property and Facilities Management	58	56	38	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	39
International Relations	5	6	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Economic Statistics Group Support	32	24	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19

continued

Table 4.1: Number of full time equivalent (a) staff employed under the Public Service Act 1999: by program components (b) and location (staff years)
 — continued

Program components	2002-03										2003-04				2004-05									
	Total	Total	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total	Total	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total	
Population Statistics Group Coordination and Support	22	23	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Methodology Division Business Office	13	10	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Information Management Business Infrastructure	13	16	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Technology Services Division Support	11	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Corporate Services Division Support	21	23	12	17	13	8	9	10	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78
Total Operative Staff	2,917	2,744	1,561	285	243	159	180	160	95	35	13	2,731												
Paid Inoperative Staff(c)	93	102	64	7	10	6	8	8	4	3	1	111												
Total Staff	3,010	2,846	1,625	292	253	165	188	168	99	38	14	2,842												

(a) Comprises both full time and part time staff at their full time equivalent. Excludes unpaid inoperative staff. (b) Figures for 2002-03 and 2003-04 have been revised to reflect changes to the program structure for 2004-05. This ensures comparability across all years. (c) Includes staff on periods of leave greater than 12 weeks, for example, staff on long service leave and annual leave.

Note: Differences between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

Table 4.2.1: Number of male ABS staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*: by location and classification, at 30 June (headcount)(a)

Year and classification	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	DPC(b)	Total
2003											
Total staff	908	173	146	92	111	92	70	12	7	-	1,611
2004											
Total staff(r)	881	157	143	77	122	82	58	13	7	-	1,540
2005											
Operative and paid inoperative staff											
Australian Statistician	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Senior Executive Service	25	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	31
Executive Officer											
Executive Officer Level 2	101	7	6	3	6	4	5	-	1	-	133
Executive Officer Level 1	208	19	19	12	10	14	10	3	3	-	298
Australian Public Service											
APS Level 6	280	21	28	22	24	27	18	4	2	-	426
APS Level 5	111	34	31	12	20	10	10	1	1	-	230
APS Level 4	84	47	34	12	10	23	11	2	2	-	225
APS Level 3	29	21	18	13	17	4	2	-	-	-	104

continued

Table 4.2.1: Number of male ABS staff employed under the Public Service Act 1999: by location and classification, at 30 June (headcount) (a)

— continued

Year and classification	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	DPC(b)	Total
— 2005 continued											
APS Level 2	27	8	3	2	2	1	7	-	1	-	51
APS Graduate	14	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
APS Level 1	1	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
APS Cadet	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	885	163	141	78	90	84	64	10	10	-	1,525
Unpaid inoperative staff	31	3	2	2	4	3	-	-	-	-	45
Total staff	916	166	143	80	94	87	64	10	10	-	1,570

(a) Being paid at the classification shown at 30 June each year. Includes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Excludes staff employed for population surveys. (b) Number of staff employed at the Data Processing Centre [DPC] for the 2001 Census.

(r) Revised.

Table 4.2.2: Number of female ABS staff employed under the Public Service Act 1999, by location and classification, at 30 June (headcount)(a)

Year and classification	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	DPC(b)	Total
2003											
Total staff	844	155	139	107	118	96	47	31	7	-	1,544
2004											
Total staff(r)	849	143	126	98	114	78	43	31	5	-	1,487
2005											
Operative and paid inoperative staff											
Australian Statistician	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senior Executive Service	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Executive Officer											
Executive Officer Level 2	43	2	3	5	1	4	-	1	-	-	59
Executive Officer Level 1	161	7	18	10	10	7	2	5	-	-	220
Australian Public Service											
APS Level 6	222	26	27	18	14	15	12	6	1	-	341
APS Level 5	159	28	28	19	22	20	13	9	1	-	299
APS Level 4	110	43	25	20	18	23	9	7	1	-	256
APS Level 3	51	20	18	32	17	14	8	3	1	-	164

continued

Table 4.2.2. Number of female ABS staff employed under the Public Service Act 1999, by location and classification, at 30 June (headcount)(a)

— continued

Year and classification	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	DPC(b)	Total
— 2005 continued											
APS Level 2	29	15	1	1	-	5	7	-	-	-	58
APS Graduate	18	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
APS Level 1	-	5	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	8
APS Cadet	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	804	146	122	106	84	88	51	32	4	-	1,437
Unpaid inoperative staff	58	5	2	4	5	5	1	1	-	-	81
Total staff	862	151	124	110	89	93	52	33	4	-	1,518

(a) Being paid at the classification shown at 30 June each year. Includes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Excludes staff employed for population surveys. (b) Number of staff employed at the Data Processing Centre (DPC) for the 2001 Census.
(r) Revised.

Table 4.2.3: Total number ABS staff employed under the Public Service Act 1999, by location and classification, at 30 June (headcount) (a)

Year and classification	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	DPC(b)	Total
2003											
Total staff	1,752	328	285	199	229	188	117	43	14	-	3,155
2004											
Total staff(r)	1,730	300	269	175	236	160	101	44	12	-	3,027
2005											
Operative and paid inoperative staff											
Australian Statistician	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Senior Executive Service	33	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	39
Executive Officer											
Executive Officer Level 2	144	9	9	8	7	8	5	1	1	-	192
Executive Officer Level 1	369	26	37	22	20	21	12	8	3	-	518
Australian Public Service											
APS Level 6	502	47	55	40	38	42	30	10	3	-	767
APS Level 5	270	62	59	31	42	30	23	10	2	-	529
APS Level 4	194	90	59	32	28	46	20	9	3	-	481
APS Level 3	80	41	36	45	34	18	10	3	1	-	268

continued

Table 4.2.3: Total number ABS staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*, by location and classification, at 30 June (headcount) (a)

— continued

Year and classification	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	DPC(b)	Total
— 2005 continued											
APS Level 2	56	23	4	3	2	6	14	-	1	-	109
APS Graduate	32	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
APS Level 1	1	10	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	15
APS Cadet	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	8
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	1,689	309	263	184	174	172	115	42	14	-	2,962
Unpaid inoperative staff	89	8	4	6	9	8	1	1	-	-	126
Total staff	1,778	317	267	190	183	180	116	43	14	-	3,088

(a) Being paid at the classification shown at 30 June each year. Includes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Excludes staff employed for population surveys. (b) Number of staff employed at the Data Processing Centre (DPC) for the 2001 Census.

(r) Revised.

Table 4.3.1: Number of full time ABS staff employed under the Public Service Act 1999: by gender and classification, at 30 June (headcount)(a)

Year and classification	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2003									
Total staff	1,510	1,203	2,713	41	60	101	1,551	1,263	2,814
2004									
Total staff(r)	1,419	1,108	2,527	48	50	98	1,467	1,158	2,625
2005									
Operative and paid inoperative staff									
Australian Statistician	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Senior Executive Service	30	8	38	1	-	1	31	8	39
Executive Officer									
Executive Officer Level 2	124	47	171	2	1	3	126	48	174
Executive Officer Level 1	274	159	433	9	3	12	283	162	445
Australian Public Service									
APS Level 6	398	265	663	5	1	6	403	266	669
APS Level 5	221	241	462	3	3	6	224	244	468
APS Level 4	205	195	400	9	9	18	214	204	418

continued

Table 4.3.1: Number of full time ABS staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*: by gender and classification, at 30 June (headcount)(a)

— continued

Year and classification	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
— 2005 continued									
APS Level 3	77	67	144	19	54	73	96	121	217
APS Level 2	11	13	24	19	16	35	30	29	59
APS Graduate	15	20	35	—	—	—	15	20	35
APS Level 1	1	2	3	5	1	6	6	3	9
APS Cadet	4	4	8	—	—	—	4	4	8
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	1,361	1,021	2,382	72	88	160	1,433	1,109	2,542
Unpaid inoperative staff	43	56	99	—	—	—	43	56	99
Total staff	1,404	1,077	2,481	72	88	160	1,476	1,165	2,641

(a) Being paid at the classification shown at 30 June each year. Includes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Excludes staff employed for population surveys.

(r) Revised.

Table 4.3.2: Number of part time ABS staff employed under the Public Service Act 1999: by gender and classification, at 30 June (headcount)(a)

Year and classification	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2003									
Total staff	45	262	307	15	19	34	60	281	341
2004									
Total staff(r)	48	290	338	25	39	64	73	329	402
2005									
Operative and paid inoperative staff									
Australian Statistician	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senior Executive Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Executive Officer									
Executive Officer Level 2	3	9	12	4	2	6	7	11	18
Executive Officer Level 1	12	56	68	3	2	5	15	58	73
Australian Public Service									
APS Level 6	19	74	93	4	1	5	23	75	98
APS Level 5	6	54	60	-	1	1	6	55	61
APS Level 4	9	51	60	2	1	3	11	52	63

continued

Table 4.3.2. Number of part time ABS staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*: by gender and classification, at 30 June (headcount)(a)

— continued

Year and classification	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
— 2005 continued									
APS Level 3	3	34	37	5	9	14	8	43	51
APS Level 2	1	3	4	20	26	46	21	29	50
APS Graduate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
APS Level 1	1	3	4	-	2	2	1	5	6
APS Cadet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	54	284	338	38	44	82	92	328	420
Unpaid inoperative staff	2	25	27	-	-	-	2	25	27
Total staff	56	309	365	38	44	82	94	353	447

(a) Being paid at the classification shown at 30 June each year. Includes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Excludes staff employed for population surveys.

(r) Revised.

Table 4.3.3: Total number of ABS staff employed under the Public Service Act 1999: by gender and classification, at 30 June (headcount)(a)

Year and classification	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2003									
Total staff	1,555	1,465	3,020	56	79	135	1,611	1,544	3,155
2004									
Total staff(r)	1,467	1,398	2,865	73	89	162	1,540	1,487	3,027
2005									
Operative and paid inoperative staff									
Australian Statistician	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Senior Executive Service	30	8	38	1	-	1	31	8	39
Executive Officer									
Executive Officer Level 2	127	56	183	6	3	9	133	59	192
Executive Officer Level 1	286	215	501	12	5	17	298	220	518
Australian Public Service									
APS Level 6	417	339	756	9	2	11	426	341	767
APS Level 5	227	295	522	3	4	7	230	299	529
APS Level 4	214	246	460	11	10	21	225	256	481

continued

Table 4.3.3: Total number of ABS staff employed under the Public Service Act 1999: by gender and classification, at 30 June (headcount)(a)

— continued

Year and classification	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
— 2005 continued									
APS Level 3	80	101	181	24	63	87	104	164	268
APS Level 2	12	16	28	39	42	81	51	58	109
APS Graduate	15	20	35	—	—	—	15	20	35
APS Level 1	2	5	7	5	3	8	7	8	15
APS Cadet	4	4	8	—	—	—	4	4	8
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	1,415	1,305	2,720	110	132	242	1,525	1,437	2,962
Unpaid inoperative staff	45	81	126	—	—	—	45	81	126
Total staff	1,460	1,386	2,846	110	132	242	1,570	1,518	3,088

(a) Being paid at the classification shown at 30 June each year. Includes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975. Excludes staff employed for population surveys.

(r) Revised.

Table 4.4: Representation of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) groups: ongoing ABS staff at 30 June 2005(a)

Level	Number of ongoing staff and percentage of total ongoing staff							EEO Coverage
	Total Ongoing Staff	Women	NESB1	NESB2	ATSI	PWD		
Australian Public Service Level 1 and equivalent classifications	16	10	1	2	2	4	14	
	%	62.5	6.3	12.5	12.5	25.0	87.5	
Australian Public Service Level 2 and equivalent classifications	30	17	9	20	0	4	29	
	%	56.7	30.0	66.7	0.0	13.3	96.7	
Australian Public Service Level 3 and equivalent classifications	227	126	24	58	1	11	223	
	%	55.5	10.6	25.6	0.4	4.8	98.2	
Australian Public Service Level 4 and equivalent classifications	484	262	61	129	4	13	470	
	%	54.1	12.6	26.7	0.8	2.7	97.1	
Australian Public Service Level 5 and equivalent classifications	556	321	70	136	2	12	544	
	%	57.7	12.6	24.5	0.4	2.2	97.8	
Australian Public Service Level 6 and equivalent classifications	784	357	98	168	4	28	770	
	%	45.5	12.5	21.4	0.5	3.6	98.2	
Executive Level 1 and equivalent classifications	519	225	47	87	1	23	513	
	%	43.4	9.1	16.8	0.2	4.4	98.8	

continued

Table 4.4: Representation of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) groups: ongoing ABS staff at 30 June 2005(a)
 — continued

Level	Number of ongoing staff and percentage of total ongoing staff							EEO Coverage
	Total Ongoing Staff	Women	NESB1	NESB2	ATSI	PWD	EEO	
Executive Level 2 and equivalent classifications	188	59	13	29	0	6	187	
	%	31.4	6.9	15.4	0.0	3.2	99.5	
Senior Executive Service	42	9	2	4	0	2	42	
	%	21.4	4.8	9.5	0.0	4.8	100.0	
Total	2,846	1,386	325	633	14	103	2,792	
Total ongoing staff	%	48.7	11.4	22.2	0.5	3.6	98.1	

(a) Inoperative staff are included in each category.

Note: EEO coverage is the number of ongoing staff who have elected to provide EEO information. EEO groups are not mutually exclusive and any individual officer may be included in more than one group. Percentages are based on total ongoing staff.

Key

NESB1 — Non-English Speaking Background, first generation.

NESB2 — Non-English Speaking Background, second generation.

PWD — People With Disabilities.

ATSI — Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Table 4.5: Staff engaged under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (staff years)

Purpose	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Interviewer enumerated statistical collections (mainly household surveys)	211	203	223
Census of population and housing (including preparations for the census)	3	2	5
Total	214	205	228

Table 4.6: ABS intake and separations of ongoing staff 2004-05(a) (number)

Method of intake and type of separation	SES	Non SES	Total
Intake			
Engagement — National Graduate Recruitment Campaign	–	101	101
Engagement — Other	–	132	132
Movement from outside the ABS	–	50	50
Total intake	–	283	283
Separations			
Movement to outside the ABS	1	65	66
Resignation	1	139	140
Death	–	2	2
Dismissal	–	3	3
Retirement — Invalidity	–	2	2
Retirement — Age 55-59 years	–	13	13
Retirement — Age 60-64 years	1	13	14
Retirement — Age 65 years and over	–	2	2
Retirement — Other(b)	–	46	46
Total separations	3	285	288

(a) Excludes non-ongoing inward and outward movements. (b) Includes staff retired under section 29 and section 30 of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

Table 4.7: Number of ABS Senior Executive Staff (SES): by SES level, gender and location at 30 June(a)

Year and location	SES Level			Gender		Total
	1	2	3	Male	Female	
2003 Total	26	6	2	28	6	34
2004 Total(r)	26	5	2	26	7	33
2005						
Australian Capital Territory	21	6	2	21	8	29
New South Wales	1	-	-	1	-	1
Victoria	1	-	-	1	-	1
Queensland	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Australia	1	-	-	1	-	1
Western Australia	1	-	-	1	-	1
Tasmania	1	-	-	1	-	1
Northern Territory	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	26	6	2	26	8	34

(a) Includes only operative, substantive SES officers, but excludes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*.

(r) Revised.

ABS Staff Training

A key component of the ABS performance management process is to identify the development needs of individual staff and capability requirements of the agency as a whole. Responding to capability gaps through effective strategies for managing learning and development is a key process for building organisational capability. The ABS training and development activities have been designed to build organisational capabilities that align with ABS values and the ABS mission and goals. Learning activities are monitored for effectiveness in developing ABS organisational capabilities. This structure and rigour ensures the best possible return on the investment the ABS makes in developing its people.

During 2004-05 a number of new and redeveloped learning activities were offered to ABS employees. Leadership and management development programs were reworked and made available nationally. These include programs focused on developing personal management and supervisory skills for new employees and new managers.

Table 4.8 shows the number of staff who attended training throughout 2004–05.

Table 4.8: ABS staff training(a)

	Total ABS operative staff(b)	Attendance days	Average training days
2002–03	2,909	14,797	5
2003–04	2,800	10,431	4
2004–05	2,630	12,562	5

(a) Excludes on-the-job training. (b) Comprises full time and part time staff at their full time equivalent.

Certified Agreement and Australian Workplace Agreement

Details of the number of staff covered by an Australian Workplace Agreement or a Certified Agreement at 30 June 2005 are as follows:

- ABS staff covered by an Australian Workplace Agreement:
 - Senior Executive Service (SES) – 34
 - Non-SES staff – 213
- ABS staff covered by the *ABS Certified Agreement 2003–2006* – 2,588
- ABS interviewers covered by the *ABS Interviewers Certified Agreement 2003–2005* – 552.

The ABS Salary System

Table 4.9: Salary ranges available by classification as at 30 June 2005(a)

Classification	Minimum \$	Maximum \$
Australian Public Service (APS)		
APS1 (Adult)	30,663	33,730
APS2	34,704	38,174
APS3	39,525	43,477
APS4	44,054	48,459
APS5	49,137	54,050
APS6	55,344	60,878
Executive Officer Level (EL)		
EL1	68,403	75,243
EL2	81,827	93,282
Senior Executive Service (SES)		
SES Band 1	106,000	n.a.
SES Band 2	129,277	n.a.
SES Band 3	154,777	n.a.

[a] APS1 to EL2 salary range took effect from 1 July 2004 and SES Band 1 to SES Band 3 salary range took effect from 13 January 2005.

n.a. not applicable.

The *ABS Certified Agreement 2003–2006* outlines the salary arrangements for ABS employees.

In 2004–05 salary increases for APS1 to EL2 employees were effective from 15 July 2004 and there were two components to the salary increases:

- a general increase of 2.8 per cent
- a performance based increase of:
 - 1.5 times the general salary increase, for those employees rated as Fully Effective
 - 2.0 times the general salary increase, for those employees rated as Outstanding.

In 2004–05 the minimum and maximum amounts of the salary ranges were increased by 3.5 per cent.

In addition to increases in base salary, APS1 to EL2 employees who were rated as Outstanding, and who were either less than 1 per cent from the maximum of the current range or within \$500 from the maximum of the current range, were moved to the maximum of the new range. In addition, they were paid a one off lump sum the greater of 1 per cent of their current salary less the difference between their current salary and the top of the current range, or \$500 less the difference between their current salary and the top of the current range.

During 2004–05 the total amount paid as one off lump sum payments was \$75,773 to 129 employees.

Table 4.10 shows the performance pay component of the salary increases paid in 2004–05.

Table 4.10: Performance pay by level

Level	Number	Aggregate (\$)	Average (\$)
Australian Public Service (APS)			
APS1	42	17,014	405
APS2	47	23,091	491
APS3	323	191,628	593
APS4	497	328,552	661
APS5	518	386,938	747
APS6	725	617,459	852
Executive Officer Level (EL)			
EL1	432	476,105	1,102
EL2	157	227,839	1,451
Senior Executive Service (SES)			
SES1	29	68,628	2,366
SES2 and 3	8	26,331	3,291
Total	2,778	2,363,585	n.a.

n.a. not applicable.

Reward and Recognition

The ABS operates a Reward and Recognition Scheme to recognise exceptional one-off achievements by individuals and work groups. Rewards may be made in the form of certificates, hospitality (such as work group lunches), prepaid vouchers and cash bonuses. Total ABS expenditure for the scheme in 2004–05 was \$114,865.

Appendix 5 Occupational Health and Safety

The ABS is committed to the health, safety and welfare of all its employees. A dedicated section in central office, complemented by representatives in all regional offices, ensures the requirements of the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991* and the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* are observed. A network of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) committees is the vehicle for consultation on OHS issues affecting staff.

During 2004–05, 25 employees were selected or elected and then trained as Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) under the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991*.

There were 21 notifiable accidents reported to Comcare in 2004–05.

Investigations

During 2004–05 there were no OHS investigations undertaken in the ABS.

Accidents

In 2004–05 the ABS undertook activities, such as training for employees and managers, specifically aimed at increasing the level of OHS awareness and compliance. The effect of the greater awareness resulted in a significant decrease in rate of reported accidents and incidents from the previous year. There were 415 accidents and incidents at the ABS in 2004–05, compared with 511 in 2003–04.

Table 5.1 details the broad injury categories for the periods 2003–04 and 2004–05.

Table 5.1: Reported accidents and incidents (number)

	2003-04	2004-05
Motor vehicle/journey related accidents	80	69
Sporting events resulting in an accident and/or injury	27	12
Back injuries	27	13
Overuse injuries	52	47
Psychological injuries	11	5
Slips, trips and falls	79	85
Sprains and strains	36	36
Other work-based incidents and accidents	199	148
Total	511	415

Rehabilitation

The ABS institutes early intervention and rehabilitation in both compensable and non-compensable cases. National awareness training for employees and managers, complemented by ongoing training for ABS rehabilitation case managers, was held during the year to enhance ABS rehabilitation performance.

Table 5.2 details a comparison for the periods 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Table 5.2: Rehabilitation case management (number)

	2003-04	2004-05
Compensation claims submitted	132	96
Compensation claims closed(a)	165	129
Return to work plans(b)	51	22
Non-compensable (fitness) cases(a)	121	78
Non-compensable (fitness) cases closed(a)	83	67

(a) Comprises cases carried over from the previous year, and new cases.

(b) Plans commenced during this reporting period only.

Comcare Premiums

Comcare has provided notification that the ABS workers' compensation premium for 2005-06 has been set at 1.88 per cent of total salary (including GST). The increase in premium was due to the increased cost of individual cases. Steps will be taken to reduce the time taken for a 'return to work'.

Table 5.3 provides details of the ABS and the agency pool average premium rate.

Table 5.3: Comcare workers' compensation premium rate (% of wage and salary expenditure)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
	%	%	%	%
ABS	1.15	1.50	1.80	1.88
Agency pool average	1.13	1.43	1.67	1.77

Achievements

Measures taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees during 2004-05 included:

- the continued enhancement and development of the ABS OHS policy framework
- education and awareness sessions for employees and managers on their OHS responsibilities, preventing injuries, and OHS risk management
- continued work by the systems working group in examining all existing and new software packages from an OHS perspective
- the continued promotion of health and fitness across the ABS.

Appendix 6 Commonwealth Disability Strategy

The ABS has two roles in implementing the Commonwealth Disability Strategy (CDS) — provider role and employer role.

Provider Role

Performance Indicator 1. Providers have established mechanisms for quality improvement and assurance

The ABS is committed to making its online services as accessible as possible so that no group is excluded from access to its services.

The ABS aims to meet its obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and strives to comply with World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C's) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0. The ABS' Online Action Plan <http://www.abs.gov.au/actionplan> outlines the ABS approach to providing online services. The ABS web site met W3C Priority 1 Guidelines by December 2000, except for W3C guidelines 5.1 and 5.2 relating to ensuring the accessibility of tables (by using appropriate meta-tags). The web site contains many thousands of tables for data with differing layouts, and these tables are continually being updated. For technical reasons, tables in these formats are not easily tagged. Numerous potential solutions to tagging these tables have been investigated, however at this stage there has not been a cost effective solution found. The ABS continues to investigate how tables can be tagged to meet the W3C guidelines. In the interim, the ABS provides a free conversion service where visually impaired users can request files to be converted to a suitable format. For further information see 'Information for Visually Impaired Clients' on the ABS web site.

The ABS plans to provide an electronic method of form completion as an alternative to traditional paper form method for the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. The 2006 Census electronic form will comply with W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

Performance Indicator 2. Providers have an established service charter that specifies the roles of the provider and consumer and service standards which address accessibility for people with disabilities

The *Client Service Charter* describes the relationship between the ABS and users of its products and services. The charter describes a number of dissemination methods which may assist people with disabilities. As mentioned above, the ABS provides a free conversion service where visually impaired users can ask for data files to be converted to a suitable format.

Performance Indicator 3. Complaints/grievance mechanisms, including access to external mechanisms, in place to address concerns raised about performance

The *Client Service Charter* outlines the complaints and grievance mechanisms which are in place to address concerns raised about ABS' performance. The *Client Service Charter* can be found on the ABS web site.

Employer Role

Performance Indicator 1. Employment policies, procedures and practices comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992

All ABS policies have been developed in line with the Australian Public Service Values. These values concord with the principles of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* in terms of eliminating discrimination, promoting equity and responding to the diverse needs of the Australian community. These values are also upheld in the ABS Corporate Plan, the ABS Workplace Diversity Program and the ABS Certified Agreement. Reviews of ABS policies, procedures and practices are undertaken as necessary and when these occur the principles of Workplace Diversity (including those of the Commonwealth Disability Strategy) are considered.

ABS policies that have been produced specifically to comply with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* are the Reasonable Workplace Adjustment Guidelines and the Disability Action Plan.

Reasonable Workplace Adjustment Guidelines

The Reasonable Workplace Adjustment Guidelines are used to raise awareness of disability issues in areas such as recruitment, workplace performance and learning and development.

Disability Action Plan

The main purpose of the Disability Action Plan is to assist the ABS to provide equal opportunity and access for its staff and clients with disabilities, and to identify strategies to continually improve ABS' capacity in this regard.

The Disability Action Plan and the accompanying checklist (DAPCheck) were released in December 2004. An ABS Intranet article provided information to staff on their responsibilities and to raise awareness of issues surrounding disability. Information sessions on the Disability Action Plan will be provided to ABS staff in the latter half of 2005 in conjunction with the release of the 2005-2007 Workplace Diversity Program.

Performance Indicator 2. Recruitment information for potential job applicants is available in accessible formats on request

ABS job vacancies are advertised in the Public Service Gazette and on the ABS web site.

The ABS web site provides recruitment material and corporate information for potential applicants in HTML and PDF formats. The ABS Application Cover Sheet, which applicants are required to return with their applications, contains provisions for requesting any additional requirements in the event of interviews such as interpreters and other aids.

Recruitment material can also be obtained through the relevant contact officer.

Performance Indicator 3. Agency recruiters and managers apply the principle of 'reasonable adjustment'

Internal ABS corporate manuals and workplace diversity databases have information on reasonable adjustment and the selection process. Selection panels are made aware of this information and the processes for its application.

Information gathered from the ABS Application Cover Sheet enables the ABS selection panel to seek further information with regard to possible reasonable adjustment requirements for the interview situation.

Occupational Health and Safety representatives undertake a workplace assessment to assess any special needs and to discuss and assist in implementing, as appropriate, reasonable adjustment strategies with the relevant supervisor on commencement at the ABS.

Performance Indicators 4 and 5. Training and development programs consider the needs of staff with disabilities and include information on disability issues as they relate to the content of the program

ABS Learning and Development (L&D) consider the diversity needs of staff, as outlined in the ABS Workplace Diversity Program and the Reasonable Workplace Adjustment Guidelines, when developing training and development activities. L&D provides guidance to line managers and employees about their role and responsibilities, and provide support information to employees.

In accordance with the disability strategy all training and development activities were:

- learner centred
- designed using an instructional design phase that considers the diverse needs and learning styles of our trainees

- delivered and event managed with activities that provide for the reasonable adjustment requirements of the trainees, such as specific hearing, language/translator and mobility issues
- designed to continue the work with specific components on disability and reasonable adjustment in management and leadership development aspects of programs.

Performance Indicator 6. Complaints/grievance mechanisms, including access to external mechanisms, in place to address issues and concerns raised by staff

The ABS has several mechanisms in place to assist all ABS employees, including those with disabilities, to resolve issues. These mechanisms include support networks to assist staff and a well defined process to internally resolve workplace issues. The ABS also provides information to employees about external appeal mechanisms.

Workplace Diversity Network

The ABS has a network of Workplace Diversity Advisers throughout all ABS offices who provide information to staff on the options for resolving complaints. Workplace Diversity Advisers are responsible for the local implementation of national strategies in relation to workplace diversity.

Harassment and Workplace Support Network

The ABS has a network of Harassment and Workplace Support contacts throughout all ABS offices who provide objective and unbiased support to people who feel they have been harassed or discriminated against. The harassment or discrimination could be due to a wide number of issues including a person’s disability. Harassment and Workplace Support volunteers receive comprehensive training for this role and are supported by the ABS workplace diversity advisers.

People Management Section

In recognition of the importance and value of its people, the ABS has established a dedicated section to deal with people issues, including issues of discrimination and harassment.

Employee Assistance Program

The ABS provides all employees with access to an externally contracted Employee Assistance Program where confidential and professional assistance is provided for personal, family related, or work issues.

ABS Workplace Diversity Program

The ABS has a Workplace Diversity Program in place to give effect to the APS values and the principle of equal employment opportunity in the workplace. The ABS aims to have workplace diversity principles underpinning all aspects of ABS human resource management including the resolution of workplace issues and complaints.

The 2005–2007 Workplace Diversity Program is due to be released in August 2005. It will be distributed to staff and will be available on the ABS Intranet. Information Sessions will be provided to ensure staff are aware of their responsibilities in relation to diversity.

Employee Survey

In October 2004, the ABS ran a comprehensive survey of employee opinions covering a number of areas affecting their employment. Areas where employees are relatively more satisfied include flexibility of employment conditions, physical environment, working relationships and social environment. Areas that have been identified as warranting priority attention include: levels of satisfaction with the use being made of employee skills/challenging work; information sharing; deadline and workload pressure; and remuneration.

The results of the survey have provided the impetus to develop strategies to address concerns and have been incorporated into the 2005–2007 Workplace Diversity Program.

Processes for resolving workplace issues

In addition to more formal mechanisms set out in the *Public Service Act 1999*, the ABS has agreed internal procedures for resolving workplace issues. These procedures were established under the *ABS Certified Agreement 2003–2006* and have worked particularly well in assisting early, effective resolution of issues. The aim is to sort out problems quickly, informally, and as close to the workplace as possible. Employees are encouraged to use these procedures whenever possible, however the more formal mechanisms remain available under the current APS employment framework.

Information for employees

Information on both internal and external processes (including action under section 33 of the *Public Service Act 1999*, and disputes about matters covered by the *ABS Certified Agreement 2003–2006*), is provided to all employees on the ABS Intranet.

Appendix 7 Consultancy Services

Policy on selection and engagement of consultants

ABS policy on selection and engagement of consultants is consistent with Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. The ABS selects and engages consultants in a way that ensures transparency and provides value for money. The ABS assesses the capability of providers as appropriate in each case.

Total consultancies let in 2004–05

During 2004–05, 24 consultants were engaged to carry out projects or to provide professional and technical advice that could not be provided by staff of the ABS.

Six consultancies have been let in previous years with a total value of \$345,587. The total value of the 18 new consultancies is \$479,482.

Table 7.1 shows total expenditure on all consultancies, covering both payments made on new contracts let in 2004–05 and payments made on contracts let in previous years. The larger consultancy contracts (those to the value of \$10,000 or more) are detailed in Table 7.2 along with brief notes on the procurement method used.

Table 7.1: Consultancy services contracts engaged by the ABS

	Consultancies (number)	Expenditure (\$) including GST
2000–01	49	2,129,436
2001–02	44	1,172,656
2002–03	53	1,477,651
2003–04	63	958,269
2004–05	24	825,069

Table 7.2: Consultancy services contracts let in 2004–05 to the value of \$10,000 or more

	Contract Price (\$) including GST	Justification and type of tender
Audit		
Business Assurance Australia Pty Ltd		
Risk Management Facilitation Service	50,000	(1) (a)
Information Technology (IT)		
Assist Pty Ltd		
Payroll implementation support	60,000	(2,3) (a,b,c)
Little Oak Pty Ltd		
ABS registry metadata implementation	50,000	(3) (a)
GHD		
Assist the ABS in implementing the ARES Building Access System by developing technical specifications and performing the quotation process	12,100	(3) (a)
Conduct a site survey for security races. Prepare RFT documentation and conduct the procurement process on behalf of the ABS	13,200	(3) (a)
Ad hoc technical advice for ABS House and Regional Offices and Minor Electronic Security Works	15,800	(3) (a)
Electronic security for Data Processing Centre fit out	29,700	(3) (a)
Tender services for the Electronic Security National Maintenance	16,500	(3) (a)
Management		
The Allen Consulting Group Pty Ltd		
Future strategic positioning of the ABS	247,800	(2) (a)
Other		
McNair Ingenuity Research Pty Ltd		
Market research into public opinions and awareness of the ABS and the Census	49,852	(1) (a)

Key

Justification for recourse to consultancy arrangements:

- (a) Need for specialised skills.
- (b) Need for access to the latest technology and experience in its application.
- (c) Lack of available in-house resources.

Type of Tender:

- (1) Restricted tender
- (2) Request for quotation
- (3) Direct negotiation

Table excludes standard services such as:

- scribes
- medical, counselling, and other individual consultations
- presentation of standard/pre-existing training courses
- travel contracts, IT help desk and IT maintenance contracts.

Appendix 8 Advertising and Market Research

The ABS paid \$531,002 on advertising and market research in 2004–05, comprising \$482,322 for advertising, the majority of which comprised advertising relating to staff recruitment, \$22,660 for market research and \$26,020 for direct mail costs. Expenditure on individual advertising or market research exceeding \$1,500 is detailed in Table 8.1.

Table 8.1: Advertising and market research paid by, or on behalf of, the ABS, to the value of \$1,500 or more – 2004–05

Name of organisation paid	\$
Advertising	
Made-to-Measure Publications	1,680
HMA Blaze Pty Ltd	384,498
Hobsons Australia Pty Ltd	6,200
Indigo Arch Pty Ltd	1,950
University of Sydney	1,500
Union Offset Company	3,060
American Express Pty Ltd	1,545
Market Research	
McNair Ingenuity Research	22,660
Direct Mail Organisations	
Canberra Mailing	1,783
List Marketing Australia	13,212
American Express Pty Ltd	8,936

Appendix 9 Competitive Tendering and Contracting

The ABS conducts its contracting and related administrative arrangements in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. Regular reviews are undertaken to ensure ABS staff have both access to, and are kept informed of, these guidelines.

The ABS procurement policy accords with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. Through observance of these policies and principles, the ABS is confident that its approach to competitive tendering and contracting has proven to be highly effective, resulting in value for money procurement outcomes for the ABS. The ABS has invested considerable resources into the training and development of its key procurement staff.

All contracts meet the requirements for providing the Auditor General with access to the contractor's premises.

Appendix 10 Purchasing and Assets Management

Purchasing

The ABS actively applies the Australian Government's core purchasing policies and principles to ensure compliance with all relevant government policies.

In accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, goods and services acquired by the ABS are purchased through a process which ensures the attainment of value for money. The Central Procurement Unit provides advice and assistance, on a national basis, to ABS staff undertaking purchasing activities to promote policy compliance and achieve the most appropriate outcomes.

Asset Management

Principles

The ABS' approach to asset management encompasses the following principles:

- asset management activities are undertaken within an integrated government asset management framework
- service delivery needs guide asset management practices and decisions
- asset planning and management are integrated with corporate and business plans as well as budgetary and reporting processes
- capital expenditure decisions are based on evaluations of alternatives that take into account full life cycle costs, benefits and risks of assets
- ownership, control, accountability, and reporting requirements for assets are established, clearly communicated, and implemented.

Strategic Issues

The major strategic issue with respect to ABS asset management is the continued effective management of its information and technology assets, totalling almost \$100 million at 30 June 2005.

The ABS develops approximately \$16 million of internally generated software each year and purchases around another \$2 million of vendor supplied software. In addition, the ABS purchases between \$5 million and \$8 million of information technology hardware annually.

The current strategies to manage this investment are:

- strategic direction and oversight by a senior executive board

- annual development and quarterly monitoring of corporate information technology budget and work program
- enhancement and/or replacement of existing software and hardware where justified by business demands on a rolling program
- projects involving information technology use the ABS project management framework and governance arrangements
- active internal auditing program
- internal cost recovery to ensure that full costs are attributed and balanced against benefits.

Asset Measurement

The ABS maintains an asset register to address management, statutory reporting and user requirements.

The ABS' assets are an integral element in the conduct of its business, and are part of the combination of resources required to enable cost effective delivery of services.

The asset register of the ABS underpins planning policies, analysis of financial programs, capitalisation, and reviews of performance against defined objectives.

For recognition as an asset, the ABS has an expenditure capitalisation threshold of \$2,000 for general assets and \$1,000 for information and technology assets including software. Assets expenditure greater than or equal to these amounts are capitalised and recorded on the assets register. At 30 June 2005, all ABS assets are recorded at fair value.

Major Assets

At 30 June 2005 the ABS' major assets totalled nearly \$120 million and are made up of the following major asset classes:

Table 10.1: ABS major assets at 30 June 2005

Asset Class	\$'000
Infrastructure plant and equipment	
– information technology hardware	13,341
– furniture and fittings	20,262
Total Infrastructure plant and equipment	33,603
Inventories	21
Intangibles – Computer software	86,147
Total	119,771

The disclosed asset figures are net of accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is determined on a straight-line basis for all fixed assets at a rate to allocate the depreciable amounts over the useful lives of the assets.

As part of its overall management strategy, the ABS actively manages its disposals program to ensure it receives value for money outcomes from assets that have reached the end of their economic or useful life.

Appendix 11 Freedom of Information

As required by section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, the ABS is required to provide detail on the structure of the ABS, and how members of the public can gain access to information held by the ABS.

Establishment, organisation and functions

Chapter 2 and Appendices 1 and 3 provide details on the role, structure and functions of the ABS.

Powers

The decision making powers of the ABS and other powers associated with the discharge of its functions affecting members of the public are:

- the power to collect statistics, including the powers to request, or direct, persons to provide information, and to enter into premises other than private accommodation for the purpose of collecting statistics
- the power to initiate prosecutions against persons for failing to supply information if directed
- the power to publish statistics and release information.

Consultative arrangements

The role of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, the peak consultative body for the ABS, is described in Chapter 2.

Categories of documents in the possession of the ABS are:

Documents open to public access upon payment of a fee: the ABS does not hold any of these types of documents.

Documents available for purchase or customarily available free of charge: the ABS has a wide range of statistical publications available for sale through its bookshops. The ABS also provides free access to its key publications through ABS libraries and major public libraries and access to a vast array of census data and other statistical information through its web site.

Other documents in the possession of the ABS are:

Government and Parliament: various policy-related documents, ministerial briefings, ministerial correspondence, replies to parliamentary questions, and tabling documents.

Conferences, etc.: agenda papers, submissions, and records of proceedings of internal and external conferences, management meetings and workshops.

Statistical and statistical service projects: research, development and evaluation papers, records of consultations with suppliers and users of data, statistical classifications, lists of businesses, maps, data collection, processing and publication manuals and instructions and mailing lists.

Administration and management: work program and planning documents, finance, staff and establishment papers and manuals, personnel files, recruitment files, selection and promotion of staff, staff development and training papers, office services documents and tenders.

Privacy: a record of the extent and nature of ABS holdings of personal information, as contained in the *Personal Information Digest* published by the Privacy Commissioner.

General: correspondence, papers, etc. filed by subject, manuals on more general subjects, reviews and administrative circulars.

A significant part of ABS information holdings is information collected under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. This information is exempt from the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

ABS Freedom of Information Activities

Matters relating to the operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* within the ABS are the responsibility of the Policy Secretariat Branch in Central Office. Authority for decision making under this Act has been delegated to the Deputy Australian Statistician, Population Statistics Group, and the First Assistant Statistician, Corporate Services Division. Policy Secretariat Branch staff attend meetings of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Practitioners' Forum run by the Australian Government Solicitor's Office.

The following table provides details of FOI activities during the years 2000–01 to 2004–05 inclusive. Three requests were made to the ABS under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* during 2004–05.

Table 11.1: Freedom of Information Activities, 2000-01 to 2004-05 (number)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Requests received for					
Statistical information	1	-	-	1	-
Personal papers	-	-	2	-	-
Administrative documents	-	-	-	-	3
Total	1	-	2	1	3
Decisions made					
Access granted in full	-	-	-	1	3
Access granted in part	-	-	2	-	-
Request transferred to another agency	-	-	-	-	-
Request withdrawn	1	-	-	-	-
Access refused	-	-	-	-	-
Documents not in existence	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	2	1	3
Decisions outstanding at end of year					
Review of decisions by principal officer	-	-	-	-	-
Appeals to Administrative Appeals Tribunal	-	-	-	-	-

Where to get information

Freedom of Information Inquiries

All inquiries concerning access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* may be directed to the Freedom of Information Contact Officer, Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS House, 45 Benjamin Way, Belconnen, ACT, 2616 (Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616); telephone 02 6252 5557.

General Information

The ABS offers an initial contact point for all information requests:

Telephone 1300 135 070
 Email client.services@abs.gov.au
 Facsimile 1300 135 211
 Mail Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney, NSW, 2001.

Appendix 12 Inquiries by Parliamentary Committees and Reports by the Auditor General

Listed below are inquiries by Parliamentary Committees which involved the ABS during 2004–05.

Parliamentary Committees

Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services: Inquiry into the Level of Banking and Financial Services in Rural, Regional and Remote Areas of Australia

In July 2004 the ABS provided information for inclusion in the government response to several recommendations of the report concerning financial data.

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit: Review of Auditor-General's Report on Intellectual Property Policies and Practices in Commonwealth Agencies

In August 2004 the ABS appeared before the Committee to advise the Committee of the ABS' approach to managing intellectual property.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration: Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia Annual Report 2003

In November 2004 the ABS provided comments on recommendation 1 of the report concerning the development of an improved House Price Index.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage Report: Employment in the Environment Sector: Methods, Measurement and Messages

In December 2004 the ABS provided information for inclusion in the government response to recommendation 1 of the report concerning data on various environmental issues.

Senate Economics References Committee Inquiry into the Possible Links Between Household Debt, Demand for Imported Goods and Australia's Current Account Deficit

In February 2005 the ABS provided a submission to the Inquiry on the types of data available that could be relevant to the Inquiry.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Report: From Reel to Unreal: Future Opportunities for Australia's Film, Animation, Special Effects and Electronic Games Industries

In February 2005 the ABS provided information for inclusion in the government response to recommendations 4 and 5 of the report concerning surveys conducted of the film and video production and television services industries.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs Report: Inquiry of Crime in the Community: Victims, Offenders and Fear of Crime

In May 2005 the ABS provided information for inclusion in the government response to a number of recommendations of the report concerning statistical issues.

Standing Committee on Industry and Resources: Case Study into the Strategic Importance of Australia's Uranium Resources

In June 2005 the ABS provided a submission to the Committee on the data available that could be relevant to the Case Study.

Reports by the Auditor General

There were no adverse reports or comments made by the Auditor General during 2004–05.

Appendix 13 Documents Tabled in Parliament

Proposals for the collection of information for statistical purposes

In accordance with section 6 of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, the ABS made nine proposals for collection of information for statistical purposes. Each of the proposals were tabled in both Houses of Parliament during 2004–05, as shown in Table 13.1.

Table 13.1: Tabling — proposals for collection of information for statistical purposes, 2004–05

Date tabled(a)	Statistical collection(b)
3 August 2004	Update of Large Business Industry Classification
11 August 2004	Biotechnology Research and Experimental Development Statistics
16 November 2004	Trial ABS Land Management Statistics
16 November 2004	Survey of Foreign Currency Exposure
8 February 2005	Survey of Education and Training
8 February 2005	Survey of Tourism Marketing Expenditure
10 May 2005	Survey of Income and Housing
20 June 2005	House Price Index
23 June 2005	Personal Safety Survey

(a) If the proposal was tabled on different dates in the two Houses of Parliament, the earlier of the two dates is shown. (b) Unless otherwise indicated by the title, the statistical collection is a national project.

Disclosure of lists of names and addresses

In accordance with clause 6 of the Statistics Determination (Statutory Rules 1983 No. 19) made under section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the ABS tables, in both Houses of Parliament, the details of the disclosure of lists of names, addresses and other information provided to a specified department or authority. The information released is shown in Table 13.2.

Table 13.2: Tabling — disclosure of lists of names and addresses, 2004–05

Date tabled(a)	Information released
17 November 2004	List of Businesses for the Australian National Training Authority
15 March 2005	Lists of Agricultural Farm Businesses for the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
10 May 2005	List of Businesses for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
11 May 2005	List of Businesses for the Department of Education, Science and Training

(a) If the proposal was tabled on different dates in the two Houses of Parliament, the earlier of the two dates is shown.

Appendix 14 Disclosure of Unidentified Information

The Statistics Determination (Statutory Rules 1983 No. 19) made by the Minister under section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, provides for the disclosure, with the approval in writing of the Australian Statistician, of specified classes of information. Clause 7 of the Determination provides for the disclosure of unidentified individual statistical records in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of the person or organisation to which they relate.

Disclosures of unidentified information under clause 7 of the Statistics Determination are shown in Table 14.1.

Table 14.1: Statistical collections — disclosure of unidentified information, 2004–05

	Survey date
Aspects of literacy survey	1996
Australian housing survey	1994
Australian housing survey	1999
Australians' employment and unemployment patterns survey	1994–97
Business growth and performance survey	1994–95, 1995–96, 1996–97, 1997–98 (combined)
Census 1% sample file	1981
Census 1% sample file	1986
Census 1% sample file	1991
Census 1% sample file	1996
Census of population and housing	2001
Child care survey	1993
Child care survey	1999
Child care survey	2002
Disability, ageing and carers survey	1993
Disability, ageing and carers survey	1998
Disability, ageing and carers survey	2003
Education and training experience survey	1989
Education and training survey	1997

	Survey date
Education and work survey	2001
Education and work survey	2003
Education, training and information technology survey	2001
Forms of employment survey	1998
General social survey	2002
Household expenditure survey	1975-76
Household expenditure survey	1984
Household expenditure survey	1988-89
Household expenditure survey	1993-94
Household expenditure survey (second fiscal incidence study edition)	1998-99
Income and housing costs and amenities survey	1990
Income and housing costs survey	1994-95
Income and housing costs survey	1995-96
Income and housing costs survey	1996-97
Income and housing costs survey	1997-98
Income and housing costs survey	1999-2000
Income and housing costs survey	2000-01
Income and housing survey	1982
Income and housing survey	2002-03
Income distribution survey	1986
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survey	1994
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social survey	2002
National health survey	1977-78
National health survey	1983
National health survey	1989-90
National health survey	1995
National health survey	2001
National health survey (Indigenous file)	2001
National nutrition survey	1995
National survey of mental health and wellbeing of adults (2nd revised)	1997
Population survey monitor	1997 (February- November)

	Survey date
Rental investors survey	1993
Rental investors survey	1997
Time use survey	1992
Time use survey	1997
Training and education survey	1993
Voluntary work in Australia survey	2000

Total number of disclosures of unidentified information under clause 7 of the Statistics Determination are shown in Table 14.2.

Table 14.2: Disclosure of unidentified information, summary

Clause 7 — number of individual disclosures(a)	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
Universities	105	156	190
Other	65	56	116
Total	170	212	306

(a) Does not include renewals of previously released files.

Appendix 15 Notices of Direction Issued and Prosecution Actions Approved

Under sections 10(4) and 11(2) of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the Australian Statistician may, by notice in writing, direct a person to complete a form or answer a question. Under section 14 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, a person who fails to comply with a notice of direction without reasonable excuse is guilty of an offence.

The number of notices of direction issued and the number of prosecution actions approved in recent years are shown in Table 15.1.

Table 15.1: Notices of direction issued and prosecution actions approved

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Notices of direction issued				
Census of Population and Housing	595	-	-	-
Household surveys	13	1	-	1
Business censuses and surveys	21	23	1	-
Total	629	24	1	1
Prosecution actions approved(a)				
Census of Population and Housing	104	-	-	-
Household surveys	2	-	-	-
Business censuses and surveys	-	1	-	-
Total	106	1	-	-

(a) Approved by the Australian Statistician for referral to the relevant office of the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Australian Government Solicitor. Any particular prosecution approval may pertain to a number of notices of direction. Each prosecution action approval is counted under the year in which the corresponding notices of direction are issued. Not every prosecution action approved proceeds to court (for example, because of subsequent receipt of the required information, or lack of sufficient information to serve a summons).

Appendix 16 Professional Papers by ABS Officers

Officers of the ABS prepared the following professional papers which were presented or published between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005.

Abello, R., Ravindiran, R., and Jose, A.

Health Status — labour force non-participation nexus: evidence from pooled NHS data.

Presented to the Australian Population Association Conference, Canberra, 15–17 September 2004.

Alcausin, G.

Impact of Sampling Outlets and Items on Price Index Using Scanner Data.

Presented to the 55th session of the International Statistical Institute, Sydney, 5–12 April 2005.

Baker, J.

State distribution of net overseas migration

Presented to the 2nd Population Estimates Technical Workshop, Adelaide, 11–12 November 2004.

Baker, J.

Measuring age at withdrawal from the labour force.

Presented to the 55th session of the International Statistical Institute, Sydney, 5–12 April 2005.

Baker, J., and Rawnsley, T.

Measuring age at withdrawal from the labour force.

Presented to the Australian Population Association Conference, Canberra, 15–17 September 2004.

Bell, P.

Estimation for a rotating panel survey using a person-level correlation model.

Presented to the 55th session of the International Statistical Institute, Sydney, 5–12 April 2005.

Beunen, J.

Error of Regional Estimates based on Modelled Data.

Presented to the 55th session of the International Statistical Institute, Sydney, 5–12 April 2005.

Bishop, G.

Changing to Generalised Regression Estimation and a New Sample Design.

Presented to the 55th session of the International Statistical Institute, Sydney, 5–12 April 2005.

Blanchfield, F.

Mesh blocks: a new building block of Australian geography.

Presented to the Australian Population Association Conference, Canberra, 15–17 September 2004.

Blanchfield, F.

GIS in small population enumeration.

Presented to the International Statistical Institute Satellite Conference, Wellington, New Zealand, 15 April 2005.

Burnside, R.

Findings from a factorial experiment to measure the effect of an incentive (offer of url) on response rates and timing in an economic survey.

Presented to the 55th session of the International Statistical Institute, Sydney, 5–12 April 2005.

Cassidy, R.

Using composite estimation to measure the impact of introducing computer-assisted interviewing (CAI) to the Australian Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Presented to the 55th session of the International Statistical Institute, Sydney, 5–12 April 2005.

Chen, L.

Hedonic Housing Price Index — An Australian Experience.

Presented to the 55th session of the International Statistical Institute, Sydney, 5–12 April 2005.

Chen, L., Romanis, P., and Palin, K.

Modelling Languages Other Than English Spoken in Australian Using Census Data.

Presented to the Australian Population Association Conference, Canberra, 15–17 September 2004.

Chipperfield, J.

Design and estimation for Split Questionnaire Surveys.

Presented to the 55th session of the International Statistical Institute, Sydney, 5–12 April 2005.

Ciurej, M., and Kumar, A.

Characteristics of mature age people not in the labour force.

Presented to the Australian Association of Gerontology Conference, Melbourne, 17–19 November 2004.

Ciurej, M., and Tanton, R.

An analysis of the regional distribution of disadvantage using 2001 SEIFA.

Presented to A Future that Works — economics, employment and the environment, Newcastle, 8–10 December 2004.

Conn, L.

Multilevel Analysis of Child Non-participation in Organised Sport.

Presented to the 55th session of the International Statistical Institute, Sydney, 5–12 April 2005.

Corr, P., and Howe, A.

Small area/domain population statistics: when demand challenges fundamental estimation assumptions.

Presented to the International Association for Official Statistics International Statistical Institute 2005 Satellite Meeting, Measuring Small and Indigenous Populations, Wellington, New Zealand, 14–15 March 2005.

Corr, P., and Kippen, R. (Australian National University)

The case for parity and birth order statistics.

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Appendix 18 Glossary of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AASB	Australian Accounting Standards Board
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSDL	Australian Bureau of Statistics Data Laboratory
ABS@	Information service to provide users with ready access to ABS publications and to a range of multi-dimensional datasets in electronic format
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIFS	Australian Institute of Family Studies
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
APS	Australian Public Service
ASAC	Australian Statistics Advisory Council
ASCCEG	Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups
ASCL	Australian Standard Classification of Languages
ASCRG	Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
AusStats	An online subscription service to the ABS standard product range
AVO	Australian Valuers Office
AWA	Australian Workplace Agreement
BLD	Business Longitudinal Database
BPM	Balance of Payments Manual
BPS	Badan Pusat Statistik (Statistics Indonesia)
C&S Act	<i>Census and Statistics Act 1905</i>
CAI	Computer Assisted Interviewing
cat. no.	ABS catalogue number
CDATA	CD-ROM product containing census data
CDS	Commonwealth Disability Strategy
CLIB	A free Census product available only to LEP-eligible libraries

CO	Central Office
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CURF	Confidentialised Unit Record File
DAP	Disability Action Plan
DDA	<i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i>
DEST	Department of Education, Science and Training
DPC	Data Processing Centre
DTEC	Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
eLEP	electronic Library Extension Program
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FaCS	Department of Family and Community Services
FBT	Fringe Benefits Tax
FMA Act	<i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>
FOI	Freedom Of Information
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNAF	Geocoded National Address File
GST	Goods and Services Tax
GVG	Greenhouse Vehicle Guide
HSR	Health and Safety Representative
ICP	International Comparison Program
IDP	Information Development Plan
IDW	Input Data Warehouse
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
IGSW	Internally Generated Software
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISI	International Statistical Institute
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
IT	Information Technology
ITPI	International Trade Price Indexes
L&D	Learning and Development
LEP	Library Extension Program
LPI	Labour Price Index
LSAC	Longitudinal Study of Australian Children
MAC	Methodology Advisory Committee

NATSIHS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey
NCATSIS	National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
NCETS	National Centre for Education and Training Statistics
NCYSU	National Children and Youth Statistics Unit
NDN	National Data Network
NHS	National Health Survey
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NSS	National Statistical Service
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PPI	Producer Price Indexes
PWD	People With Disabilities
Qld	Queensland
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory
RSE	Relative Standard Error
RSS	Really Simple Syndication
SA	South Australia
SCH	Statistical Clearing House
SES	Senior Executive Service
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SMVU	Survey of Motor Vehicle Use
SNA	System of National Accounts
SOMES	Strengthening of Macro-Economic Statistics
STSS	State and Territory Statistical Services
Tas.	Tasmania
UN	United Nations
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

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