



Annual Report

2013 – 14



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ISSN 0314-0008

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Guides to ABS services, and other selected documents, including a comprehensive range of ABS statistics, are available on the ABS website:
www.abs.gov.au

The 2013–14 ABS Annual Report can be found at:
www.abs.gov.au



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The Hon. Steven Ciobo 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 of the operations of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2014.

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 Parliament.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Palmer".

Jonathan Palmer
Acting Australian Statistician

23 September 2014

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1300 135 070 (from Australia)
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Section 1

OVERVIEW



Chapter 1

Australian Statistician's Review



Introduction



The ABS plays a key role in Australian society, providing a portfolio of trusted statistics that are critical to informing effective decision making and supporting public debate. During 2013–14 the ABS continued to provide high quality, objective statistics on key aspects of our population, society, economy, and the environment.

In January this year we said farewell to the 14th Australian Statistician, Brian Pink, who retired after leading the ABS for seven years. In his parting message to staff Brian talked of the continuing tight fiscal situation for the ABS, and his confidence that initiatives like the ABS's organisational transformation program (known as 'ABS 2017') and the digital Census in 2016 will position Australia's national statistical agency well for the future. There is a special article looking at Brian's career with the ABS in Chapter 3 (pages 17–19).

Budget constraints have necessitated some changes to our program. To better inform the changes to the work program, we held discussions with key Australian government agencies and other stakeholders to ensure our resources are applied to deliver maximum benefit through a well-balanced program. While the revised forward work program retains core statistical elements and outputs, we have had to discontinue or reduce outputs in areas that are valued by the users. These program changes will take effect in 2014–15.

Unfortunately, this year also saw the arrest of an ABS staff member by the Australian Federal Police for allegedly leaking statistics that were under embargo. The staff member, whose employment was terminated in May 2014, has been charged with a range of offences under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* and the *Corporations Act 2001*. This is the first time in our history of more than 100 years that a staff member has been arrested for allegedly leaking statistics. As a result of this incident the ABS commissioned an independent expert to conduct a review to assess the ABS's system of controls relating to the unauthorised disclosure of market sensitive information. The review, conducted by a former Deputy Chair of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, Belinda Gibson, involved an assessment of current controls, interviews with ABS staff, and benchmarking of ABS against a number of Australian and international organisations. The review found that the ABS operates with a coherent scheme of controls to protect against unauthorised disclosure, which is broadly consistent with other similar government agencies. The report included recommendations to help strengthen our controls and we are in the process of implementing all of these recommendations.

The age, fragility, and inflexibility of our systems continues to be a concern. We need to update and transform our business processes if we are to continue to provide timely, relevant and accessible statistics and services in an increasingly complex and connected digital world. Fortunately, we received additional funds to develop a robust business case for a major transformation program. This work has gone very well and I am confident that we will put a strong case for further investment to government in the next financial year. Our work on the investment proposal has been complemented and informed by the efforts of our ABS 2017 Business Transformation Program which has further developed key standards, architectural frameworks, prototypes and system components.

Key achievements

Transforming ABS interactions for the 21st century

The ABS has continued to invest in transforming the way we interact with providers to make it easier for businesses and people to respond to our surveys. In 2013–14 the ABS developed and implemented e-forms to enable a streamlined process for business and household surveys. The response to business e-forms has consistently exceeded the take-up target of 85% and the Monthly Population Survey (MPS) e-form uptake, at about 20%, is already above target. We also finished measuring the statistical impact from introducing e-forms to the MPS in 2013–14. Further information is available in a special article on e-forms in Chapter 3 (pages 28–30).

Improving data quality and reducing direct collection burden

The ABS has been working with existing data providers—such as Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages—to improve data quality. The ABS has also been engaging with public sector initiatives, such as Open Government, to improve data access. ABS has been working to secure ongoing ABS access to existing data for statistical and research purposes, including collaborating with data custodians such as the Departments of Social Services and Health to access new and significant administrative holdings to deliver rich, modern and relevant statistical solutions. Significant progress has been made on the acquisition of key education datasets such as National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NaPLAN) data; Vocational Education and Training (VET) data; and the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) for data integration projects, as well as on the future acquisition of unit record level school student enrolment data for the National Schools Statistics Collection.

Data by Region

The first release of the Data by Region application on the ABS website in June provided ease of access to ABS statistics on a particular geographical region. From the ABS website you can choose a region in Australia and find data for that region, either through browse, search or a map interface.

Data from the National Regional Profile are available on topics including population, births, average income levels, number of businesses, number of motor vehicles, land use and much more.

Data by Region provides an efficient single interface for users to find and use geocoded (ASGS to SA2 and LGA) data published by the ABS.

Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset

The Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (ACL D) brings together data from the 2006 Census with data from the 2011 and future Censuses to build a picture of changes in society. The first issue of the ACL D is based on a sample of about 1 million people from the 2006 Census, which has been combined with records from the 2011 Census using data linkage techniques without name and address. The dataset will continue to grow with new information added each Census, and sample augmentation to account for births, deaths and migration. The ACL D will enable governments and researchers to better understand how social and economic conditions change over time, as well as providing insight into how pathways vary for different population groups.

Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset

The Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset was created by integrating data from the 2011 Census and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) Settlement Data Base (SDB) of the 1.3 million people who migrated to Australia under a permanent Skilled, Family or Humanitarian stream visa and arrived in Australia between 1 January 2000 and 9 August 2011. This dataset will allow government agencies and researchers to analyse migrant census data by visa class.

Census Run That Town ios app

In 2013 the ABS Census program created *Run That Town*—an interactive game that uses 2011 Census data. *Run That Town* puts the player in charge of any Australian neighbourhood and challenges them to make popular planning decisions based on 2011 Census data.

Run That Town won the Government 2.0 category in the Australian Government's Excellence in eGovernment Awards in May 2014.

The Government 2.0 category recognises outstanding practice by an individual in the use and impact of digital tools and social media. This is based on how well an initiative demonstrates the principles and effectiveness of Government 2.0, including better engagement with citizens, open and transparent government operations, and/or release of public sector information.

Run That Town was judged to be 'an incredibly innovative project that uses game technology to achieve government objectives in an engaging and effective way'. The game personalises the player's experience with customised content and data from the 2011 Census, which players use to make planning decisions about a postal area in Australia that they control. While the aim of the game is to boost popularity, grow the town and keep the locals happy, players also discover the true value of Census data for themselves.

In addition to this award, *Run That Town* has been formally recognised in a number of other prestigious Australian and international award programs, highlighting the ABS's success in raising awareness of the Census and taking innovative digital approaches to dissemination, communication and engagement.

Providing leadership and services to maximise the use of government data

State Statistical Forum

The ABS has continued to strengthen strategic engagement with state and territory governments, notably by working more effectively with the State Statistical Forum (SSF). The SSF has continued to mature with a view to achieving stronger collaboration across jurisdictions, and between the jurisdictions and the ABS. Over the past year, the ABS has provided support for the development of jurisdictionally-led work on a set of priority statistical themes, particularly relating to Statistical Data Integration, Statistical Capability Development and Measuring Disadvantage.

Cross Portfolio Statistical Data Integration Oversight Board

The Cross Portfolio Statistical Data Integration Oversight Board (the Board), chaired by the Australian Statistician, oversees the development of a safe and effective cross-government environment for data integration involving Commonwealth data. During 2013–14 the Board made an initial determination of the scope of the arrangements for data integration involving Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes, and began a process to resolve the remaining issues around scope by early 2015. The risk framework, used to determine the pre- and post-mitigation risk levels of data integration projects, was also finalised.

Statistical Spatial Framework

The ABS is responding to the challenge of better integrating statistical and geospatial information by developing the Statistical Spatial Framework. ABS published material about this framework, which will provide a common approach to connecting people-centric (socio-economic) information to a location, on the National Statistical Service (NSS) website during 2013–14. There is considerable domestic and international interest in the Statistical Spatial Framework, and engagement and communication activities are integral to its adoption. The first meeting of the United Nations Expert Group was convened in November 2013. The ABS was invited to speak on this topic at the August 2013 World Statistics conference in Hong Kong.

National Statistics Policy

The ABS is developing a National Statistics Policy to improve the overall functionality and utility of the national statistical system, by ensuring statistical activities are effectively coordinated, and to provide goals for the system. During 2013–14 a Reference Group comprising members from across governments and a National Statistics Policy work group were established to develop a National Statistics Policy and discuss various governance options. The draft policy was discussed by the Australian Statistics Advisory Council in June 2014 and the aim is to finalise the policy in 2014–15.

Building strong statistical capability and capacity internationally, particularly within Asia and the Pacific Region

The ABS has continued to take a strong lead role in statistical capability development in Asia and the Pacific region. Regional development programs include Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Myanmar, Seychelles, and a regional Pacific program covering 14 countries. The ABS has made a significant contribution, through missions and technical assistance, to the compilation of the Timor-Leste Consumer Price Index (CPI) and capability development of the National Statistical Office (NSO) staff and to the development of Indonesia's producer price indexes. The ABS provided a significant level of support for international statistical agencies including: Seychelles, Timor Leste, Indonesia, Pacific Islands, South Korea and China. The ABS also sent two missions to Myanmar to help with their upcoming Census—the first in the country for 30 years. In a visit to Myanmar in late 2013, ABS staff: reviewed and rewrote the field procedure manual; established a training methodology; and created the structure, content and associated materials for two separate modular training packages. In the February 2014 visit, ABS staff delivered training to selected Myanmar staff so they could train other Myanmar staff. ABS is also a member of the International Technical Advisory Board which provided strategies and advice to Myanmar on the implementation of the Census.

The ABS provided support for regional improvements in Civil Registrations and Vital Statistics (CRVS) through roles with the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific and the Brisbane Accord Group (a partnership of government, aid agencies and research institutions).

In 2013-14, the ABS helped to achieve several key outcomes identified within the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (PVSAP) including commencing development of the next iteration of the plan and engaging with key stakeholders to secure ongoing funding for the plan's implementation; undertaking comprehensive assessments of CRVS systems with officers from National Statistical Offices, Health departments and Civil Registries in the Solomon Islands and Kiribati; and building statistical capability by conducting a data analysis and report writing workshop for Pacific Statisticians and Health agency staff, focusing on the compilation and presentation of vital statistics. Further information on the ABS's international engagement can be found in Chapter 7.

Acknowledgements

As always, my thanks go to all the Australian households and businesses that have participated in our surveys over the past year. Your support is crucial to our success in maintaining the breadth and high quality of our statistics.

I also extend my thanks to the members of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) who continue to provide expert advice to me on the strategies and work program of the ABS.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the support of the Hon. Steven Ciobo MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer and Federal Member for Moncrieff. His support and representation has ensured the ABS continues to be an independent producer of relevant and high-quality statistics for all Australians.

Finally, I want to particularly acknowledge my management, office staff and interviewers for their hard work and dedication during the past financial year.

Chapter 2

ABS at a glance

ABS at a glance – online



  **30,782** Facebook likes

  **36,700** Twitter followers

 **213** infographics published

  **3,516** likes for most popular Facebook post

 **71,468** downloads of ABS's *Run That Town* app

 **3,036** online articles attributing the ABS in '13-14

The ABS mission

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

Who we are

The ABS is Australia's official national statistical agency, established over 100 years ago as the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, following enactment of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. The agency became the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1975 with the passing of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. This Act also established the role of the Australian Statistician and defined the functions of the ABS.

What we do

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

Where we are

The ABS has a central office in Canberra and regional offices located in seven state and territory capitals. Each regional office has some national statistical responsibilities.

Regional offices are also primarily responsible for the delivery of statistical services to their state or territory. These offices have ongoing engagement with state and territory governments on statistical services and priorities, generally through state and territory committees set up for that purpose.

All Regional Directors have a direct reporting line to a Deputy Australian Statistician (see organisational chart on pages 12-13).

Our plan

The ABS Corporate Plan can be found on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au>. The plan presents the ABS's goals, strategies and outcomes to achieve its mission. It provides clear links between different elements of the ABS work program and our program of change, linking the work that staff do with the goals of the organisation.



Responsible minister

The ABS is an agency under the Treasury portfolio. During 2013–14, the Hon. Steven Ciobo MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer and Federal Member for Moncrieff, held responsibility for the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Authority and legislation

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* provides the Statistician with the authority to conduct statistical collections and, when necessary, to direct a person or an organisation to provide statistical information. The Act imposes obligations on the ABS to publish and disseminate compilations and analyses of statistical information, and to maintain the confidentiality of information collected under the Act.

The *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* sets out the functions and responsibilities of the Statistician and the ABS:

- (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.

Section 6 of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*

Under the *Statistics (Arrangements with States) Act 1956*, Australian and state government statistical services have been integrated since 1958 (from 1924 for Tasmania). Although not covered by legislation, similar arrangements apply in both territories.

There were no amendments made to the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* or the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* during 2012–13.

Organisational structure

The ABS is led by the Australian Statistician—a statutory office established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*.

The ABS produces and disseminates statistics under the following broad programs:

- Economic and Environment Statistics
- Population, Labour and Social Statistics.

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

The ABS 2017 Group was established in February 2012 as a strategic initiative to centralise large scale transformation of its business and information management, including the planning and implementation of the 2016 Census of Population and Housing. This Group provides a strong platform to drive change and better position the ABS to integrate a wide range of cross-cutting improvement projects for the future.

Australian Statistics Advisory Council

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) is the ABS's key advisory body and was established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. It provides valuable input to the directions and priorities of the ABS work program and reports annually to Parliament. The Council meets at least twice a year.

As set out in the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, the role of the Council is to advise the Minister and the 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
- (c) any other matters relating generally to those statistical services.

The Chairperson of the Council is Mr Geoff Allen, Director, The Allen Consulting Group. ASAC members include nominees from each of the state premiers and the territory chief ministers. The other members are appointed by the minister responsible for the ABS, and are chosen to represent a broad cross-section of perspectives, including business, government, academic and community interests.

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council's mission

The Council's mission, in keeping with its statutory charter, is to ensure that the advice furnished to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and the Statistician in relation to the collection and dissemination of statistics has due regard to the relative priorities, is objective, relevant, timely, constructive and practical, and that it is sensitive to the needs of both suppliers and users of statistical data.

Further information on the Australian Statistics Advisory Council can be found at <http://www.asac.gov.au> or by contacting the Secretariat by mail to: ABS, Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616. The Council's annual report can also be found on its website.



Australian Statistics Advisory Council members—November 2013

Outcome and Program structure

ABS outcome

In the Portfolio Budget Statements 2013–14, the ABS has one outcome:

Informed decisions, research and discussion within governments and the community by leading the collection, analysis and provision of high quality, objective and relevant statistical information.

ABS program

Within the context of the Portfolio Budget Statements, Program 1.1 (Australian Bureau of Statistics), the ABS produces and disseminates statistics to meet the above outcome.

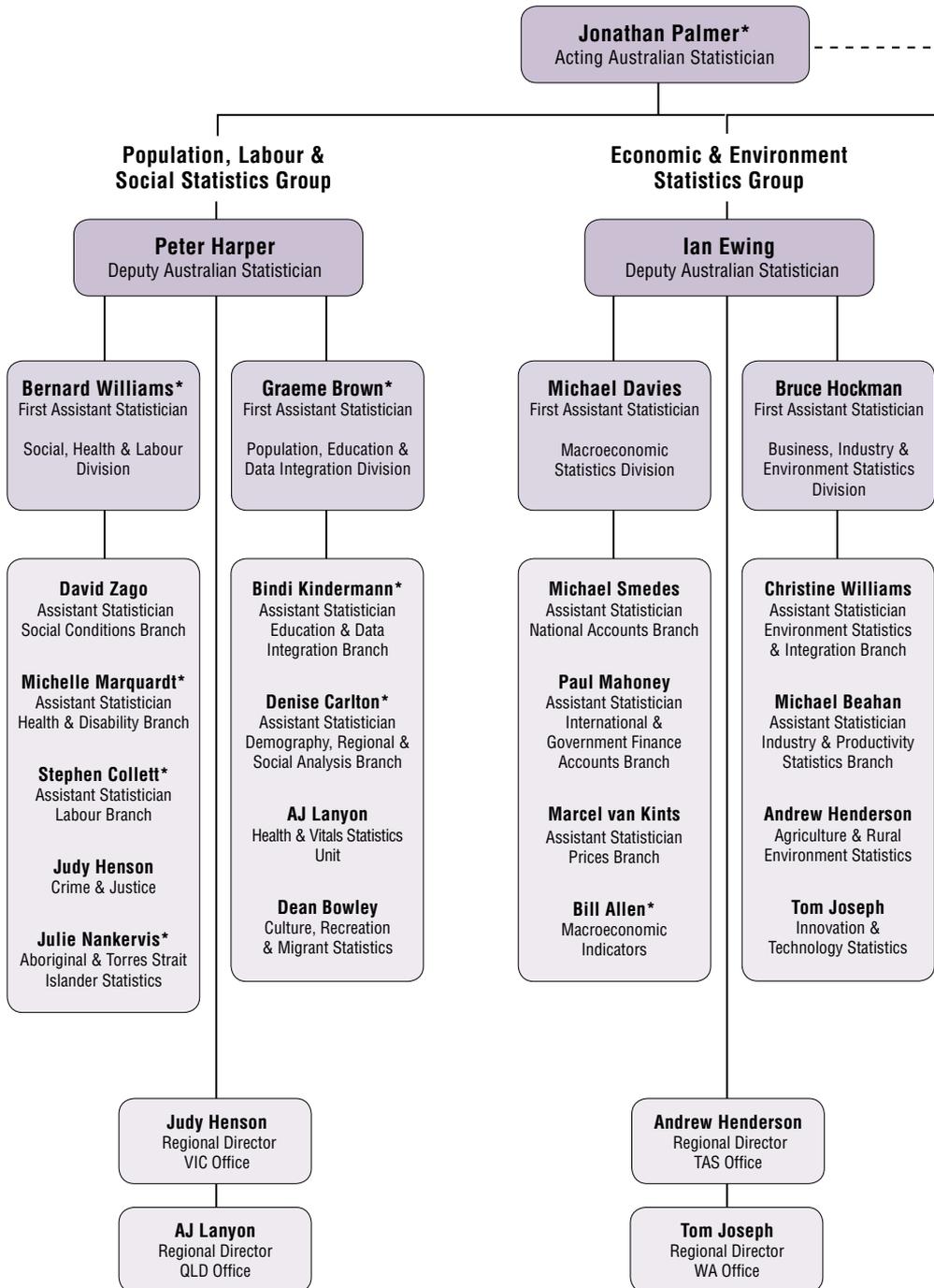
Economic statistics are produced predominantly from the ABS business survey program. They include an extensive range of statistical outputs relating to the structure and performance of the Australian economy.

Population and social statistics are produced mainly through the ABS household survey program. They include statistical information relating to the Australian population, including census and demographic statistics, as well as information relating to the social and economic wellbeing of the population.

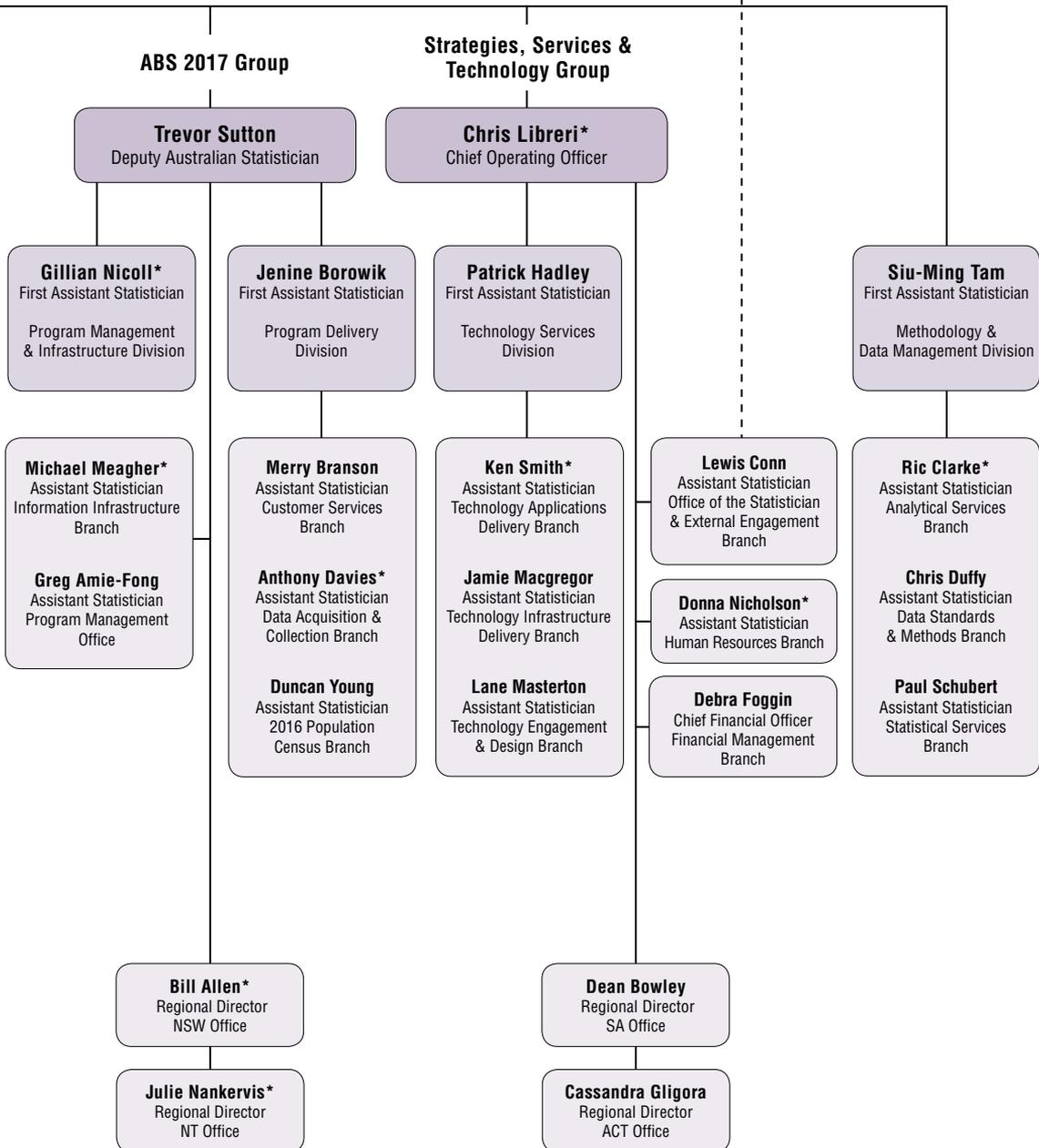
The Program 1.1—Australian Bureau of Statistics—provides an objective source of information that is used by governments and the community to inform their decisions. The provision of statistics involves extensive data collection through censuses, surveys and from administrative data sources.

The ABS statistical programs are supported by service and infrastructure areas that deliver assistance and advice on statistical methods, data and metadata management, information technology, client management, dissemination, human resources and other corporate services.

Organisational structure
(as at 30 June 2014)

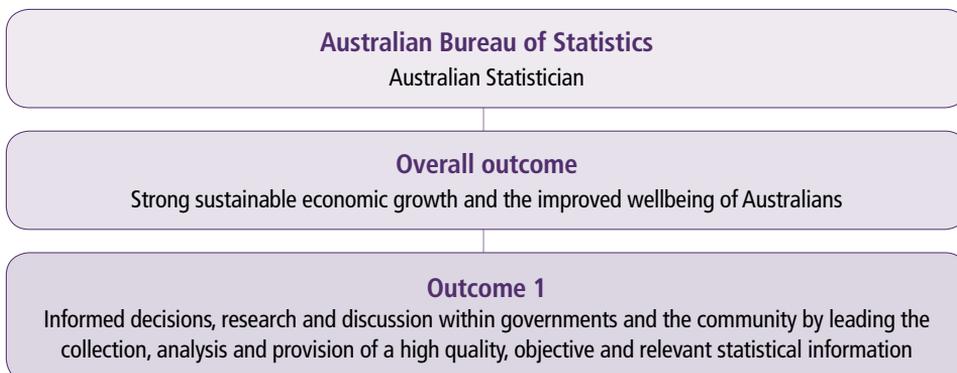


Note: *Individual is acting in this role
Regional Directors have responsibility for statistical program and also appear against the relevant divisions above



Financial position

Outcome



Financial position

As noted above, the ABS has one outcome. Table 2.1 provides, for 2013–14, a financial summary of the ABS outcome and the price of the outcome. The full financial statements are provided in Section 4.

Table 2.1: Summary of financial resources

	2013–14	2012–13
	\$m	\$m
Price of Departmental Outcomes		
Outcome 1	386.7	425.3
Total outcome	386.7	425.3
Revenue from government appropriations	310.0	312.5
Revenue from other sources	43.2	70.2
Total for Outcome 1	353.2	382.7

Table 2.2: Summary of financial performance

	2013–14	2012–13	Change
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Appropriation revenue	310.0	312.5	(2.5)
Other revenue and gains	43.2	70.2	(27.0)
Total income	353.2	382.7	(29.5)
Employee expenses	274.5	301.1	(26.6)
Supplier expenses	75.0	88.6	(13.6)
Other expenses	37.2	35.6	1.6
Total expenses	386.7	425.3	(38.6)
(Deficit)/Surplus	(33.5)	(42.6)	(9.1)
Changes in asset revaluation reserve	0.5	0.0	0.5
Comprehensive income (loss)	(33.0)	(42.6)	(9.6)

In 2013–14, the comprehensive income loss of \$33.0m is a technical accounting loss resulting from unfunded depreciation. The ABS had a \$1.8m surplus after adding back the depreciation of \$34.8m.

Table 2.3: Summary of financial position

	2013–14	2012–13	Change
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Financial assets (a)	67.1	40.4	26.7
Non-financial assets (b)	117.3	125.6	(8.3)
Liabilities (c)	162.5	139.5	23.0
Net assets (a+b-c)	21.9	26.5	(4.6)

The net asset decrease is due to the comprehensive loss offset by an equity injection of \$28.4m.

The ABS's commitment to financial management is reflected through its unqualified financial statements. The ABS has continued its focus on compliance with the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, and is implementing systems and procedures to enhance its financial management and accountability compliance framework.

Agency resource statements and resources for outcomes

Agency resource statement

Agency resource statement 2013–14	Actual available appropriation for 2013–14	Payments made 2013–14	Balance remaining 2013–14
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	(a)	(b)	(a-b)
Ordinary Annual Services			
Prior year departmental appropriation	35,112	35,112	-
Departmental appropriation Act 1	309,968	249,709	60,259
S.31 Relevant agency receipts	60,697	60,697	-
S.30 Repayments to the Commonwealth	1,735	1,735	-
Departmental appropriation Act 1— Capital Budget (DCB)	20,190	17,145	3,045
Total	427,702	364,398	63,304
Total ordinary annual services	427,702	364,398	63,304
Other services Departmental non-operating			
Prior year departmental appropriation	462	325	137
Departmental appropriation Act 2	8,211	8,124	87
Total	8,673	8,449	224
Total other services	8,673	8,449	224
Total net resourcing and payments	436,375	372,847	63,528

Resources for outcomes

Expenses for Outcome 1 ^A	Budget	Actual expenses	Variation
	2013–14	2013–14	2013–14
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	(a)	(b)	(a-b)
Outcome 1			
Informed decisions, research and discussion within governments and the community by leading the collection, analysis and provision of a high quality, objective and relevant statistical information			
Outcome 1			
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	356,486 ^B	352,023	
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	32,715	34,827	
Total Expenses for Outcome 1	389,201	386,850	2,351

	2012–13	2013–14
Average staffing level (number)*	2,782	2,637

Notes:

A The ABS has one outcome and one program, therefore this table should be used for both outcome and program purposes.

B Budget Source: 2013–14 Portfolio Budget Statements. Departmental appropriation combines 'Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No. 1)' and 'Revenue from independent sources (s31)'.

* Excludes DPC, Interviewers and Census Field Agents

Chapter 3

Special articles

Special article: Retirement of Brian Pink, Australian Statistician 2007–2014



Brian Pink became the 14th Australian Statistician in March 2007 and led the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for seven years, retiring in January 2014. Having worked in official statistics for more than 47 years, he leaves the ABS with an internationally recognised and regarded reputation. A pioneer and innovator among statisticians, his legacy is the future vision of the ABS.

Brian's career started at the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics in Sydney in 1966. Early in his career, Brian spent time in various statistical analyst and management positions in both Sydney and Canberra. In these roles Brian's aptitude for technology quickly came to

the fore when he wrote a computer program to replace the previous manual processing of motor vehicle registrations.

As Director of Transport and Construction during the late 1970s and early 1980s, Brian was the first to adopt a national approach to processing industry collections. Brian was also at the forefront of the move away from large censuses to more efficient sample surveys for industry collections.

In 1987 Brian moved to Western Australia (WA) to take up the state role of Deputy Commonwealth Statistician and Government Statistician. Building on his earlier experience in the Sydney office, Brian's time in the west gave him a real affinity for the contribution of regional offices to the ABS's work, and the importance of the ABS's relationship with state government and other key stakeholders.

While in WA, Brian jointly led the review that formally introduced National Processing Centres in the ABS. This was not without its challenges, but Brian's vision and persistence was critical in implementing a major change that greatly benefited the ABS in terms of the efficiency and effectiveness of its activities.

Brian returned to Canberra in 1993 to the role of First Assistant Statistician, Technology Services Division. One of his major achievements was the introduction of Lotus Notes. This revolutionised the ABS knowledge management capabilities and collaborative working arrangements. People from all over the world came to see what the ABS had done, with many visitors stating 'we don't have leaders strong enough to do what you have done'.

Brian moved to the position of Group Manager—Statistical Support, which brought together the ABS's field collection, dissemination and information technology (IT) operations. During this period, he was recognised as one of Australia's top 30 IT managers.

In October 1999, Brian was appointed as New Zealand Government Statistician and Chief Executive of Statistics New Zealand. In the seven years he was in New Zealand, Brian played

a critical role in creating a National Statistical System, including enhancing the use of administrative data, building a sustainable program of social statistics, attracting talented senior leaders, driving stakeholder responsiveness, and reshaping leadership to focus on strategy and project delivery. He also built a stronger relationship between Statistics New Zealand and the Maori and Pacific Islander communities.

Brian commenced his appointment as Australian Statistician on 5 March 2007, taking on the role in a challenging time for the ABS. His vision and leadership has ensured the continued production of high quality official statistics while also transforming the ABS for the future.

In 2011 Brian led the successful 2011 Census of Population and Housing, achieving over 98% participation across the entire population whilst also developing new approaches to enable the ABS to deliver the first digital Census in 2016.

Brian recognised the importance of Northern Australia to governments, the community, and a successful Census, and established a Census Northern Australia Enumeration Strategy to address the significant data collection challenges in the Northern Territory and the northern parts of Western Australia and Queensland. He also ensured senior ABS representation in Northern Australia by elevating the role of the NT Regional Director to member of the Senior Executive Service and to have responsibility for operationalising the Strategy across all three jurisdictions.

Brian was passionate about improving ABS's relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and during his time in the ABS he supported a number of initiatives that are discussed in the special article 'Statistics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples'. He championed the need for improved engagement through the 2011 Census and the expansion of the Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy resulting in an increase in Indigenous Engagement Managers employed with ABS. This has led to good partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and representative bodies which ABS continues to value. Brian's commitment to improving engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples has resulted in strong response rates, an improved range of statistics, and ensuring ABS provides data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

His leadership fostered the introduction of innovative new collections, including a comprehensive Australian Health Survey involving self-assessment, biomedical measurement, physical measurement and nutrition intake.

Brian led Australian Government efforts in developing arrangements for integration of data for statistical and research purposes and championed the development of statistical capability across governments and within the education system.

He was instrumental in championing the importance of high quality information including setting up enhanced reporting for Council of Australian Governments (COAG) performance monitoring, and securing additional funding to enhance the coherence of economic statistics.

Brian oversaw ABS efforts to enhance the utility of microdata, while staying passionately committed to protecting the confidentiality of providers, not just because this is a legal requirement, but because the trust of providers is the currency with which the ABS trades.

Brian introduced the NatStats Conference of users and producers of statistics, with the inaugural conference held in Melbourne in 2008, and subsequently in 2010 in Sydney and 2013 in Brisbane. The NatStats conference is an opportunity for Australia's statistical community to come together to help build and maintain a strong and vibrant statistical system that will help guide Australia's future.

Brian was also active in the international statistical field, where he was instrumental in galvanising Chief Statisticians to modernise statistical processes in a collaborative manner based on agreed standards, including developing statistical metadata standards. He held numerous formal international roles, including Chair of the Organisation for Economic

Co-operation and Development (OECD) Committee on Statistics from 2008 to 2012, Chair of the Statistics Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) from 2010 to 2012, and President of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) from 2005 to 2007. He was a key player in many of the initiatives of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), including the fundamental principles of official statistics, investigating ‘big data’ opportunities, implementing national accounts and taking forward the measurement of progress.

Reflecting on Brian’s achievements and his strength as a leader, three key themes emerge. The first was innovation—he was always exploring ways to do things more effectively and efficiently. The second was vision—he understood the big picture, positioned the organisation for the future and inspired people to join him on the journey. The third was commitment and dedication—he dealt with challenges and was prepared to do what it took, regardless of what was popular at the time.

Brian built strong teams, valuing diversity of thought and healthy discussion. He encouraged self-development, providing a balance of independence and direction to allow people the space to grow. He helped people to join the dots, and develop sharpness and focus to their work. He encouraged personal performance and developing talent, and he led by example.

Brian was passionate about the importance of the role of official statistics in society. As a member of the WA Electoral Commission (1997–2003), of the New Zealand Redistribution Commission (2000–07), and the Australian Electoral Commission (2008–14), Brian had direct experience of the fundamental importance of demographic statistics to the democratic process. While he saw government use as an important purpose, he often reminded us that open access to official statistics provided businesses and citizens with a window on the work and performance of government itself. It was this passion that drove Brian in his work for almost half a century.

Brian has been passionate and dedicated in positioning the ABS for the future. He championed a major information management transformation program to prepare the ABS, the National Statistical Service (NSS) and the international statistical community to meet the growing challenges of providing information in response to the ever-increasing needs of government, businesses and the broader community. The program also positions the ABS to take advantage of opportunities offered by new technologies and new data sources.

While much work needs to be undertaken to complete this journey, Brian has retired in the knowledge that the way ahead is clear and that an excellent foundation has been laid.

The staff of the ABS wish Brian a long, healthy and happy retirement.



Brian Pink's farewell on 5 December 2013

Special article: Statistics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Introduction

Statistics **about** the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been in high demand for many years and remain a high priority for all levels of government as well as other service providers and researchers. There is a strong focus on measuring the success of efforts to 'close the gap' between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the non-Indigenous population in key areas such as life expectancy, education and employment.

Ensuring that statistics **for** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are available and understood by them is equally important. These are statistics that focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing, rather than statistics that relate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the non-Indigenous population. They focus on how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples value the world, the activities that they undertake and what makes them unique. Sometimes the difference between statistics **about** and statistics **for** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is the level of detail and the usefulness to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The ABS collects statistics both for and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The ABS has a strong history of working collaboratively with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to address statistical collection and dissemination challenges and issues, and to understand their statistical needs. By better understanding the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders, the ABS is working to produce statistics that are informative, relevant and meaningful to all users of this data. To meet this objective, the ABS has implemented appropriate strategies and formed important relationships allowing it to more effectively report on matters of importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The strategies used by the ABS aim to:

- improve the survey experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ensure the ABS collects data that is culturally appropriate, relevant and high quality for the issues that are of most importance to them
- ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are aware of the range of information available for them and how to interpret and use it.

A selection of activities flowing from these strategies is discussed in this article.

Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy

The Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy (ICES) is a long-running ABS strategy which has helped the ABS build a strong relationship with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The strategy enables the return of information in meaningful ways to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations. The main objectives of the ICES are to:

- enhance ABS engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in both data collection and dissemination
- develop and deliver statistics that are accessible, appropriate and relevant to the local needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- advise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, organisations and analysts on the effective use of ABS statistics.

In recognition of the skills required to deliver these outcomes, the ABS employs specialist staff, called Indigenous Engagement Managers (IEMs), who are located in ABS Regional Offices. IEMs support the delivery of the ICES objectives by:

- engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through collaborative partnerships to increase their understanding of and participation in ABS collections
- returning information from ABS collections to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; this includes the provision of statistical training to communities in order to increase their access to and usage of ABS information
- contributing to improvements in the quality and relevance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics for key stakeholders, including meeting the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

During 2013-14 the IEMs undertook a wide range of activities in remote, regional and urban areas with priority given to completing the return of information from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing and the 2012–13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS). The IEMs also started preliminary work on raising awareness of the upcoming 2014-15 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). A popular ongoing statistical literacy program delivered by the IEMs is the ABS's Footy Stats Program which helps school students learn about statistical concepts like 'data', the 'mean' or a 'census', or how to calculate a percentage using fun football activities. For example, students can carry out a census of their favourite team and then use that information to practise making graphs of the results.

In addition to this the ICES program has supported the ABS to seek the input and advice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on how to best meet their statistical needs. IEMs have played a crucial role in building relationships based on mutual trust to facilitate honest and open feedback.

Round Table on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

The Round Table on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics was established by the ABS in early 2013 and meets about twice a year. Members are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country who were nominated for their grassroots experience in working with their communities. The ABS's IEMs are also represented on the Round Table.

The creation of the Round Table is a significant initiative aimed at improving:

- the quality of statistics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- the ABS's engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples including the return of information to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population
- the ABS's efforts to build statistical literacy among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

It is the Round Table's operational grassroots focus that distinguishes it from the other active high level forums the ABS already has in place for seeking advice and consulting on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues. Its members also have the opportunity to speak for themselves, drawing on their own experiences, rather than on behalf of particular agencies or organisations. The creation of the Round Table builds on the grassroots engagement conducted by the ABS with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that occurred in the lead-up to and throughout the 2011 Census of Population and Housing and establishes an additional avenue for discussion and for exploring new approaches to overcoming old challenges. The combination of the Round Table's input with the knowledge and experience of the ABS's IEMs has created a rich source of operational advice for the ABS.



Members and ABS participants at the ABS's first Round Table on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics in 2013 stand under the 11 metre commissioned painting Janganpa Mungapunju Jukurpa (Native Possum Dreaming at Mawurrji) from the Warlukurlanga Artists Aboriginal Association of Yuendumu, in the foyer of ABS House, Canberra.

Back row: Sharon Barnes (East Coast, NSW), Aven Noah (Mer Island, Qld), Peter Harper (ABS ACT), Chanston Paech (Alice Springs, NT), Renee Williams (ACT), Dianne Baldock (Tas.). Middle row: Julie Nankervis (ABS NT), Karen Parter (ACT). Front row: Debra Reid (Sydney, NSW), Sonia Townson (Bamaga, Qld), Eunice Yu (Broome, WA), Gayle Rankin (Adelaide, SA), Leonie Garvey (ABS Qld).

Round Table members have provided valuable advice to the ABS on a wide range of operational matters related to improved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics. For example, members have explored and provided valuable feedback on:

- the collection of data on homelessness, racial discrimination and community leadership
- proposed new questions on long term health conditions and second residence for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing
- an objective for the 2014–15 NATSISS that relates to the usefulness of the NATSISS to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples themselves
- strategies for the effective communication of survey results to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' perspectives on homelessness

In late 2012 the ABS released a statistical definition of homelessness that was developed for application to the general population of Australia. Under the definition, when a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives they are considered homeless if their current living arrangement:

- is in a dwelling that is inadequate, or
- has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable, or
- does not allow them to have control of, and access to, space for social relations.

The ABS recognised that the understanding of the concepts of home and homelessness among the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population differed from the understanding of the non-Indigenous population. To address this, the ABS undertook extensive community engagement to identify perspectives of home and homelessness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples so that it could better inform the measurement and analysis of homelessness among the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Perceptions of homelessness from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples indicate that there will be situations where:

- some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people would not be classified as homeless under the ABS statistical definition but would consider themselves homeless, such as a person who felt disconnected from their country and/or family but was living in an otherwise adequate dwelling
- some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people would be classified as homeless but not consider themselves homeless, such as a person staying with family in crowded conditions with a perceived lack of control and access to space. Although this is also likely to be the case for some non-Indigenous people, it is expected to have a bigger impact on estimates of homelessness among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The different perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples identified through this engagement can be used to help interpret current estimates of homelessness by governments, other service providers, researchers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people themselves. They can also be used to inform development of future housing and homelessness data collections and research by the ABS and outside the ABS, including the assessment of topics and data collection strategies for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing. The findings have already been used by the ABS to contribute to the development of a culturally appropriate set of questions on past experiences of homelessness for inclusion in the 2014-15 NATSISS.

Facilitator strategy

The ABS employs local facilitators when enumerating surveys in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities such as the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, the 2012-13 AATSIHS and the upcoming 2014-15 NATSISS.

Facilitators are from the local community and, where possible, are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. Up to two facilitators, preferably one male and one female are employed in each community to:

- assist with movement around the community and help with the identification and application of required cultural protocols
- accompany the ABS interviewer throughout the screening process (which involves locating households which have Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples as usual residents), where applicable
- introduce the ABS interviewer and the Census or survey at each dwelling
- explain the purpose of the Census or survey
- be present throughout the interview and assist with language difficulties if required by helping to translate questions/responses into local languages.

The ABS also employs facilitators in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to enumerate the Monthly Population Survey, which asks questions about a person's employment status and is used to create the official employment and unemployment figures each month.

The use of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as facilitators is essential for a more positive survey experience for the respondent and assists greatly with the quality of the information collected through the process. In carrying out this role, the facilitators demonstrate their support for the survey and this, together with assistance in explaining the purpose of the survey and assisting with language difficulties, is where the real value of the facilitator strategy lies.

The ABS is extending the facilitator strategy to include selected non-remote and remote non-community areas for the 2014-15 NATSISS in an effort to improve response rates where response rates were lower than expected in the 2012-13 AATSIHS.

Future directions

The ABS is always looking towards the future and identifying ways to improve the quality and relevance of our statistics for and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In 2013-14 the ABS undertook two reviews that will help shape the future direction of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics program.

The first review was of the ABS Indigenous Status Standard which provides the framework for collecting and processing information related to Indigenous status. It includes a standard Indigenous status question which has been adopted across the ABS's surveys and the Census of Population of Housing, as well as by many other agencies in their administrative collections or surveys. The review was to ensure the Standard continues to be relevant and involved significant consultation with government, research organisations, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agencies and organisations. While the review recommended that the standard Indigenous question be retained without change for the time being, it also recommended further research. The ABS is currently exploring research options, which will involve extensive consultation.

The second review was of the ABS's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics program to ensure it is efficient into the future and is flexible enough to remain relevant to stakeholder demands. As a result of this review, the ABS is exploring the further opportunities that administrative data can provide and working with stakeholders to improve the quality and usefulness of this information. The ABS also explored more efficient methods of collecting information from discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that could be expected to deliver more frequent and better quality information for this population. The outcome of the review will see improvements in the Monthly Population Survey as a starting point.

In addition to these reviews, the ABS has started exploring the idea of developing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistical Framework. The ABS has had initial discussions with Statistics New Zealand (who recently released their draft Maori Statistical Framework) to explore what worked well and what could have been improved in the development of their framework. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistical Framework would be developed in close consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to ensure that it was meaningful and relevant.

The ABS is confident that these developments, together with its existing strategies, mean that it is well placed to continue to lead the future development of high quality, relevant statistics for and about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, and to respond effectively to the ever-increasing demand for this data.

Special article: Keeping GDP up to date and the National Accounts relevant in a changing economy

The Australian economy, and the economic behaviour of Australian households and businesses, is always changing. So it makes sense that the way the economy is measured also changes over time. This article explains some of the ways in which Australia's national accounts program has adapted to changes in the economy, and responded to some recent challenges faced by policymakers.

Tracking the mining boom

Capital investment by the mining industry has expanded rapidly in recent years, spurred on by high demand from overseas, particularly China, which has caused prices for mining commodities such as coal and iron ore to rise. These rising commodity prices drove the terms of trade to record levels in 2011; this in turn drove growth in real gross national income.

Investment is captured in various quarterly economic surveys such as those on new capital expenditure, building activity and engineering construction, as well as annual economy-wide surveys. Increased levels of investment have made strong contributions to economic growth in recent years through gross fixed capital formation, and the ABS has focused particular attention on ensuring this activity is measured accurately and coherently in the national accounts. In particular, reconciling imported components of capital equipment across the business surveys and in the balance of payments and merchandise trade statistics has become increasingly important. This reconciliation will continue into the future as a result of ongoing capital expansion in oil and gas, particularly for some large liquefied natural gas (LNG) mining projects.

In 2014 the investment phase (particularly in coal and iron ore mining) started to wind down, with businesses starting to use their new capital to achieve higher levels of production. This is expected to contribute positively to economic growth into the near future with much of the additional output being exported. Good measurement of increased production and export volumes will be critical.

Increased export volumes, combined with declines in capital imports as the investment phase winds down, are beginning to have a significant impact on Australia's external balance as recorded in the balance of payments. In 2014 Australia's current account deficit was the smallest it has been, as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) in current prices, since 1980.

In response to user demand, the national accounts began publishing more detail for gross value added of the mining industry from the September quarter 2012. Sub-industries for which statistics are published are: coal mining; oil and gas extraction; iron ore mining; other mining (which includes all activities other than those listed earlier); and exploration and mining support services. Production of output and use of resources for these sub-industries are balanced in the annual supply-use tables which underpin the quarterly national accounts. Changes in inventories of the mining industry are separately published in current price and chain volume terms. This allows users to understand how mining production responds in the short term to changing market demand.

Understanding the impact of financial shocks

The global financial crisis (GFC) started as a large financial shock emanating from overseas which transmitted to the Australian financial sector, and from there, across the economy. It eventually had significant impacts on the economic behaviour of Australian households, businesses and governments. Studies undertaken by the international statistical community and discussions with key Australian policymakers identified gaps in Australia's macroeconomic accounts, and strategies were put in place to close them.

The ABS has prioritised these key areas to improve the quality of the National Accounts. The largest data gaps in the national accounts were for quarterly statistics on saving, lending and wealth. In late 2014 the ABS will commence publishing a complete set of quarterly income and capital accounts for all institutional sectors, thus closing this data gap.

Financial accounts are published for all sectors, so the publication of income and capital accounts for all sectors will allow policymakers to more clearly understand the linkages between the 'financial' and 'real' economies. Policymakers and researchers will be able to study in detail how shocks in the financial system transmit to income flows, and to consumption, saving and investment decisions in the 'real' economy, and how production, consumption and saving activity at the sectoral level respond to financial shocks over time.

Understanding the economic behaviour of households

Since the GFC, the levels of household saving have been rising. Households are saving a proportion of income not seen since the mid-1980s, and are predominantly using this saving to build wealth. In trying to understand the behaviour of the 'cautious consumer' post-GFC, the ABS has expanded the amount of national accounts information available for the household sector. Since household final consumption expenditure is about 55% of GDP in current prices, a deeper understanding of household sector dynamics is important in understanding the drivers of economic growth.

In late 2013 the ABS commenced publishing a quarterly household balance sheet, accompanied by an analytical table showing the relationships between household income, saving, consumption and wealth. It allows users to see how shocks to household wealth (for instance, large and unexpected changes in property values or shares) affect household saving and consumption patterns. Later in 2014 the ABS will publish a set of experimental income account estimates from which some non-profit businesses that are currently included in the household sector will be removed. This will allow users to form a clearer picture of household saving behaviour over recent years.

The ABS has recently published a detailed statistical study on disparities of household income, consumption and wealth, disaggregated by quintile. This is the first time in Australia where data collected from individual households (from the Household Expenditure Survey and the Survey of Income and Housing) has been integrated with national accounts concepts and aggregates in this manner. The study helps policymakers understand sensitivities to income and wealth shocks in a distributive sense. For instance, consumption by households with low saving rates or low levels of accumulated wealth may be more sensitive to shocks to disposable income or wealth than households with relatively larger financial buffers.

Measuring the non-observed economy

Transactions in the non-observed economy that escape measurement have implications for the quality of the national accounts and other macro-economic statistics. Much of this activity is deliberately concealed, either because it is illegal, or because income flows from a legal activity are concealed to minimise or avoid tax payments (estimates of the latter are currently included in the national accounts). This makes it a difficult area for statisticians to measure. The non-observed economy also includes the 'statistical underground', which covers economic activity which is legal in nature, but is not reflected in the national accounts simply due to source data being unavailable.

An area of the statistical non-observed economy that has emerged in recent years is measuring online shopping by households, particularly the value of goods purchased online that are below the 'low value' taxation threshold. Source data is unavailable because these goods are not captured by Customs and, as a result, they do not appear in the ABS's merchandise trade statistics. Using a variety of data sources, estimates of these 'low value'

imports have been derived back to 2000–01, and are included in the national accounts as household final consumption expenditure and as imports, as well as in the balance of payments. This means the national accounts estimates of household final consumption expenditure are now more complete. An information paper was published explaining this work and its impact on GDP.

Experimental estimates and details of the supporting data sources and methodology around the value of the illegal drug economy were recently published in an information paper on the non-observed economy. While the non-observed economy has a number of components, it was considered that the illegal drug economy is the largest. International standards for national accounts recommend that illegal activity be included in the statistics where it occurs between consenting parties and can be reliably measured. Estimates related to the import, production and consumption of illegal drugs are not currently reflected in the Australian national accounts or balance of payments because there is no regular data source to capture them. The ABS will continue investigating ways in which this activity can appropriately be included in the accounts.

The ABS also continues to keep a watching brief on some areas where households produce goods or services for their own direct use that should be included in the national accounts. Estimates for household production of food (for instance, food produced from household vegetable gardens, fruit trees and livestock) are already included in the national accounts, but others have recently emerged, such as production of electricity via solar panels on roofs, or production of water services via backyard water tanks. These activities are not considered to be economically significant in the context of the national accounts yet, but they might be in the future. Additionally, more work will be required to measure online purchases of 'intangible' products by households. These are predominantly electronic products such as music, film and television, online newspaper and magazine subscriptions, and online gambling services.

Satellite accounts

Another way in which the national accounts can be used to provide information on important economic topics is through the use of satellite accounts. A long running example of this is the tourism satellite account which presents economic data for the tourism industry. This is data which is not otherwise available within the core national accounts, but which is crucial to a large and important industry.

Additional satellite accounts have been published recently. These include a satellite account for the non-profit sector which articulates the contribution not-for-profit organisations make to the economy. This is a particularly important contribution in the growing education and health industries, where not-for-profit organisations deliver a large portion of the services consumed.

Another area of development has been the production of satellite accounts linking the economy and the environment. These economic-environment accounts can be used to link economic activity to environmental management issues such as water and energy use. They have the potential to assist in ensuring an efficient allocation of natural resources.

Conclusion

This article has outlined some of the ways in which Australia's national accounts program has been expanded and enhanced in recent times to reflect the changing nature of the Australian economy. It demonstrates ABS's ongoing commitment to ensuring Australia's macro-economic statistics are always of high quality by continuing to ensure the national accounts provide an accurate reflection of a changing world.

Special article: Achievement on e-forms for business

Introduction

The face of ABS data collection is changing.

During 2013–14 the ABS has implemented online survey forms to make it easier for businesses and individuals to provide data. These online forms provide greater convenience to businesses and individuals through increased interactions online, reduced paper costs and are more efficient.

Over the past year many providers have been taking advantage of the opportunity to log-on to a secure website to access and complete their survey obligations, rather than filling out paper forms and returning them through the post. ABS online forms now cover 80 per cent of forms offered to ABS Business Survey respondents.

Businesses across Australia understand the value of providing the ABS with nationally important data that supports informed decision making for government and business. The ABS thanks and appreciates the cooperation and time businesses provide in responding to ABS surveys.

The drivers for change

In its *2012–13 Annual Report* the ABS identified that:

e-form capability is crucial for reducing the burden on providers and lowering some of the costs of collection

Like many national statistical offices, the ABS is facing increasing collection costs and complexity as well as provider resistance in the face of heightened demand for more timely and diverse statistical data in a tight financial situation. As Australia's official statistical agency, the ability of the ABS to effectively respond to these challenges is key to its ongoing success.

Recent analysis of provider behaviour, conducted by the ABS, suggests that traditional approaches for supplying business survey data, is becoming more costly and is not sustainable. Information technology has changed the way Australian citizens expect to interact with the government. Businesses increasingly expect to interact electronically with the ABS.

The ABS has been moving toward a goal of increased electronic data collection for some time including the 2006 and 2011 Census of Population and Housing and the 2011 Agricultural Census. The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children and the Household Energy Consumption Survey also successfully deployed web-based survey components in 2011–12.

To address both provider burden and increasing data collection costs, the ABS is rapidly expanding its electronic communication methods. For business collections the initial focus has been on making e-forms available for as many surveys as possible.

Benefits to data providers and the ABS

The use of e-forms to collect survey data has many benefits to data providers and the ABS. Provider burden and follow up is reduced and the ABS is able to reduce environmental costs and improve efficiency while maintaining the delivery of high quality outputs.

In the past 12 months, over 300,000 businesses were offered e-forms across 20 of the largest or most frequently run business surveys.

Gains for providers

The ABS values the survey participation of the Australian community. This support is crucial to the quality of statistics produced by the ABS. In recognition, the ABS is committed to reducing provider burden by:

- simplifying provider obligations—online survey instruments provide an opportunity to ‘tailor’ surveys by presenting providers only with questions relating to their business or their situation. They no longer need to read through information not relevant to their business, as they would with a paper survey form
- reducing the need for follow-up contact—using checks in the instrument to ensure all required data items are completed before the form is submitted
- added convenience—with 24-hour online access to e-forms, help and survey information.

Gains for the ABS

The use of e-forms for business collections has been a success for the ABS, evidenced through:

- electronic collection is driving strong efficiencies and reduced environmental costs through reductions in printing, mailing, staffing and administrative costs needed to manage the despatch, collection and capture of paper survey forms
- achieving high response rates—business providers have responded positively to online surveys. In the past year to June 2014, the majority of business e-form surveys achieved online response rates above 90%.
- using more efficient and effective follow-up strategies to collect critical data in time to produce quality estimates.

Challenges in collecting data electronically

The ABS must retain the public’s trust by maintaining respondents’ confidentiality and privacy. In providing for electronic interactions, the ABS has to address the following challenges:

- ensuring essential security requirements are met while providing ease of completion for providers. The e-forms use 128-bit TLS/SSL encryption hosted within the ABS secure environment and a dedicated helpdesk to assist providers
- catering for the diversity of data providers, the ABS collects data from vastly different sets of providers, with differing technology capabilities. The ABS uses contemporary tools that reflect best practice, and are also accessible and easy to use
- ensuring continuous availability by meeting our providers’ expectations about the speed, capability and sophistication of online data collection within existing technical infrastructure.

Future opportunities

The ABS is continuing to build on the success to date to enhance the respondent experience and drive further efficiencies. Identified priorities include:

- adding coding and editing tools within e-forms to further reduce follow-up while maintaining data quality
- offering adaptable online experience for different platforms, screen sizes, mobile devices and operating systems
- sending electronic reminders to providers
- designing easier registration and authentication solutions that maintain security, interact easily with ABS internal systems, and simplify the experience for data providers
- upgrading our data collection and processing systems to achieve substantial efficiencies in both cost and timely delivery of statistics
- reviewing survey design strategies to further enhance the user experience and to reduce provider burden.

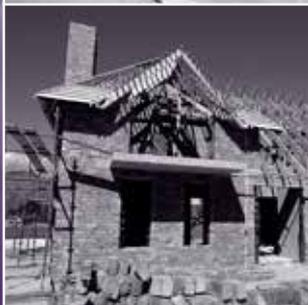
Further information

For more information about online surveys please visit
www.abs.gov.au/surveyparticipantinformation



Section 2

REPORT ON PERFORMANCE



Chapter 4

Performance report



The ABS is Australia's central statistical authority for the Australian Government and provides statistical services for state and territory governments. In relation to its role, the ABS is responsible for:

- collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating statistics and related information
- coordinating the statistical operations of official bodies
- avoiding duplication
- achieving comparability and integration
- maximising the utility of available data
- developing and implementing statistical standards
- providing statistical advice and assistance
- working with international organisations on statistical matters.

To meet its responsibilities, in 2013–14, the ABS was guided by six objectives. This chapter provides an assessment of the ABS's performance in relation to these objectives, based on the key performance indicators published in the Portfolio Budget Statement in 2013–14.

Objective 1. Decision making, research and discussion are underpinned by relevant statistical information

KPI 1.1 Australia's key decisions, research and discussions continue to be underpinned by trusted official statistics

In 2013–14 ABS statistics continued to inform decision making, research and discussions in Australia. In its published research and decisions, the Reserve Bank of Australia has continued to reference a broad range of ABS statistics (97 references to ABS statistics in RBA Bulletins in 2013–14). Microdata citations in academic journals have also continued, showing an active use of official statistics for research purposes (94 citations of microdata in published research). Hansard references show the continued use of ABS statistics to inform public debate and decision making (197 references). During 2013–14 the ABS also provided three submissions to parliamentary inquiries to inform key issues of interest (see Chapter 10 Table 10.2 for details of these submissions).

Trust in the ABS was last measured in 2010, when the ABS commissioned a Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey. Ninety-two per cent of respondents reported that they either 'tended' to trust the ABS, or that they trusted the ABS 'a great deal'. The increasingly high level of use of ABS statistics, (Table 4.1) and the continuing high rate of positive and neutral media coverage of the ABS (Table 4.6) suggests that this trust is continuing.

KPI 1.2 Statistical information continues to be relevant to the needs of key stakeholders through active engagement

The ABS uses a range of mechanisms to ensure that it keeps in touch with the needs of its key stakeholders. The Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) is the key advisory body to the ABS. Members are chosen to represent a broad cross-section of government, business, academic and community perspectives. In 2013–14 ASAC advised the ABS on its overall strategic directions and forward work program, 2016 Census topics, the Essential Statistical Assets for Australia initiative, future directions for increased coordination of Australia's statistical system, and enhanced use of Census data. The State and Territory Statistical Forum membership is representative of all state and territory governments. The forum works with the ABS to progress their statistical priorities. In 2013–14 this forum focused on progressing issues in relation to measures of disadvantage, statistical data integration, and statistical capability.

In addition to these cross-cutting, strategic engagement forums, the ABS hosts a comprehensive range of specialist statistical and topic advisory groups. In relation to their areas of expertise, these groups advise on specific statistical developments and on emerging issues that may influence future statistical needs. A complete list of advisory groups is provided in Chapter 9.

The ABS also engages with its government stakeholders by outposting ABS statisticians to other agencies. Outposted officers provide statistical support for specific projects and policy initiatives, build statistical capability, and provide advice on data management practices to improve the health of the Australian statistical system. In 2013–14, 30 outpostings were undertaken, up from the 25 undertaken during the previous year.

Objective 2. High-quality statistical information is available to inform Australia's most important issues

KPI 2.1 The quality and accuracy of Australia's official statistics is maintained or improved

In 2013–14 the ABS produced approximately 540 statistical publications. For each publication the ABS aims to achieve an appropriate level of quality and accuracy, while also operating cost-effectively and minimising provider burden. Quality declarations, which include statements on accuracy, are published with most key ABS statistical publications, including Australia's three headline economic collections: National Accounts, Consumer Price Index (CPI), and Labour Force. Developments impacting the quality of these headline measures during 2013–14 included:

- the commencement of a quarterly household balance sheet and associated tables on Analytical Measures of Household Income, Consumption, Saving and Wealth. The publication of these tables commenced with the September 2013 quarter *Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts* (ABS cat. no. 5232.0). The tables describe short run changes in household wealth, and how mechanisms such as fluctuations in property prices or equity values can in turn explain changes in household consumption and saving patterns.
- the increasing use of transactions data in the production of the CPI (ABS cat. no. 6401.0). The use of transactions data (such as supermarket scanner data) improves accuracy, reduces data collection costs, and positions the ABS to be able to expand the range of consumer price measures in future.
- the implementation of a reviewed Labour Force Survey (LFS) sample, and the use of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) for Labour Force Survey sample selection and output. Every five years the ABS reviews the Labour Force Survey sample design using data from the Census of Population and Housing. This ensures that the survey sample continues to accurately represent the Australian population, and remains efficient and

cost-effective. The outcomes of the latest review showed that for the key LFS estimates, the 2011 sample design generally maintains standard errors at the levels targeted under the 2006 sample design. The new sample design, which included the introduction of the new geography standard, was implemented over the four months to August 2013. From February 2014 the ABS started publishing regional Labour Force statistics using the ASGS.

KPI 2.2 Australia's leading indicators adhere to appropriate statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies to maintain quality and support comparability in the global statistical systems

To ensure comparability between countries, the standards, frameworks, classifications and methodologies governing official statistics are agreed internationally. The ABS publishes the concepts, sources and methods it uses for all key macroeconomic and demographic statistics. These publications include information on the applications of internationally agreed practices in ABS statistics. Where possible, the ABS meets agreed standards, and in some cases the ABS is a world leader in the implementation of newly agreed or updated standards.

Each year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) assesses Australia's observance of its Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDSS). Given that it is not practical for any country to fully observe all internationally agreed data standards, frameworks and methodologies, these standards provide an accepted benchmark for the main economic and population indicators for subscribing countries. A large proportion of the data standards refer to key official statistics produced by national statistical offices, however some aspects refer to information that is the responsibility of central banks or other government agencies. In relation to official statistics produced by the ABS, in its 2013 report the IMF found that Australia met all requirements except for short delays compared to the standards for the timely delivery of National Accounts and Production Indexes.

Australia subscribed to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and its metadata are posted on the Fund's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB). In recent years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has taken several initiatives to further improve the quality of the data, such as including the prices of financial services in the CPI and developing new measures of labor underutilization. Method to calculate contributions to growth has also been revised so that each volume component adds to total volume GDP growth.

IMF Country Report No. 14/51: Australia, February 2014

KPI 2.3 Use of ABS data increases

A high level of use of ABS statistics indicates their relevance to a broad audience. In 2013–14 there were 13.7 million visits to the ABS website, an increase of approximately 1.5 million on the previous year, and an increase of over 5 million since 2010–11. The number of products downloaded increased steadily, with a 15% increase in the number of downloads since 2012–13 (Table 4.1). Highlights promoting the use of ABS data in 2013–14 included:

- the continuing popularity of the *Census Run That Town* iOS app, which has achieved almost 70,000 downloads and won the 2014 Government 2.0 category in the Australian eGovernment Awards for Excellence
- the ABS Stats iOS app, which has achieved more than 25,000 downloads, and 64,000 updates, indicating active interest from users
- podcasts used on the ABS website, iTunes and Australian Policy Online which include material from the ABS Demography program and Australian Social Trends articles.

ABS statistics and the ABS brand are also promoted through Facebook and Twitter. In 2013–14 the ABS Facebook newsfeed reach more than tripled, providing ABS brand exposure to a large audience at a negligible cost. The ABS Twitter account continues to be popular with over 18,000 followers, an increase of over 7,000 followers in the last 12 months.

Table 4.1 Key metrics of ABS website visitors, use of content and online performance

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Statistical publications released	748	764	807	727
Visits to the website	8,352,339	11,264,801	12,208,441	13,714,415
Downloads	1,767,282	2,171,665	2,436,997	2,799,192
Calls to NIRS(a)	n/a	51,592	82,087	48,619
Social Media—Facebook and Twitter				
Facebook posts	n/a	n/a	n/a	115
Newsfeed reach	n/a	318,278	273,779	847,395
Number of tweets	n/a	n/a	n/a	625
Number of retweets	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,287

(a) National Information and Referral Service

KPI 2.4 High-quality statistical information is available to describe Australia's most important issues

In March 2013 the ABS published a list of Essential Statistical Assets for Australia, which represents the statistics most critical to Australia. The list was developed following extensive consultation with stakeholders, and with the support of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council. Of the 74 assets listed, only two environment statistics and one social statistic have been identified as having data gaps:

- biodiversity and ecosystem health—the data gap relates to integrated information on individual ecosystem regions, and their health
- water quality of natural systems—the data gap relates to the use of water in the environment not used for human consumption or production
- access to essential social services—the data gap relates to proximity to emergency service, health care and education providers.

More details on the availability of essential statistics are available in *Essential Statistical Assets for Australia* (ABS cat. no. 1395.0). The quality assessment process of the ESA for Australia initiative is currently being undertaken. This process will identify how well information that is currently available meets the critical needs of users. The ESA initiative is described in Chapter 6.

Objective 3. The cooperation and support of providers continues

KPI 3.1 Provider cooperation is demonstrated through the achievement of target survey response rates

The ABS sets high target response rates for collections to ensure surveys are representative of the whole population. Overall, the ABS continues to achieve very high response rates, however not all surveys met their targets in 2013–14, as shown in Table 4.2, below. In 2013–14, the ABS lowered the target response rate for the Labour Force Survey from 97% to 94%. The main reason for this decision is the increasing difficulty of contacting the people selected in the survey. This has led to unsustainable increases in the costs required to achieve

the 97% target. Analysis has shown that a reduction to the target response rate, to 94%, will not have a significant impact on the quality of labour force estimates for Australia, states, territories or regions. The new response rate is more cost-effective, and remains higher than the response rates achieved for similar surveys conducted in comparable countries.

Table 4.2. Response rates achieved for selected surveys

	Target response rate (%)	Final response rate (%) ^(a)			
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Business surveys					
Retail Business Survey	95	95	95	95	94
Quarterly Business Indicators Survey	85	84 ^(d)	87 ^(d)	86	88
Capital Expenditure Survey	90	94	94	92	90
Economic Activity Survey	90	89	86	85	85
Business Characteristics Survey	95	95	95	97	97
Survey of Average Weekly Earnings	96	97	98	98	94
Survey of International Trade in Services	90	95	95	95	94
Household surveys					
Labour Force Survey	94	97	96	96	95
Multi-purpose Household Survey ^(b)	80	87	80	79	78
Survey of Income and Housing	84	(c)	81	(c)	80

(a) Average response rates over the year for quarterly or monthly surveys.

(b) The Multi-purpose Household Survey covers a number of individual topics, enumerated monthly. Response rates are a simple average across all topics.

(c) Survey not conducted during the year.

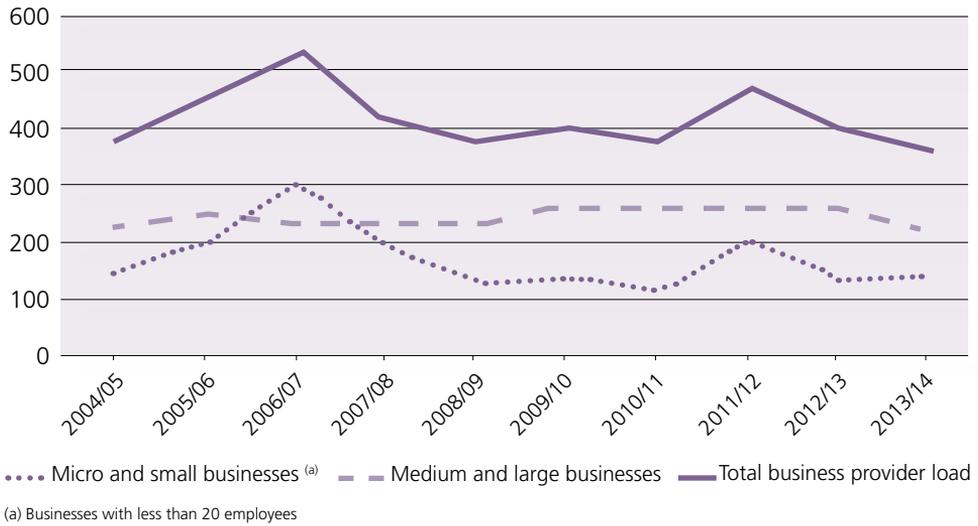
(d) Figures were incorrectly reported in previous annual reports.

To encourage the support of businesses and households the ABS actively protects the privacy of respondents. During 2013–14 the ABS reviewed its policies and practices to ensure its continued compliance following privacy law reform. The Australian Privacy Principles complement the ABS's obligations under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, which require the ABS to maintain the confidentiality of information collected under the Act. The ABS meets the confidentiality requirements of the Act by ensuring that information provided is securely maintained, used only for statistical purposes, and used only in aggregated tables and unidentifiable microdata files to support research and analysis.

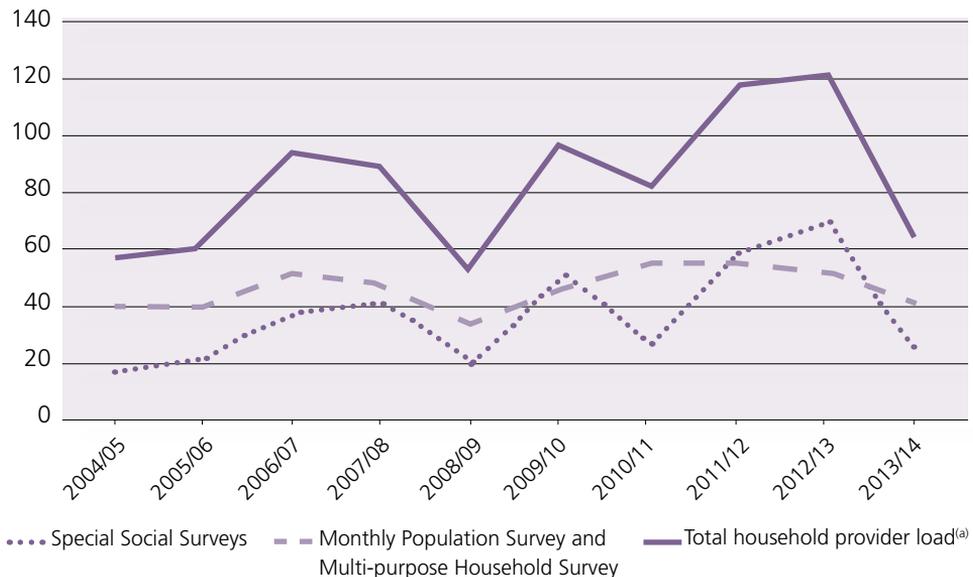
KPI 3.2 ABS commitment to reducing provider burden is demonstrated through the minimisation of provider load

The most significant factors contributing to provider burden are the number of surveys in the field, and the number of households and businesses participating in them. The number of contributing households and businesses has a direct relationship with the quality of estimates produced. More streamlined interactions with data providers (such as the use of online forms) also helps to reduce overall burden. In 2013–14 provider burden decreased slightly for both households and businesses compared with the previous year; however it remained relatively steady over a longer-term view (Figure 4.1).

The total number of hours taken by businesses to complete ABS business surveys in 2013–14 was approximately 364,000. This is a decrease of 41,000 hours since 2012–13 and the second consecutive decrease in total hours taken per financial year. Provider load was high for micro and small businesses in 2006–07 and 2011–12 due to the conduct of the five-yearly Agricultural Census.

Figure 4.1: Business hours taken to complete ABS surveys, 2004-05 to 2013-14

Excluding the Census of Population and Housing, the total number of hours taken by households to complete ABS household survey forms is estimated at 59,000 hours in 2013-14, a significant decrease of 61,000 hours since 2012-13 (Figure 4.2). This reflects the completion of a number of surveys that were in the field during 2011-12 and 2012-13, including the Survey of Disability and Carers, the Post-enumeration Survey (which evaluates the coverage and accuracy of the Census), the Australian Health Survey, and the Personal Safety Survey.

Figure 4.2: Household hours taken to complete ABS surveys, excluding Census, 2004-05 to 2013-14

KPI 3.3 Complaint resolution performance meets ABS Surveys Charter standards

The ABS Surveys Charter includes information on how surveys are conducted, and outlines the rights and obligations of the ABS and survey participants. The charter explains what people can expect when dealing with the ABS and ABS interviewers, including standards expected of the ABS when responding to complaints.

The overwhelming majority of businesses and households selected in ABS surveys understand and support the need for high quality statistics. Only a very small percentage (less than 0.5%) of the 200,000 businesses and 150,000 households selected in ABS surveys write to the ABS to question or complain about their participation in an ABS survey.

Households and businesses have a number of options if they have queries or complaints about being selected in a survey or about the processes involved. Freecall (excluding mobile phones) contact numbers are provided with all information sent to survey participants and, in most cases, when participants call these numbers their concerns are resolved by the ABS officers receiving the calls.

In 2013–14 the ABS received 758 written queries or complaints from businesses (Table 4.3). Most approaches from businesses were seeking exemption from the requirement of ongoing participation in the ABS Business Survey Program. The ABS does at times provide general exemptions from surveys to certain small businesses in exceptional circumstances. Some providers are also granted temporary exemptions on compassionate grounds.

The ABS received 119 written queries or complaints from households, most of which were seeking exemption from participation in surveys. Exemption is provided to households in exceptional circumstances, usually on compassionate grounds.

Table 4.3: Written correspondence to the ABS from businesses and households selected in ABS surveys, 2010-11 to 2013-14 (a)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Business surveys	829	670	849	758
Requests for exemptions	779	609	777	611
Other complaints and queries	50	61	72	147
Household surveys	73	119	86	119
Requests for exemption	23	45	44	84
Other complaints and queries	50	74	42	35

(a) Excludes correspondence to politicians (ministerial correspondence), which are shown in Table 5.3.

In 2013–14 the ABS received and responded to 39 queries from politicians advocating on the behalf of constituents (Table 4.4).

Table 4.4: Correspondence to the ABS from politicians acting on the behalf of constituents, 2010-11 to 2013-14

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Business surveys	3	3	10	18
Household surveys	23	34	25	21

The ABS's performance against the standards for managing correspondence from businesses is summarised below in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5: Performance against ABS Surveys Charter complaint resolution standards for 2013–14: targets and actual performance

	Target (weeks)	Actual performance (average days)	Actual Performance (% of total where target achieved)
Sent written acknowledgment	1	4	79
Sent written advice of outcome	4	7	99

KPI 3.4 Customer service performance meets the ABS's Service Delivery Charter standards

The *ABS Service Delivery Charter* outlines the ABS's commitment to providing a high level of customer service. In 2013–14 the ABS met its commitments by:

- answering 85% of calls to the ABS telephone inquiry service within 30 seconds between the hours of 9:00am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday
- acknowledging the receipt of 99% of email inquiries and inquiry form correspondence within five working days
- ensuring the website was available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, subject to events beyond its control
- advertising website unavailability for maintenance purposes one working day prior to the website being unavailable
- fixing all broken web page links within three working days of notification by a customer
- referring any requests for translation of any web product which is not suitably accessible for visually impaired users, to an appropriate translation service within three working days
- providing 90% of quotes for information consultancy services within three working days of receiving final specifications
- providing 90% of information consultancy services within five working days of receiving instructions to proceed, or to a timeframe negotiated between the ABS and the customer
- acknowledging the receipt of 99% of microdata inquiries within one working day
- providing a full response to 85% of microdata inquiries within five working days
- dispatching 90% of Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) microdata products within 15 working days of receipt of completed CURF application forms
- providing 90% of new CURF users with access within five working days to a CURF already approved for use in that organisation.

More information about the ABS's commitment to meeting the expectations of its customers is presented in the program reports in Chapter 5.

Objective 4. Trust in official statistics is maintained

KPI 4.1 Australian public sentiment about ABS statistics remains positive

Positive public sentiment regarding the ABS has remained relatively steady over the last 12 months (Table 4.6). This is represented by the number of positive and neutral media articles, which include articles citing ABS statistics without concerns about their quality. The decline between 2012–13 and 2013–14 in the overall volume of media interest in the ABS is driven by a decline in coverage of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing outputs. There was an increase in negative media coverage in 2013–14, driven by media attention regarding an ex-ABS staff member who was charged with insider trading.

Table 4.6: Positive, negative and neutral articles in selected print newspapers, 2010-11 to 2013-14 ^(a)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Total number of articles	1,692	2,524	3,442	2,054
Positive and neutral articles	1,679	2,062	3,436	1,991
Negative articles	13	12	6	61

(a) From *The Australian*, *Australian Financial Review*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Daily Telegraph*, *The Age*, *Herald Sun*, *Canberra Times*. Articles syndicated by multiple publications are counted individually.

Objective 5. Statistical capability is improved within Australia, Asia and the Pacific region to support informed decision making, and progress is made in the national and global statistical systems

KPI 5.1 National statistical literacy programs effectively engage target audiences

Adequate statistical literacy is needed to ensure statistical information is used effectively. During 2013–14 the ABS developed a Statistical Capability Framework to guide greater integration of statistical capability development effort across the ABS, and with ABS's partners. The Framework forms a key part of the infrastructure being implemented to transform the ABS's approach to building statistical capability. Consistent with the framework, during 2013–14 the ABS:

- published a suite of statistics-related teaching resources aligned with the new Australian education curriculum
- worked with other stakeholders to develop enhanced statistical methods for the future including Australian Technology Network Universities, the University of Wollongong, the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute, the Australian National Data Service, CSIRO and the Office of the Chief Scientist
- held interactive, participatory seminars for users of statistics with non-statistical backgrounds
- contributed to the Australian Government-led Policy Visualisation Network, helping to bring policy makers together to explore how government agencies can get the most out of visualisation techniques to inform policy making and evaluation.

More information on the ABS's statistical capability program is provided in Chapter 6.

KPI 5.2 Effective delivery of international engagement programs increase the statistical capability of national statistical offices in Asia and the Pacific region

In 2013–14 the ABS continued to take a strong lead role in Asia and the Pacific region to support the development of increasingly high-quality, comparable statistics. During 2013–14 the ABS:

- co-chaired the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Technical Advisory Group on Population and Social Statistics
- contributed as a member of the Governing Council of the UN Statistics Institute of Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), and also a member of the Friends of the Chair group which will report to ESCAP on strategic directions for SIAP for the next five years
- contributed to the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics
- partnered with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to provide technical assistance and capability development in Indonesia, Timor-Leste, the Pacific, and Myanmar.

More information on the ABS's international statistical capability building programs in Asia and the Pacific Region is provided in Chapter 7.

KPI 5.3 The National Statistical Services priorities are progressed or met

During 2013–14 the ABS made progress in all five of its priority areas for the National Statistical Service:

- transforming information management infrastructure
- maximising the utilisation of public information assets for statistical and research purposes
- progressing the Essential Statistical Assets for Australia initiative
- enabling statistical information to be integrated with location information
- enhancing the level of statistical capability across government agencies.

In 2013–14 the ABS progressed these interrelated priorities with the support of key statistical governance forums, including the Australian Government Statistical Forum, the State and Territory Statistical Forum, the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, and the Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board. The roles played by each forum, and the ABS, in progressing the National Statistical Service priorities are described in Chapter 6.

Objective 6. Statistical and information infrastructure is developed to better support Australia's long-term statistical needs

KPI 6.1 Products, services and tools are available and improved to assist providers to meet their obligations

The cooperation of Australian businesses and households is critical to the quality of ABS statistics. In 2013–14 the ABS continued to improve interaction with providers in order to reduce compliance burden. This included implementation of online reporting capability for the monthly population survey and further expansion of online reporting capability for business collections. Online forms now comprise 80% of forms offered to business survey respondents. Of the businesses offered an online option, about 90% opt in. Online take

up rates for households are lower, but still exceed the introductory target of 20% take up. Online reporting capabilities are also being developed to support a primarily digital Census in 2016.

Other initiatives undertaken in 2013–14 to improve interactions with providers include:

- implementing new survey communications and revised survey participant web content to support increased compliance
- establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Roundtable to improve ATSI participation in ABS surveys
- reducing the amount of information requested from businesses for the maintenance of the ABS business register.

More information about online forms is provided in the special article in Chapter 3, and in the program reports in Chapter 5.

KPI 6.2 The ABS progresses new sustainable solutions to support statistical information management

In 2013–14 the ABS continued to improve its approach to statistical information management by:

- developing an improved governance strategy for managing metadata (information about the data), including concepts and classifications
- developing a blueprint for end-to-end metadata-driven business processes
- developing a corporate Metadata Registry and Repository to centrally store and easily access all statistical metadata
- developing a Statistical Workflow Management System to enable the automation and sequencing of common business processes and provide a repository of reusable processes
- developing a prototype metadata authoring tool to support the creation of online forms
- delivering new Census systems including an enhanced address register, a mobile application to support the field work force in undertaking address canvassing and Census enumeration tasks, automated workload allocation services; provider portal website, eCensus online form, and operations management tools
- introducing corporate geospatial infrastructure through the corporate address coding strategy and enhancement of geospatial web services to support corporate applications (including implementation of the network analyst web service).

KPI 6.3 The ABS is actively involved in the development of statistical frameworks, methods and standards

During 2013–14 the ABS has continued its significant involvement in the development of statistical frameworks, standards and methods. Key contributions include:

- co-chairing the first meeting of the United Nations (UN) Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI) in New York and working towards establishing a global geospatial-statistical framework based on the ABS's Statistical Spatial Framework (SSF)
- working with the UN Statistical Commission Friends of the Chair to develop broader measures of progress
- inputs to the UN System of Environmental and Economic Accounting: Applications and Extensions, and to the London Group on Environmental Accounting
- membership of the UN Statistical Division task force on business registers, including the preparation of a draft chapter on coverage for the UN Statistical Division Manual of Business Registers
- input to the International Expert Group on Big Data for Official Statistics
- chairing the UN Economic Commission for Europe task force on time use statistics and contributing to the Guidelines for Harmonizing Time-Use Surveys
- input to the development and assessment of the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) through the World Health Organisation Mortality Topic Advisory Group, a classification critical to the production of Australian health information as it underpins the classification of both mortality and morbidity data
- continuing to work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) taskforce to develop an international criminal offences classification, which is based on a similar foundation to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC).

Chapter 5

Program reports



Introduction

The Australian Statistician is responsible for determining the ABS work program, which must align with the ABS's mission, its legislative mandate and its values. The ABS seeks to provide an appropriate level of service across all legislated functions within available funding.

Ensuring that resources are used to the maximum benefit of governments and the broader community, the ABS takes account of the value of the information being sought, the extent to which undertaking the activity is consistent with the ABS's legislated mandate and with community expectations, and the costs that the activity would impose upon the ABS, providers and the broader community.

Population, Labour and Social Statistics

Social Conditions

The Social Conditions Program provides statistical leadership, standards development and information for a broad picture of the economic and social wellbeing of the Australian population. Statistics from the program cover topics including income, expenditure, wealth, housing, superannuation, families, gender, violence, time use, work and family balance, volunteering, homelessness and social capital.

The program provides design, development, collection management and processing services to support the Growing up in Australia Study (Longitudinal Study of Australian Children), in partnership with the Department of Social Services and the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

The program's statistics are used to support policy development, program delivery and program evaluation of key government agencies involved in income support and other government assistance, taxation, housing, homelessness, community and family services, and issues related to older people, children, youth, men and women.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Results from the 2011–12 Survey of Income and Housing were released in summary publications, detailed tables and confidentialised unit record files (CURF's). The results support aggregate and distributional analysis of household income, wealth and housing occupancy and costs by a range of characteristics such as income levels and sources, household size and family composition, age, employment status, tenure type and geographic location.
- The 2013–14 Survey of Income and Housing was conducted. This survey is conducted every two years to provide detailed information on household income, wealth and housing for a range of household types.

- Results from the 2012 Household Energy Consumption Survey were released in summary publications, detailed tables and CURFs. The results support analysis of information needs relating to household energy use in Australia.
- Housing Occupancy and Costs 2011–12 was released, with improvements to measures of income data including improved measures of low income rental affordability. An additional time series data cube focusing on housing affordability was included for the first time.
- Results from the 2012 Personal Safety Survey were released in summary publications, detailed tables and CURFs. The results support analysis about the nature and extent of violence experienced by men and women since the age of 15, including their experience of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. It also enables analysis of men's and women's experiences of current and previous partner violence, lifetime experiences of stalking, physical and sexual abuse before the age of 15, sexual harassment and general feelings of safety.
- Development for the sixth wave of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children was successfully completed, with enumeration commencing in March 2014.
- Data processing for the fifth wave of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children was successfully completed.
- The fifth and sixth issues of *Gender Indicators, Australia*, were released. A new feature was the 'Latest highlights' pages, providing brief commentaries and graphs on some of the latest data.

Health and Disability

The Health and Disability program develops, compiles and disseminates information about the health of the Australian population. It does this through a range of health information collections including:

- Causes of Death collection
- Australian and National Health Surveys
- Patient Experience Survey
- Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
- Private Health Establishments Collection.

Information is extracted and analysed from these collections to understand patterns of health risk factors, health service usage, health outcomes, the experience of patients in using health services, and the pattern of disability in the community.

The information is used by Australian, state and territory governments to identify public health and disability issues, assess their magnitude and distribution, assess health system performance, develop health policies and undertake program evaluation. The information is also used by community groups, by academics to better understand the health outcomes of the population and their drivers, and by the general public and the media interested in health risks and issues.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- The first ever ABS release of biomedical results for the Australian population was made.
- Nutrition information was released from the Australian Health Survey. This represents the first nationally comparable set of nutrition information since 1995.
- The first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survey results from the Australian Health Survey, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics were released.

- New analysis, Young People with Disability, was released.
- The results for the 2012 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers CURF and nearly 200 state tables were released.
- A sustainable release process for causes of death micro-data was finalised in collaboration with the Australian Coordinating Registry.
- The ABS engaged with the World Health Organisation in the development and assessment of the next revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD–11).

Labour

The Labour Statistics Program provides evidence to support labour market, economic and social analysis through the provision of high quality labour statistics in a timely, efficient and effective manner. The program provides information about the structure and performance of the labour market, including statistics on labour supply (such as labour force participation, employment, hours worked, unemployment and labour underutilisation); labour demand (job vacancies); employment conditions and working arrangements; employee earnings and labour costs; and workplace relations.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Labour force estimates for the period July 1991 to December 2013 were revised to reflect the population benchmarks being updated to include information from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, and were released in February 2014.
- Labour force regional statistics classified to the Statistical Area 4 level of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard were released in February 2014, providing a longer time series on a consistent geographical basis.
- The Monthly Population Survey sample designed on information from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing and geography based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard was introduced from May to August 2013.
- Online self-enumeration was implemented in many of the surveys in the Labour Statistics Program including the Labour Force Survey, the Job Vacancies Survey, Average Weekly Earnings Survey, and Survey of Employment and Earnings. The take-up rate for the business surveys has been high (above 90%), and for the Labour Force Survey has been at around 20%.
- The first phase of a review of Industrial Disputes statistics was completed. Since the last comprehensive review in 1999, there have been a number of changes to industrial relations legislation and the nature of the labour market. An important element of the review was to understand the contemporary and future data requirements of users. With the first phase of the review complete, the ABS is investigating the operational implications of implementing the recommendations.

Crime and Justice

The Crime and Justice statistics program leads national statistical activity aimed at developing and improving available information. The program covers the activities of the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics, which includes three separate user-funded statistical units: the National Crime Statistics Unit; the National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit; and the National Corrective Services Statistics Unit. These units compile and publish national statistics on recorded crime, courts and corrections, and work with statistical practitioners in the jurisdictions to improve the quality of the source data.

The ABS also conducts a survey program in the field of crime and justice statistics. This includes both special purpose surveys aimed at producing rates of victimisation for personal and household crimes, and information on the experience and consequences of crime,

as well as more general surveys aimed at understanding the experience of crime within a broader social context.

The main clients of this program include the Australian Attorney-General's Department and the state and territory agencies responsible for police services, courts administration and corrective services. Agencies responsible for criminal justice research and policy are also significant users of program outputs.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Seven annual and four quarterly publications were produced. Included were major content changes—rationalisation and restructuring of tables—which met user requirements for greater focus on national data.
- The evidence base for family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia was improved with the publication of *Bridging the Data Gap* (ABS cat. no. 4529.0.00.002).
- Work was commenced with the Attorney-General's Department to identify data gaps in the civil justice system and provide recommendations to improve the current evidence base.
- The ABS contributed to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Taskforce developing and testing an International Classification of Crimes.
- The ABS supported the Personal Safety Survey 2012 release and successfully assumed data custodianship responsibility, with high levels of interest for data consultancies from the user community.
- The review of the Crime Victimization survey commenced with confirmation of user needs and identification future survey directions.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics Program provides information essential for monitoring the social and economic circumstances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The program also provides statistical leadership in the collection and analysis of data about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The program aims to improve the quality, timeliness and relevance of social, demographic and economic information on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

Key elements of the program include commitment to ongoing engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in ABS planning, collection and dissemination activities; assessing and improving the quality of statistics available from the Census of Population and Housing, surveys and administrative sources; analysis and reporting to explain and improve understanding of data; and development of strategies to maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of data collection and reduce respondent burden on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

Information is used by governments, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations, and the general community, to inform policy development and evaluation and provide an understanding of the overall wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Significant engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations in understanding concepts of home and homelessness resulted in the release of an Information paper to better inform homelessness measurement and analysis.
- Key health and socio-economic data was released from the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey.

- The six-yearly National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, scheduled to be undertaken in 2014–15, was developed and tested.
- Commitment to local level facilitation and engagement, ensuring continued cooperation and high quality data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, was demonstrated. In particular:
 - Under the ABS Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy, Indigenous Engagement Managers are employed in ABS state offices to work closely with communities and organisations.
 - The Round Table for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics members has provided advice to ABS on various activities ensuring ongoing relevance and appropriateness of these activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- The consistency of Indigenous status across linked death registration and published 2011 Census records was analysed. This analysis is part of the Census Data Enhancement Indigenous Mortality project, which contributes to improving the quality of life expectancy and other mortality estimates for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.
- The Program contributed to the development and provision of indicators for relevant national reporting agreements.

Education Statistics

The Education Statistics program produces statistics on early childhood education and care, schooling and further education. The program also provides statistical leadership in the education and training sectors.

Key elements of the program include management of the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection and the National Schools Statistics Collection; and the regular conduct of a number of surveys related to education, training and work. This information is used by Australian and state and territory governments for performance assessment and policymaking, by organisations involved in educational research and analysis, and by the community to inform decision making.

The program provides national leadership towards the Transforming Education and Training Information in Australia (TETIA) initiative which aims to provide an integrated, longitudinal and outcomes-focused view of education and training, and to provide the foundations for evidence based decision making, policy development, research and analysis, program management and evaluation and reporting.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Australian results from the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies were published, and included in international reporting. This report assists governments in assessing, monitoring and analysing the level and distribution of skills among their adult populations as well as the utilisation of skills in different contexts.
- Results from the fourth cycle of the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection including, for the first time, a Preschool Education microdata product in TableBuilder was published. These results support assessment of the Australian Government's commitment to universal access to early childhood education for all children in the year before formal schooling under the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education and the National Indigenous Reform Agreement.
- Results from the annual National Schools Statistics Collection were published, providing data on schools, students, and staff involved in the provision or administration of primary and secondary education, for all Australian states and territories. The Collection supports a range of national education reporting.

- The results from the annual Survey of Education and Work were released in November 2013, providing information about the educational experience and associated characteristics of persons aged 15–74 years.
- The results from the inaugural Work Related Training and Adult Learning Survey were released providing new information about the education and training activities undertaken by Australians aged 15–74 years, with a focus on work-related training and personal interest learning.
- The program led the development of the TETIA strategic plan and three-year work program.
- The range of administrative data available for analysis and data integration through formal agreements with the Australian Government and states and territories was expanded.

Statistical data integration conducted by the ABS

Statistical data integration involves combining information from different administrative and/or survey sources to provide new datasets to be used for statistical and research purposes. Combining high value data sources, previously used in isolation, to generate an expanded range of statistics provides the opportunity to support policy development, research and discussion more effectively in areas such as societal wellbeing, economic resources, education and health. For this reason, statistical data integration is an area of significant growth across the ABS.

The ABS Centre for Data Integration develops and undertakes data integration projects in consultation with data custodians and users. It supports best practice in conducting data integration projects across the ABS through the development of internal infrastructure, resources and tools. The Centre is also responsible for internal policy and governance arrangements to support the safe and effective conduct of ABS statistical data integration activities. This ensures the ABS meets its obligations as an accredited Integrating Authority, and is able to undertake high risk integration projects, including those involving the linkage of sensitive data.

Key achievements for 2013–14

- During 2013–14, the ABS released a number of significant statistical data integration projects as part of the ABS's Census Data Enhancement (CDE) program. These releases represent an enormously powerful enhancement to the evidence base available from the Census and a significant and enduring return on the investment that is made in each five-yearly Census.
- In December 2013, the ABS released the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (ACL), based on a sample of about 1 million records from the 2006 Census combined with records from the 2011 Census using a statistical matching process. The ACL is providing governments and researchers with new insights into the dynamics that drive social and economic change, as well as providing insights into how pathways vary for diverse population groups.
- In February 2014, the ABS released the Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset (ACMID), in partnership with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. The release provides government agencies and researchers with an interest in the outcomes and experiences of migrants the opportunity, for the first time, to analyse migrant Census data by visa class.
- As part of the COAG Closing the Gap initiative, the CDE Indigenous Mortality project linked 2011 Census records to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander death registrations. This linkage project improved the quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life tables at the Australia level, and resulted in high quality, relevant Indigenous Life Expectancy estimates, released in November 2013.

Demography, Regional and Social Analysis

Geography

The Geography program is responsible for leading the development, implementation and promotion of the Statistical Spatial Framework (SSF) that provides guidance on the integration of statistical and geospatial information. The program publishes and maintains the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), which is a core part of the SSF and is used by the ABS, National Statistical Service (NSS) partners and data users to publish and compare statistics for small areas. It provides geographic analysis and infrastructure to both produce and support the production of statistics within the ABS. It also advises external stakeholders and the general public on statistical geography issues.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Further development and implementation of the SSF was undertaken, including engagement with other Australian Government agencies to gain input on and acceptance of the SSF. SSF guidance material on address geocoding, statistical geography and privacy risks was added to the NSS website www.nss.gov.au.
- Significant international engagement, working towards establishing a global geospatial-statistical framework based on the SSF, was undertaken. This included co-chairing and presenting at the first meeting of the UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI), New York, October 2013 and at the International Workshop on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, Beijing, 9–12 June 2014.
- A leading role in facilitating improvements to administrative boundaries in Australia was taken on by accepting the role of Sponsor of the Administrative Boundaries theme in the Foundation Spatial Data Framework (FSDF).
- The latest versions of Local Government Areas, Commonwealth Electoral Divisions and Tourism Regions were published in *Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), Volume 3—Non ABS Structures, July 2013* (ABS cat. no. 1270.0.55.003).
- A Land Account for Queensland was produced and published in *Land Account: Queensland, Experimental Estimates, 2013* (ABS cat. no. 4609.0.55.003).

Demography

The Demography Program provides estimates of the recent and projected future population, its structure and geographic distribution, and reports analysis of components of population growth and related demographic trends.

The program also produces population estimates and projections for household, family and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, as well as fertility, mortality and overseas and internal migration statistics.

These statistics are produced to meet legislative requirements that refer to population estimates such as GST distribution and determination of Parliamentary seat numbers. Demographic data assists in the formulation of government policies, and in the planning and administration of government programs. This information enables planning, analysis and research by all those interested in the causes and consequences of population change, including governments, businesses, community organisations and academic institutions.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- *Population Projections, Australia, 2012 (base) to 2101* (ABS cat. no. 3222.0) which take account of the 2011 Census population counts was released.
- *Regional Population Growth, 2012* (ABS cat. no. 3218.0), which includes a 20-year recast series of all sub-state population estimates, was released.

- *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026* (ABS cat. no. 3238.0) based on the 2011 Census population counts was released.
- Released *Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2010–2012* (ABS cat. no. 3302.0.55.003)
- Improvements to the Overseas Arrivals and Departures system were implemented, delivering better preliminary estimates of Net Overseas Migration and other related statistics.
- The series of Labour Force population benchmarks back to 1991, taking account of the recast Estimated Resident Population data, was recast.
- Quarterly revisions of Net Overseas Migration estimates to improve timeliness and accuracy of the series, and consequently improve Estimated Resident Population, were initiated.
- The National Civil Registration and Statistics Improvement Committee with jurisdictional Registrars was formed to improve harmonisation of data, coordination between members and connectedness with stakeholders.
- With partner agencies in the Brisbane Accord Group, worked to progress the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan.

Regional

The Regional Statistics Program aims to understand and support high priority emerging needs for regional statistics through providing relevant analyses, products and services. Regional data may include data relating to cities, urban, rural or remote areas. Activities undertaken under the program include improving access to, and dissemination of, ABS data and data from other sources, and developing new indicators.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- An update of the *National Regional Profile data set* (ABS cat. no. 1379.0.55.001), was released, with over 400 data items for over 3000 regions, and a new 'Data by Region' interface.
- Eight articles for the Perspectives on Regions series (ABS cat. no: 1380.0.55.002 and subsequent), were completed, with a focus on population mobility, business owners, housing, and education qualifications in regions.
- Research on regional economic data gaps and issues, including client consultation and literature review in five focus regions, was completed.
- A new Regional chapter in Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) was completed.
- *Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2005–06 to 2010–11* (ABS cat. no. 6524.0.55.002) and *Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2005–06 to 2010–11* (ABC cat. no. 5673.0.55.003) were completed.

As a result of ABS budgetary pressures, the ABS Regional Statistics program will contract in 2014–15. The *Perspectives on Regions* series will be discontinued.

Social & Progress Reporting

The Social and Progress Reporting program provides information to government and the community about social conditions and progress in Australia. Drawing together data and analysis from within the ABS and a range of other sources, it produces reports covering many issues. 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 also provide information on the wellbeing of the population, the extent of need and disadvantage in society, contemporary social issues, the interrelationships between economic, social and environmental aspects of life, and whether life in Australia is getting better.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- A refreshed edition of *Measures of Australia's Progress—2013* (ABS cat. no. 1370.0) was released in November 2013 with a number of innovations driven by national consultation:
 - aspiration statements for each theme
 - refreshed set of indicators
 - introduction of a Governance domain
 - new web interface including a summary dashboard
 - a regional chapter highlighting regional level progress and the challenges of assessing regional progress
 - elements that give voice to the progress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
 - rolling releases with the first updates in May 2014.
- The Australian Social Trends series changed to a rolling release basis in 2014 following releases in July and November 2013.
- Assistance was provided to the Australian Department of the Environment's Measuring Sustainable Program with an ABS Outpost Officer and ex-officio membership of the National Sustainability Council.
- The conceptual and statistical frameworks for Australian social statistics were reviewed and re-developed.
- International statistical capability building was supported by contributions to:
 - the United Nations Statistical Commissions' Post-2015 Development Agenda work
 - improving the framework Developing National Capacity in Population and Social Statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

As a result of ABS budgetary pressures, the ABS Social and Progress Reporting program will significantly contract from 2014–15. Measures of Australia's Progress and the Australian Social Trends series will be discontinued.

Culture and Recreation Statistics

The National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics (NCCRS) leads and coordinates the national statistical program for culture, sport and leisure. The Centre is responsible for understanding current and emerging policy issues and debates, and determining in consultation with other agencies, what statistical solutions might be appropriate to inform their decision making. Expertise is maintained on collection, classification, standards and data analysis to inform governments and the community about culture, sport and leisure statistics.

The key cultural, recreation and sports clients include the Attorney General's Department through the Ministry for the Arts, the Department of Health via the Office for Sport, the Cultural Ministers' Statistics Working Group, the Committee of Australian Sport and Recreation Officials' Research Group, the Australian Sports Commission and all state and territory arts and sports agencies.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- The first Cultural and Creative Activity Satellite Accounts were released in early 2014. The results of this innovative project will support policy development for future investment in these sectors.
- Findings of the 2011–12 and 2012–13 Cultural Funding by Government surveys were released, including state and local government level data.
- The first issue of *Arts and Culture: State and Territory Profiles* (ABS cat. no. 4920.0) was released.
- The publications, *Value of Sport, Australia, 2013* (ABS cat. no. 4156.0.55.002) and *Perspectives on Sport, April, 2014* (ABS cat. no. 4156.0.55.001) were released.

Migrant Statistics

The National Migrant Statistics Unit (NMSU) is responsible for the ABS's Migrant Statistics Program and leads and coordinates the national statistical program for migrant settlement outcomes. The Unit is responsible for understanding current and emerging policy issues and debates, and determining, in consultation with other agencies, what statistical solutions might be appropriate to inform their decision making. Expertise is maintained on collection, classification, standards and data analysis to inform governments and the community about migrant characteristics and migrant settlement outcomes.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection and the Department of Social Services are the major clients for migrant statistics.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- *Migrant Data Matrices, 2013* (ABS cat. no. 3415.0) provides users with links to data on migrants from a range of ABS products.
- *Understanding Migrant Outcomes—Enhancing the Value of Census Data, Australia, 2011* (ABS cat. no. 3417.0) provides an overview of selected social and economic characteristics of migrants from the 2011 Census using data items that describe a migrant's entry conditions including visa stream, primary/secondary applicant status, and whether migrants were offshore or onshore applicants.
- The results of a data integration project linking the ABS's 2011 Population Census with data from the Australian Government's Settlement Database were released in *Microdata: Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, 2011* (ABS cat. no. 3417.0.55.001) via the ABS's TableBuilder. This information will increase the statistical and research value of both datasets.
- *Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2013* (ABS cat. no. 6250.0) provides detailed data about migrants who have come to Australia over the past 10 years and how they have fared after their arrival.

Economic and Environment Statistics

National Accounts

The National Accounts program provides data about the level of economic activity in, and the structure of, the Australian and state and territory economies. These statistics summarise the economic transactions that take place within the Australian economy and between Australia and the rest of the world in a systematic and comprehensive way.

National accounts information is used to formulate and assess government macro-economic policies, both fiscal and monetary; assist in allocating Australian government funds to state governments; formulate industry development policies; measure productivity; undertake financial and business planning; and facilitate international economic comparisons.

The main clients of the program are Australian, state and territory governments, the Reserve Bank of Australia, international organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, private sector analysts, the media and academics.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Publication of the Household Balance Sheet commenced on a quarterly basis. This will assist economic policy makers by providing information on changes in household wealth in a timely manner.
- Estimates of the distribution of household income, expenditure and wealth were published. This initiative utilised existing household survey data to inform the distribution of macroeconomic aggregates for the first time.

- Annual updating commenced for the National Accounts Concepts Sources and Methods publication. Previously updates had been undertaken only following major reviews of the accounts. Annual updates will ensure users are better informed when making use of National Accounts data.

International and Government Financial Accounts

The International and Government Financial Accounts Branch consists of the International Accounts Program and the Public Sector Accounts Program. The Branch also houses the research area for the Macroeconomic Statistics Division.

The International Accounts Program provides statistics on Australia's Balance of Payments, International Investment Position, Merchandise Trade, and Trade in Services. The statistics are used to analyse Australia's external performance; formulate and evaluate macroeconomic policy (including trade policy, trade treaties and foreign investment policy); analyse trends in income, capital flows and patterns of investment into and out of the economy; and undertake international comparisons. The International Accounts are also inputs to the Australian National Accounts.

The Public Sector Accounts Program provides government finance statistics (GFS) in respect of the Australian Government, state and territory governments, local governments, and their public non-financial and public financial corporations. GFS are used to monitor the financial performance of governments, to inform on the economic impact of government activities, and as an important input to Australia's National Accounts. GFS are also used to assist in the distribution of Australian Government grants to state governments.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Quarterly balance sheets to government finance statistics were introduced.
- Research into transactions data for use in compiling the Consumer Price Index and subsequent implementation was completed.
- Results from the quadrennial survey of *Foreign Currency Exposure, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 5308.0) were published.
- An Information Paper, *The Non-Observed Economy and Australia's GDP* (ABS cat. no. 5204.0.55.008) was published.
- Leadership of the Pacific involvement in the World Bank International Comparison of Prices Program resulted in the first compilation of purchasing power parities for many nations in the region.
- Support was provided for development of trade in services statistics and government finance statistics in developing nations.

Prices

The Prices program compiles a number of main economic indicators that measure changes in a set of prices over time. This includes the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Residential Property Price Index (RPPI), the Wage Price Index (WPI), and a range of Producer Price Indexes (PPIs) and International Trade Price Indexes (ITPIs). The program also produces Selected Living Cost Indexes (SLCIs) for select household types, including the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI).

The main clients for the program's outputs are the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Treasury, Australian and state government agencies, economic analysts, and the general business and Australian community.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- A significant expansion to the suite of residential property statistics occurred from the December quarter 2013. This included the release of an Attached Dwelling Price Index (ADPI) and an RPPI in addition to the existing House Price Index (HPI), and the release of a quarterly measure for the total value of the dwelling stock in Australia.
- The RPPI, ADPI and HPI series were re-referenced to an index reference period of 2011–12 = 100.0, and an update to the weights and variables used to stratify these indexes using data from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing occurred from the December quarter 2013.
- A significant increase in the use of transactions data to compile the CPI occurred from the March quarter 2014. These data improve the quality of the CPI and reduce data collection costs.
- An experimental price index for the Output of the Retail Trade Industry from the September quarter 2013 was released.
- A significant contribution was made, through missions and technical assistance, to the development of statistics in the Asia–Pacific region. This included CPI technical advice to Timor-Leste and the People’s Republic of China, coordinating the participation of Pacific Island countries in the 2011 International Comparison Program, and undertaking price statistics reviews in Indonesia.

Macroeconomic Indicators

The Macroeconomic Indicators Branch consists of the Financial Statistics Program, the Building and Construction Program and the Business Indicators Program.

The Financial Statistics Program compiles statistics on the financial assets and liabilities of financial institutions, and on the stocks and flows of finance for sectors of the economy. The statistics are sourced from several ABS statistical surveys and other data sources including the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) and the Australian Taxation Office.

The Building and Construction Program compiles construction statistics on activity levels in residential building, non-residential building and engineering construction. It also compiles building approvals data in the form of expected construction of dwellings, and expected construction activity collected from approving authorities.

The Business Indicators Program is responsible for the provision of a range of sub-annual economic indicators. The indicators include:

- monthly statistics of turnover by selected retail industries and the takeaway food services industry
- quarterly statistics of company profits, inventories, sales and labour costs
- quarterly statistics of actual and expected new capital expenditure
- quarterly statistics of actual and expected mineral and petroleum exploration
- biannual statistics of expected mineral and petroleum expenditure.

These data are essential inputs to the compilation of quarterly and annual National Accounts.

The main clients include the Australian Government and state government treasuries, the Reserve Bank of Australia, various state and territory departments, banks, industry associations, and other financial analysts and commentators. These clients use the statistics to analyse economic activity and as partial indicators of the National Accounts. Construction statistics are used for the construction industry; finance and investment sector analysis; and in understanding population change—an essential input to regional planning.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- The Retail Business Survey was enhanced to provide experimental estimates of the proportion of retail trade turnover derived from online sales.
- The quality of building approval statistics was improved through ensuring the administrative by-product from local government and other reporting authorities is collected in a consistent way.
- Increased collaboration with APRA and the Reserve Bank to progress a targeted joint program to reduce provider burden and improve data quality for financial statistics.
- Respondent burden was reduced by introducing internet-based survey forms for collecting key data for the compilation of macroeconomic indicators.

Environment Statistics and Integration

The Environment Statistics and Integration Program produce statistics on both the environment and business demography.

The Environment Statistics Program contributes to meeting the demand for comprehensive and coordinated information about Australia's environment, focusing on key themes such as water, energy, land and waste management. The complex inter-relationships between the environment, society and the economy require integrated information, which is a key focus of the program. The program actively engages with partners to understand information needs and coordinate the development of statistics.

The Business Demography program is responsible for the provision of information about the structure, characteristics and performance of businesses in the Australian economy and conceptual developments regarding business definitions and classifications. This information is part of a consistent framework for all ABS business statistics. The program provides detailed information about business and business activity at a sub-state level.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Water Account, Energy Account and Land Account were released, plus new publications: *Australian Environmental Economic Accounts 2014* (ABS cat. no. 4655.0); *Land Account: Queensland Experimental Estimates, 2013* (ABS cat. no. 4639.0.55.003); *Business Survey of Residential Electricity Distribution* (ABS cat. no. 4670.0); *Microdata: Community Engagement with Nature Conservation, Australia 2011–12* (ABS cat. no. 4602.0.30.001).
- Contribution was made to the UN System of Environmental and Economic Accounting: Applications and Extensions (SEEA–EA), and papers were prepared for the London Group on Environmental Accounting.
- Workshops were facilitated in Vietnam and the Philippines on Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services, and water accounts training was provided to the Samoan Bureau of Statistics. A five-day ANU course on environmental accounting was developed and conducted.
- *Counts of Australian Business Operators* (ABS cat. no. 8175.0) was released.
- The revised Economic Units Model was published in *Standard Economic Sector Classifications of Australia* (ABS cat. no. 1218.0).
- *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, 2009–2013* (ABS cat. no. 8165.0) was enhanced by improving employment size range categories.
- Technical assistance on business registers was provided to the Vanuatu National Statistics Office, the Fiji Bureau of Statistics, and Statistics Indonesia.
- A joint ABS—Secretariat of Pacific Community Pacific Business Register Development Guide was published.

Industry and Productivity Statistics

The Industry Statistics program provides information about the structure, financial operations, performance and production of Australian industries. This information is used to monitor the economy and the business cycle, and to support compilation of the Australian National Accounts and Environmental–Economic Accounts.

The program consists of an annual economy-wide financial statistics collection, a rolling collection program that covers specific industries in more detail, and modelling and analytical work covering specific industries or activities.

The Transport Statistics program provides statistics on transport and transport-related activities. It also provides statistical leadership in transport statistics by, for example, chairing the Australian Transport Data Action Network.

The Tourism Statistics program compiles the Australian Tourism Satellite Account (TSA). Tourism-related data produced by other areas of the ABS includes overseas arrivals and departures data, tourism-related exports and imports indicators, and data collected under the Industry Statistics program.

The Economic Analysis and Reporting program encompasses macroeconomic statistics research, economic analysis and reporting, and economic integration functions. This consolidated set of functions is designed to improve the ABS's capability to produce high quality macroeconomic statistics in the longer term, while addressing emerging priorities in the short term. Analytical activities in the program range from research projects to improve the accuracy and coherence of existing economic statistics and develop new statistical products, through to operational efforts to increase the efficiency of statistical operations. The program compiles and publishes aggregate market sector and industry-level multifactor productivity (MFP) statistics and conducts research into the measurement and interpretation of these statistics.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- The dispatch and collection phase of Survey of Motor Vehicle Use (SMVU) and Freight Movement Survey (FMS) were commenced.
- The Non-Profit Institutions (NPI) Satellite Account was compiled and released.
- The user cost formula for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) capital was improved.
- New measures of natural resources input for the mining industry were developed and experimental MFP measures for the mining industry were introduced into the 2014 ABS industry MFP data cube.

Rural Environment and Agriculture Statistics Branch

The Rural Environment and Agriculture Statistics Program (REASP) provides reliable, relevant and timely information on the agriculture industry and its contribution to the Australian economy, rural communities and natural resource management. The Program provides data on:

- agricultural commodities produced on farms and their associated value
- structural information including the number, size and industry of farm businesses
- natural resource and land management practices undertaken on farms
- water used by farms for irrigation and sources of water
- farmer demographics
- the level of foreign ownership of agricultural businesses, land and water assets.

Information from the program supports informed decision making by Australian, state and territory governments, industry organisations, the academic sector and the wider community on issues important for agricultural policy determination at the national, regional, and international levels. These issues include the productivity and competitiveness of the agriculture sector, food security and natural resource management. Data from the program directly supports the ABS National Accounts and Water Account.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- In July 2013 the ABS and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) initiated a joint project, the National Agricultural Statistics Review (NASR). The NASR is considering all aspects of the National Agricultural Statistical Information System (NASIS) and its ability to inform decision making in relation to Australian agriculture. Preliminary findings from the first phase of the NASR were released on 31 March 2014 in *National Agriculture Statistics Review—Preliminary Findings, 2013–14* (ABS cat. no. 7105.0.55.003). The final NASR report will be released through the ABS website on 7 July 2014 and will contain recommendations for improving the system and a framework for ongoing assessment, coordination and governance of information needs.
- The ABS REASP continues to support statistical capacity building initiatives internationally and in the Asia–Pacific region in support of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (FAO, 2010). During 2013–14 this included representation at the Sixth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS VI), held 23–25 October in Brazil and attendance at the 25th session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) held in Laos in February 2014. A theme of both forums was the need for improvements to agricultural statistics to support global food security and rural development.
- Comprehensive statistical data on the agriculture sector in Australia was released in *Agricultural Commodities, 2012–13* (ABS cat. no. 7121.0), *Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, 2012–13* (ABS cat. no. 7503.0) and *Water Use on Australian Farms, 2012–13* (ABS cat. no. 4618.0) in May 2014. The *Agriculture Land and Water Ownership Survey, June 2013* (ABS cat. no. 7127.0) released on 19 June 2014 also provided information on the level of foreign ownership of agricultural businesses, agricultural land and water entitlements used for agriculture in Australia.
- Development work has also been undertaken for the dispatch of the 2013–14 annual commodity survey and second biennial Land Management Practices Survey from mid-2014, with data due out in mid-2015.

Innovation and Technology Statistics

The Innovation and Technology program provides data to assist understanding of the impact of research and experimental development, innovation and new technologies on economic growth, productivity and wellbeing. In advanced industrial economies, science, technology and innovation have been the principal sources of long-run economic growth and increasing social wellbeing. Innovation is a key component in making Australia more productive and more competitive. ICT are important enablers of innovation and contribute to productivity growth. Research and experimental development (R&D) activity is a subset of overall innovative activity.

The program provides:

- measures of the penetration and use of selected new technologies, particularly ICT, within Australia, for both businesses and households
- measures of R&D undertaken by businesses, governments, higher education institutions and private not-for-profit organisations

- measures of innovation for Australian businesses
- measures of Venture Capital and Later Stage Private Equity activity
- the Business Longitudinal Database (BLD), a tool for understanding business activity and microeconomic drivers of business performance and productivity.

The program also contributes to the work of national and international agencies through input into the review and development of statistical standards and frameworks in relevant fields of statistics.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Drawing on the BLD as a base, a Firm Level Plan for increasing the capacity to undertake firm-level analysis of micro-economic drivers of performance, productivity, and improving the evidence base for policy development and evaluation has been developed. A small number of prototype projects have been established.
- Following a comprehensive review of the R&D Statistics program in 2011–12, the final changes to the re-shaped program were implemented. While outputs for each sector are now released on a biennial basis with a reduced level of detail, the program is now sustainable in the medium term.
- Progress has been made towards a ten-year plan for Innovation and Technology Statistics. The plan will provide a clear understanding of relevant policies, related information needs and will identify opportunities to improve the evidence base. A framework for ongoing assessment, coordination and governance of information needs will be included.

ABS 2017

Information Infrastructure

The Information Infrastructure Branch is responsible for designing and developing the next generation of statistical information infrastructure which, once implemented across ABS collections, will allow the ABS to transform the way its business is undertaken. The program will deliver a coherent and integrated environment for the life-cycle management of ABS data and metadata.

The objective of the program is to lead the design, development and implementation of:

- information management governance, infrastructure and standards
- metadata-driven processes that encompass life-cycle management of data and metadata assets.

The branch also leads the ABS's contribution to developing international standards which will facilitate sharing of statistical infrastructure and business processes between National Statistical Offices.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- In 2013–14 the program progressed towards developing foundational information infrastructure for an improved approach to managing the ABS's information assets. The program:
 - released an early version of the metadata registry and repository (MRR), which will, in the future, allow statistical metadata to be stored, registered, catalogued, discovered and accessed
 - released an Enterprise Wide version of the ABS Business Architecture which will underpin any business transformation in the future

- demonstrated the feasibility of automatically generating e-forms and complex relational databases using structured metadata sourced from the MRR.
- The program contributed to international standards which will align the statistical infrastructure of National Statistical Offices. These contributions included:
 - the development and refinement of international metadata models, including the Data Documentation Initiative v4 and Generic Statistical Information Model v1.1 (GSIM). These internationally agreed models of common terminology and definitions will be used by the ABS to describe statistical metadata and information flows
 - the development of a General Statistical Business Process Model v5.0, which underpins the ABS Enterprise Architecture
 - Collaborating with the Statistical Network (a network of National Statistical Offices) on a common information architecture. The Network continued to collaborate on collection, administrative data, dissemination, and enterprise architecture.
- The program continued to develop strategies for an enterprise-wide data management environment to provide life-cycle management of statistical data.

Program Management

The Program Management Office (PMO) is responsible for providing centralised and coordinated support to the ABS 2017 Group to ensure successful delivery of business process and information management transformation objectives. It also has responsibility for the development of the business case for the ABS business transformation.

The PMO promotes and facilitates excellence in the areas of project management and business process analysis and re-engineering as well as providing program support in resource management and change management. These four functions service the various ABS divisions and specifically the ABS 2017 change program with the critical skills and support required to achieve their outcomes by ensuring:

- alignment between strategies, programs and projects
- future designs for business, information management, technology and applications are aligned to ABS Enterprise Architecture
- governance to ensure good change management
- visibility of program management information, including tracking and realising business benefits
- development of standardised methodologies, frameworks, processes and tools
- robust business analysis and process re-design
- efficient use of allocated resources.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- An endorsed change management strategy was developed, including people transition principles, communications plan, stakeholder engagement strategy and approach to managing cultural changes.
- A Business Activity Model and Capability Reference Model (key artefacts in the ABS Enterprise Architecture framework) were developed. These will underpin ABS reengineering, methodological and technological developments.
- Communication and stakeholder engagement activities were launched.
- The ABS Project Management Framework (PMF) and associated products were reviewed and re-developed to incorporate contemporary project management thinking and align it to the overall project approval process.

- An endorsed project assessment and life-cycle management framework was developed.
- A Diploma of Leadership Capability Course for staff was sponsored.
- Planning for the ABS transformation of its business processes, systems and supporting ICT systems and platforms was progressed. Progress was also made in external reviews to determine the preparedness of the ABS to undertake business transformation.

Customer Services

The Customer Services Branch (CSB) supports the ABS corporate mission to assist and encourage informed decision making by providing high quality communication and dissemination services to customers.

The Branch's key objectives are to use leading edge communication and dissemination technology, which will produce best practice communication of statistics.

CSB provides information solutions which cater for a wide range of customers and their evolving information requirements. These include self-service statistics and other information on the ABS website and social media. CSB operates the free national information and referral service, user-pays information consultancies, and provides support for the complex needs of researchers through streamlined access to, and use of, microdata.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Strong ongoing business delivery was achieved with products and services provided to a wide range of ABS clients:
 - 540 successful statistical releases through online channels
 - 48619 calls and 8470 emails answered for the 2013–2014 financial year
 - 27 microdata releases with 6 basic CURFs, 6 expanded CURFs, 13 TableBuilder datasets and 2 DataAnalyser Beta evaluation releases
 - 26 datasets available in TableBuilder including, health, physical activity, education, patient experience, community engagement with nature conservation, disability and aged care
 - tailored consultancies and subscription service.
- A leading role was taken in an international collaborative project to develop and utilise a multi-dimensional publishing tool – .Stat.
- ABS.Stat continues to make an increasing number of rich, multi-dimensional data sets available to customers, including data from the 2011 Census; all these data are also available through machine-to-machine web services.
- The ABS's online presence and content continued to expand to allow customers to engage with statistical information and create information tailored to their own needs.
- A program of user-centric design and analysis of website analytics was introduced to enhance understanding of the information needs and behaviours of ABS customers.
- A three-year agreement with Universities Australia for 2014–2016 was negotiated, ensuring university students and researchers have access to ABS microdata, including TableBuilder.
- Collaboration with the Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN) delivered ABS data machine-to-machine to the AURIN portal.
- Tangible outcomes were achieved with the Statistical Network Innovation in Dissemination international collaboration community, including .Stat components, shared dissemination architectures/strategies, website taxonomies, search engine optimisation and data visualisation.

Data Acquisition and Collection

The Data Acquisition and Collection program provides a comprehensive statistical data collection and dissemination service for the ABS that also encompasses administrative data acquisition. The Data Acquisition and Collection Branch (DACB) is leading the Acquire@ABS program to transform collection operations through introduction of an online reporting capability that will include the first digital Census of Population and Housing in 2016. In doing so, it supports the ABS corporate mission and objectives by providing a high quality, timely and cost effective service while maintaining the trust and cooperation of providers through a range of measures, including:

- efficient and effective data collection operations
- developing and maintaining a skilled and committed home and office-based interviewer workforce
- upholding the confidentiality of information provided to the ABS
- continually improving the processes and instruments for ABS interaction with providers.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Collection operations were delivered on time and to quality standards.
- Ten years of operation of the Data Collection Unit (DCU) were celebrated.
- The 500th Monthly Population Survey (MPS) was conducted in December 2013.
- Transformation of collection processes and facilities continued. This included implementing an online reporting capability for the monthly household surveys and further expanding the online reporting capability for business collections.
- Online forms now comprise 80% of forms offered to ABS Business Survey respondents. There has been a very positive response from businesses with typical take up rate of 90% across the range of ABS business surveys.
- Five-yearly household surveys sample frame revision was introduced along with a new sampling system.
- Preparations were made for the next digital Census in 2016, and for provisions of an online reporting capability. The Branch has worked effectively with the Census program to decide and provide an e-form platform for the 2014 Major Test, with a view towards 2016, which includes support for handheld devices.
- Work was undertaken to maintain provider response to surveys. An active provider engagement strategy was developed to ensure a continued high level of public trust.
- Acquire@ABS has provided a basic online reporting capability for most business collections and the monthly population survey. Significant further work is required to transform the majority of our collections from paper and face to face to digital by default and achieve the benefits.
- The Branch Head chaired the Statistical Data Collection Platform working group for the International Statistical Network. This provided a valuable information sharing opportunity for member countries on issues such as metadata-driven questionnaire design tools and provider engagement strategies.

2016 Population Census

The Census program undertakes the ABS's largest and most important statistical collection—the Census of Population and Housing. Its objective is to accurately and efficiently measure the number and key characteristics of people in Australia on Census night, and the dwellings in which they live. This provides a reliable basis for the estimation of the population of each state, territory and local government area, primarily for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funds.

The Census also provides the characteristics of Australian population and housing within small geographic areas, and for small population groups. Census data is used to support the planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities of government, businesses, researchers and others.

Censuses are conducted in Australia every five years and the last Census was held on Tuesday, 9 August 2011. Preparations are being made for the next Census to be held in August 2016.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- The program continued to focus on delivering improved quality, coverage and efficiency for the 2016 Census.
- An extensive public consultation program led to recommendations for topics for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing for consideration by the Australian Government in late 2014.
- Releases of 1% and 5% Census Sample files were made to enable in-depth research (the last major releases of 2011 Census data) and the first ACLD.
- *Run That Town*, the mobile application that allows users to make planning decisions for their town using Census data, won the Australian Public Service ICT eGovernment Award for Government 2.0 and continues to have more downloads every month.
- Census provided assistance to two missions to Myanmar to assist with their upcoming Census, focusing on training procedures and materials, and participated as a member of the International Technical Advisory Board which provided strategies and advice to Myanmar on the implementation of their 2014 Census of Population and Housing.

Strategies, Services and Technology

Technology Services

ICT is fundamental to the ABS achieving its mission of leading a high quality and responsive national statistical service. Effective management of information technology allows the ABS to continually improve access to statistical data and services, while maintaining security and integrity standards. The Technology Services Division (TSD) supports all areas of the ABS in the delivery of business outcomes through the effective and innovative application of information technology.

In 2013–14 TSD continued to support existing statistical programs, but had a focus on strategic technology investments in enabling infrastructure to support future directions and detailed plans for the ABS's 2017 transformation program.

ICT services are delivered nationally, to staff in the ABS's central and regional offices, to ABS interviewers who work from home and in the field, and to ABS data providers and clients. Technology is being implemented to further improve flexible working arrangements and in support of activity-based working office layouts which provides future savings.

Partnerships between TSD and business areas and with the 2017 Program team have been critical to prioritise the ICT work program within tight fiscal constraints. External engagement with ICT government communities and international statistical organisations has been directed towards best practice approaches, continued standards development and opportunities for collaboration.

To support ABS business transformation, TSD continued to build capability in the delivery of enterprise solutions, through a Service Oriented Architecture Competency Centre. Together with training in and adoption of agile methods, this will facilitate improvements in the design and delivery of enterprise technology solutions. A risk assessment of the current

applications portfolio was completed, and applications and technology architectures were progressed in support of the ABS Enterprise Architecture.

There continue to be a number of issues, risks and challenges to the ICT forward work program. The risk profile of the current technology environment and business continuity is increasing and the very tight fiscal environment requires sharp prioritisation to maintain existing statistical programs with insufficient investment for transformation and future requirements. TSD is also challenged in its ability to maintain the range of technology skill sets required for support and to build new capabilities for the future, including addressing growing requirements for effective security measures in the face of more sophisticated cyber security threats.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- The ICT Strategy has been refreshed and redeveloped, with technology directions focused on enabling: a digital workforce; enterprise capability for statistics in a connected, digital world; and 'Open ABS' (web forms and online data collection).
- In collaboration with MDMD, a 'big data' strategy has been developed, outlining the opportunities, challenges and initiatives to progress the use of big data in official statistics, and to identify partnerships—with problem owners, technical collaborators, and data custodians.
- A new model for applications support was implemented with work planned and prioritised through improved risk management activities to ensure effective support of ongoing statistical programs.
- TSD has worked with the 2017 Program group to develop detailed plans, approach and costs for ABS business transformation, and to prepare for independent reviews. This has included solution architectures and options, transformation project plans, cyber security plans, infrastructure strategies, and capacity and capability planning.
- Delivery of the Metadata Register and Repository and the Statistical Workflow Management system took place as part of foundation infrastructure for future ABS.
- Substantial progress has been made in the development of technology infrastructure and applications for the Census 2016 program including: an enhanced Address Register; a mobile application to support field force canvassing and enumeration tasks, and automated workload allocation; provider portal website; eCensus web form; and operations management tools. Support was provided for the Census test in August 2013. Preparations are in hand for supporting a further, major test in August 2014.
- A number of independent assessments and reviews of security were conducted, and projects progressed to strengthen controls through initiatives such as the refreshing of Identity and Access Management, and Application White Listing.
- International collaboration continued with many countries including Statistics New Zealand, National Statistics Institute (Italy), Statistics Canada and the OECD. Statistical aid work supporting Pacific Island nations included a strategy for ICT collaboration and the development of educational units related to technology and statistics for Fiji.
- National collaboration continued in the areas of data integration, data analytics, identity access management, and contributing to the development of whole-of-government technology strategies.
- A strategy for end user and mobile computing was developed and work is in progress to deliver the technologies for a more efficient and flexible working environment including teleworking, activity-based working, and wifi to all offices.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides leadership and strategic support to assist the ABS and its employees to meet business objectives. Services are provided directly to employees and indirectly through a support and coordination role which includes policy advice, framework development and internal consultancy. Within an environment of continuous improvement, Corporate Services:

- provides timely, relevant, high quality services to meet the changing needs of internal and external clients
- provides leadership to the ABS in the areas of culture, leadership capability development and financial and people management, including the provision of high quality and timely management information
- positions the ABS to meet its current and future workforce needs by providing a full range of services to support the Human Resources life-cycle from recruitment through to retirement
- provides leadership, support and guidance to ensure the ABS is maximising individual employees' potential
- engages and influences stakeholders to ensure the ABS's interests are accommodated, including in whole-of-government initiatives
- offers services to support the physical working environment, including implementing changes associated with the strategic use of property and space management
- provides leadership and consultancy on workforce planning, budgeting, business continuity and financial reporting, financial policies and support
- maintains and develops corporate support systems and services.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- A successful pilot of the People Capability Framework and Evaluation process was undertaken; this has contributed to supporting high quality individual development discussions between managers and their staff and has assisted in identifying organisation-wide capability development priorities. Further development of the ABS workforce planning framework has been achieved through the development and delivery of enhanced metrics, reporting and scenario planning in the areas of staffing affordability, capability and workforce profiling.
- The Managing for Performance Improvement Program was developed in 2013 and commenced roll-out in October 2013 to all ABS EL staff via workshops in each ABS office. The number of managers now working with their staff through performance improvement plans has increased as a direct result of the program.
- The ABS Workplace Diversity Action Plan 2013–17 and the ABS Reconciliation Action Plan 2013–16 were implemented to recognise, support and enhance diversity in the ABS workforce and broader community.
- The ABS Agency Multicultural Plan 2013–15, setting out obligations for the organisation across different dimensions of multicultural access and equity policy, was developed and launched.
- The Business Centre was formed to quickly deploy staff into short-term funded projects across the ABS to support development of new and existing skills for staff, increase capability and allow for completion of short-term projects. This has enabled the development of best practice in creating a one-team culture for virtual teams, and increased flexible working across the ABS by having a pool of experienced staff who can be deployed on various projects, in various locations.
- A technological and cultural transformation towards blended learning, including integration of typical face-to-face training with learning interventions delivered through

electronic media, has been undertaken. Significant development and uptake in e-learning has enabled more flexible access, and reduced travel expenditure. In addition, ABS is supporting re-use through strategic links with other APS agencies to share e-learning content, for example privacy and social media.

- Leadership and support was provided for coordination of the Australian Public Service Commission capability review of the ABS.
- ABS's participation in the 2013 State of the Service Employee Census was managed, including reporting, analysis and the development of team action planning infrastructure to monitor and enhance staff engagement.
- The key performance indicators (KPIs) for the Executive Leadership Group and Senior Management Group were reviewed and aligned to the objectives in the ABS's Portfolio Budget Statement to help prepare the ABS for commencement of the *Public Governance, Accountability and Performance Act 2013*.
- Wellbeing@ABS, a comprehensive strategy for building and fostering a psychologically healthy and safe workplace, was launched.
- The ABS continued to take a strong lead role in statistical capability development in Asia and the Pacific region. Regional development programs include Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Myanmar, Seychelles, and a regional Pacific program covering 14 countries. In late 2013, the ABS completed a three-year program to strengthen Pacific statistics, the success of which should enable the signing of a further three-year Record of Understanding with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) commencing in 2015.

Methodology and Data Management

Analytical Services

The branch conducts R&D in data access, integration, confidentialisation and analysis methods for traditional and emerging data sources. It also supports business-as-usual (BAU) statistical production in the ABS through the provision of analytical products and methodological advice to subject matter areas. As part of its BAU support function, Analytical Services delivers specialist consultancy services to statistical users in other government agencies.

By providing analytical products and methodological advice, the branch contributes to the delivery and continued improvement of ABS statistical outputs. In particular, time series in seasonally adjusted and trend form are an important input to policy formation, decision making and research in government, academia and the private sector. The advancement of data access, integration and analysis methodologies underpins the creation of a richer, more dynamic and focused statistical picture of Australia for better informed decision making by government, business, academia and the Australian public. Dynamic data confidentialisation methods, especially those applied to microdata, are intended to provide robust protection for the confidentiality of information provided by individuals or businesses.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Advanced ABS capability in micro-simulation was achieved through joint work with Treasury on CAPITA, a new general purpose static tax-transfer micro-simulation model based on ABS data.
- New demographic methods for understanding inter-censal Indigenous and Torres Islander population estimates and improving future estimation were developed.
- New insights were delivered through econometric and statistical modelling of cross-sectional and longitudinal data—changes in individual labour force status over time; relationship between innovation and culture for productivity; household energy

consumption patterns; and the relationship between science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills, R&D expenditure, innovation and collaboration.

- Leading-edge disclosure avoidance techniques in TableBuilder and Data Analyser were developed and implemented, and improved methods and tools for confidentialising business survey data were evaluated.
- New methods and an innovative information platform for using linked employer–employee data in firm-level productivity analysis were developed, and new linked statistical datasets—the ACLD and Census–Settlements linked dataset—were created.
- Big data strategy and framework were developed and selected big data applications for official statistics were progressed.
- Work contributed to international projects that are developing common components for data linking, confidentiality, seasonal adjustment, and data analysis for official statistics.

Data Standards and Methods

The branch is responsible for promoting the comparability, integration and quality of ABS statistics, through the use of standard concepts, definitions, classifications and procedures. It is also responsible for the infrastructure used to hold key definitional metadata and to store statistical data from which ABS outputs are sourced. A key focus of the branch is the Statistical Metadata Transformation Program which will plan for the transformation of metadata into future ABS 2017 infrastructure

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Coherence of statistical metadata was improved through the promotion of corporate metadata.
- More international-based standards and classifications were utilised.
- Four publications relating to updated classifications and standards were released.
- Methodology architecture was developed to steer the development/adoption of statistical methods and tools to support ABS 2017.
- Governance framework and strategies were developed for managing ABS metadata, including concepts and classifications.
- ABS responses to the UNSD COICOP (United Nations Statistics Division Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose) review were co-ordinated and made.

Statistical Services

The branch provides specialist services to meet new and ongoing demands in official statistics. Much of the work has the goal of ensuring the methods underlying ABS outputs are based on sound, defensible statistical principles and are cost effective.

The branch has specific responsibilities for supporting statistical collection and production processes. It provides advice on and methods for the most efficient and effective ways of meeting information needs; on data quality, through all stages of the survey cycle; and undertakes research on statistical and operational research methods to improve the efficiency and reliability of ABS work.

The branch also aims to minimise the load on data providers through efficient data collection methods, sample designs, techniques to control sample overlap between surveys and, in the case of Australian business surveys, through reviews and approvals by the Australian Government Statistical Clearing House which is managed by the branch.

Key achievements in 2013–14

- Methodology for design of the new Freight Movement Survey was developed and integrated with the Survey of Motor Vehicle Usage.
- Standards were developed and assistance provided for the ABS implementation of web forms for business surveys and the Labour Force Survey.
- It was demonstrated that response rates could be lowered for the Labour Force Survey with minimal effects on the quality of the statistical outputs, thus delivering substantial savings in collection costs.
- The measurement of statistical impact from introducing web forms to the Labour Force Survey was concluded.
- Enhanced respondent engagement techniques in economic, labour and social surveys were developed and deployed.
- Unnecessary provider load was reduced or eliminated through effective implementation of the Statistical Clearing House policy.
- A modelling framework was developed to predict the number of field staff needed for the follow-up phase of the 2016 Census.
- A two-phase weighting methodology for dealing with missing data in a linked dataset was developed and evaluated.
- An inventory of 'Usage of administrative data sources for statistical purposes' was contributed to the international group on Methodologies for an Integrated Use of Administrative Data (MIAD) in the Statistical Process.

Chapter 6

National Statistical Service



Introduction

Official statistics are fundamental to good government, to the delivery of public services and to decision making in all sectors of society. In an increasingly complex and fast-moving world, Australia requires a contemporary national statistical system that can adapt and respond to growing information needs.

The National Statistical Service (NSS) is a community of government agencies working to build a rich statistical picture in order to better inform Australia. The NSS embraces all levels of government, and includes all official bodies involved in the production and use of official statistical assets. The NSS exists as part of a broader Australian statistical system. The Australian statistical system includes all users and producers of statistics in non-government sectors such as businesses, not-for-profit organisations, research institutions and members of the Australian public, as well as users and producers in government bodies at all levels of government.

The National Statistical Service Leadership Section program provides a focus within the ABS for strategies aimed at strengthening and extending the NSS. The State and Territory Statistical Services (STSS) program delivered by the ABS helps deliver on NSS objectives through collaboration on statistical priorities and emerging issues with state and territory governments and with communities.

Objectives of the NSS

The NSS aims to improve the quality and usefulness of official statistical assets. Its objectives are:

- optimising and improving Australia's essential statistical assets for evidence-based policy development, evaluation and research
- improved and more effective statistical infrastructure and services
- increasing the statistical capabilities of producers and users of statistics.

Elements of the NSS

There are four essential elements of a successful NSS: valuing statistics; statistical capability; statistical infrastructure; and statistical content. The NSS outcomes for each element are:

- Valuing statistics: governments and the community value and support high-integrity information
- Statistical capability: producers and users are able to manage data, make it accessible and use it well
- Statistical infrastructure: statistical standards, policies and tools are shared to maximise the value of investment, reduce provider load and support integrated statistics
- Statistical content: public information sources are fully used to provide a statistical picture of the economy, society and the environment.

National Statistical Service initiatives

Over the course of 2013–14 the ABS has undertaken a range of activities to expand and improve the NSS including the progression of the Essential Statistical Assets (ESA) for Australia initiative, submission to the Commission of Audit, and the GovHack competition.

Valuing statistics

Strategic engagement with NSS stakeholders

Recognising that enduring partnerships are crucial to building a strong NSS, the ABS has continued a program of strategic engagement and staff outposts with key stakeholders to build recognition of the value of high integrity statistical information.

Activities undertaken as part of this program include bilateral discussions with Commonwealth and state and territory governments, as well as increasing the strategic focus and coordination of existing forums. In addition to developing strong relationships with NSS partners, these engagement activities have led to the identification of opportunities for increased collaboration and progression of NSS priorities across government, for example, the ESA initiative (outlined further in the Statistical Content section of this chapter).

During 2013–14 outposted officers were actively involved in strategic engagement roles in host agencies at the state and Commonwealth level. Outposted officers support and facilitate collaboration between the ABS and their host agency to progress a range of NSS priorities, such as the consultation process for the Essential Statistical Infrastructure (ESI) project. Outposted officers have also been instrumental in developing networks of data users and producers in host agencies, as well as supporting senior level bilateral engagement activities with the ABS.

Statistical governance

Australian Statistics Advisory Council

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) is the ABS's key advisory body and has a diverse membership covering government, business, academic and community interests. ASAC provides valuable input to the directions and priorities of the ABS work program, including statistical capability, and reports annually to Parliament. During 2013–14 ASAC was widely involved in the ABS's statistical infrastructure transformation program and the ESA initiative. In addition, ASAC was consulted on the preparations for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing including the topics for the 2016 Census and the broad directions for the 2016 Census Data Enhancement program. Consistent with their legislated mandate, the Council was also briefed on a range of strategic directions for the ABS work program. ASAC continued to progress its plans to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Australia's official statistics with further work undertaken to develop a forward-looking national statistics policy.

For more information about ASAC, please refer to the ASAC Annual Report available at <http://www.asac.gov.au>.

State Statistical Forum

Each year the ABS hosts two meetings of the State Statistical Forum (SSF) at which senior members of the ABS and state and territory governments come together to discuss their statistical priorities. The STSS program delivered by the ABS provides support for SSF representatives to progress projects of benefit to all state and territory governments. During 2013–14 the SSF focused on the development of a national statistics policy and explored opportunities for cross-jurisdictional collaboration on the previously agreed priority areas of building statistical capability, statistical data integration and measuring disadvantage.

Watching briefs, reporting on significant activities within the jurisdictions, were also in place for performance reporting, local level economic data and spatially enabling data.

Australian Government Statistical Forum

The Australian Government Statistical Forum (AGSF) brings together senior staff of Australian government agencies who are important partners in the NSS. The forum aims to promote NSS initiatives among agencies, identify and promote partnerships and collaborations, and encourage best practice in data collection and management. The AGSF meets biannually to discuss key national and international statistical developments. During 2013–14 the meetings considered a number of issues and initiatives around the themes of Statistical Data Integration, and Information Management Strategies.

Arrangements for data integration involving Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes

Australian Government administrative data is a valuable public asset and is increasingly being recognised as a strategic resource with a wider statistical use in supporting research, discussion and decision making. The integration of datasets creates an important opportunity to expand the range of official statistics to better inform decisions to improve social, economic and environmental wellbeing in Australian society. Data integration maximises use of data that is already available, so it is a cost-effective and timely way of gathering information which enhances the evidence base for research and evaluation.

While the benefits are clear, data integration also needs to protect the privacy of individuals and organisations. Consistent governance, methods, policies and protocols around data integration are important protections, whilst maximising the usefulness of the data. In 2010 the Commonwealth Portfolio Secretaries (now the Secretaries Board) endorsed the *High Level Principles for Data Integration Involving Commonwealth Data for Statistical and Research Purposes* and a set of institutional and governance arrangements to support them. These documents provide the framework for an Australian Government approach to facilitate linkage of social, economic and environmental data for statistical and research purposes in a safe and effective environment.

As Secretariat for the Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board (Oversight Board), the ABS has continued its NSS leadership role in promoting the establishment of a safe and effective environment for data integration. The Oversight Board, established as part of the governance arrangements, is chaired by the Australian Statistician and includes Secretaries from the Commonwealth Departments of Health, Social Services and Human Services. During 2013–14 the Oversight Board met three times to progress the development of Commonwealth arrangements including scope, risk and other strategic priorities. Due to the strategic nature of the issues, a deputy secretary-level group—the Deputy Secretaries Discussion Group—was convened to provide recommendations to the Oversight Board on these matters.

Key achievements in 2013–14:

- In July 2013 a Data Linking Information Series was published on the NSS website, providing a simplified overview of the technical aspects of data linking.
- In December 2013 *Data integration involving Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes: risk assessment guidelines* (December 2013) was released on the NSS website.
- In April 2014 the Oversight Board endorsed a strategy to commence a progressive implementation of the Commonwealth arrangements from 1 July 2014. The immediate implementation priority is to operationalise and finalise the Commonwealth arrangements as they relate to external projects.

- Numerous presentations to government and nongovernment stakeholders were given at conferences and seminars across Australia to communicate information about the governance arrangements for data integration involving Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes.
- Significant progress was achieved on a key deliverable of the governance and institutional arrangements—a set of guidelines for data integration projects involving Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes. The Cross Portfolio Reference Group developed the details of the Commonwealth arrangements described in the guidelines which are to be disseminated publicly in the new financial year once endorsed by the Oversight Board.

International Year of Statistics 2013

The ABS has been providing Australians with the high quality statistics necessary for informed decision making for over 100 years. ABS were proud supporters of the 2013 International Year of Statistics (IYOS) which celebrated the important role statistics play in building a better nation for all Australians, and for people in other countries.

Throughout this year-long celebration, hundreds of participating organisations around the world banded together to:

- increase public awareness of the power and impact of statistics on all aspects of society
- nurture statistics as a profession, especially among high-school and college students
- promote creativity and development in the sciences of probability and statistics.

As noted in last year's *Annual report*, the ABS coordinated a number of events in 2013 to support the International Year of Statistics, including sponsoring the national phase of the International Statistical Literacy Project Poster Competition. The releases of ABS flagship publications including *Measures of Australia's Progress* and *Essential Statistical Assets for Australia* also reinforced the objectives of the event.

IYOS was a highly successful campaign throughout the world. To support the ongoing recognition of the role of statistics, IYOS has now been succeeded by a continuing initiative, The World of Statistics. The ABS is supporting this initiative to continue celebrating the important role statistics play in building a better nation for all Australians.

GovHack

GovHack provides a high profile opportunity to highlight the role of all government agencies in supporting data sharing of public administrative assets—a key National Statistical Service priority.

GovHack enabled the ABS to promote the use of ABS.Stat datasets to developers, for them to experiment with government data and come up with innovative and new applications for that data.

Participants had the opportunity to develop outcomes using ABS data available through ABS.Stat in competing for awards directly sponsored by the ABS. ABS.Stat was also one of the official datasets promoted for use in the event.

There were over 40 highly creative and innovative entries submitted. Open data was presented by data visualisations, mash-ups and pooled with other official datasets to present engaging applications and tell statistical stories for the Australian community.

The first award went to Crothead (by 3M3 in Hobart), who produced an application which allows users to enter profile areas using a categorisation they have produced from ABS's National Regional Profile Data. The second award went to Australia In Review (by Atomic 51 in Perth), which provides a view of Australia's history, using multiple styles to present the data.

Building on successful involvement in the 2013 event, the ABS is once again a Gold Sponsor of the GovHack 2014 event, held around Australia in July 2014.

Crisp Revisited project

Throughout 2013–14 the ABS has been working with stakeholders across the Australian government, and state and territory governments, on the ‘Crisp Revisited’ project, which aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the national statistical system, address concerns about a lack of coordination and collaboration, and resolve problems such as duplication of data collection across various agencies at all levels of government, and a lack of statistical coherence and comparability. These concerns are similar to those the Committee on Integration of Data Systems (headed by Professor Leslie Finlay Crisp) raised in its 1974 report, hence the name ‘Crisp Revisited.’ The project consists of four streams of work:

1. developing a National Statistics Policy
2. undertaking a situational analysis of the national statistical system
3. working with stakeholders to document key learnings from existing or new information-related initiatives
4. developing a business case for reforming the national statistical system.

The ABS, in collaboration with a range of stakeholders across the official statistical system, has made good progress on a draft National Statistical Policy, which sets goals for the national statistical system, includes principles for official statistics, and articulates roles and responsibilities for statistical producers, data custodians and statistical users. The ABS intends to finalise the draft National Statistical Policy in 2014–15.

The information gathered through documenting key learnings from new or existing information-related initiatives, and the findings of the situational analysis, will inform the business case for reforming the national statistical system. The ABS will work with stakeholders in 2014–15 to develop the business case, which is expected to set out what governance arrangements, institutional arrangements, and other resources are needed to better coordinate the national statistical system.

Statistical capability

National Statistical Service Seminars

The NSS hosts a series of free seminars each year, held in Canberra and broadcast live to state offices. These seminars cover topics which are of interest to the NSS community. The NSS Seminars are aimed at audiences of non-statistical backgrounds and aim to build statistical capability via interactive, participatory presentations.

In 2013–14, the NSS held 10 informative seminars led by internal ABS staff and external presenters on topics which included:

- Testing ideas: using longitudinal data to move beyond exploratory research
- ABS.Stat—data engagement
- Making informed decisions and better policy—why visualisation helps us
- Land and Ecosystem Accounts
- Measures of Australia’s Progress
- Essential Statistical Assets for Australia
- Providing an information base for the Murray Darling Basin Plan
- Dissemination in the ABS: TableBuilder
- Opening data for a more effective and efficient public service
- Australian Business Register (ABR) Information—supporting government decision making.

All seminars were recorded and are available for viewing on the NSS website.

Statistical Capability Framework

During 2013–14 the ABS developed version 1.0 of a Statistical Capability Framework—which describes what it means for someone to be statistically capable—for consideration nationally and internationally as a standard. The Framework forms a key part of the infrastructure being implemented to transform the ABS approach to building statistical capability and realise the vision of a more statistically capable workforce, society and region.

The ‘common language’ that is provided by the Framework will be a foundational element that allows for greater integration of statistical capability development effort across the ABS, and with ABS’s partners. The Framework also provides the basis for more focused discussions on priority statistical capability development needs, and guides decisions on where statistical capability development efforts should be directed to achieve desired outcomes. An ABS discussion paper which will outline the content and benefits of the Framework is scheduled for release during 2014–15.

Australian Community Indicators Network

Since the turn of the century there has been strong and growing interest in community indicators across governments and communities at all levels. The Australian Community Indicators Network (ACIN), established in 2010, is a group of professionals working together to build a national dialogue and knowledge base across community indicator policy, research and practice. With the support of the ABS, the ACIN has continued to hold biannual national seminars to share information on community indicator development and applications. The seminars are well attended, attracting in excess of 80 attendees and with representation from all tiers of government, academia and interested individuals. The first ACIN for 2013–14 featured three presentations on health-related community indicator research projects at national and local levels.

Further information about these and previous ACIN seminars is available on the NSS website.

ABS officer outposts

The ABS Outposted Officer program strengthens the NSS through developing statistical capability, and increasing coordination within host agencies.

Outposted officers undertook a range of activities in 2013–14 to provide statistical support for specific projects or policy initiatives that are a high priority within the host agency and to build statistical capability in government agencies, including providing advice on data quality issues across administrative data assets, confidentiality and data release policies.

Policy visualisation

The ABS is part of the Australian Government-led initiative, the Policy Visualisation Network. The purpose of this network is to bring policy makers and designers together to explore how government departments and agencies can make more use of visualisation techniques to feed into evidence-informed policy making and evaluation. The Policy Visualisation Network met for the third time in 2013–14, hosted by the ABS.

There was also an NSS seminar in 2013–14 on data visualisation, ‘Making informed decisions and better policy—why visualisation helps us’. A new data visualisation page was established on the NSS website in 2013–14, covering ABS data visualisation initiatives and other data visualisation links and resources.

Statistical infrastructure

Statistical Spatial Framework

The ABS has worked with international and NSS partners to develop a Statistical Spatial Framework that uses agreed geospatial infrastructure and methodologies to consistently geospatially enable socioeconomic information.

International interest in a global statistical-geospatial framework

The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) requested ABS to conduct a program review of National Statistical Organisations' geospatial activities. In 2013, the UNSC and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) both considered this program review and accepted its recommendations to develop better linkages between geospatial and statistical communities, and to develop a global statistical-geospatial framework based on the ABS Statistical Spatial Framework. Both UN bodies agreed to establish a UN Experts Group and conduct an international conference to pursue these aims.

The ABS co-chaired the first meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (UN EG-ISGI), which was held in New York from 30 October to 1 November 2013. There was good representation at the meeting with 24 delegates from 16 countries from both geospatial and statistical communities. The terms of reference for the Expert Group, agreed to at the first meeting, included:

- to provide a forum for both statistical and geospatial communities with a view to developing a global statistical-geospatial framework as a standard for the integration of statistical and geospatial information
- to propose workplans and guidelines to advance the implementation of a global statistical-geospatial framework
- to address various technical, institutional and information policy issues related to the implementation of a global statistical-geospatial framework, especially issues related to confidentiality
- to pursue the implementation of the statistical-geospatial framework in the 2020 round of censuses with the understanding that it would apply to other initiatives.

Statistical Spatial Framework domestic engagement

In March 2014 the ABS held a Statistical Spatial Framework workshop with key Australian Government agencies who are custodians of socio-economic statistics. Participating agencies shared their experiences in geospatially enabling their own statistics and their uses for geospatial information. A number of common issues and themes were discussed and this information will be used to further enhance and develop the content of the Framework. The attendees provided support for the Statistical Spatial Framework, in particular the use of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) as a common geography through which data from disparate sources could be integrated for analysis, research and reporting purposes.

Statistical Spatial Framework guidance material

During 2013–14 three papers containing guidance material for the Statistical Spatial Framework were released on the Statistical Spatial Framework web page on the NSS website:

- *Using Geographic Boundaries and Classifications with Statistics* provides guidance on the basic principles of spatially enabling data and using geographic classifications, as well as providing specific guidance on adding geographic information to data and converting data across different regions.

- *Privacy and Confidentiality Risks with Geospatially Enabled Statistics*: Geographic Differencing provides guidance for custodians of geospatially enabled socio-economic data on privacy and confidentiality risks and management, particularly in relation to risks that arise from geographic differencing of regional data. This paper strongly references the confidentiality advice provided in the National Statistical Service Confidentiality Information Series.
- *Geocoding Unit Record Data Using Address and Location* provides guidance to data custodians wishing to geospatially enable their data through geocoding, or seeking to improve their practices in this area.

Data integration involving Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes

Throughout the past twelve months the ABS has been successful in leading and facilitating a range of data integration projects which are listed on the NSS website.

Statistical data integration infrastructure is an important part of the implementation of the work that ensures governments and the community value the role of data integration. A specific example of data integration infrastructure is the *Data Integration Involving Commonwealth Data for Statistical and Research Purposes: Risk Assessment Guidelines* (December 2013), which was released on the NSS website in December 2013. This risk assessment framework provides a guide to assess the risk of a breach which would result in an unauthorised disclosure of personal or business information. It also assesses any risk that the public trust of the Australian Government will be reduced by such a breach or through a negative public perception of a project. This is an important tool to assist Commonwealth agencies to determine whether a data integration project should proceed and whether an accredited Integrating Authority is required to manage the project. The risk assessment framework describes a two-stage process that assesses the risk of the data integration project against criteria agreed by the Oversight Board. The first stage (the pre-mitigation risk assessment) identifies and rates the elements of risk presented by the project. The second stage assesses the residual risk after accounting for risk mitigation strategies (the post-mitigation risk assessment). If the project risk is high after mitigation then the project must be managed by an accredited Integrating Authority.

One of the requirements of the governance and institutional arrangements is to develop a comprehensive set of guidelines describing best practice for data integration projects involving Commonwealth data. The Cross Portfolio Reference Group has developed the details of the Commonwealth arrangements described in the guidelines which will be disseminated publicly in the new financial year, once endorsed by the Oversight Board. The guidelines have been developed on Govspace, a web-based platform, and will also be accessible through a link on the NSS website.

Statistical Clearing House

The Statistical Clearing House (SCH) was established in response to a recommendation in 1996 by the Small Business Deregulation Task Force. A central clearance process was established for business surveys conducted by the Australian Government to ensure that surveys are necessary, well designed and place minimum burden on business respondents. All surveys conducted by, or on behalf of, any Australian Government agency (including the ABS) and directed to business, are subject to clearance by the SCH. In view of its statistical expertise and statutory coordination role, the ABS is empowered to administer this clearance process.

The SCH pays particular attention to eliminating duplication and ensuring that business surveys conducted by Australian Government agencies follow sound statistical methodologies and practices. In 2013–14 there were 116 surveys submitted to the SCH for clearance. Of these, 65 were in scope for SCH review, 30 were out of scope,

14 were classified as 'In scope—not to be reviewed' and 7 were cancelled by agencies after submission. Of the 65 surveys in scope, 42 were approved and 23 were in various stages of review at the end of June 2014. Overall, 60 surveys were approved in 2013–14, including 18 surveys submitted in the previous financial year. Surveys categorised as 'In scope—not to be reviewed' are those where the respondent burden is minimal and total time taken to complete the survey is considered low.

The SCH is a successful NSS initiative in improving statistical coordination and reducing provider burden. During the 2013–14 year the SCH has undertaken a review of its processes, procedures and documentation. Implementation of the outcomes is planned in 2014–15; this includes:

- changes to the Scoping and Information Templates to assist survey managers improve their understanding of the information required by the SCH to complete a survey review
- the development of brief survey practice guidelines to assist survey managers to make decisions about various aspects of the survey planning process.

Through focused engagement with key clients, the SCH has strengthened relationships resulting in proactive management of business surveys, better understanding of client business requirements and time frames, and improved responsiveness.

Statistical content

Open data

In the last decade, open data has become a strong movement internationally. Freely and easily accessible data for reuse within Australia has become more prominent within the last few years, particularly seen through the Commonwealth website data.gov.au and its state counterparts (for example, data.gov.vic.au).

The website data.gov.au aims to provide an easy way to find, access and reuse public datasets from Australian Government agencies and departments. Currently data.gov.au holds data from 129 organisations, 3,424 datasets and 14,393 data files. The main purposes of the site are to provide access to this data, and provide it in useful formats under open licences.

In 2013–14 ABS worked collaboratively with data.gov.au, including sharing information with other organisations and the public about the open data landscape through the NSS seminar 'Opening data for a more effective and efficient public service', and contributing ABS data through the data.gov.au portal.

Essential Statistical Assets for Australia

Phase 1

In November 2010 ASAC endorsed the ABS, as part of its legislated role to coordinate the provision of official statistics across the NSS, to 'set out to identify, in a highly consultative way, the Essential Statistical Assets for Australia, regardless of which organisations produce them'.

After an extensive consultation process ABS released the 2013 *List of Essential Statistical Assets for Australia*, which represents the first holistic assessment of the most essential statistics to meet current user requirements undertaken in Australia. The list was released in the publication *Essential Statistical Assets for Australia* (ABS cat. no. 1395.0) in March 2013.

Phase 2

Phase 2 of the project, quality assessment, commenced in mid-2013. This process will provide a more in-depth consideration of the 2013 list of Australia's essential statistical assets in order to understand how well the currently produced information meets the critical needs of users, highlighting gaps within existing statistics and identifying areas for future investment.

Phase 2 also aims to produce overarching quality assessments for each of the 74 essential statistical assets identified on the 2013 ESA list, using information about the quality of the contributing datasets. The Phase 2 quality assessment process is based on the ABS Data Quality Framework and data quality will be assessed for the purpose of ESA.

As at June 2014 quality consultations had been completed for 97% of ABS datasets and 92% of non-ABS datasets on the ESA list. The initial scoring process had been applied to 89% of all datasets; aggregated results for the 74 statistics are expected to be released late in 2014.

Phase 3

During 2013–14 the ABS also initiated work to support the identification of Australia's Essential Statistical Infrastructure (ESI), Phase 3 of the ESA for Australia initiative. The underlying statistical infrastructure used to support the generation of datasets and their resulting statistics represent a critical component of Australia's statistical system, and a potential area for government investment in order to improve the overall quality of the statistics produced.

The ABS consulted with a range of stakeholders across Australian governments in the development of a statistical infrastructure framework, and to establish an appropriate mechanism to undertake the identification process of the broad, complex and inter-linked range of infrastructure involved in the production and release of official statistical information.

There was widespread acknowledgement of the importance of the initiative and support for its ongoing development. The ABS intends to release the outcomes of this next development stage during 2014–15 following further work involving key stakeholders.

Phase 4

During 2013–14 ASAC has worked closely with the ABS to progress the ESA initiative and consider priorities for investment in the statistical system. ASAC has also recognised the importance of reforming the national statistical system in order to better identify areas for investment. ASAC is continuing to work with the ABS and other relevant stakeholders to determine possible solutions to address existing barriers to an efficient and effective Australian statistical system.

It should be recognised that the allocation of resources to support investments in response to the identification of priorities remains with the respective data custodian agencies. Given the limited resources generally available, the ability of an agency to invest in the priorities identified will rely on the respective agency's prioritisation of investment in statistical assets and infrastructure in relation to other obligations, including the broad investment priorities of government.

Chapter 7

International engagement



Introduction

ABS's international role is mandated by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, section 6(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'.

International engagement is a key area of ABS work and it is important for a number of reasons. The ABS shapes, influences and leads the development of international statistical standards in order to enhance Australia's international comparability, and improve the utility of international statistics for Australian decision makers across economic, environmental, population and social spheres. ABS international engagement helps make the global statistical picture more reliable, increasing the availability of credible statistics to inform the full spectrum of Australian Government and business policy and decision making.

The ABS International Relations Strategy guides the work of the organisation, supporting a more holistic approach to ABS's international work, ensuring alignment to broader government priorities, and promoting closer relations with countries in Asia and the Pacific region. The strategy supports emerging statistical areas and recognises the need to partner with other countries to build statistical standards, capability and infrastructure.

The goals of the ABS International Relations Strategy are:

- to shape, influence and lead the development of international statistical standards obtaining international agreement on frameworks, strategies and policies to set the direction for the future
- to collaborate with international organisations to develop a shared set of infrastructure such as tools, methods and systems, and collaborate on best practice to ensure that ABS remains a world-class statistical organisation
- to build capability in developing National Statistical Offices (NSOs), particularly in the Asia and the Pacific region, to improve statistical systems and standards to support information for decision-making; as well as building regional capacity of Asia and the Pacific region to take a stronger leadership role in influencing standards in the international community.

During 2013–14 the ABS continued building capability in Asia and the Pacific region and leading work in statistical standards and methodology within the global statistical community. ABS executive and senior personnel chaired and participated in key international committees and working groups, providing leadership, influencing global standards and assisting regional outcomes.

The ABS also worked in close partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to deliver statistical capability development programs in Indonesia, Timor Leste, the Pacific region and the Seychelles. Under these programs, ABS officers conducted capability development training in both NSOs and in ABS Australian offices. In the past twelve months, the ABS also hosted 10 International Development and Study visits to Australia, from countries including China, Mongolia, Samoa, Thailand, Canada, the Philippines, Myanmar and Singapore.

Key achievements in 2013–14

Developments to shape and influence international discussions regarding statistical frameworks and policies

The growing importance of comparable regional data in the global economy is driving increasing demand to produce high quality, timely and consistent statistics. In recent years the Australian Statistician has taken a lead role in the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services (HLG) which was set up by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians in 2010 to oversee and coordinate international work relating to the development of enterprise architectures within statistical organisations.

The High-Level Group work program and supporting governance arrangements have recently been refreshed. The ABS is represented on the executive board, all four modernisation committees, and six sub-committees developing shareable infrastructure or services. Under the HLG, a number of common reference architectures for modernisation were developed and released.

To complement this work, for the past two years the ABS has led an international collaboration initiative—the Statistical Network—with representatives of NSOs from Canada, Sweden, Norway, United Kingdom, New Zealand and Italy.

The Network's intention is to harmonise statistical methods, systems and capabilities across international statistical institutions. Combining resources and effort to develop these projects will ensure that NSOs can benefit from the work done by the Network while incurring lower overall costs. Business architecture is now largely agreed and an Information Architecture project has been initiated.

UN Statistical Commission—UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Over the past year the ABS played an active role in the promotion of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics through the United Nations Statistical Commission's (UNSC) Friends of the Chair Group. The Fundamental Principles guides the production and dissemination of official statistics around the globe.

On 29 January 2014 the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the United Nations Statistics Division's (UNSD) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Australia, via the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was co-sponsor of the resolution.

UN Statistical Commission—Friends of the Chair on Broader Measures of Progress

The ABS is a member of the UNSC Friends of the Chair on Broader Measures of Progress. As agreed at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, the UNSC has been asked to consider broader measures of progress in the context of global discussions about the post-2015 development agenda as well as the sustainable development agenda. The ABS contributed to the UNSC Program Review and the development of papers for the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda Open Working Groups. The ABS is a member of the DFAT-led Commonwealth Inter Departmental Committee for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

International Statistical Information System Collaboration Community

ABS involvement strongly influenced the International Statistical Information System Collaboration Community with the five year .Stat strategic plan, including its governance and funding models. Ongoing collaboration with OECD, National Institute of Statistics, Italy (iSTAT)

and Statistics New Zealand (SNZ) on the development of the .Stat product has delivered improvements, including a more reliable service to external users, and lower installation costs.

Other ABS international achievements in 2013–14 include:

- contributing to an inventory of ‘Usage of administrative data sources for statistical purposes’ for the international group on Methodologies for an Integrated Use of Administrative Data (MIAD) in the statistical process
- attendance and contributions at various international conferences on agricultural statistics and business registers, including continued membership of the UNSD task force on business registers, and contribution of a draft chapter on coverage for the UNSD *Manual of Business Registers*
- a significant contribution to the UN System of Environmental and Economic Accounting: Applications and Extensions (SEEA–EA), and contributing papers to the London Group on Environmental Accounting
- participation in two OECD Working Parties: i) National Experts for Science and Technology Indicators and ii) Indicators for the Information Society
- creation of a Chief Methodologists Network comprising top methodologists from 12 countries
- contributions to the International Expert Group on Big Data for Official Statistics
- chairing the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe task force on Time Use Statistics and contributing to the publication *Guidelines for Harmonizing Time-Use Surveys*
- contributing to the development and assessment of the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) through the World Health Organisation Mortality Topic Advisory Group. The ICD is critical to the production of Australian health information as it underpins the classification of both mortality and morbidity data
- co-chairing the first meeting of the UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG–ISGI) in New York—working towards establishing a global geospatial-statistical framework based on the ABS-developed Statistical Spatial Framework (SSF).

Building strong statistical capacity and capability internationally, particularly within Asia and the Pacific Region

The ABS continued to take a strong lead in statistical capability development in Asia and the Pacific region, through high level participation on international and regional committees, and delivering programs in close partnership with international organisations and DFAT. Current DFAT-funded statistical development programs include Indonesia, Timor Leste, Myanmar, Seychelles, and a regional Pacific program covering 14 countries.

UN–ESCAP Technical Advisory Group on Population and Social Statistics

The ABS co-chaired a United Nations Economic and Social Committee for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Technical Advisory Group on Population and Social Statistics which is advising the ESCAP Committee on Statistics on its 2020 vision for all countries in the Asia and Pacific region (including Australia) to have the capacity to deliver a core set of population, social, economic and environment statistics. The Committee on Statistics has endorsed what the core set of population and social statistics should be, and during 2013–14 the Advisory Group is undertaking a regional assessment of capacity to produce the core set.

The ABS also played a key role in securing support for a resolution by ESCAP for a regional approach to strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems particularly in developing countries. This resolution resulted in the development of a regional action framework and support for a Ministerial conference in November 2014 on the importance of

CRVS improvement. The ABS represents the Australian Government on the Regional Steering Group overseeing the finalisation and promotion of this framework.

UN Statistics Institute of Asia and the Pacific

The ABS a member of the Governing Council of the UN Statistics Institute of Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) which meets annually, and also a member of the Friends of the Chair group which will report to ESCAP on strategic directions for SIAP for the next five years.

World Bank Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services

The World Bank is implementing a global partnership on Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) aimed at implementing green accounting in a critical mass of countries both developed and developing. The ABS was represented on the WAVES Policy and Technical Expert Committee during 2013.

The ABS is supporting WAVES work for South-East Asian partner and participant countries through a DFAT-funded program. While the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia are the immediate focus of work in the region, certain activities, such as regional workshops, could include other regional countries. The objective is to have participant countries compiling environmental-economic accounts based on the System of Environmental and Economic Accounts (SEEA) framework. In turn, participant countries will be able to contribute to the development of environmental-economic accounts in other countries in the region.

Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics

The Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) is an important regional forum for sharing and discussion on issues relating to improving agricultural and food statistics including developments under the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, which ABS was involved in developing. Senior ABS staff attended the Twenty-Fifth Session of APCAS in Vientiane (Lao People's Democratic Republic) in February 2014 where the ABS presented on land management statistics.

Indonesia Program

The ABS is in year two of a three year DFAT-funded Record of Understanding (2013–2015) to build statistical capability in Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS), Indonesia's National Statistics Office. This program builds on the long standing, mature relationship between the ABS and BPS and links closely to the broader, whole-of-Indonesian government reform agenda. The focus of the technical assistance is improvement of statistical methods, strengthening statistical infrastructure and meeting international standards for core macroeconomic data. In addition to statistical technical assistance, the program also provides statistical leadership and capability development for senior BPS management. Key areas of support in 2013–14 have included:

- building capability across National Accounts to meet the 2008 System of National Accounts
- guiding development of an Integrated Business Register
- strengthening Producer Price Indexes
- assisting with website, dissemination and data management.

Pacific Program

Following the completion of a three year DFAT program of assistance to the Pacific region (2011–13) under the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) Action Plan, in 2014 the ABS signed a one year Record of Understanding with DFAT to continue to build statistical

capability in the Pacific Region. In 2013–14 the ABS focused on the following key areas of support:

- leadership and institutional strengthening—mentoring and supporting the Government Statisticians of Pacific NSOs
- statistical capacity development in key statistical areas such as CRVS, the standardised Pacific Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), and a regional training program for government finance statistics (GFS)
- providing leadership to the Pacific International Comparison Program to calculate purchasing power parities
- publishing a joint ABS/Secretariat of Pacific Community *Pacific Business Register Development Guide*
- supporting improved ICT capability in Pacific NSOs through support for the Pacific ICT Working Group, and working with the University of the South Pacific (USP) to develop a course on ICT management in Pacific NSOs
- working with donors and stakeholders to shape the future of Pacific statistics through bi-annual Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC) meetings, and design workshops to determine the next phase (2015–17) of TYPSS.

Timor Leste Program

In October 2013 the ABS signed a Technical Partnership Agreement with the Directorate General of Statistics (DGS) in Timor Leste as a part of a four year program of technical assistance to support statistical capacity building. This program began in March 2014. The ABS has already made a significant contribution, through missions and technical assistance, to the compilation of the Timor Leste Consumer Price Index (CPI), undertaking a business activity survey, and developing NSO staff capabilities.

The Statistical Capability and Capacity Development (SCCD) program is part of a larger DFAT Governance for Development program, which is fundamental to governance and long-term capability building in Timor Leste. The ABS program will build capability and capacity of the Timor Leste NSO through four key pillars:

- Governance and Institutional Building
- Investment in Human Capital
- Effective Technical Support
- Program Management and Impact.

Seychelles

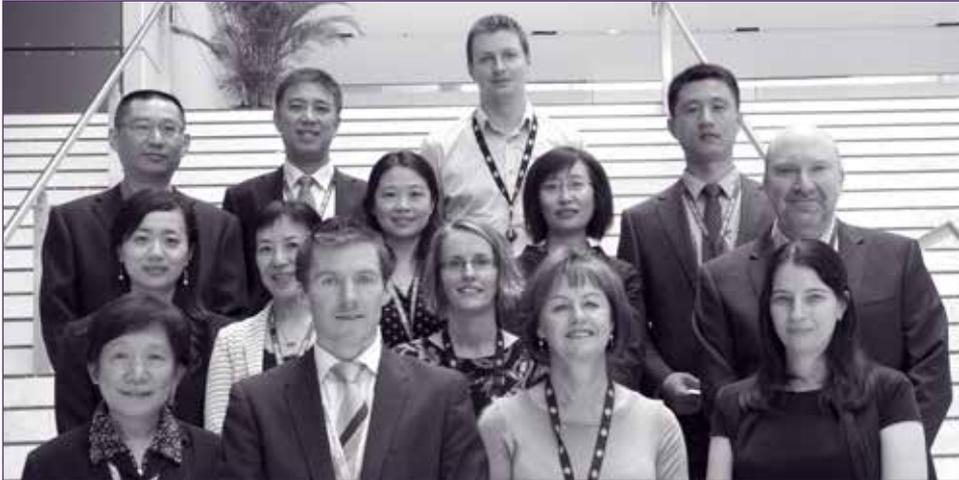
Following a request for support from the Seychelles Government to DFAT, the ABS conducted a scoping mission and subsequently out-posted a senior ABS officer for 12 months to the Seychelles National Bureau of Statistics. The objective of this placement was to increase the capacity of the Seychelles National Bureau of Statistics to produce key economic statistics, with a focus on the improvements required to meet International Monetary Fund (IMF) Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) by 2015.

Myanmar

During 2013–14 the ABS sent two missions to Myanmar to assist with their upcoming Census of Population and Housing—the first in the country for thirty years. The ABS is a member of the International Technical Advisory Board (ITAB) which provided strategies and advice to Myanmar on the implementation of the Census. The ITAB was established in 2012 to provide internationally recognised technical expertise and assist the Myanmar Government to successfully implement its 2014 Census in compliance with international standards.

International development study visits

The ABS receives many approaches for international study, development and technical visits from other countries, particularly countries in Asia. These visits are supported by staff from various statistical areas and provide an opportunity for discussion on the challenges and lessons learned in developing statistical standards and methodology.



Visit to the Australian Bureau of Statistics from Chinese Delegation, E-Census, Canberra 13-15 November 2013

*Front row left to right: Hu Ying, Duncan Young, Sue Taylor, Chris Lucas
Middle row: Li Yangwei, Xu Lan, Yan Fang, Linda Fardell, Cui Hongyan, Ken Smith
Back row: Gao Qing, Wu Chao, Sean Crick, Zhang Chunzhen.*

Table 7.1 International development visits 2013–14

Date	International development study visit	Topic	Location
23–27 September 2013	Myanmar Planning Department and Central Statistical Organisation	National Accounts	Canberra
7–11 October 2013	Philippines National Statistics Office, World Bank	Business Register	Melbourne
13–15 November 2013	China National Bureau of Statistics, UNICEF and Shanghai Bureau of Statistics	E-Census	Canberra
21–22 November 2013	Statistics Singapore	National Accounts	Canberra
10 December 2013	Statistics Canada	Microsimulation	Canberra
3–5 February 2014	Bank of Thailand	Financial Accounts and Sectoral Balance Sheets	Canberra
11–14 March 2014	Secretariat of the Pacific Community	Household Income and Expenditure	Canberra
12 March 2014	Statistics Canada	International Cooperation	Canberra
17–28 March 2014	Samoa Bureau of Statistics	Water Accounts	Canberra
23–24 June 2014	National Statistical Office of Mongolia	National Accounts and Environmental Accounts	Canberra

International positions held by ABS officers

The ABS is an active participant in a wide range of multilateral meetings and committees. During 2013–14 the ABS continued to develop knowledge and share expertise, contributing to the development of statistical frameworks and methods. Our strong relationship with the United Nations Statistical Commission, of which the Australian Statistician has been the Vice-Chair, continues to benefit both the global statistical system and our ability to deliver the best possible information for Australia's own needs.

Table 7.2 International positions held by ABS officers in 2013–14

Name	Position	Organisation/committee
Jonathan Palmer <i>A/g Australian Statistician</i> (Brian Pink, up until January 2014)	Vice-Chair	United Nations Statistical Commission
	Member	OECD Committee on Statistics
	Member	Statistics Committee, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
	Member	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Conference of European Statisticians (Trevor Sutton in caretaker role)
	Member	High-Level Group on Strategic Development in Business Architecture for Statistics (Trevor Sutton in caretaker role)
	Member	UN/ESCAP Expert Group on Opportunities and Advantages of Enhanced Collaboration on Statistical Information Management in Asia and the Pacific (Trevor Sutton in caretaker role)
Peter Harper <i>Deputy Australian Statistician</i> Population, Labour & Social Statistics Group (PLaSS)	Chair	Commonwealth Conference of Statisticians
	Vice-Chair	Civil Registrations and Vital Statistics in Asia-Pacific Taskforce
Ian Ewing <i>Deputy Australian Statistician</i> Economic & Environment Statistics Group (EESG)	Chair	United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting
	Member	Executive Board of the International Comparisons Program
Trevor Sutton <i>Deputy Australian Statistician</i> ABS 2017 Group	Member	Global Burden of Disease
	Member	Strategic Advisory Board for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services in Asia and the Pacific
Chris Libreri <i>A/g Chief Operating Officer</i> Strategies, Services & Technology Group (SSTG)	Member	Governing Council of Statistical Institute of Asia and the Pacific

Name	Position	Organisation/committee
Gemma Van Halderen <i>First Assistant Statistician</i> Population, Education & Data Integration Division (PLaSS)	Co-Chair	UN-ESCAP Committee on Statistics Technical Advisory Group on Population and Social Statistics
	Co-Chair	United Nations Statistical Commission Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management Experts Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
	Member	UNECE-OECD-Eurostat Taskforce on Measuring Sustainable Development
	Member	International Association of Official Statistics
	Member	2014 International Association of Official Statistics Conference Organising Committee
	Member	International Association of Official Statistics Young Statistician's Competition 2014
	Member	International Statistical Institute
	Part of Australian delegation	UN Global Geospatial Information Management Committee of Experts
Michael Davies <i>First Assistant Statistician</i> Macroeconomic Statistics Division (EESG)	Member	IMF Committee on Balance of Payments
	Member	IMF GFS Advisory Committee
	Member	Pacific Statistics Steering Committee
Bruce Hockman <i>First Assistant Statistician</i> Business, Industry & Environment Statistics Group (EESG)	Co-Chair	Ulaanbaatar City Group
Frank Yu <i>First Assistant Statistician</i> Program Management and Infrastructure Division (up to March 2014)	Chair	Statistical Network Steering Committee (term ended with his retirement)
	Member	Plug and Play for High-Level Group on Strategic Development in Business Architecture for Statistics (term ended December 2013)
Gillian Nicoll <i>A/g First Assistant Statistician</i> Program Management and Infrastructure Division (March—June 2014)		
Jenine Borowik <i>First Assistant Statistician</i> Program Delivery Division (ABS 2017 Group)	Chair	Modernisation Committee on Products and Sources
	Member	Statistical Network Steering Committee
	Member	IT Advisory Board Meetings with Statistics New Zealand
	Member	High-Level Group on Strategic Development in Business Architecture for Statistics Executive Board
	Member	Big Data Partnerships
Siu-Ming Tam <i>First Assistant Statistician</i> Methodology & Data Management Division (MDMD)	Member	International Statistical Institute

Chapter 8

Professional papers by ABS officers

Officers of the ABS prepared the following professional papers which were presented or published between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014.

Ajani, Judith and Green, Lisa. 'Forest definitions and linkages to wood product information', presented at the 19th Meeting of London Group on Environmental Accounting, London, United Kingdom, 12–14 November 2013

Argento, Lisa and Burnell, Derek. 'Australian valuation of subsoil natural resources and their inclusion in productivity statistics', presented by Michael Smedes at the OECD Working Party on National Accounts, Paris, France, 30 September–4 October 2013

Batschi, Brigitte and Cullen, Derick. 'Debt: concepts, measurement and presentation', presented by Michael Smedes at the OECD Working Party on National Accounts, Paris, France, 30 September–4 October 2013

Bond, Suzi (ABS), McDonald, Jane (UQ) and Vardon, Michael (ABS). 'Experimental biodiversity accounting in Australia', presented at the 19th meeting of London Group on Environmental Accounting, London, United Kingdom, 12–14 November 2013

Brady, Martin and Van Halderen, Gemma. 'A statistical spatial framework to inform regional statistics', presented at the 59th ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC) of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) Hong Kong, China, 25–30 August 2013

Chipperfield, James O, Margo Barr, and David Steel. 'Split questionnaire designs: are they an efficient design choice?', presented at the 59th ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC) of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) Hong Kong, China, 25–30 August 2013

Comisari, Peter, Ajani, Judith and Vardon, Michael. 'Carbon stock accounting: a report on progress in Australia and estimates of geocarbon', presented at the 19th Meeting of London Group on Environmental Accounting, London, United Kingdom, 12–14 November 2013

Comisari, Peter and Vardon, Michael. 'Valuation and treatment of water resource stocks', presented at the 19th meeting of London Group on Environmental Accounting, London, United Kingdom, 12–14 November 2013

Harper, Peter. 'How do we define the value and benefits of official statistics in an increasingly competitive data industry?', presented by **Trevor Sutton** at the Sixty-second plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians, Paris, France, 9–11 April 2014

Hawker, Louise, Kiely, Sarah and Eaves, Nigel. 'Land management statistics—informing the relationship between Australian agriculture and the rural environment', presented at the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 18–21 February 2014

Henderson, Andrew and Lehmann, Nicole. 'Building a statistical program to support evidence-based policy and relationships within government', presented at the Sixth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS-VI): Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Development. Linking statistics with decision making, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 23–25 October, 2013

Nairn, Alister D. 'Applications of GIS in the 2011 Australian Census of Population and Housing and plans for 2016', presented at the 59th ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC) of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) Hong Kong, China 25–30 August 2013

O'Keefe, Christine M and Chipperfield, James O. 'A summary of attack methods and confidentiality protection measures for fully automated remote analysis systems', *International Statistical Review*, vol. 81, issue 3, 2013

Reuter Town, Alex. 'Valuing dwellings and land as an input into household wealth and household balance sheets, Australia', presented by **Michael Smedes** at the OECD Working Party on National Accounts, Paris, France, 30 September–4 October 2013

Rotaru, Cristian. 'Discrete choice panel data modelling using the ABS Business Longitudinal Database', presented at the Economics Measurement Group (EMG) Workshop, Sydney NSW 28–29 November, 2013. This paper was also published as: Rotaru, Cristian Ionel (2014), *Discrete Choice Panel Data Modelling using the ABS Business Longitudinal Database*, Methodology Advisory Committee Papers, ABS cat. no. 1352.0.55.139, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra

Senaratne, Inoka, Tynan, Barry and Cockburn, Duncan. 'Development of an experimental waste account for Australia', presented at the 19th Meeting of London Group on Environmental Accounting, London, United Kingdom, 12–14 November 2013

Smedes, Michael. 'Quarterly current price gross value added (GVA) by industry', presented at the OECD Working Party on National Accounts, Paris, France, 30 September–4 October 2013

Tessama, Getachew and Vitas, Branko. 'Coming to grips with intangibles', presented at the 59th World Statistics Congress (WSC) of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) Hong Kong, China, 25–30 August, 2013

Tynan, Barry. 'Own-account production of water by households: A method for rainwater tanks', presented at the 19th meeting of London Group on Environmental Accounting, London, United Kingdom, 12–14 November 2013

Vardon, Michael. 'Recognising and managing uncertainty in national and environmental accounting', presented at the Valuation for Accounting seminar, London, United Kingdom, 11 November 2013

Vardon, Michael (ABS), Sjoerd, Schneau (Statistics Netherlands), Nancy, Steinbach (Statistics Sweden) and Viveka, Palm (Statistics Sweden). 'The potential of a staff exchange mechanism to support capacity development for environmental accounting', presented at the 19th Meeting of London Group on Environmental Accounting, London, United Kingdom, 12–14 November 2013

Chapter 9

Statistical and topic advisory groups

National groups

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Demographic Statistics Expert Advisory Group
Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
Australasian Mortality Data Interest Group
Australia and New Zealand Population Workshop
Australian Government Statistical Forum
Australian Health Survey Reference Group and related advisory groups
Australian Statistics Advisory Council
Australian Transport Data Action Network
Census—Indigenous Enumeration Strategy Working Group
Committee of Australian Sport and Recreation Officials Research Group
Culture Statistics Working Group
Data and Performance Measurement Principal Committee
Demography Statistics Advisory Group
Disability Policy and Research Working Group
Early Childhood Data Subgroup
Economic Statistics User Group
Family Statistics Advisory Group
Gender Statistics Advisory Group
General Social Survey Reference Group
Health Statistics Advisory Group
Information and Communication Technology Statistics Reference Group
Innovation (incl. R&D) Statistics Reference Group
Input-Output Statistics User Group
International Trade in Services User Group
Labour Statistics Advisory Group
Longitudinal Studies Advisory Group
Mental Health Information Strategy Standing Committee
Methodology Advisory Committee
Migrant Statistics Management Board
Migrant Statistics Reference Group
Mortality Statistics Advisory Group
National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data

National Civil Registration and Statistics Advisory Committee
National Civil Registration and Statistics Improvement Committee
National Community Services Information Management Group
National Corrective Services Statistics Advisory Group
National Crime Statistics Advisory Group
National Criminal Courts Statistics Advisory Group
National Health Information and Performance Principal Committee
National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee
National Housing and Homelessness Information Management Group
Patient Experience Survey Reference Group
Personal Safety Survey Advisory Group
Population Estimates Technical Workshop
Private Hospital Statistics User Group
Productivity Measurement Reference Group
Programme for Assessment of Adult Competencies Reference Group
Round Table on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
Rural Environment and Agriculture Statistics User Forum
Schools Data Subgroup
Standard Business Reporting Taxonomy Approval Committee
Standing Committee on Performance Reporting
State Accounts User Group
Statistical Clearing House Advisory Forum
Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision
Strategic Cross-sectoral Data Committee for Early Childhood, Education and Training
Structural Issues in the Workforce Sub-Committee, Workforce Profile Working Group
(Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council (CDSMAC) Sub-Committee)
Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Reference Group
Tourism Research Advisory Board

State and territory government groups

ACT Information Development Working Group
Government Agencies Statistical Committee (South Australia)
NSW State Statistical Council
Northern Territory Statistical Liaison Network
Queensland Essential Statistical Assets Advisory Group
Social Statistics Consultative Groups (Western Australia)
State Statistical Forum (all states and territories)
Statistical Policy Committee (Tasmania)
Statistical Policy Committee (Western Australia)
Tasmanian Statistical Advisory Committee
Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum



Section 3

HOW THE ABS OPERATES



Chapter 10

Corporate Governance



Introduction

The ABS's corporate governance framework ensures transparency in decision making, operation, and accountability by promoting strong leadership, sound management and effective planning and review processes.

The key features of the ABS's corporate governance framework are:

- a planning cycle to ensure that the ABS work program reflects users' current and emerging statistical priorities, and is consistent with the ABS's mission and overall strategic directions
- senior management committees involved in developing policies and strategies, identifying priorities and monitoring the ABS's performance
- advisory bodies and user groups which enable the ABS to consult widely with the user community about the ABS work program
- an audit and review program covering the different facets of ABS operations, overseen by the ABS Audit Committee
- a risk management framework to assist in identifying and managing risks at organisational, operational and project levels
- instructions and manuals to ensure staff have access to ABS policies and practices.

ABS values

Underlying the corporate governance framework are the Australian Public Service (APS) and ABS values, which are the basis for the ethical standards for ABS employees.

As an APS agency, ABS employees are required to abide by the APS Values and Code of Conduct. In addition, the ABS Corporate Plan sets out values specific to the ABS, which are essential to the ABS's role as a trusted and independent provider of statistical information for Australia.

These values are promoted through training courses and awareness raising. They are used as a reference for the actions and decisions of all ABS staff.

The ABS values are:

- integrity
- service
- professionalism
- relevance
- trust of providers
- access for all.

For more information on ABS's values, see Chapter 12—Management of human resources.

Senior management committees

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, assessing and responding to risks and opportunities, and monitoring ABS performance.

The major senior management committees in place during 2013–14 are outlined in Table 10.1.

Table 10.1: Senior management committees for 2013–14

<p>Executive Leadership Group meetings</p>	<p>The Executive Leadership Group (ELG) in compliance with the ABS control framework provides the strategic oversight of the organisation and determines policy. ELG's role includes giving high-level focus to strategic client engagement, internal leadership and the key priorities of the organisation. ELG meetings are held fortnightly to ensure that ongoing attention is given to strategic issues that affect the future of the organisation, including information transformation, the National Statistical Service and strategic client engagement.</p> <p>ELG membership consists of the Australian Statistician (chair) and the four Deputy Australian Statisticians.</p>
<p>Senior Management Group meetings</p>	<p>The Senior Management Group (SMG) in compliance with the ABS control framework focuses on cross-cutting issues to ensure effective delivery of the ABS work program within the constraints of ABS non-negotiables.</p> <p>SMG Meetings are held weekly to operationalise the strategic directions of the ABS and provide management oversight to ensure delivery of the ABS work program, within the framework of the ABS mission. SMG meetings also address other issues, including resource management, publishing and dissemination, human resources and accountability. The Chief Operating Officer chairs SMG meetings and the First Assistant Statisticians, two Regional Directors (on a rotating basis), the Chief Financial Officer and the Assistant Statisticians of the Office of the Statistician and External Engagement and Human Resources branches attend. Other senior officers attend as required for particular items. The ELG and the SMG also meet jointly on at least a quarterly basis to discuss relevant strategic and policy issues.</p>
<p>ABS Management Meetings</p>	<p>ABS Management Meetings in compliance with the ABS control framework play a major role in determining ABS strategic directions, priorities and resource allocations.</p> <p>Management Meetings are held twice a year, and make formal decisions on ABS strategic directions, consider planning and budgeting issues, and discuss issues of corporate importance.</p> <p>The Australian Statistician chairs these meetings and the Deputy and First Assistant Statisticians, Regional Directors, Chief Financial Officer and the Assistant Statisticians of the Office of the Statistician and External Engagement and Human Resources branches attend.</p>
<p>Strategic Finance and Investment Committee</p>	<p>The Strategic Finance and Investment Committee (SFIC) in compliance with the ABS control framework contributes to ABS planning and budgeting processes by ensuring ABS's major investments are aligned with the key goals of the ABS and are appropriately funded. SFIC ensures that a solid business case is produced for the ABS's major investments and evaluates whether projects have delivered the required outcomes. The Chief Operating Officer chairs the SFIC meetings. Meetings are held quarterly, with additional meetings scheduled as required for the planning and budgeting cycle.</p>

<p>Audit Committee</p>	<p>The Audit Committee provides assurance to the Australian Statistician that the ABS has in place an internal control framework for all its business systems, including those used to support statistical activities, and that this framework continues to work effectively.</p> <p>The Committee also assures the Australian Statistician that the ABS complies with all its legislative and other obligations.</p> <p>A Deputy Australian Statistician chairs the committee, which meets four times a year. It consists of five members, three of whom are external. Their appointments are based on their personal qualities, experience and skills, including their ability to demonstrate independence on matters before the Committee.</p>
<p>Protective Security Management Committee</p>	<p>The ABS maintains a comprehensive security framework, overseen by a Protective Security Management Committee chaired by a Deputy Australian Statistician. This security framework ensures that both physical and computer security are maintained.</p> <p>The committee is a key means of ensuring that the ABS meets its legal requirement not to divulge identifiable information and to ensure that there is policy to meet the security and privacy related requirements of legislation including the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>, <i>Census and Statistics Act 1905</i>, <i>Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975</i>, <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> and <i>Crimes Act 1914</i>.</p>

Planning

The ABS mission statement and corporate plan provide the context for decision making on the ABS forward work program.

While much of the work program remains constant from year to year, each year the ABS examines the external environment to assess the likely statistical needs for the next four years.

The annual planning cycle comprises a series of high-level meetings and forums, where senior managers consider the relative priorities and competing resource requirements of program components. In doing this, particular attention is given to:

- input from user consultations
- strategic directions the ABS has set for the next four years
- the cost imposed on respondents to collections, in terms of time and effort
- consideration of enterprise opportunities and risks
- prospective total resources available to the ABS within the next four years
- productivity gains that have been achieved, or which may be possible to achieve in the future with a particular focus on information transformation
- the contribution statistical activities make to meeting National Statistical Service objectives
- the extent to which particular statistical activities continue to be justified in relation to other work, with respect to user demand.

Aspects of the proposed forward work program, and resource estimates that emerge are considered by ASAC. The statistical work program is then finalised, taking into consideration the advice provided by ASAC.

The Forward Work Program is available on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Audit and risk management

The ABS Risk Management Framework provides the basis for identifying, assessing and treating risks at all levels within the organisation and is supported by the ABS Risk Management Guidelines. The Framework and Guidelines undergo continuous review, based on feedback from many sources including internal audits, external risk reviews, best practice guides, and the outcomes of the annual Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking exercise.

The ABS has a strong focus on the integration of risk identification and prioritisation within the ABS business planning cycle. In developing business plans, managers at all levels are expected to identify key risks to their work programs. Significant risks identified at section level are elevated or integrated into business plans at the Branch and/or Division level to provide a more comprehensive and consistent picture of the ABS risk profile.

Each year the ABS reviews and identifies strategic risks that have the potential to significantly impact the organisation. These are known as enterprise risks. This annual review strengthens risk identification and analysis through a coordinated examination of organisational threats. For each of the enterprise risks, members of the ABS Executive are designated as Risk Owners and treatment strategies are determined. Each Risk Owner has responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the identified risk controls. This approach provides clear ownership of risk treatment responsibilities and an opportunity for the Executive to review the success of risk treatment.

An annual program of internal audits is developed to address effectiveness and compliance risks. These internal audits are undertaken by an external audit provider and are developed from assessing all identified auditable areas.

In conjunction with, and to complement the audit program, the ABS runs an annual Internal Review Program. Internal reviews primarily focus on statistical programs to address issues including program effectiveness, efficiency and statistical quality.

Fraud control

Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines require the Australian Statistician to certify that the ABS has prepared appropriate fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans. The ABS is required to have 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.

The Australian Statistician released the 2012–14 ABS Fraud Control Plan in November 2012. The plan includes a number of mitigating actions to provide increased protection in some areas. The ABS monitors progress against these recommendations and reports regularly to the Audit Committee.

The ABS Fraud Control Plan is reviewed and updated biennially.

Security of premises

The ABS relies on the trust and confidence of data providers to enable it to operate effectively and fulfil its mission.

The security of ABS premises, and of the information technology environment, is a key aspect of maintaining that trust and confidence, and essential to minimising risks in a number of areas, including fraud.

All ABS premises are physically secured against unauthorised access. Entry is through electronically controlled access systems, activated by individually coded access cards and

monitored by closed circuit television. Areas of the ABS producing particularly sensitive data, such as main economic indicators, are subject to further physical security measures.

The ABS computer network has a secure gateway which allows connection to some Internet services only. The secure gateway has been established in accordance with Australian Government guidelines and is subject to an annual compliance review by an accredited independent assessor. Internal access to ABS computing systems is based on personal identifiers that are password protected. Databases are accessible only by approved users. The computer systems are regularly monitored and usage audited. There were no unauthorised access incidents into ABS computing systems during 2013–14

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 his or her duties.

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

External scrutiny

In May 2013 an ABS staff member was arrested for allegedly leaking sensitive information. Following this incident the ABS instigated an external review of security controls, which will be completed in 2014. The recommendations will then be incorporated into risk mitigation strategies.

There were no other significant developments in external scrutiny in 2013–2014, with no reports issued by the Attorney-General, Parliament or the Commonwealth Ombudsman. There were no individual or administrative review decisions of relevance to the ABS.

A range of Australian Government bodies examine the operations of the ABS. The ABS assisted in providing information to the Commonwealth Auditor-General and the Ombudsman during 2013–2014.

There were no adverse comments relating to the ABS from the Auditor-General, the Ombudsman, Parliamentary Committees, or courts or tribunals during 2013–2014.

Privacy

As an Australian Government agency, the ABS must comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*, including the *Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012*, and the Australian Privacy Principles. These obligations govern the way personal information about staff, clients and respondents should be collected, stored, used and disclosed. Information provided by respondents also has the additional protection of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The introduction of the *Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012* included a new, harmonised set of privacy principles that regulate the collection, use, disclosure and other handling of personal information about ABS respondents and providers, ABS clients and stakeholders, and ABS staff.

These principles, called the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs), supersede the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) that previously applied.

The ABS has a privacy officer who, providing the perspective of a privacy advocate, advises on privacy issues internally, and monitors the external environment to keep up-to-date on privacy issues that could impact upon ABS operations.

The ABS maintains a close relationship with the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, advising the Commissioner regularly of the ABS's forward work program, providing documents pertaining to surveys collecting personal information and seeking advice on any new ABS initiatives about which privacy advocates may have concerns.

During 2013–14 the ABS was a partner of Privacy Awareness Week, which is an initiative of the Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities forum to promote awareness of privacy issues and the importance of the protection of personal information.

Submissions to parliamentary committees

Table 10.2: Submissions to parliamentary committees and inquiries, 2013–14

Committee/Inquiry	Description of submission/information provided
Victorian Parliament Inquiry into Social Inclusion and Victorians with a Disability	In March 2014 the ABS provided a submission to the Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into Social Inclusion and Victorians with a Disability. The submission outlined the ABS's measurement of disability and the data available to inform the Inquiry.
Senate Economic References Committee Inquiry into Affordable Housing	In March 2014 the ABS provided a submission to the Senate Economic References Committee's Inquiry into Affordable Housing. The submission outlined the available ABS data sources relating to housing affordability.
Joint Standing Committee on Migration—Inquiry into the Business Innovation and Investment Programme	In May 2014 the ABS provided a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration's Inquiry into the Business Innovation and Investment Programme. The submission outlined the data sources currently available to measure innovation and investment.

Documents tabled in Parliament

In accordance with section 6 of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* the ABS tabled, in both Houses of Parliament, 41 proposals for the collection of information for statistical purposes. Details of the proposals are shown in Table 10.3.

Table 10.3: Tabling—proposals for the collection of information for statistical purposes, 2013–14

Date tabled (a)	Statistical collection (b)
17 June 2013	Health Services Survey
17 June 2013	Water Supply and Sewerage Services Survey 2012–13
17 June 2013	Survey of Motor Vehicle Use
17 June 2013	Non-Profit Institutions Survey
17 June 2013	Economic Activity Survey 2012–13: Tourism Business Survey
17 June 2013	Environment Indicators Survey
17 June 2013	Private Health Establishments Collection
17 June 2013	Topic to be Included as a Supplement to the Monthly Population Survey: Characteristics of Recent Migrants
17 June 2013	Survey of Producer Prices
17 June 2013	Corrective Services, Australia—Quarterly Collections
17 June 2013	Criminal Courts, Australia
17 June 2013	Recorded Crime—Offenders, Australia
17 June 2013	Prisoners in Australia
17 June 2013	Survey to Support Estimates of Sub-State Resident Population
12 November 2013	General Social Survey
12 November 2013	Survey of Motor Vehicle Use Freight
12 November 2013	Poultry and Game Birds Slaughtered Survey
12 November 2013	Wool Receivals and Purchases Survey
12 November 2013	Livestock Slaughtered Survey
12 November 2013	Motor Vehicle Census
10 December 2013	Business Characteristics Survey
10 December 2013	Births Collection
10 December 2013	Deaths Collection
10 December 2013	Marriages Collection
10 December 2013	Internet Activity Survey
10 December 2013	Survey of Mineral and Petroleum Exploration
10 December 2013	Survey of New Capital Expenditure
10 December 2013	Quarterly Business Indicators Survey
11 February 2014	Survey of Job Vacancies
11 February 2014	Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours
11 February 2014	Monthly Population Survey
11 February 2014	Residential Property Prices Indexes
25 March 2014	International Trade in Services
25 March 2014	Land Management and Agricultural Commodities Survey

Table 10.3: Tabling—proposals for the collection of information for statistical purposes, 2013–14. cont.

Date tabled (a)	Statistical collection (b)
25 March 2014	Survey of Financial Information
25 March 2014	Measuring Educational Outcomes over the Life-Course
13–14 May 2014	Local Government Finance Statistics—Quarterly Estimates
13–14 May 2014	Multipurpose Household Survey 2014–15
25–26 June 2014	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2014–15
25–26 June 2014	National Health Survey
25–26 June 2014	Survey of Tourist Accommodation

(a) If the proposal was tabled on different dates in the two Houses of Parliament, the earlier of the 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 1983 made under section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the ABS tables, in both Houses of Parliament, 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 10.4.

Table 10.4: Tabling—disclosure of lists of names and addresses, 2013–2014

Date tabled (a)	Information released
11 February 2014	Lists of early childhood education providers for the Commonwealth, state and territory education departments
25 March 2014	Lists of agricultural farm businesses for the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
25 March 2014	Release of lists of businesses for Safe Work Australia

(a) If the proposal was tabled on different dates in the two Houses of Parliament, the earlier of the dates is shown.

Freedom of Information requests

Introduction

Section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) requires the ABS to provide detail on the structure of the ABS, and how members of the public can gain access to information held by the ABS.

Detail on the structure of the ABS can be found in Section 1, Overview of the ABS.

The ABS is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and is required to publish information to the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme (IPS). This requirement is in Part II of the FOI Act and has replaced the former requirement to publish a section 8 statement in an annual report. The ABS has developed a plan showing what information is published in accordance with the IPS requirements, and this is available free of charge on our website.

Information held by the ABS

Table 10.5: Categories of documents in the possession of the ABS

Documents open to public access upon payment of a fee	The ABS makes most of its products available free of charge, however some charged publications can purchased via the ABS National Information Referral Service (Phone 1300 135 070).
Documents available for purchase or customarily available free of charge	The ABS has a wide range of statistical publications available free of charge on its website: www.abs.gov.au , and through major public libraries.
Government and Parliament	The ABS holds policy-related documents, ministerial briefings, ministerial correspondence, replies to parliamentary questions, and tabling documents.
Meetings and conferences	The ABS holds agenda papers, submissions, and records of proceedings of internal and external conferences, management meetings and workshops.
Statistical and statistical services projects	The ABS holds 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	The ABS holds work program and planning documents; finance, staff and establishment papers and manuals; personnel files; recruitment files; files on selection and promotion of staff; staff development and training papers; officer services documents; and tenders.
Privacy	The ABS holds a record of the extent and nature of ABS holdings of personal information, as contained in the ABS Privacy Policy, available online at www.abs.gov.au/privacy .
General	The ABS holds correspondence, manuals on general subjects, internal reports and administrative circulars.

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 Office of the Statistician and External Engagement, which is located in Central Office. Authority for decision making under this Act has been delegated to the Deputy Australian Statisticians, the First Assistant Statistician of the Methodology and Data Management Division, and the Assistant Statistician in the Office of the Statistician and External Engagement.

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*.

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, Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616; Phone 02 6252 7203; Email: freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

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

Chapter 11

Management of human resources



Introduction

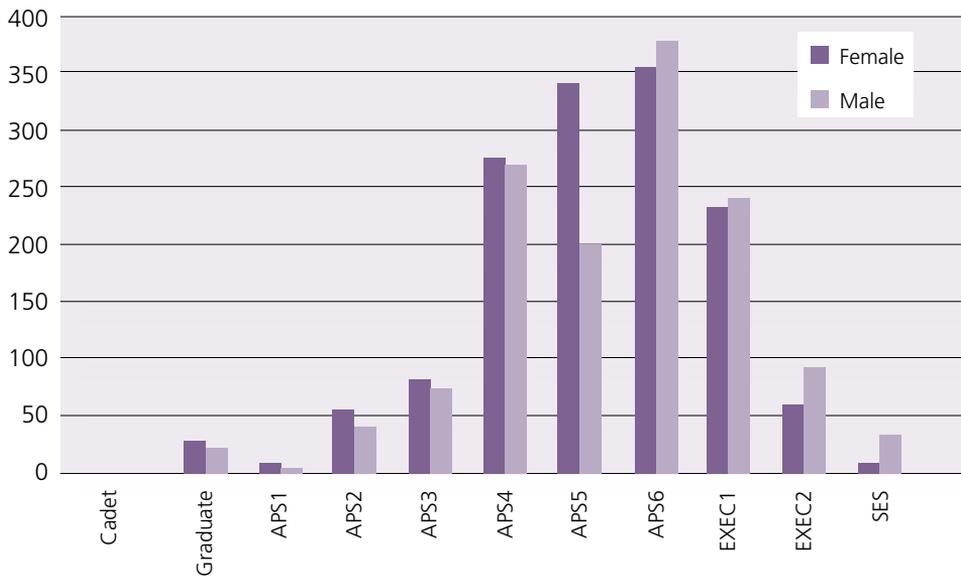
It is our people who will ensure we are a successful and sustainable organisation. Preparing our people for the future will enable us to deliver on our mission and work towards achieving our vision. Human resource (HR) management is a critical function within the agency. The ABS needs employees who:

- understand Australia's evolving information needs and can assist the ABS to meet these needs
- recognise the changes to the ABS operating environment, and can help the ABS to meet these changes
- possess professional competencies and a commitment to both Australian Public Service (APS) and ABS Values.

Proficient management of human resources is the key to ensuring the engagement and retention of a workforce that is skilled to deliver the ABS work program now and into the future.

As at 30 June 2014, there were 3,435 staff employed at the ABS, 563 staff were employed to assist with data collection under Regulation 3 of the Statistics Regulations, and appointed as authorised officers under Section 16 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. These employees were mostly household survey interviewers. 2,872 staff were employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*—1,374 males and 1,498 females. This includes operative, paid inoperative and unpaid inoperative employees. The ABS had 2,808 operative and paid inoperative staff as at 30 June 2014.

Of the 3,435 staff employed Figure 11.1, and Tables 11.1, and 11.2 present the profile of ABS staff by employment classification and sex, and by location and type of employment for operative and paid inoperative staff. Staff employed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* (interviewers and census field staff), and 64 unpaid operative staff are excluded from the tables.

Figure 11.1: Employment classification by sex, 30 June 2014 ^{(a),(b)}

(a) Includes operative and paid inoperative staff.

(b) Excludes the Australian Statistician (Statutory appointment).

Table 11.1: Number of ABS staff by location and status, at 30 June 2014 ^{(a), (b)}

Location	Ongoing		Non-ongoing		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Central Office (ACT)	1132	207	38	7	1384
NSW	215	43	11	42	311
VIC	267	60	9	3	339
QLD	154	33	4	22	213
SA	143	58	0	1	202
WA	112	30	4	36	182
TAS	97	23	2	2	124
NT	38	6	2	0	46
ACT	6	1	0	0	7
Total	2164	461	70	113	2808

(a) Includes operative and paid inoperative staff.

(b) Excludes the Australian Statistician (Statutory appointment).

Table 11.2: Number of ABS Senior Executive Staff by level, sex and year ^(a)

Year (at 30 June)	SES Level			Sex		
	1	2	3	Male	Female	Total
2008	33	6	3	27	15	42
2009	26	7	3	26	10	36
2010	27	6	4	29	8	37
2011	26	7	4	26	11	37
2012	23	7	4	24	10	34
2013	28	8	4	30	10	40
2014	29	7	3	30	9	39

(a) Includes only operative, substantive SES officers as at 30 June, but excludes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Excludes SES outposted to another department, i.e. one SES Officer for 2008–10 and 2011–12.

As of 30 June 2014, there were nine women in the ABS Senior Executive Service (SES), representing 24% of the total number of SES officers in the ABS.

The Statistician commissioned a comprehensive study of gender balanced leadership particularly focusing on this issue. The report, conducted by Kristen Stone, was presented at the May 2014 Management Meeting and was well accepted—the key areas of focus included the availability of more flexible working arrangements at the SES level and a range of other development activities. An implementation plan for the recommendations is currently being developed.

Australian Public Service Values and Employment Principles in the ABS

APS Values and Employment Principles are widely promoted and strongly observed throughout the ABS. The ABS has a complementary set of values, which underpin the work that we do to deliver on our mission as Australia’s national statistical agency. These values are drawn from the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and are consistent with the values of many national statistical agencies around the world.

The ABS has long-established and strongly upheld agency values that are fundamental to the ABS performing its role as an independent provider of statistical information.

Integrity—data, analysis and interpretation are always apolitical with the highest standards of integrity upheld.

Relevance—all information provided by the ABS is relevant in terms of timeliness and content.

Service—the ABS understands its service role and seeks to understand and meet its clients’ statistical needs.

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 supported to ensure the ABS has the technical and leadership skills required for the future.

Trust of Providers—the ABS maintains provider trust by adhering to the highest level of data protection and privacy standards.

The importance of APS Values and Employment Principles is acknowledged and integrated into the management and operations of the ABS. The obligations of all employees to uphold

the APS and ABS Values and abide by the APS Code of Conduct are:

- promoted in learning and development activities across all levels from the induction of new starters through to senior management development programs
- actively applied through human resource processes
- supported by a suite of guidelines, policies and procedures, which themselves acknowledge the APS Values and Employment Principles
- reflected as appropriate throughout ABS corporate documents, which are readily accessible to all employees through the ABS intranet
- advertised through promotional material including posters, and bookmarks distributed to all employees and new starters.

ABS People Plan

The People Plan supports ongoing organisational performance and sustainability via an integrated, consistent and focused implementation of people-related initiatives across the ABS. The essence of the Plan is highlighted in the motto 'Our People, Our Business, Our Future', reflecting the value placed on our people and recognising that a highly skilled ABS workforce is critical to achieving the ABS mission. The Plan is revised annually.

The key objective of the Plan is to ensure that we can continue to meet our mission, through our people. The five high-level national strategies progressed through the People Plan 2013–2014 were:

1. Build core capability to prepare our people for the future
2. Strengthen leadership to help ensure organisational sustainability
3. Foster a high performance culture where staff are engaged, supported and active participants in change
4. Shape our workforce for the future through improving staff deployment, attraction and recruitment practices
5. Understand and monitor our workforce and external environment.

These strategies reflect the people-related priorities articulated in ABS Strategic Framework documents (Corporate Plan and Strategic Direction Statements). They are also closely aligned with recommendations made in *Ahead of the Game: Blueprint for the Reform of Australian Government Administration*.

Workplace diversity in the ABS

The ABS supports all forms of diversity, such as differences in gender, age, language, ethnicity, cultural background, disability, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, differences between individuals in educational level, life experience, work experience, socio-economic background and personality.

The *Workplace Diversity Action Plan 2013–2017* and the *Reconciliation Action Plan 2013–2016* form the core of the ABS Workplace Diversity Program and have been integrated with the ABS People Plan.

The ABS has identified four overarching strategies in the Workplace Diversity Action Plan to achieve positive outcomes from increased workplace diversity:

1. Strengthen a respectful and inclusive work environment and culture
2. Improve our ability to attract, recruit and retain people of diverse backgrounds and targeted under-represented diversity groups

3. Improve our understanding of workplace diversity issues and increase the analysis and utilisation of workplace diversity metrics
4. As a statistical services provider, ensure accessible services, products and data collection practices are provided for people with disability and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Access for people with disabilities

The *Workplace Diversity Action Plan 2013–2017* includes actions that aim to ensure accessible and equitable ABS business and workplace policies and practices for clients and employees with disabilities.

The ABS has reported, as required, on its employment-related activities for disability through the Australian Public Service Commission's *State of the Service* agency survey for 2013–14.

During 2013–14 initiatives to enable access to ABS products and services for clients with disabilities included:

- **Quality assurance and quality improvement mechanisms:** the ABS continues work to comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.0 developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).
- **ABS Service Delivery Charter:** this Charter describes the relationship between the ABS and its customers. The Charter specifies what to expect when accessing the ABS website and other services. Feedback and complaint mechanisms for ABS customers are set out in the Charter.
- **Collection mechanisms:** the ABS has three collection mechanisms relating to disability. These are:
 - the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC)
 - the ABS Short Disability Module
 - the Census of Population and Housing (Census).

Reconciliation Action Plan

The ABS is committed to reconciliation. In line with the ABS mission, the ABS assists and encourages informed decision making, research and discussion among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their communities and organisations, and within governments and the wider community. It does this by leading and coordinating statistical activity involving and relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The ABS Reconciliation Action Plan sets out actions the ABS will take to:

- increase the recruitment, retention and development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ABS
- build the capability of ABS employees to respond effectively to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities through respect and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culture
- ensure that ABS policies, programs and services effectively respond to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities
- develop the statistical literacy skills of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities to enable them to make informed decisions about themselves, their families and their communities.

Key diversity and reconciliation achievements

Key diversity and reconciliation achievements in 2013–14 are:

- the introduction of a Senior Disability Champion role, occupied by a Senior Executive officer
- commissioning an internal study to support gender balanced leadership in the ABS
- the Senior Reconciliation Champion actively participating as a member of the APS Senior Champion Network including facilitation of the NT forum of the APS Indigenous Employment Network
- establishing the ABS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employee Network and the ABS Disability and Carers Employee Network
- increasing diversity and cultural awareness through online and face-to-face training, local and national celebrations and regular communications to staff on diversity and reconciliation achievements
- introducing mandatory online diversity training; addressing and preventing bullying and harassment
- a major review of the ABS Reasonable Workplace Adjustment Guidelines and processes, which are expected to be released in 2014–15
- developing an external protocol for consulting and engaging with staff with disability, due to be released early 2014–15
- displaying traditional custodians names in all ABS video conference rooms and the provision of an Acknowledgement of Country card to all SES officers, and an increase in the delivery of an Acknowledgement of Country by SES officers at appropriate events
- extension of the Harassment and Workplace Support Officer (HWSO) Network to ABS Interviewers, and identification of HWSOs who have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural competency
- establishing a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Roundtable to: improve participation in ABS surveys; inform appropriate development and enhancement of survey questions, standards and statistical constructs; and build statistical literacy and use of ABS data
- promoting external development and networking opportunities available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees such as APS Indigenous employee forum; Australian Electoral Commission Youth Program.

Agency Multicultural Plan

The ABS released its Agency Multicultural Plan (AMP) 2013–15 in July 2013. The vision for the ABS AMP is one where Australians of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are actively engaged with the Australian Bureau of Statistics and where governments and communities can make informed decisions about culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The ABS AMP, located on the ABS website, covers the six dimensions of the Australian Government's Multicultural Access and Equity Policy (leadership, engagement, performance, capability, responsiveness and openness) with minimum obligations attached to each dimension. Following are the Key Performance Indicators and key achievements made in 2013–14 against the ABS AMP.

KPI 1: Relevant statistics about culturally and linguistically diverse groups are available

Measure 1.1: Culturally and linguistically diverse user issues are considered and incorporated into ABS business as appropriate

To guide the work program and ensure that statistics are relevant, the ABS regularly consults with a range of user groups with representation from all levels of government, industry, researchers, policy makers and community organisations. In 2013–14 the ABS consulted with the following groups which had direct input into statistics on migrants:

- Migrant Statistics Management Board
- Migrant Statistics Reference Group.

In 2013–14 the National Migrant Statistics Unit undertook a data needs and priorities review, with findings presented to ABS senior executives. External stakeholders from across all Australian jurisdictions (Commonwealth, state/territory and local government) participated in the review, as well as a number of key academics, private organisations and some not-for-profit organisations. The review confirmed that the ABS migrant statistics program is focused on user priorities.

In 2013–14, the Census of Population and Housing program (Census) met with over 80 different organisations, some of which represented culturally and linguistically diverse people, to discuss contents of the Census and how to improve coverage across all communities.

Measure 1.2: Appropriate data products are expanded and accessible to, and shared with, other agencies

As part of the 2011 Census Data Enhancement project, which aims to improve and expand the range of official statistics available to Australian society, the *Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, 2011* (ABS cat. no. 3417.0.55.001) was released in 2013–14. This dataset integrates Census records and visa information from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's Settlement Database.

The ABS's Migrant and Ethnicity theme page, which provides access to a wide range of ABS migrant and ethnicity data, was maintained and updated by the National Migrant Statistics Unit.

Other key achievements in the field of migrant statistics can be found in the Culture, Recreation and Migrant Statistics Program report, Chapter 5 in this *Annual report*.

KPI 2: Culturally and linguistically diverse people can access ABS data

Measure 2.1: Accessibility to culturally and linguistically diverse and migrant related statistics is maintained or improved

In 2013–14 the Australian Government Information Management Office's guide: *Better Practice Checklist—Access and Equity issues for Websites* was added to the ABS Publishing Assistant and relevant recommendations were incorporated into the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines checklist. These checklists are used by ABS staff when developing online content.

Additionally, accessibility and user experiences for culturally and linguistically diverse people were improved by acquiring design advice and testing of e-forms, the provider portal and field staff systems.

KPI 3: Culturally and linguistically diverse people response rates to ABS data collections improve

Measure 3.1: Language skills of ABS staff are utilised, as available and appropriate, to communicate with providers

A key strategy for improving the response rates for culturally and linguistically diverse people to ABS data collections is arranging interpreters for providers in their own language where possible. In 2013–14 the Provider Contact Unit and Population Survey Operations updated their foreign language lists and used multi-lingual field staff, interviewers and office staff where appropriate to assist providers.

Measure 3.2: The Census undercount rate for culturally and linguistically diverse groups improves

One of the key uses of the Census undercount, which measures the Census coverage, is to evaluate the effectiveness of Census collection procedures so improvements can be made for future Censuses. The 2011 Census undercount rates for the 10 highest ranked countries of birth (in terms of population residing in Australia) according to the 2011 Census will be used as a benchmark to measure whether improvements are made in the 2016 Census. For more information on the Census undercount refer to *Census of Population and Housing—Details of Undercount, 2011* (ABS cat. no. 2940.0).

In 2013–14 a national culturally and linguistically diverse targeted strategy manager was appointed for the 2016 Census, to develop strategies to improve coverage of the Census amongst culturally and linguistically diverse people.

Training and development

The ABS continues its strong support to strengthen the business and people management capability of our staff. In the past year, development priorities have evolved with the emerging needs of an organisation in the midst of significant organisational transformation and fiscal restraint.

Areas of key focus in 2013–14 included the ABS Leadership Program, Managing for Performance Improvement (People Management & Wellbeing), Managing Mental Health in the Workplace (Work Health & Safety), and the Executive Level Development Program (blended learning). The primary outcome of the leadership program was to strengthen the leadership capabilities of senior officers to foster a high performance culture and to lead differently in the transformational change program which the organisation currently faces. The primary outcome of the other key programs was to increase the people management and performance skills of our managers to provide a high calibre working environment and to increase the efficiency and productivity of our workforce.

In line with our ABS People Plan priorities, building core capability and strengthening leadership, the National Training and Development Section (NTDS) also offered a range of other development options, many designed to deliver shorter, sharper learning. Executive Coaching has also been accessed by our Executive Level (EL) and SES staff.

NTDS is currently transforming its business model from a reliance on face-to-face learning to a blended learning approach. Over time this will be the core interface for all capability development, with e-learning focus to date on developing core public service skills and capabilities. Modules are self-paced and can be completed from any desktop. NTDS has added nine new e-learning courses since last year, having a positive impact on national development opportunities and increasing accessibility while reducing travel expenditure.

Statistical capability development is under review following a reduction in the work program.

The work done over the last 12 months by the Statistical Capability Branch on the Statistical Capability Development Plan 2014–2019 and Statistical Capability Framework will be revisited. It is likely that the conversion of two statistical classroom courses into blended learning modules will continue.

The suite of foundation statistical programs continues to be offered frequently throughout the ABS, with the use of internal subject matter experts. This year the online 'Presenter Toolkit' was released to provide easily accessible information and advice for confident delivery.

The inaugural Australian Statistician's Fellowship Program officially commenced in February 2014. Following a rigorous and competitive selection process, a group of five Fellows was engaged. This practical and experiential development program, which concludes in December 2016, is part of a continuous strategy to build core capability and strengthen the future leadership base of the ABS.

The Graduate Development Program commenced in February 2014 with 53 participants. A significant proportion of the program has been delivered using video-conferencing facilities and e-learning. Projects form the basis of an experiential learning component.

In continuing to improve manager capability and people management, the Future Leaders Program was delivered for EL1s (paperless and using 'wiki' technology), and a new program for APS 5 and APS6 supervisors, 'Management Fundamentals', was delivered nationally.

The results from the People Capability Framework (PCF) pilot provided a strong indication of the capability strengths and gaps at the ABS Group, Division and Regional Office levels. The pilot also demonstrated improved quality of discussion regarding Development and Performance Agreements. As a result the PCF will continue on an annual basis, ideally with full staff participation.

Technology infrastructure remains a high priority for effective delivery of the work program in support of the new business model. To support this new direction, NTDS fostered cross-cutting working relationships to plan for an Enterprise Wide Learning Management System. This infrastructure will provide the platform to deliver high quality learning solutions across the ABS, for office and field staff, and in the longer term for external clients.

Table 11.3: ABS employee training days^(a)

	Total ABS operative staff ^(b)	Attendance days	Average training days
2004–05	2,630	12,562	4.8
2005–06 ^(d)	2,865	16,163 ^(c)	5.6
2006–07	3,065	13,491 ^(c)	4.4
2007–08	2,733	9,907	3.6
2008–09	2,489	6,179	2.5
2009–10	2,593	7,397	2.9
2010–11 ^(d)	3,416	12,054	3.5
2011–12	3,213	15,541	4.8
2012–13	2,920	7547 ^(e)	2.6
2013–14	2,878	5,935	2.06

(a) Excludes on the job and Census Data Processing (DPC) training.

(b) Comprises full time and part time staff operative headcount.

(c) Figures revised down since first published.

(d) Increase due to Census Management Unit operations.

(e) Decrease partly due to move to e-learning approaches.

Recruitment

The ABS continues to build on the improvements to recruitment processes implemented in previous years. Activity during 2013–14 focused on:

- introducing the use of electronic resources for induction and familiarisation ('onboarding')
- ensuring national consistency in recruitment practices and processes
- further streamlining procedures to achieve greater efficiencies and effectiveness of outcomes.

With the introduction of the interim arrangements for APS recruitment by the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) in November 2013, greater priority is being given to the redeployment of existing staff.

Whilst in the process of reshaping our workforce to meet the needs and challenges of the future, it is important to continue to undertake some recruitment at the graduate level to ensure a cohort of skilled staff with the right capabilities to meet those challenges, and who can progress into more senior roles as they further develop and apply their skills in the workplace.

Graduates are an important source of ABS's future leaders and the ABS graduate recruitment campaign continues to attract a large number of applications from a broad range of disciplines. The introduction of two additional assessment steps, online testing and telephone interviews, has ensured that applicants undergo a robust assessment throughout the selection process. This use of a multimodal approach to the assessment of applicants has streamlined graduate recruitment processes and has effectively reduced the number of panel interviews by two-thirds.

Preparations have already commenced for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing, with field staff being recruited in selected areas in South Australia and Western Australia to test new processes and procedures for implementation in the main event in 2016.

Workplace health and safety

Overview

The ABS is committed to fostering a proactive and collaborative approach to the management of health, safety and wellbeing in the workplace. Specialist teams, include a network of Work Health and Safety (WHS) Advisors, with a focus on prevention and wellbeing at work, early intervention and the management of rehabilitation and return to work programs, support managers and workers to implement a safe system of work.

The agency Executive Leadership Group (ELG) and the Senior Management Group (SMG) are the senior executive forums with responsibility for oversight of the ABS work health and safety management system.

Achievements

Measures taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees during 2013–14 included:

- ELG/SMG endorsed a set of key WHS priorities for the ABS WHS Strategy 2014–2017, which will be underpinned by an annual action plan which is currently under development.
- An ABS mental health initiative (Wellbeing@ABS) was launched by ABS Senior Management in April 2014. All EL1, EL2 and APS 5/6 supervisors participated in the compulsory 'Managing Mental Health in the Workplace' training as part of Phase 1

of the Wellbeing@ABS project. As part of Phase 2, all APS 1–6 staff were invited to undertake ‘Understanding Mental Health in the Workplace’ training, with selected staff also completing Mental Health First Aid training.

- A national influenza vaccination program was conducted across all ABS offices in March and April, with 39% of office-based staff receiving vaccinations, compared with 37% in 2012–13.
- A national 10,000 steps walking challenge was held in September–October, with 131 teams and 35% participation by office-based staff.

Consultation and communication

A new ABS Communication and Consultation Policy with supporting guidelines was released in May 2014, replacing the existing Health and Safety Management Arrangements.

The ABS has one National, eight Regional and one Interviewer Health and Safety Committees. Health and Safety Committees are required to meet on a quarterly basis. During 2013–14, ABS Health and Safety Committees achieved 78% conformance to the quarterly meeting schedule.

Training

In the ABS there are several WHS roles filled by trained staff:

- First Aid Officers generally receive CPR training annually, and complete a new accreditation every three years.
- Health and Safety Representatives have the option of completing a 5-day training course upon commencement in the role, and are then entitled to attend a 1-day refresher course each subsequent 12 months.
- Wardens are required to attend training in the emergency procedures for their workplace annually, with skills retention training undertaken at periods not greater than 6 months.

A total of 263 staff received training for a specific WHS role during 2013–14.

Table 11.4: WHS position, June 2014

Position	Filled	Vacant	Received training during 2013–14
First Aid Officer	59	0	28
Health and Safety Representative	72	8	22
Warden	231	15	213

Provisional improvement notices

No provisional improvement notices were issued to the ABS by Health and Safety Representatives during 2013–14.

Comcare investigations and inspections

In 2013–14, there were no Comcare investigations undertaken, and no improvement notices issued to the ABS. There are no ongoing actions. Three Liaison Inspections were initiated and finalised, with no further action required. There is one ongoing action plan for a Liaison Inspection that was initiated in 2012–13.

Comcare premium

The ABS Comcare premium rate for 2013–14 was 2.28% of total salary (including GST).

Table 11.5: Comcare workers' compensation premium rate

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
ABS	1.51	1.27	1.93	2.28
All agencies combined average	1.20	1.41	1.77	1.81

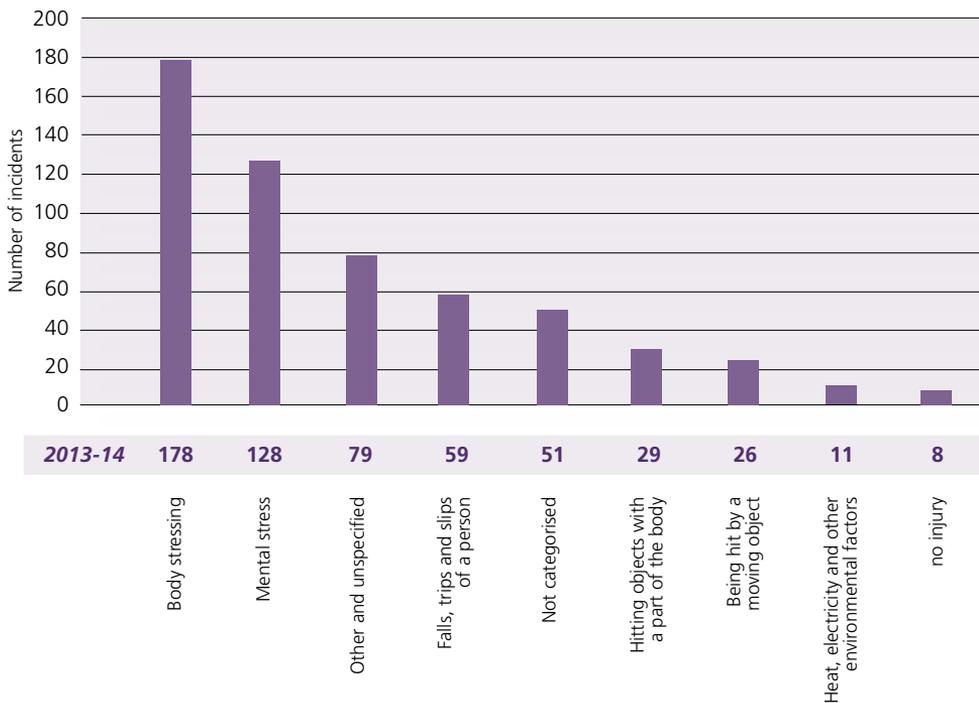
Incidents and investigations

Under the *Work Health and Safety Act (Cth) 2011*, the ABS is required to report all 'notifiable incidents' which arise out of the undertakings of the ABS. Notifiable incidents include the death of a person, serious injury or illness, or a dangerous incident. There was one notifiable incident in 2013–14, reflecting an incidence rate of 0.3 notifiable incidents per 1,000 full-time employees (FTE).

Workplace injuries and illnesses

The top three mechanisms of incident reported in the ABS during 2013–14 were body stressing, mental stress and 'other and unspecified mechanism of incident'.

Figure 11.2: Number of incidents by mechanism of incident, 2013–14



Workers' compensation

There were 29 accepted workers' compensation claims with a date of injury occurring within 2013–14, compared to 38 in 2012–13.

Table 11.6: ABS premium group claims incidence^(a)

	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Accepted claims	28	49 ^(b)	125 ^(c)	38	29

(a) When comparing recent periods with previous year's data it should be noted that the data on the current period is the least mature and may not give a definitive view of related performance.

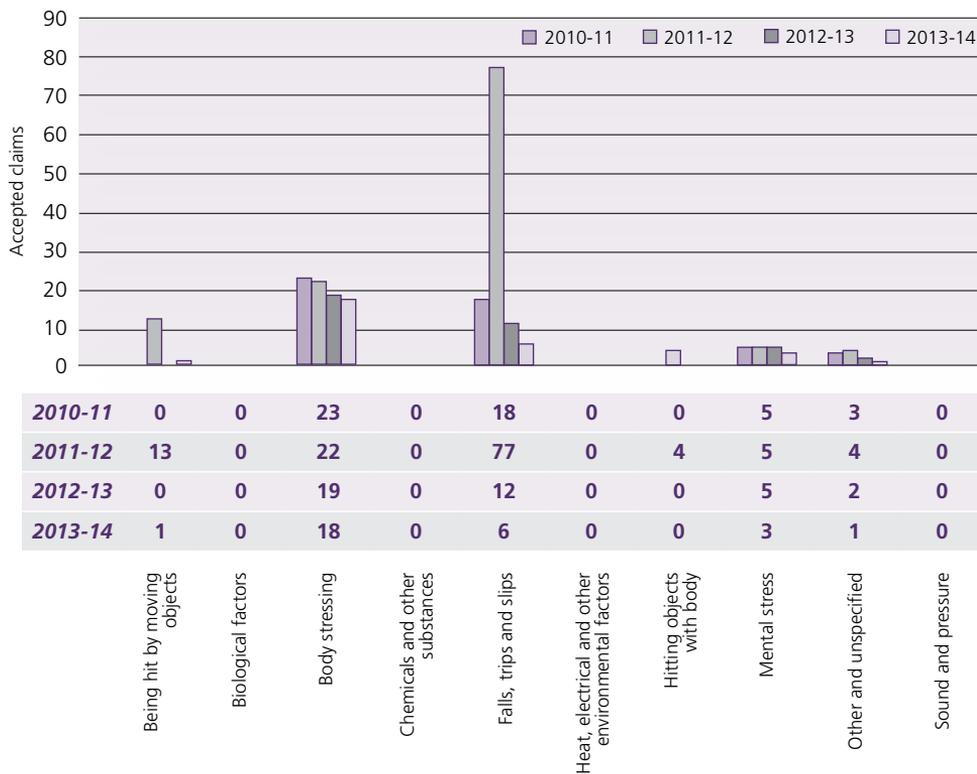
(b) Includes two claims relating to Census 2011.

(c) A greater number of claims were accepted in 2011–12 due to the greater number of staff employed by the ABS for the 2011 Census (87 claims relating to Census 2011).

People Management and Wellbeing (PMaW) strategically assess and actively manage Comcare compensation claims. This includes reviewing all ABS compensation claims, quality assuring our internal processes, and ensuring any action or intervention that is required is undertaken in a timely manner, to assist in returning injured staff to pre-injury duties/hours within the ABS. PMaW strives to always achieve positive outcomes for injured staff and the ABS, and will work closely with National Work Health and Safety to minimise the annual number of claims into the future.

The mechanism of incident for accepted claims is shown in Figure 11.3.

Figure 11.3: Accepted claims by mechanism of incident, 2010–11 to 2013–14



Note: The large number of accepted claims for falls, trips and slips in 2011–12 is attributed to the Census Field collection work.

Attendance management

The ABS takes a proactive approach to the management of attendance and unscheduled absences. In 2013–14 the average number of days of unscheduled absence per FTE was 13.0 days. This is in line with the Australian Government median over the previous two years (13.7 days per FTE in 2012–13 and 12.6 days per FTE in 2011–12).

Table 11.7: Unscheduled absence: days per FTE^(a)

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
ABS ^(b)	11.3	10.9	12.3	13.0
Australian Government (Large Agency) median ^(c)	12.0	12.6	13.7	N/A

(a) Excludes interviewers, non-ongoing Data Processing Centre staff, and Census field staff.

(b) A break in the ABS time series occurred in 2012–13. Therefore, data prior to this period is not comparable.

(c) The Australian Government (Large Agency) median for 2013–14 was not available at the time of preparing this report.

Employee Assistance Program utilisation

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) utilisation rate for ABS office-based staff during 2013–14 was 2.2% compared with 2.4% in 2012–13. The EAP utilisation rate for ABS interviewer staff was 1.3% in 2013–14, compared with 2.4% in 2012–13.

Consultation in the ABS

The ABS is committed to effective workplace relations arrangements that value communication, cooperation and effective consultation with employees and their chosen representatives, including union representatives, about matters that affect their workplace.

The ABS consultative framework is comprised of the following elements:

- line managers who have key responsibility for ensuring timely and effective communication and consultation in the workplace
- consultative forums which are convened in each resource centre, including regional offices
- the National Forum, which includes ABS management, employee and union representatives
- representatives of unions, meeting with management as necessary.

A meeting of the National Forum was held in September 2013 to discuss the ABS Workplace Diversity and Reconciliation Action Plans, the ABS Business Centre, the People Capability Framework and the Review of ABS Pay and Leave. The National Forum also met in December 2013 to discuss the results of the 2013 National Employee Survey. The National Forum held in March 2014 had a strong focus on our people and discussed the ABS People and Workforce Plan, productivity, staff mobility, and development and career opportunities for ABS employees.

Agreement making

The ABS has a number of industrial instruments in place to cover the employment arrangements for various ABS workforces. The instruments that apply to employees engaged under the *Public Service Act 1999* are:

- the Australian Bureau of Statistics Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014 which covers office-based employees
- individual Determinations under s.24 (1) of the *Public Service Act 1999* which cover Senior Executive Service employees.

The instruments that apply to employees engaged under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* in accordance with the Statistics Regulations are:

- the Australian Bureau of Statistics Interviewers Agreement 2011–2014 which covers home-based ABS Interviewers
- a collective Determination under s.16 (3) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* which covers Census field employees working on the 2016 Census of Population and Housing testing program.

Details of the number of employees covered by an Enterprise Agreement, or a Determination under section 24 (1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*, as at 30 June 2014 are as follows:

- ABS employees covered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014: 2827
- ABS employees covered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Interviewers Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014: 504
- SES employees covered by section 24 (1) Determination: 47

The ABS salary system

The ABS Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014 outlined the salary arrangements for non-SES ABS employees for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. In 2013–14, salary increases for APS1 to EL2 employees were paid from 4 July 2013 as a general salary increase of 1% for all employees. Table 11.8 shows salary ranges for ABS employees with the general salary increase factored in.

A three-point salary range was introduced from 24 November 2011 for each classification. Employee salaries were transitioned to the new salary ranges by applying the provisions outlined in clauses 10.1, 10.2 and 12.1 of the *ABS Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014*, subject to the maximum of the salary range not being exceeded. Employee salaries were not forced to align with the new pay points.

Table 11.8: Salary ranges by classification as at 30 June 2014

Classification	Minimum (\$) ^(a)	Maximum (\$) ^(a)
Australian Public Service (APS) level		
APS1	40,394	46,019
APS2	46,191	52,084
APS3	56,622	59,318
APS4	59,368	66,777
APS5	66,781	75,013
APS6	75,020	84,721
Executive Officer level (EL)		
EL1	92,168	106,545
EL2	115,064	133,014
Senior Executive Service (SES) level		
SES Band 1	156,704	194,511
SES Band 2	194,511	225,882
SES Band 3	225,882	N/A ^(b)

(a) The salary ranges took effect from 5 July 2013.

(b) Not applicable (as there is not a maximum level for this classification).

Recognition and reward

The ABS operates a Recognition and Reward Scheme, which recognises exceptional one-off achievements by individual employees and work groups. The awards may include a certificate of commendation together with a voucher, such as a store gift voucher, or in-kind award such as a work group morning tea.

An annual Statistician's Award was introduced in 2011–12 to identify and recognise extraordinary contributions made to the ABS by individual employees. The quantum of this award is not prescribed, but may take the form of a significant non-cash reward or development opportunity. Organisational guidelines have been developed to ensure consistent conduct of recognition and reward in the ABS. Total ABS expenditure for the scheme in 2013–14 was \$64,088.

Performance management in the ABS

The ABS is committed to being a high performing public agency which promotes a people-oriented culture through an increased focus on leadership, communication, innovation and engagement.

The ABS Development and Performance Framework (DPF) is designed to increase organisational performance by supporting all employees to maximise their performance through individual development, job satisfaction and positive, trusted working relationships.

To support a high performance culture, there was a focus over the year to increase the number of completed development and performance agreements, within the DPF cycle. The high level of completion rates in conjunction with the cascading of ABS goals from the most senior levels of management, through line-managers and teams to individuals, ensures that all employees are connected to the strategic direction of the ABS.

Building on strategies from previous years, the People Plan 2013–14 was launched. It included a key strategy of building core capability to prepare our people for the future.

In support of delivery of the People Plan 2013–14 and the DPF, the following key initiatives were conducted:

- Managing for Performance Improvement (MPI) programs were delivered to 617 Executive Level (EL) staff and above. This program aimed to increase the capability of managers to optimise existing APS and ABS performance management initiatives. An increase in manager capability for managing performance is expected to contribute to lifting performance across the ABS. An increase in the number of queries relating to managing employee performance, new performance improvement plans and formal underperformances processes, indicates that the MPI program has enhanced managers' confidence and capability to identify and act on performance concerns.
- The ABS People Capability Framework (PCF) was piloted (mandatory for all EL staff and available through an opt-in approach for all other ABS staff) to coincide with the 2013–14 DPF cycle. The PCF Evaluation is a tool designed to assist managers and staff to experience more meaningful and structured development conversations to feed in to the development component of the Development and Performance Agreement (DPA). The PCF focuses on discussing individual capability development needs, priorities, and opportunities to strengthen and focus the development activities of staff. Based on recommendations from the pilot, changes will be implemented and the PCF will be available for all ABS employees to use in the 2014–15 DPF cycle.

Through these initiatives the ABS demonstrates its commitment to the APS Employment Principle that requires effective performance from each employee.

Chapter 12

Ecological sustainability

Introduction

During 2013–14 the ABS remained committed to the principles of Ecological Sustainable Development as outlined in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.

In accordance with the EPBC Act, which requires agencies to report on aspects of their performance relating to ecologically sustainable development, the ABS has two key roles. The first of these is in relation to the ABS's responsibility for providing statistics on the environment and environmental issues to enable informed decision making. The second role relates to the impact of the ABS's operations on the environment and the action being taken by the ABS to minimise that impact.

The ABS's response to the five components of sub-section 516A (6), as required by the *EPBC Act*, is described below.

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

The ABS has an endorsed Environmental Policy Statement which identifies effective environmental practices and provides guidance to ABS staff on undertaking activities in an environmentally responsible manner. In accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, the ABS Environmental Policy Statement aims to integrate sustainable environmental practices by:

- seeking to minimise adverse environmental impacts from operations
- complying with relevant Commonwealth and territory environment legislation and the Australian Government's environmental policies and initiatives
- working to continuously improve environmental performance.

In accordance with this Policy, the ABS has implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS), which provides evidence of the ABS's commitment to ecological sustainable development. The EMS aims to:

- identify, implement and promote environmental management systems and operations
- operate in an environmentally responsible manner and where practical, reduce energy, waste and other resources
- comply with relevant Commonwealth and territory environment legislation and the Australian Government's environmental policies and initiatives

- encourage and promote environmentally sound procurement practices in compliance with *Commonwealth Procurement Rules*
- provide an environmentally sound workplace and implement environmentally sound work practices
- monitor programs and implement processes of continuous improvement
- develop an environmentally responsible culture across all levels of the organisation and consult, educate, train and motivate staff about their environmental responsibilities.

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

The ABS receives appropriation for the purpose of producing statistics that inform decision making on a wide range of social and economic matters.

The ABS works closely with the community and governments to further build information on environmental statistics, to complement the more established information bases on population, society and the economy. The focus of this development work is the integration of environmental statistics with Australia's economic and social statistics.

For more information on ABS statistical publications and developments, please see the Program Reports in Chapter 5 for:

- Agriculture
- Rural and Regional Statistics
- Environment
- Energy
- Water.

516A (6) (c) What is the effect of the organisation's activities on the environment?

The ABS's activities have the potential to affect the environment through consumption of energy and water, waste production and waste sent to landfill. A number of ongoing action plans, with relevant targets and objectives have been put in place to reduce the ABS's environmental impact. These aim to:

- reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas pollution
- reduce paper consumption
- reduce carbon emissions in transportation
- decrease water usage
- decrease waste sent to landfill, whilst increasing packaging and waste recycling
- increase the procurement of environmentally friendly products.

516A (6) (d) What measures are taken by the organisation to minimise the impact of its activities on the environment?

In accordance with the ABS Environmental Policy Statement, the ABS has sought to minimise its impact on the environment through a number of measures consistent with the aims of the EMS:

Identify, implement and promote environmental management systems and operations:

- implementing an EMS at its primary site, ABS House in Canberra, and maintaining it since 2009

Operate in an environmentally responsible manner and where practical, reduce energy, waste and other resources:

- maintaining motion sensors in all ABS House tenanted areas and energy efficient LED lights within certain areas of the ABS House tenanted areas to reduce energy consumption
- making free publications available on the ABS website and increasing the number of publications available electronically, to reduce demand for print copies
- using computer assisted interviewing, in place of paper forms
- upgrading video conferencing equipment software and increasing the number of video conferencing facilities to support virtual teams thus reducing the amount of interstate travel
- providing recycling services to all office-based staff, including
 - recycling paper, bottles, aluminium cans, steel cans, plastic and cardboard products in all offices
 - recycling mobile phones, batteries, polystyrene and plastic shopping bags in our largest office, ABS House
 - maintaining organic recycling of kitchen waste through Global Worming (a worm farm) at ABS House.

Comply with relevant Commonwealth and territory environment legislation and the Australian Government's environmental policies and initiatives:

- developing an ABS ICT Energy Management Plan in alignment with requirements and targets set under the *ICT Sustainability Plan 2010–2015*, which includes:
 - server virtualisation
 - automatic shutdown of PCs overnight. Unused PCs stay powered off during the day
 - duplex printing and copying enabled
 - transition from network printers to multi-function devices
 - rationalisation of the number of multi-function devices
 - reduced standby timeout period on multi-function devices from 90 to 60 minutes
 - continual refresh program for desktops, servers and storage, utilising latest available technology

- introducing 80% recycled content copy paper
- maintaining Altiris EiPower - desktop energy measurement software
- high-level metering of data centre (located in Central Office) and communications equipment energy consumption
- installing an intelligent management system for data centre air-conditioners to increase efficiency
- installing variable speed drives in data centre condenser water pumps and cooling tower fans
- intelligent server management system to maximise energy efficiencies—for newer technology servers.

Encourage and promote environmentally sound procurement practices in compliance with *Commonwealth Procurement Rules*:

- maintaining procurement of 10% green energy as part of the whole of government energy contract for ABS House and 10% green energy for the New South Wales, Victorian and South Australian Regional Offices
- inclusion of environmental and whole-of-life-cycle clauses as part of the tender and evaluation process in most procurement activities
- purchasing vehicles with 10.5 GVG rating in accordance with the Green Vehicle Guide
- procuring 100% recycled paper for general office use.

Provide an environmentally sound workplace and implement environmentally sound work practices:

- have a knowledge framework, incorporating digital recordkeeping rather than paper records and automatic recordkeeping facilities for ABS workgroup databases
- incorporating environmental efficiency measures into the market testing process for new leases with the integration of a Green lease schedule to each new tenancy
- maintaining of a building management system to control lighting and reduce energy use
- using re-manufactured and recycled cartridges for photocopiers, faxes and printers, and recycling used printer cartridges wherever possible
- purchasing white goods with high efficiency energy ratings
- promoting sustainable environmental practices in the current enterprise agreement.

Monitor programs and implement processes of continuous improvement:

- regularly collecting statistics on its environmental performance in accordance with all legislative requirements. This enables the ABS to monitor and report on the impact it has on the environment, and ensure that the ABS is able to measure its continual improvement against these requirements, as reported and published in *Energy Use in the Australian Government's Operations*.

Develop an environmentally responsible culture across all levels of the organisation and consult, educate, train and motivate staff about their environmental responsibilities:

- promoting, participating and celebrating environmental and energy programs around national and international events such as World Environment Day, Earth Hour and Walk and Ride to Work days
- providing tips via the intranet on ways to reduce work and home environmental footprints.

516A (6) (e) What are the mechanisms for reviewing and increasing effectiveness of these measures?

The ABS has implemented an EMS at its primary site, ABS House in Canberra, and continues to monitor the activities of the organisation that have an environmental impact. Objectives and targets are set each year to manage and reduce the impact.

Moving to a flexible working environment— *the South Australia Regional Office pilot*

The ABS is testing a flexible working environment (FWE) strategy designed to increase available work options by building on the concepts of flexi-time, part-time employment and working from home arrangements. The two components of the strategy are an activity based workplace (ABW) within the office and Teleworking, enabling staff to deliver on business needs from outside the office. FWE is supported by an end user computing strategy incorporating laptops and thin client technology to maximise staff mobility both within and outside the office. These components are integrated with supervisor skills, job requirements and staff skills to provide a comprehensive package to build adaptability and, as a minimum, retain productivity while reducing operating overheads.

An FWE allows employers and employees to decide on working arrangements such as hours of work, work location and the way work is done. It involves thinking creatively about how working lives can be better structured to match individual and business needs. Three pilot projects have been initiated to tailor FWE to the ABS and to identify implementation costs and HR issues. A teleworking pilot commenced in the Victorian office, and early lessons guided the design of the SA Regional Office (RO). Similarly, the emerging end user computing strategy set parameters for the IT components of the SA pilot (although without the preferred technology solution), and another pilot will be conducted in the Queensland RO later in 2014 with the full thin client solution. The ABW pilot commenced in the SA RO in early 2014 with a redesign of the workplace. From April 2014 the SA Office moved from occupying three floors to two floors at its existing location and the third floor was sub-let to another Australian Government agency. The remaining two floors were converted to an ABW.





The objectives of the pilot include:

- increasing productivity by providing an ABW and more opportunities for working from home
- developing a change management process to allow a smooth transition to more flexible working
- reducing the physical footprint of the office thus significantly reducing leasing costs.

The SA Office transitioned to an ABW over the period March to June 2014 as construction of the office progressed. Evaluation of changing work practices and work program outputs commenced in this period and will continue through the remainder of 2014–15. Results of the evaluation will be used to adjust the physical environment of the office, use of spaces, and management of team logistics with increased teleworking. They will also be used to inform the roll-out of ABW and FWE to other ABS offices as leases expire.

The ABS currently has eight offices with varying office designs and footprints. The potential savings on lease costs based on today's prices and current staffing when all offices have fully adopted FWE is up to \$16 million. It should be noted that these savings cannot be garnered immediately or at any one point in time. They will be realised as Office leases expire, or earlier if opportunities arise to sub-lease and bring forward office refurbishments.

Early indications in the SA Office demonstrate staff willingness to change to more flexible work practices, strong uptake of teleworking, and interest in trying the new office spaces and staff management practices. Although the 200 staff are now working within two-thirds of their previous footprint the general consensus is a more spacious office with more collaborative opportunities and an improved work environment.

Chapter 13

Assets, purchasing, consultants, advertising, market research, and legal services



Introduction

The ABS's assets are integral to the effective conduct of its business, and are part of the combination of resources required for service delivery. This chapter outlines the asset management principles, including the approach to purchasing, used by ABS during 2013–14.

The ABS directly manages its non-financial assets in accordance with Chief Executive Instructions and Australian Accounting Standards. The total value of assets is \$117.3 million. Most of the assets are intangible (internally generated software), and were valued at \$70.4 million in 2013–14. Tangible assets (property, plant and equipment) formed the remainder, and were valued at \$36.1 million with other non-financial assets (prepayments and accrued revenue) valued at \$10.8 million. Tangible asset values are maintained with the assistance of an independent assessor.

Asset management in the ABS

Principles

ABS asset management principles are designed to ensure that asset management practices and decisions support the service delivery requirements and business demands of the organisation, and that capital expenditure decisions address the full life-cycle costs, benefits and risks of the assets.

The ABS's approach to asset management encompasses the following principles:

- asset management activities are undertaken within an integrated government asset management framework
- 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.

Asset measurement

The ABS maintains an asset register to address management, statutory reporting and user requirements.

The ABS's assets are integral to the conduct of its business and are part of the combination of resources required to enable cost-effective service delivery.

The asset register 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. Asset expenditure greater than, or equal to, these amounts is capitalised and recorded on the asset register.

Purchasing

Purchasing and competitive tendering and contracting

The ABS undertakes a wide variety of procurement and contracting activities, with the majority of purchases being classed as low value and low complexity.

The ABS conducts its procurement and contracting activities in accordance with the Commonwealth procurement policy framework, the Commonwealth Procurement Rules, and Chief Executive Instructions. The ABS advertises an annual procurement plan on AusTender, and the plan is reviewed and updated as required throughout the year. The ABS has a centralised area of expertise, which provides procurement and contracting support to operational areas, and provides direct support for more complex procurement projects. Information on procurement policy and practices is disseminated to staff through an internal procurement portal.

Using efficient processes and effective application of ABS and Australian Government policies and principles, the ABS is satisfied that its approach to market testing and contracting is highly effective, resulting in value-for-money outcomes. ABS continues to invest in developing procurement skills and reviewing processes to ensure that efficiency and value-for-money outcomes are achieved.

Exempt contracts

During the 2013–14 financial year the ABS did not exempt any contracts from publication by AusTender, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Consultants

Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on contracts for consultancies.

Information on the value of contracts and consultancies is available on the AusTender website: www.tenders.gov.au.

During 2013–14 14 new consultancy contracts were entered into, involving total actual expenditure of \$0.694 million. In addition, 4 ongoing consultancy contracts were active during the 2013–14 year, involving total actual expenditure of \$0.344 million.

Advertising and market research

The ABS paid \$149,581 (GST exclusive) for advertising, and \$14,397 (GST exclusive) for public relations consultancies. The organisations that supplied these services included Universal McCann and Leo Burnett. The ABS also paid \$136,820 (GST exclusive) for market research in 2013–14.

Market research expenditure incurred in 2013–14 was in relation to testing for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing, the 2011 Census campaign evaluation, as well as a household respondent's behavioural survey and research on contact material. The organisations that supplied the market research services included DBM Consultants and Hall and Partners Open Mind Pty Ltd.

Legal Services Expenditure

Paragraph 11.1 (ba) of the Legal Services Directions 2005 (issued by the Attorney-General under section 55ZF of the *Judiciary Act 1903*) requires the ABS to make records of its legal services expenditure available, to the public.

For the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, legal services expenditure by the Australian Bureau of Statistics is shown in the following table.

Table 13.1: Summary of Legal Services Expenditure 2013-14 (inclusive of GST)

Counsel	
Total number of Counsel briefed	0
Male counsel briefed	0
Female counsel briefed	0
Total number of Counsel direct briefed	0
Male counsel direct briefed	0
Female counsel direct briefed	0
Total value of Counsel briefs	\$0.00
Male counsel briefs	\$0.00
Female counsel briefs	\$0.00
Disbursements (excluding Counsel)	\$55.57
Professional Fees	
Total professional fees paid	\$145,380.83
Breakdown of Professional Fees paid	
Minter Ellison	\$400.00
Australian Government Solicitor	\$111,787.60
Sage Legal Services	\$4,920.00
Norton Rose Fulbright (previously Norton Rose)	\$28,328.80



Section 4

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Assistant Treasurer

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2014, which comprise: a Statement by the Australian Statistician and Chief Financial Officer; Statement of Comprehensive Income; Statement of Financial Position; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Schedule of Contingencies; Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income; Administered Reconciliation Schedule; Administered Cash Flow Statement; and Notes comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

Australian Statistician's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Australian Statistician is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Australian Statistician, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601
19 National Circuit BARTON ACT 2600
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

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*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics' financial position as at 30 June 2014 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Peter Kerr
Executive Director
Delegate of the Auditor-General
Canberra
15 August 2014

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 2014 are based on properly maintained financial records 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, as amended.

Signed.....

Jonathan Palmer
A/g Australian Statistician

15 August 2014

Signed.....

Debra Foggin
Chief Financial Officer

15 August 2014

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the period ended 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits	3A	274,519	301,064
Suppliers	3B	75,014	88,644
Depreciation and amortisation	3C	34,827	35,162
Write-off and impairment of assets	3D	2,137	185
Losses from asset sales	3E	72	110
Other expenses	3F	98	112
Total expenses		386,667	425,277
Own-Source Income			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	42,055	69,259
Other revenue	4B	1,040	808
Total own-source revenue		43,095	70,067
Gains			
Other gains	4C	125	125
Total gains		125	125
Total own-source income		43,220	70,192
Net cost of contribution by services		(343,447)	(355,085)
Revenue from Government	4D	309,968	312,502
Deficit attributable to the Australian Government		(33,479)	(42,583)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		488	-
Total other comprehensive income		488	-
Total comprehensive loss attributable to the Australian Government		(32,991)	(42,583)

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the following notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6A	3,705	5,817
Trade and other receivables	6B	63,348	34,651
Total financial assets		67,053	40,468
Non-financial assets			
Leasehold improvements	7A, 7B	20,256	23,264
Property, plant and equipment	7A, 7B	15,858	18,349
Intangibles	7C, 7D	70,444	74,769
Other non-financial assets	7E	10,769	9,208
Total non-financial assets		117,327	125,590
Total assets		184,380	166,058
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	8A	20,065	19,590
Unearned revenue	8B	30,539	13,297
Other payables	8C	16,243	9,419
Total payables		66,847	42,306
Lease incentives			
Lease incentives	9A	2,500	3,716
Total lease incentives		2,500	3,716
Provisions			
Employee provisions	10A	86,629	87,110
Other provisions	10B	6,481	6,413
Total provisions		93,110	93,523
Total liabilities		162,457	139,545
Net assets		21,923	26,513
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		129,877	101,476
Reserves		24,093	23,605
Accumulated deficit		(132,047)	(98,568)
Total equity		21,923	26,513

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the following notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Statement of Changes in Equity
for the period ended 30 June 2014

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation surplus		Contributed equity/capital		Total equity	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance								
Balance carried forward from previous period	(98,568)	(55,985)	23,605	23,605	101,476	83,000	26,513	50,620
Adjusted opening balance	(98,568)	(55,985)	23,605	23,605	101,476	83,000	26,513	50,620
Comprehensive income								
Deficit for the period	(33,479)	(42,583)	-	-	-	-	(33,479)	(42,583)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	488	-	-	-	488	-
Total comprehensive income	(33,479)	(42,583)	488	-	-	-	(32,991)	(42,583)
Total comprehensive income attributable to Australian Government	(33,479)	(42,583)	488	-	-	-	(32,991)	(42,583)
Transactions with owners								
Contributions by owners								
Equity injection - Appropriations	-	-	-	-	8,211	429	8,211	429
Departmental capital budget	-	-	-	-	20,190	18,047	20,190	18,047
Total transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	28,401	18,476	28,401	18,476
Closing balance as at 30 June	(132,047)	(98,568)	24,093	23,605	129,877	101,476	21,923	26,513
Closing balance attributable to Australian Government	(132,047)	(98,568)	24,093	23,605	129,877	101,476	21,923	26,513

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the following notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Cash Flow Statement
as at 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations		283,034	345,631
Sales of goods and rendering of services		64,242	58,952
Net GST received		6,107	6,116
Total cash received		<u>353,383</u>	<u>410,699</u>
Cash used			
Employees		268,036	301,647
Suppliers		86,087	109,227
Total cash used		<u>354,123</u>	<u>410,874</u>
Net cash used by operating activities	11	<u>(740)</u>	<u>(175)</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		49	70
Total cash received		<u>49</u>	<u>70</u>
Cash used			
Purchase of leasehold improvements		3,430	92
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		4,688	4,779
Purchase of intangibles		18,572	15,980
Total cash used		<u>26,690</u>	<u>20,851</u>
Net cash used by investing activities		<u>(26,641)</u>	<u>(20,781)</u>
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Contributed equity		25,269	21,928
Total cash received		<u>25,269</u>	<u>21,928</u>
Cash used			
Borrowing costs		-	-
Repayment of borrowings		-	-
Total cash used		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash from financing activities		<u>25,269</u>	<u>21,928</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		<u>(2,112)</u>	<u>972</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		5,817	4,845
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	6A	<u>3,705</u>	<u>5,817</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Schedule of Commitments
as at 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
BY TYPE		
Commitments receivable		
Net GST recoverable on commitments	<u>(9,936)</u>	<u>(10,148)</u>
Total commitments receivable	<u>(9,936)</u>	<u>(10,148)</u>
Commitments payable		
Capital commitments		
Property, plant and equipment	1,663	24
Intangibles	-	-
Total capital commitments	<u>1,663</u>	<u>24</u>
Other commitments		
Operating leases	103,785	107,892
Other	3,844	3,718
Total other commitments	<u>107,629</u>	<u>111,610</u>
Total commitments payable	<u>109,292</u>	<u>111,634</u>
Net commitments by type	<u>99,356</u>	<u>101,486</u>
BY MATURITY		
Commitments receivable		
Net GST recoverable on commitments		
Within 1 year	(2,936)	(2,843)
Between 1 to 5 years	(5,227)	(6,722)
More than 5 years	<u>(1,773)</u>	<u>(584)</u>
Total net GST recoverable on commitments	<u>(9,936)</u>	<u>(10,149)</u>
Total commitments receivable	<u>(9,936)</u>	<u>(10,149)</u>
Commitments payable		
Capital commitments		
Within 1 year	<u>1,663</u>	<u>24</u>
Total capital commitments	<u>1,663</u>	<u>24</u>
Operating lease commitments		
Within 1 year	27,878	27,530
Between 1 to 5 years	56,409	73,937
More than 5 years	<u>19,498</u>	<u>6,424</u>
Total operating lease commitments	<u>103,785</u>	<u>107,891</u>
Other Commitments		
Within 1 year	2,758	3,718
Between 1 to 5 years	<u>1,086</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other commitments	<u>3,844</u>	<u>3,718</u>
Total commitments payable	<u>109,292</u>	<u>111,633</u>
Net commitments by maturity	<u>99,356</u>	<u>101,484</u>

Note: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Schedule of Commitments
as at 30 June 2014

The nature of capital commitments relates to committed purchases of property, plant and equipment. The majority relates to computer hardware and purchased software.

The nature of other commitments relates to operating leases and general purchases committed to as at 30 June 2014.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics in its capacity as a lessee has entered into a number of operating leases. The operating leases are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

Nature of leases	General description of leasing arrangement
Leases for office accommodation	Lease payments are subject to annual increases which are either fixed as outlined in the rental agreement or in accordance with upwards movements in the Consumer Price Index. Office accommodation leases may be renewed for up to five years at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) option, following a one-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 ABS.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Schedule of Contingencies
as at 30 June 2014

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Contingent assets		
Indemnities	-	-
Claims for damages or costs	-	-
Total contingent assets	-	-
Net contingent assets/(liabilities)	-	-

Details of each class of contingent liabilities and contingent assets listed above are disclosed in Note 12.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income
for the period ended 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Income			
Revenue			
Non-taxation revenue			
Fines ¹		3	2
Other ²		2	-
Total non-taxation revenue		<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
Total income		<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
Net contribution by services		<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
Surplus		<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
Total comprehensive income		<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>

¹*The Census and Statistics Act 1905* provides the Australian Statistician with the authority to conduct statistical collections and, when necessary, to direct a person or an organisation to provide statistical information. Where information is not provided, the ABS can impose a fine on the person or organisation. Such fines are reported in the Financial Statements as Administered Revenue.

²Unidentified receipts returned to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics
Administered Reconciliation Schedule**

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July	-	-
Net contribution by services		
Income	5	2
Transfers to the Australian Government		
Appropriation transfers to OPA		
Transfers to OPA	(5)	(2)
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June	-	-

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Administered Cash Flow Statement
for the period ended 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Fines ¹		3	2
Other ²		<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Total cash received		<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
Net increase in cash held			
		<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Cash to the Official Public Account		<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

¹ *The Census and Statistics Act 1905* provides the Australian Statistician with the authority to conduct statistical collections and, when necessary, to direct a person or an organisation to provide statistical information. Where information is not provided, the ABS can impose a fine on the person or organisation. Such fines are reported in the Financial Statements as Administered Revenue.

² Unidentified receipts returned to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Objective of the Australian Bureau Of Statistics

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is an Australian Government controlled entity. It is a not-for-profit entity. The mission and outcome of the ABS is to assist and encourage informed decision making, research and discussion within Governments and the community, by leading a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.

The ABS is structured to produce the aforementioned outcome through its economic and environment statistics and population, labour and social statistics.

ABS activities contributing to this outcome are classified as either departmental or administered. Departmental activities involve the use of assets, liabilities, income and expenses controlled or incurred by the ABS in its own right. Administered activities involve the management or oversight by the ABS, on behalf of the Government, of items controlled or incurred by 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' programs and administration.

1.2 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements and notes are general purpose Financial Statements and are required by section 49 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and are general purpose financial statements.

The financial statements and notes have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (or FMOs) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2011, as amended; and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values, and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard or the FMOs, assets and liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the ABS or a future sacrifice of economic benefits will be required and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under agreements are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the schedule of commitments or the schedule of contingencies.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, income and expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when and only when, the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

1.3 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, ABS has made the following judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements:

Make good

The ABS currently holds eight leases for office space around Australia. All of the lease agreements include a make good clause.

It is considered that four make good arrangements would be more likely to be exercised as it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation and the amount can be reliably determined. The make good arrangements have been disclosed in Other Provisions. (Note 10B)

For the remaining four leases, it is considered probable that the make good requirement would not be exercised as it is the current intention for the ABS to leave the fittings with the premises intact for the landlord at lease end, therefore negating the requirement for a make good. These arrangements will be reviewed annually.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

1.4 New Australian Accounting Standards

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard.

Future Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

Other new standards/revised standards/interpretations/amending standards that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to the future reporting period are not expected to have a future financial impact on the ABS.

1.5 Revenue

Revenue from Government

Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as Revenue from Government when ABS gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned. Revenue from Government received by the ABS is inclusive of the cyclical appropriation related to the five yearly Census of Population and Housing. The most recent Census was conducted on 9 August 2011.

Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts.

Other Types of Revenue

Sales of goods and services includes revenue from the sale of publications, other products, and the provision of statistical services. Revenue from the sales of goods is recognised when:

- the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- the agency retains no managerial involvement or effective control over the goods;
- the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- It is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the ABS.

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- the probable economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the ABS.

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion of work completed.

Other revenue includes all miscellaneous revenue such as officer contributions, Comcover recoveries and recoveries of salary from seconded agencies.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at the end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

1.6 Gains

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as gains when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains, depending on their nature.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government entity as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements.

Sale of Assets

Gains from disposal of non-current assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

1.7 Unearned Revenue

Unearned revenue includes revenue from subscriptions to statistical publications, provision of statistical consultancies, and revenue from other agencies for statistical surveys. The unearned revenue is recognised on a stage of completion basis over the period of subscriptions or the provision of services as provided (Note 8B).

1.8 Transactions with the Government as Owner

Equity Injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) and Departmental Capital Budgets (DCBs) are recognised directly in contributed equity.

1.9 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits due within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

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 at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including the ABS' 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 reference to the work of the Australian Government Actuary as at 30 June 2014. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The ABS recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

Superannuation

The majority of staff of the ABS are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap).

The ABS also made employer contributions to commercial accumulation superannuation funds as directed by its employees.

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance administered schedules and notes.

The ABS makes employer contributions to the employees' superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. The ABS accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions that have yet to be paid.

1.10 Provision for Make good

Provision for make good obligations are recognised when: the ABS has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event; it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount has been reliably estimated. The ABS makes an assessment as to whether a make good provision is required at the commencement of each new lease and at reporting date, in accordance with the aforementioned recognition criteria contained within AASB137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. Provisions are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

1.11 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of leased assets. An operating lease is a lease that is not a finance lease. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

The ABS has entered into a number of accommodation leases, which include lease incentives taking the form of 'free' leasehold improvements. Under interpretation 115 Operating Lease Incentives, all incentives in relation to operating leases are required to be classified as an integral part of the net consideration of the lease for the leased asset, irrespective of the incentives nature, form, or timing of payments.

Where an asset is acquired by means of an incentive under an operating lease, the asset is capitalised at the fair value of the lease incentive at the inception of the contract, and a liability is recognised at the same time, for the same amount.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis over the term of the lease which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets. The straight line basis takes into account fixed escalation clauses (with the exception of escalation in accordance with the CPI).

1.12 Financial Assets

The ABS classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- cash and cash equivalents; and
- trade and other receivables.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date.'

Cash

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, cash held by outsiders, cash in special accounts and demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount.

Trade and Other Receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'trade and other receivables'. Trade and other receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

Financial assets held at amortised cost – if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for trade and other receivables, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

1.13 Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

The ABS classifies its financial liabilities in the following categories:

- supplier and other payables; and
- other financial liabilities.

Supplier and Other Payables

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Other Financial Liabilities

Other financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

1.14 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position but are reported in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset, or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain, and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

1.15 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. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.16 Property, Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Statement of Financial Position, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000 (\$1,000 for IT assets and purchased software), which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

On 1 July 2013 the threshold to recognise Internally Generated Software assets (IGSW) was increased from \$1,000 to \$100,000. The Net Book Value (NBV) of IGSW assets with an original cost of less than \$1,000 was immaterial and no adjustment was made to IGSW assets as a result of increasing the threshold.

Revaluations

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

<i>Asset Class:</i>	<i>Fair Value Measured at:</i>
Leasehold Improvements	Market selling price & depreciated replacement cost
Property, plant and equipment	Market selling price & depreciated replacement cost

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment were carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations were conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets did not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depended upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments were made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment was credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets were recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reversed a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset is restated to the revalued amount.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Depreciation

Depreciable 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) are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable assets are based on the following useful lives:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Property, plant and equipment	5-10 years*	5-10 years*

*Within this class, Artwork and Curios has a useful life between 10-100 years.

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2014. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment is made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use for ABS assets is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost (where the ABS would replace the asset if it was deprived of it) as future economic benefit is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows.

Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

1.17 Intangibles

The ABS' intangibles comprise internally generated software and purchased software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life.

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2014.

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 7C). The costing methodology capitalises direct salary and on costs for programmers. General administration, and overhead costs relating to software development have not been capitalised. The data capture systems in place to collect data for programmers are in line with the requirements of the FMOs.

In accordance with the requirements of AASB 138 Intangible Assets, IGSW is stated at cost. All IGSW assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2014. Impairment on intangibles is recognised in Note 3D.

Purchased Software

Purchased software assets are stated at cost where the asset costs more than \$1,000. Purchased software below this threshold is expensed at the time of purchase. The cost of purchased software includes the purchase price and any directly attributable costs.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Amortisation

The ABS has long term commitments to survey 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 estimated useful lives of the major asset classes are as follows:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Computer software (proprietary)	Lease term	Lease term
Computer software (internally generated)	5-16 years*	5-16 years*

*The above table outlines the range of life in years for computer software, however, the average life is currently 8 years (2013: 8 years).

The aggregate amount of amortisation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 3C.

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 intangibles, and property, plant and equipment 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 Historical Statistical Data

Statistical data accumulated over many years is stored for reference purposes. This 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.

1.20 Other Non-Financial Assets

The ABS classifies its non-financial assets in the following categories:

- prepayments; and
- accrued revenue.

Prepayments

Prepayments primarily relate to maintenance contracts, office rent and subscriptions.

Accrued Revenue

The ABS accrues revenue at the time when goods are provided and/or the services are performed.

1.21 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.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

1.22 Compliance with Statutory Conditions for Payments from the Consolidated Revenue Fund

Section 83 of the Constitution provides that no amount may be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund except under an appropriation made by law. The Department of Finance provided information to all agencies in 2011 regarding the need for risk assessments in relation to compliance with the statutory conditions on payments from special appropriations, including special accounts.

The ABS undertook a risk assessment as at 30 June 2014, including potential risks relating to long service leave, goods and services tax and payments under determinations of the Remuneration Tribunal, and confirmed there were no breaches of Section 83 during the 2013-14 financial year, and that the overall risk of a breach was considered low. During the 2012-13 financial year, there were also no breaches of Section 83, and the risk assessment was low.

Breaches of Section 83 will continue to be assessed as part of the Certificate of Compliance process each financial year.

1.23 Recent decision on Commonwealth Expenditure

The Australian Government continues to have regard to developments in case law, including the High Court's most recent decision on Commonwealth expenditure in *Williams v Commonwealth [2014] HCA 23*, as they contribute to the larger body of law relevant to the development of Commonwealth programs. In accordance with its general practice, the Government will continue to monitor and assess risk and decide on any appropriate actions to respond to risks of expenditure not being consistent with constitutional or other legal requirements

1.24 Reporting Of Administered Activities

Administered revenues, assets, and cash flows are disclosed in the administered schedules and related notes. There are no administered expenses, liabilities, contingencies or commitments in 2013-14, nor were there any in 2012-13.

Except where otherwise stated below, administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, including the application of Australian Accounting Standards.

Administered Cash Transfers to Official Public Account

Revenue collected by the ABS for use by the Government rather than the ABS is administered revenue. Collections are transferred to the Official Public Account (OPA) maintained by the Department of Finance. These transfers to the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by the ABS on behalf of the Government and reported as such in the schedule of administered cash flows, and in the administered reconciliation table.

Revenue

All administered revenues are revenues relating to ordinary activities performed by the ABS on behalf of the Australian Government.

Revenue is generated from fines applied by the courts, which is recognised upon payment. Court costs awarded against the ABS, as opposed to fines, are recorded as a departmental expense.

Note 2: Events After the Reporting Period

There have been no events occurring subsequent to balance date that would affect the ABS Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2014.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 3: Expenses

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 3A: Employee Benefits		
Wages and salaries	223,937	235,027
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	16,120	17,513
Defined benefit plans	21,798	21,916
Leave and other entitlements	4,157	11,697
Interviewer wages	13,168	19,538
Interviewer superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	1,348	2,208
Defined benefit plans	721	848
Census field staff wages	301	-
Census field staff superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	5	-
Separation and redundancies	8,179	2,909
Other employee expenses	700	1,759
	<u>290,434</u>	<u>313,415</u>
Less amounts capitalised for IGSW	(15,915)	(12,351)
Total employee benefits	<u>274,519</u>	<u>301,064</u>

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 3B: Suppliers		
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Consultants	780	772
Contractors	3,543	5,549
IT services and communications	11,067	12,996
Printing and subscriptions	1,699	1,502
Property	7,293	7,816
PSO interviewer	4,254	8,104
Recruitment and employment related	2,856	2,358
Stationery and postage	1,509	1,910
Travel and training	9,407	13,720
Advertising and market research	12	146
Other	2,363	2,666
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	44,783	57,539
Goods supplied in connection with		
Related parties	409	380
External parties	12,067	13,195
Total goods supplied	12,476	13,575
Services rendered in connection with		
Related parties	3,973	2,697
External parties	28,334	41,267
Total services rendered	32,307	43,964
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	44,783	57,539
Other suppliers		
Operating lease rentals in connection with		
External parties		
Minimum lease payments	24,606	27,603
Workers compensation expenses	5,625	3,502
Total other suppliers	30,231	31,105
Total suppliers	75,014	88,644
Note 3C: Depreciation and Amortisation		
Depreciation		
Property, plant and equipment	14,002	15,971
Total depreciation	14,002	15,971
Amortisation		
Intangibles	20,825	19,191
Total amortisation	20,825	19,191
Total depreciation and amortisation	34,827	35,162

Australian Bureau of Statistics
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	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 3D: Write-off and Impairment of Assets</u>		
Impairment on financial instruments	56	4
Impairment on intangible assets	230	-
Asset write-offs	1,851	181
Total write-off and impairment of assets	2,137	185
<u>Note 3E: Losses from Asset Sales</u>		
Property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	(49)	(70)
Carrying value of assets sold	94	146
Selling expense	27	34
Total losses from asset sales	72	110
<u>Note 3F: Other Expenses</u>		
Other	98	112
Total other expenses	98	112

Australian Bureau of Statistics
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Note 4: Own-Source Income

	2014	2013
Own-Source Revenue	\$'000	\$'000

Note 4A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services

Sale of goods in connection with

Related parties	759	1,117
External parties	159	168
Total sale of goods	918	1,285

Rendering of services in connection with

Related parties	34,001	59,076
External parties	7,136	8,898
Total rendering of services	41,137	67,974
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	42,055	69,259

Note 4B: Other Revenue

Other	1,040	808
Total other revenue	1,040	808

Note 4C: Other Gains

Resources received free of charge	125	125
Total other gains	125	125

Note 4D: Revenue from Government

Appropriations		
Departmental appropriations	309,968	312,502
Total revenue from Government	309,968	312,502

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Note 5: Fair Value Measurements

Note 5A: Fair Value Measurement

Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period by hierarchy for assets and liabilities in 2014

	Fair value \$'000	Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period using		
		Level 1 inputs \$'000	Level 2 inputs \$'000	Level 3 inputs \$'000
Non-financial assets:				
Leasehold Improvements	16,847	-	193	16,654
Property, plant & equipment	15,858	-	10,356	5,502
Total non-financial assets	32,705	-	10,549	22,156
Total fair value measurements	32,705	-	10,549	22,156

1. The ABS did not measure any non-financial assets at fair value on a non- recurring basis as at 30 June 2014.

Fair value Measurements - Highest and Best Use

The ABS's assets are held for operational purposes and not held for the purposes of deriving a profit. The current use of all assets is considered the highest and best use.

There were no transfers between Levels 1, 2 or 3 during the period

The figures in this note do not include work in process and therefore the total amount of Property, Plant & Equipment differs to Note 7A.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 5B: Valuation Technique and Inputs for Level 2 and Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

Level 2 and 3 fair value measurements transferred between Level 1 and 2 for assets and liabilities

Category (Level 2 or Level 3)	Fair value \$'000	Valuation technique(s) ¹	Inputs used	Range (weighted average) ²
Non-financial assets				
Leasehold Improvements	2	193	Market Approach	-
Leasehold Improvements	3	16,654	Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC)	-
Leasehold Improvements			Replacement Cost New	6.67%-32.43% (9.24%) per annum
Property, Plant and Equipment	2	10,356	Market Approach	-
Property, Plant and Equipment			Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC)	-
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	5,502	Replacement Cost New	7.79%-25.00% (17.17%) per annum

1. There has been no change to valuation techniques.

2. Significant unobservable inputs only. Not applicable for assets or liabilities in the Level 2 category.

There were no significant inter-relationships between unobservable inputs that materially affect fair value.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Recurring and non-recurring Level 3 fair value measurements - valuation processes

The ABS procured the service of the Australian Valuation Solutions Pty Ltd (AVS) to undertake a revaluation of the IT Hardware and Artwork and Curious sub-asset classes (Property, plant and equipment) as well as a materiality review of all other non-financial assets at 30 June 2014. The ABS tests the procedures of the valuation model at least once every 12 months (as obtained at least once every three years). If a particular asset class experiences significant and volatile changes in fair value (i.e. where indicators suggest that the value of the class has changed materially since the previous reporting period), that class is subject to specific valuation in the reporting period, where practicable, regardless of the timing of the last specific valuation. AVS provided written assurance to the ABS that the models developed are in compliance with AASB 13.

There is no change in the valuation technique since the prior year.
Significant Level 3 inputs utilised by the ABS are derived and evaluated as follows:

Leasehold Improvements, Property, Plant & Equipment - Consumed economic benefit / Obsolescence of asset

Assets that do not transact with enough frequency or transparency to develop objective opinions of value from observable market evidence have been measured utilising the cost (Depreciated Replacement Cost or DRC) approach. Under the DRC approach the estimated cost to replace the asset is calculated and then adjusted to take into account its consumed economic benefit / asset obsolescence (accumulated depreciation). Consumed economic benefit / asset obsolescence has been determined based on professional judgment regarding physical, economic and external obsolescence factors relevant to the asset under consideration.

Leasehold Improvements - Current Restoration Costs, indexation rates and discount rate

Applicable makegood assets have been determined in accordance with Australian Accounting Guidance Note 2010/1 Accounting for Decommissioning, Restoration and Similar Provisions ('Make Good'). Current restoration cost has been established based on analysed transactions, costing publications and industry sources. Current restoration costs have been indexed to the obligation date (generally the expiry of the lease term) using industry building cost indexes relevant to the asset's city and then discounted, where the time value of money is material using the Australian government 10-year bond rate. The estimated asset is depreciated in line with the corresponding leasehold improvement asset.

Recurring Level 3 fair value measurements - sensitivity of inputs

Leasehold Improvements, Property, Plant & Equipment - Consumed economic benefit / Obsolescence of asset

The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement of the ABS leasehold improvements and property, plant and equipment asset classes relate to the consumed economic benefit / asset obsolescence. A significant increase (decrease) in this input would result in a significantly lower (higher) fair value measurement.

Leasehold Improvements - Current Restoration Costs, indexation rates and discount rate

The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement of the ABS leasehold restoration cost (make good) asset class relate to the current restoration costs, escalation rates and discount rates. A significant increase (decrease) in this cost new and (or) escalation rate and decrease (increase) in the discount rate would result in a significantly higher (lower) fair value measurement.

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Note 5C: Reconciliation for Recurring Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

Recurring Level 3 fair value measurements - reconciliation for assets

	Non-financial assets		
	Property, Plant and Equipment	Leasehold Improvements	Total
	2014	2014	2014
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening Balance¹	4,286	18,361	22,647
Total gains/(losses) in accumulated depreciation ²	(2,080)	(1,728)	(3,808)
Purchases	2,498	21	2,519
Revaluations	798	-	798
Sales	-	-	-
Issues	-	-	-
Settlements	-	-	-
Transfers into Level 3 ³	-	-	-
Transfers out of Level 3 ³	-	-	-
Closing Balance	5,502	16,654	22,156
Changes in unrealised gains/(losses) recognised in net cost of services for assets held at the end of the reporting period ⁴	-	-	-

1. Opening balance as determined in accordance with AASB 13

2. These gains/(losses) are presented in the Statement of Comprehensive Income

3. There have been no transfers between levels of the hierarchy during the year.

4. These unrealised gains/(losses) are presented in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 6: Financial Assets

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 6A: Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	3,705	5,817
Total cash and cash equivalents	3,705	5,817
Note 6B: Trade and Other Receivables		
Goods and services receivables in connection with		
Related parties	1,142	1,375
External parties	1,769	2,720
Total receivables for goods and services	2,911	4,095
Appropriations receivables		
Existing programs	59,823	29,757
Total appropriations receivables	59,823	29,757
Other receivables		
Statutory receivables	584	518
Sundry receivables	30	281
Total other receivables	614	799
Total trade and other receivables (net)	63,348	34,651
Trade and other receivables (net) expected to be recovered		
No more than 12 months	63,348	34,651
Total trade and other receivables (net)	63,348	34,651
Trade and other receivables (gross) aged as follows		
Not overdue	63,015	34,357
Overdue by		
0 to 30 days	217	190
31 to 60 days	21	31
61 to 90 days	22	59
More than 90 days	73	14
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	63,348	34,651

Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2013: 30 days).

The ABS has no provision for doubtful debts and all receivables are expected to be recovered.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 7: Non-Financial Assets

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 7A: Leasehold Improvements and Property Plant and Equipment</u>		
Leasehold improvements		
Fair value	32,065	32,049
Accumulated depreciation	(15,218)	(8,785)
Work in progress	3,409	-
Total leasehold improvements	<u>20,256</u>	<u>23,264</u>
Property, plant and equipment		
Fair value	23,125	36,155
Accumulated depreciation	(7,267)	(17,806)
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>15,858</u>	<u>18,349</u>
Total leasehold improvements and property, plant and equipment	<u>36,114</u>	<u>41,613</u>

No indicators of impairment were found for property, plant and equipment.

Revaluations of non-financial assets

Australian Valuation Solutions Pty Ltd reviewed the fair value of property plant and equipment as at 30 June 2014. A revaluation increment of \$487,082 was credited to the asset revaluation reserves and included in the equity section of the statement of financial position for property plant and equipment in 2013-14. Australian Valuation Solutions Pty Ltd has subsequently issued a certificate of fair value for this asset class as at 30 June 2014.

There was no revaluation review completed on the carrying value of property, plant and equipment assets in 2012-13 as per the ABS revaluation cycle.

The figures in this note include work in process and therefore the total amount differs to Note 5A.

No leasehold improvements and property, plant and equipment are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

Note 7B: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Leasehold Improvements and Property, Plant and Equipment 2014

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of leasehold improvements and property, plant and equipment for 2014

	Leasehold improvements \$ '000	Property, plant and equipment \$ '000	Total \$ '000
As at 1 July 2013			
Gross book value	32,049	36,155	68,204
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(8,785)	(17,806)	(26,591)
Total as at 1 July 2013	23,264	18,349	41,613
Additions			
Purchased	3,430	4,688	8,118
Make good	-	-	-
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	488	488
Reclassifications	-	22	22
Depreciation	(6,435)	(7,567)	(14,002)
Disposals			
Other disposals	-	(94)	(94)
Write-offs	(3)	(28)	(31)
Net book value 30 June 2014	20,256	15,858	36,114
Net book value as of 30 June 2014 represented by			
Gross book value	35,474	23,125	58,599
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(15,218)	(7,267)	(22,485)
Net book value 30 June 2014	20,256	15,858	36,114

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 7B: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Leasehold Improvements and Property, Plant and Equipment 2013

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of leasehold improvements and property, plant and equipment for 2013

	Leasehold improvements \$'000	Property, plant & equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2012			
Gross book value	34,066	33,116	67,182
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(3,219)	(11,004)	(14,223)
Net book value 1 July 2012	30,847	22,112	52,959
Additions			
Purchased	92	4,779	4,871
Make good	-	-	-
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Reclassification	(6)	6	-
Depreciation	(7,661)	(8,310)	(15,971)
Disposals			
Other disposals	-	(146)	(146)
Write-offs	(8)	(92)	(100)
Net book value 30 June 2013	23,264	18,349	41,613
Net book value as of 30 June 2013 represented by:			
Gross book value	32,049	36,155	68,204
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(8,785)	(17,806)	(26,591)
Net book value 30 June 2013	23,264	18,349	41,613

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 7C: Intangibles		
Computer software		
Internally developed – in progress	5,354	12,876
Internally developed – in use	163,587	157,576
Purchased	32,553	30,905
Accumulated amortisation	(129,737)	(125,240)
Accumulated impairment losses	(1,313)	(1,348)
Total computer software	70,444	74,769
Total intangibles	70,444	74,769

No intangibles are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 7D: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles 2014

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of intangibles for 2014

	Computer software internally developed \$'000	Computer software purchased \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2013			
Gross book value	170,452	30,905	201,357
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(110,155)	(16,433)	(126,588)
Net book value 1 July 2013	60,297	14,472	74,769
Additions			
Purchased	-	2,657	2,657
Internally developed	15,915	-	15,915
Impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	(35)	-	(35)
Reclassifications	-	(22)	(22)
Amortisation	(15,391)	(5,434)	(20,825)
Disposals	-	-	-
Other disposals	-	-	-
Write-offs	(1,996)	(54)	(2,050)
Net book value 30 June 2014	58,825	11,619	70,444
Net book value as of 30 June 2014 represented by			
Gross book value	168,941	32,553	201,494
Accumulated amortisation	(108,803)	(20,934)	(129,737)
Accumulated impairment	(1,313)	-	(1,313)
Net book value 30 June 2014	58,825	11,619	70,444

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 7D: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles 2013

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of intangibles for 2013

	Computer software internally developed \$'000	Computer software purchased \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2012			
Gross book value	163,171	28,399	191,570
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(101,649)	(11,860)	(113,509)
Net book value 1 July 2012	61,522	16,539	78,061
Additions			
Purchased	-	3,629	3,629
Internally developed	12,351	-	12,351
Impairments recognised in net cost of services	-	-	-
Reclassifications	-	-	-
Amortisation	(13,553)	(5,638)	(19,191)
Disposals	-	-	-
Other disposals	-	-	-
Write-offs	(23)	(58)	(81)
Net book value 30 June 2013	60,297	14,472	74,769
Net book value as of 30 June 2013 represented by			
Gross book value	170,452	30,905	201,357
Accumulated amortisation	(108,807)	(16,433)	(125,240)
Accumulated impairment	(1,348)	-	(1,348)
Net book value 30 June 2013	60,297	14,472	74,769

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 7E: Other Non-Financial Assets</u>		
Accrued revenue	510	1,134
Prepayments	<u>10,259</u>	<u>8,074</u>
Total other non-financial assets	<u>10,769</u>	<u>9,208</u>
Other non-financial assets expected to be recovered		
No more than 12 months	8,987	7,578
More than 12 months	<u>1,782</u>	<u>1,630</u>
Total other non-financial assets	<u>10,769</u>	<u>9,208</u>

No indicators of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 8: Payables

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 8A: Suppliers

Trade creditors and accruals	10,886	8,162
Operating lease rentals	9,125	11,428
Sundry creditors	54	-
Total suppliers payables	20,065	19,590

Suppliers expected to be settled

No more than 12 months	13,734	10,781
More than 12 months	6,331	8,809
Total suppliers	20,065	19,590

Suppliers in connection with

Related parties	27	122
External parties	20,038	19,468
Total suppliers	20,065	19,590

Settlement was usually made within 30 days.

Note 8B: Unearned Revenue

Unearned revenue	30,539	13,297
Total unearned revenue	30,539	13,297

Unearned revenue expected to be settled

No more than 12 months	22,637	11,473
More than 12 months	7,902	1,824
Total unearned revenue	30,539	13,297

Note 8C: Other Payables

Salaries and wages	8,431	7,281
Superannuation	1,281	1,104
Separations and redundancies	6,531	1,034
Total other payables	16,243	9,419

Other payables expected to be settled

No more than 12 months	16,243	9,419
More than 12 months	-	-
Total other payables	16,243	9,419

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 9: Lease Incentives

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 9A: Lease Incentives		
Lease incentives	<u>2,500</u>	<u>3,716</u>
Total lease incentives	<u>2,500</u>	<u>3,716</u>
Lease incentives expected to be settled		
Within 1 year	1,215	1,214
Between 1 to 5 years	1,285	2,502
More than 5 years	-	-
Total lease incentives	<u>2,500</u>	<u>3,716</u>

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 10: Provisions

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 10A: Employee Provisions		
Leave	86,629	87,110
Total employee provisions	86,629	87,110
Employee provisions expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	23,544	23,085
More than 12 months	63,085	64,025
Total employee provisions	86,629	87,110
Note 10B: Other Provisions		
Make good provision	6,481	6,413
Total other provisions	6,481	6,413
Other provisions expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	124	-
More than 12 months	6,357	6,413
Total other provisions	6,481	6,413

	Make good provision \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2013	6,413	6,413
Additional provisions made	68	68
Amounts used	-	-
Amounts reversed	-	-
Unwinding of discount or change in discount rate	-	-
Total as at 30 June 2014	6,481	6,481

The ABS currently has four (2013: four) agreements for the leasing of premises which have provisions requiring the ABS to restore the premises to their original condition at the conclusion of the lease. The ABS has made a provision to reflect the present value of this obligation.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 11: Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per statement of financial position to cash flow statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per		
Cash flow statement	3,705	5,817
Statement of financial position	3,705	5,817
Discrepancy	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from/(used by) operating activities:		
Net contribution by services	(343,447)	(355,085)
Revenue from Government	309,968	312,502
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Loss on disposal of assets	45	76
Depreciation/amortisation	34,827	35,162
Net write-off of non-financial assets	2,081	181
Movements in assets and liabilities		
Assets		
(Increase)/Decrease in net receivables	(25,565)	33,123
(Increase)/Decrease in other non-financial assets	(1,561)	9
Liabilities		
Decrease in lease incentives	(1,216)	(1,215)
Increase/(Decrease) in employee provisions	(481)	5,123
Increase/(Decrease) in other provisions	68	(5)
Increase/(Decrease) in unearned revenue	17,242	(13,883)
Increase/(Decrease) in suppliers payable	475	(10,457)
Increase/(Decrease) in other payables	6,824	(5,706)
Net cash used by operating activities	<u>(740)</u>	<u>(175)</u>

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 12: Contingent Assets and Liabilities

	Claims for damages or costs		Total	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Contingent assets				
Balance from previous period	-	943	-	943
New contingent assets recognised	-	-	-	-
Re-measurement	-	(695)	-	(695)
Assets realised	-	(248)	-	(248)
Total contingent assets	-	-	-	-
Contingent liabilities				
Balance from previous period	-	-	-	-
New contingent liabilities recognised	-	-	-	-
Re-measurement	-	-	-	-
Liabilities realised	-	-	-	-
Obligations expired	-	-	-	-
Total contingent liabilities	-	-	-	-
Net contingent assets/(liabilities)	-	-	-	-

Quantifiable Contingencies

During 2011-12 a contingent asset in respect to a claim for costs of \$942,831 was reported, which was settled during 2012-13. There were no further claims for costs in 2013-14.

There are no contingent liabilities reported (2013: Nil).

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 13: Senior Executive Remuneration

Note 13A: Senior Executive Remuneration Expenses for the Reporting Period

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits		
Salary	8,671,095	7,439,578
Performance bonuses	3,740	7,500
Other ¹	<u>1,135,458</u>	<u>950,174</u>
Total short-term employee benefits	<u>9,810,293</u>	<u>8,397,252</u>
Post-employment benefits		
Superannuation	<u>1,499,430</u>	<u>1,228,715</u>
Total post-employment benefits	<u>1,499,430</u>	<u>1,228,715</u>
Other long-term employee benefits		
Long-service leave	258,593	385,895
Annual leave accrued	<u>192,294</u>	<u>132,182</u>
Total other long-term benefits	<u>450,887</u>	<u>518,077</u>
Termination benefits	-	-
Total senior executive remuneration expenses	<u>11,760,610</u>	<u>10,144,044</u>

Notes:

1. 'Other' includes motor vehicle allowances and other allowances.
2. Note 13A is prepared on an accrual basis (therefore the performance bonus expenses disclosed above may differ from the cash 'Bonus paid' in Note 13B).
3. Note 13A excludes acting arrangements and part-year service where total remuneration expensed for a senior executive was less than \$195,000. The 2013 comparatives have been amended to reflect the increase in the reporting threshold from \$180,000 to \$195,000. Based on the original threshold the senior executive remuneration in 2013 was \$11.2m.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 13B: Average Annual Reportable Remuneration Paid to Substantive Senior Executives During the Reporting Period

Average annual reportable remuneration paid to substantive senior executives in 2014		Senior Executives	Reportable salary ²	Contributed superannuation ³	Reportable allowances ⁴	Bonus paid ⁵	Total
		No.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Average annual reportable remuneration ¹							
Total reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements)							
less than \$195,000		5	41,227	3,589	2,043	-	46,859
\$195,000 to \$224,999		19	161,280	26,712	24,531	-	212,523
\$225,000 to \$254,999		12	181,075	30,786	24,540	-	236,401
\$255,000 to \$284,999		6	208,377	35,758	26,482	623	271,240
\$285,000 to \$314,999		2	231,409	38,735	26,025	-	296,169
\$315,000 to \$344,999		1	281,599	47,699	15,419	-	344,717
\$345,000 to \$374,999		1	281,492	46,727	27,261	-	355,480
\$375,000 to \$404,999		1	302,091	50,399	27,473	-	379,963
\$405,000 to \$434,999		1	345,381	46,046	27,314	-	418,741
\$825,000 to \$854,999		1	791,153	40,945	-	-	832,098
Total number of substantive senior executives		49					

Notes:

- This table reports substantive senior executives who received remuneration during the reporting period. Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.
- 'Reportable salary' includes the following:
 - gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column);
 - reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' for tax purposes);
 - reportable employer superannuation contributions; and
 - exempt foreign employment income.
- The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average cost to the ABS for the provision of superannuation benefits to substantive senior executives in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period.
- 'Reportable allowances' are the average actual allowances paid as per the 'total allowances' line on individuals' payment summaries.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

5. 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. The 'bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the ABS during the financial year.

Average annual reportable remuneration paid to substantive senior executives in 2013

Average annual reportable remuneration ¹	Senior Executives No.	Reportable salary ²	Contributed superannuation ³	Reportable allowances ⁴	Bonus paid ⁵	Total
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements)						
less than \$195,000	11	84,368	15,968	9,602	-	109,938
\$195,000 to \$224,999	17	158,245	24,902	24,199	-	207,346
\$225,000 to \$254,999	11	182,238	29,269	24,460	682	236,649
\$255,000 to \$284,999	5	214,760	33,719	21,183	-	269,662
\$285,000 to \$314,999	1	223,926	35,488	25,638	-	285,052
\$315,000 to \$344,999	3	274,685	39,402	18,756	-	332,843
\$345,000 to \$374,999	1	274,985	44,670	26,856	-	346,511
\$375,000 to \$614,999	1	543,425	66,811	-	-	610,236
Total number of substantive senior executives	50					

Notes:

- This table reports substantive senior executives who received remuneration during the reporting period. Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.
- 'Reportable salary' includes the following:
 - gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column);
 - reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' for tax purposes);
 - reportable employer superannuation contributions; and
 - exempt foreign employment income.
- The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average cost to the ABS for the provision of superannuation benefits to substantive senior executives in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period.
- 'Reportable allowances' are the average actual allowances paid as per the 'total allowances' line on individuals' payment summaries.
- 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. The 'bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the ABS during the financial year.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 13C: Average Annual Reportable Remuneration Paid to Other Highly Paid Staff during the Reporting Period

Average annual reportable remuneration paid to other highly paid staff in 2014

Average annual reportable remuneration ¹	Staff No.	Reportable salary ²	Contributed superannuation ³	Reportable allowances ⁴	Bonus paid ⁵	Total reportable remuneration
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
\$195,000 to \$224,999	2	156,032	23,845	24,815	-	204,692
Total number of other highly paid staff	2					

Notes:

- This table reports staff:
 - who were employed by the ABS during the reporting period;
 - whose reportable remuneration was \$195,000 or more for the financial period; and
 - were not required to be disclosed in Table B.
 Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.
- 'Reportable salary' includes the following:
 - gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column);
 - reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' for tax purposes);
 - reportable employer superannuation contributions; and
 - exempt foreign employment income.
- The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average cost to the ABS for the provision of superannuation benefits to other highly paid staff in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period
- 'Reportable allowances' are the average actual allowances paid as per the 'total allowances' line on individuals' payment summaries.
- 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. The 'bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the ABS during the financial year.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Average annual reportable remuneration paid to other highly paid staff in 2013

Average annual reportable remuneration ¹	Staff No.	Reportable salary ²	Contributed superannuation ³	Reportable allowances ⁴	Bonus paid ⁵	Total reportable remuneration
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements):		-	-	-	-	-
\$195,000 to \$224,999	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total number of other highly paid staff	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes:

- This table reports staff:
 - who were employed by the ABS during the reporting period;
 - whose reportable remuneration was \$195,000 or more for the financial period; and
 - were not required to be disclosed in Table B.
 Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.
- 'Reportable salary' includes the following:
 - gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column);
 - reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' for tax purposes);
 - reportable employer superannuation contributions; and
 - exempt foreign employment income.
- The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average cost to the ABS for the provision of superannuation benefits to other highly paid staff in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period.
- 'Reportable allowances' are the average actual allowances paid as per the 'total allowances' line on individuals' payment summaries.
- 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. The 'bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the ABS during the financial year.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 14: Remuneration of Auditors

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial statement audit services were provided free of charge to the ABS by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO).		
Fair value of services received		
Financial statement audit services	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>
Total fair value of services received	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>

No other services were provided by the auditors of the financial statements.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 15: Financial Instruments

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 15A: Categories of Financial Instruments		
Financial Assets		
Loans and receivables		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,705	5,817
Trade and other receivables*	2,941	4,376
Total financial assets	6,646	10,193
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade and sundry creditors	10,886	8,162
Total financial liabilities	10,886	8,162
Note 15B: Net Losses on Financial Assets		
Loans and receivables		
Bad debts written off	56	4
Net losses on financial assets	56	4

Note 15C: Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying value of financial instruments of the ABS is a reasonable approximation of the fair value of those financial statements.

*For the purposes of Note 15 Financial Instruments, trade and other receivables excludes appropriation receivable and GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 15D: Credit Risk

The ABS is a 100% owned Australian Government entity, which is primarily funded for its activities through the budget process.

The majority of services provided by the ABS are delivered to other Government entities and therefore represent minimal credit exposure for the agency.

The maximum exposure to credit risk is the risk that arises from potential default of a debtor. This amount is equal to the total amount of trade and other receivables excluding appropriation receivable and GST receivable from the Australian Tax Office (2014: \$2,941,000 and 2013: \$4,376,000).

The ABS has policies and procedures in relation to debt recovery techniques that are applied as appropriate. The ABS holds no collateral to mitigate against credit risk.

Credit quality of financial instruments not past due or individually determined as impaired

	Not past due nor impaired 2014 \$'000	Not past due nor impaired 2013 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2014 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2013 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	3,705	5,817	-	-
Trade and other receivables	2,608	4,082	333	294
Total	6,313	9,899	333	294

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2014

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade and other receivables	217	21	22	73	333
Total	217	21	22	73	333

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2013

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade and other receivables	190	31	59	14	294
Total	190	31	59	14	294

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 15E: Liquidity Risk

The ABS receives appropriation funding from the Australian Government. The ABS manages its cash to ensure it is able to make payments as they fall due. In addition, the ABS undertakes cash forecasting to ensure it can meet future liabilities as they fall due. The ABS has policies in place to ensure payments are made on time.

The financial liabilities of ABS are trade and sundry creditors.

The exposure to liquidity risk is based on the notion that the ABS will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. This is highly unlikely due to appropriation funding and mechanisms available to the ABS (e.g. Advance to the Finance Minister) and internal policies and procedures put in place to ensure there are appropriate resources to meet its financial obligations.

The ABS has no derivative financial liabilities in both current and prior year.

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities in 2014

	On demand \$'000	Within 1 year \$'000	1 to 2 years \$'000	2 to 5 years \$'000	> 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade and sundry creditors	-	10,886	-	-	-	10,886
Total	-	10,886	-	-	-	10,886

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities in 2013

	On demand \$'000	Within 1 year \$'000	1 to 2 years \$'000	2 to 5 years \$'000	> 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade and sundry creditors	-	8,162	-	-	-	8,162
Total	-	8,162	-	-	-	8,162

Note 15F: Market Risk

The ABS holds basic financial instruments that do not expose the ABS to 'currency risk' or 'other price risk'.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 16: Financial Assets Reconciliation

		2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
	Notes		
Total financial assets as per statement of financial position		67,053	40,468
Less: non-financial instrument components			
Appropriation receivable	6B	59,823	29,757
Statutory receivables (GST)	6B	584	518
Total non-financial instrument components		60,407	30,275
Total financial assets as per financial instruments note	15A	6,646	10,193

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 17: Appropriations

Note 17A: Annual Appropriations (Recoverable GST exclusive)

Annual Appropriations for 2014

	Appropriation Act		FMA Act			Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2014 (current years) \$'000	Variance \$'000
	Annual Appropriation \$'000	Appropriations reduced ¹ \$'000	Section 30 ² \$'000	Section 31 \$'000	Section 32 \$'000			
Departmental								
Ordinary annual services	330,158	-	1,735	60,697	-	392,590	364,398	28,192
Other services								
Equity	8,211	-	-	-	-	8,211	8,449	(238)
Total departmental	338,369	-	1,735	60,697	-	400,801	372,847	27,954

Notes:

1. Appropriation reduced under Appropriation Acts (Nos. 1, 3 & 5) 2013-14; sections 10, 11, 12 and under Appropriation Acts (Nos. 2, 4 & 6) 2013-14; sections 12, 13 and 14. Departmental appropriations do not lapse at financial year-end. However, the responsible Minister may decide that part or all of a departmental appropriation is not required and request the Finance Minister to reduce that appropriation. The reduction in the appropriation is effected by the Finance Minister's determination and is disallowable by Parliament. No determinations were made in 2013-14.
2. Section 30 represents reimbursements to the ABS for payments made from appropriation. Section 31 represents retained receipts for good and services provided to external and related entities as per note 1.5.
3. The variance between the total Departmental appropriation and the appropriation applied is due to prior year undrawn appropriation being used. The undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2014 is detailed in Table C.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	Appropriation Act		FIMA Act				Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2014 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance ³ \$'000
	Annual Appropriation \$'000	Appropriations reduced ¹ \$'000	Section 30 ² \$'000	Section 31 \$'000	Section 32 \$'000	Total \$'000			
Departmental									
Ordinary annual services	332,030	-	2,191	53,488	-	387,709	421,661	(33,952)	
Other services	429	-	-	-	-	429	605	(176)	
Equity									
Total departmental	332,459	-	2,191	53,488	-	388,138	422,266	(34,128)	

Notes:

1. Appropriation reduced under Appropriation Acts (Nos. 1, 3 & 5) 2012-13; sections 10, 11, 12 and under Appropriation Acts (Nos. 2, 4 & 6) 2012-13; sections 12, 13 and 14. Departmental appropriations do not lapse at financial year-end. However, the responsible Minister may decide that part or all of a departmental appropriation is not required and request the Finance Minister to reduce that appropriation. The reduction in the appropriation is effected by the Finance Minister's determination and is disallowable by Parliament. No determinations were made in 2012-13.
2. Section 30 represents reimbursements to the ABS for payments made from appropriation. Section 31 represents retained receipts for good and services provided to external and related entities as per note 1.5.
3. The variance between the total Departmental appropriation and the appropriation applied is due to prior year undrawn appropriation being used. The undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2013 is detailed in Table C.
4. At 30 June 2013 a determination had not been issued by the Finance Minister for a reduction in appropriation of \$1.481M. The appropriation was reduced when the determination was issued in August 2013.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 17B: Departmental Capital Budgets (Recoverable GST exclusive)

	2014 Capital Budget Appropriations		Capital Budget Appropriations applied in 2014 (current and prior years)				
	FIMA Act		Total Capital Budget Appropriations \$'000	Payments for non-financial assets ³ \$'000	Payments for other purposes \$'000	Total payments \$'000	Variance \$'000
	Appropriation Act	Section 32 Appropriations reduced ² \$'000					
Departmental							
Ordinary annual services - Departmental Capital Budget ¹	20,190	-	20,190	17,145	-	17,145	3,045

Notes:

1. Departmental Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No. 1,3,5). They form part of ordinary annual services, and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts. For more information on ordinary annual services appropriations, please see Note 17A: Annual appropriations.
2. Appropriations reduced under Appropriation Acts (No. 1,3,5) 2013-14: sections 10,11,12 and 15 or via a determination by the Finance Minister.
3. Payments made on non-financial assets include purchases of assets, expenditure on assets which has been capitalised, costs incurred to make good an asset to its original condition, and the capital repayment component of finance leases.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2013 Capital Budget Appropriations		Capital Budget Appropriations applied in 2013 (current and prior years)				
	<i>Appropriation Act</i>		<i>FMA Act</i>				
	Annual Capital Budget \$'000	Appropriations reduced ² \$'000	Total Capital Budget Appropriations \$'000	Payments for non-financial assets ³ \$'000	Payments for other purposes \$'000	Total payments \$'000	Variance \$'000
Departmental Ordinary annual services - Departmental Capital Budget ¹	18,047	-	18,047	21,499	-	21,499	(3,452)

Notes:

1. Departmental Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No. 1,3,5). They form part of ordinary annual services, and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts. For more information on ordinary annual services appropriations, please see Note 17A: Annual appropriations.
2. Appropriations reduced under Appropriation Acts (No. 1,3,5) 2012-13: sections 10,11,12 and 15 or via a determination by the Finance Minister.
3. Payments made on non-financial assets include purchases of assets, expenditure on assets which has been capitalised, costs incurred to make good an asset to its original condition, and the capital repayment component of finance leases.
4. The variance between the Capital Budget appropriation and the appropriation applied during the reporting period is due to prior year undrawn appropriation being applied. The undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2013 is detailed in Note 17C Unspent Annual Appropriations.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 17C: Unspent Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Departmental		
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 2012-13	-	35,112
Departmental Act 2 - Non Operating - Equity Injection 2013-14	87	-
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 2013-14	60,259	-
Departmental Act 2 - Non Operating - Equity Injection 2011-12	137	462
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 - Capital Budget (DCB) - Non Operating 2013-14	3,045	-
Total departmental	63,528	35,574

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 18: Compensation and Debt Relief

	2014 \$	2013 \$
Compensation and Debt Relief - Departmental		
No 'Act of Grace payments' were expended during the reporting period. (2013: No expenses).	-	-
No waivers of amounts owing to the Australian Government were made pursuant to subsection 34(1) of the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997. (2013: No waivers).	-	-
No payments were provided under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration (CDDA) Scheme during the reporting period. (2013: No payments).	-	-
No ex-gratia payments were provided for during the reporting period. (2013: No payments).	-	-
No payments were provided in special circumstances relating to APS employment pursuant to section 73 of the Public Service Act 1999 (PS Act) during the reporting period. (2013: 1 payment).	-	(44,290)

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 19: Reporting of Outcomes

Note 19A: Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental				
Expenses	(386,667)	(425,277)	(386,667)	(425,277)
Own-source income	43,220	70,192	43,220	70,192
Administered	-	-	-	-
Expenses	-	-	-	-
Income	5	2	5	2
Net cost of outcome delivery	(343,442)	(355,083)	(343,442)	(355,083)

Outcome 1 is described in note 1.1.

Net costs shown include intra-government costs that are eliminated in calculating the actual Budget Outcome.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 20: Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements

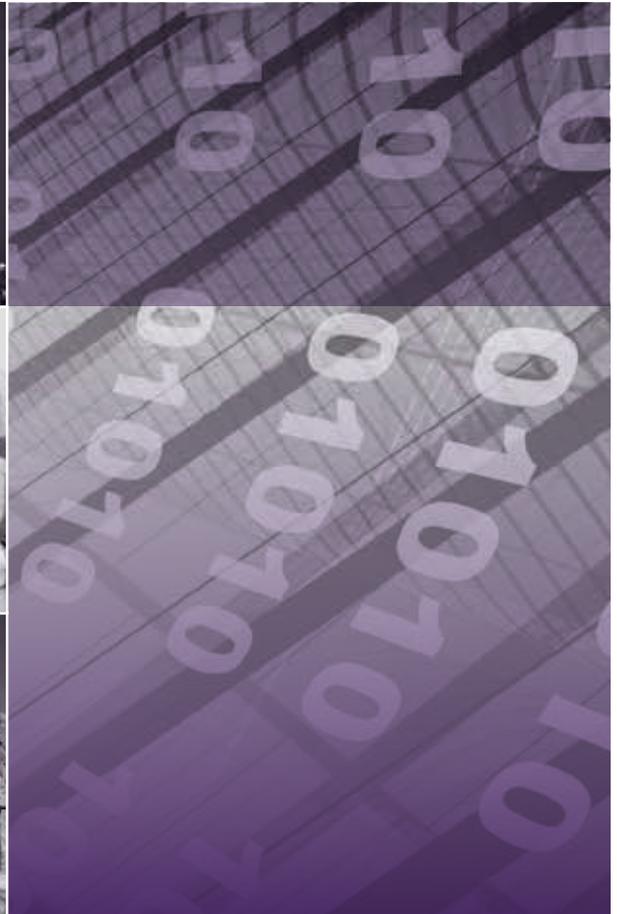
	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Total comprehensive income/(loss) less depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriations¹	1,836	(7,421)
Plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriation	<u>(34,827)</u>	<u>(35,162)</u>
Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income	<u>(32,991)</u>	<u>(42,583)</u>

1. From 2010-11, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements, where revenue appropriations for depreciation/amortisation expenses ceased. Entities now receive a separate capital budget provided through equity appropriations. Capital budgets are to be appropriated in the period when cash payment for capital expenditure is required.



Section 5

GLOSSARY AND INDEX



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Glossary

AATSIHS	Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey
ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
ABR	Australian Business Register
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABS cat. no.	ABS catalogue number
ABW	activity based workplace
ACIN	Australian Community Indicators Network
ACLD	Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset
ACMID	Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ADPI	Attached Dwelling Price Index
AEDI	Australian Early Development Index
AGSF	Australian Government Statistical Forum
AMP	Agency Multicultural Plan
ANZSOC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification
APCAS	Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics
APP	Australian Privacy Principles
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
APS	Australian Public Service
ASAC	Australian Statistics Advisory Council
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
AURIN	Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network
BAU	business-as-usual
BLD	Business Longitudinal Database
BPS	Badan Pusat Statistik (Statistics Indonesia)
CDE	Census Data Enhancement
Census	Census of Population and Housing, conducted every five years under the authority of the <i>Census and Statistics Act 1905</i> . The Census aims to measure accurately the number of people and dwellings in Australia on Census Night, and a range of their key characteristics.

COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COICOP	Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CSB	Customer Services Branch
CURF	Confidentialised Unit Record File
CVRS	Civil Registrations and Vital Statistics
DACB	Data Acquisition and Collection Branch
DCU	Data Collection Unit
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DGS	Directorate General of Statistics, Timor Leste
DIBP	Department of Immigration and Border Protection
DPF	Development and Performance Framework
DSBB	IMF Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe (UN)
EG-ISGI	Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (UN)
ELG	Executive Leadership Group
EMS	Environmental Management System
ESA	Essential Statistical Assets
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN)
ESI	Essential Statistical Infrastructure
FMS	Freight Movement Survey
FOI	Freedom of Information
FSDF	Foundation Spatial Data Framework
FTE	Full Time Employee
FWE	flexible working environment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFC	global financial crisis
GFS	government finance statistics
Global Worming	Global Worming is a worm farm at ABS House
GSIM	Generic Statistical Information Model
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HPI	House price index
HR	Human Resources
IAOS	International Association for Official Statistics
ICAS	International Conference on Agricultural Statistics

ICD	International Classification of Diseases
ICES	Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy
ICT	information and communication technology
IEM	Indigenous Engagement Managers
IMF	International Monetary Fund
iSTAT	National Institute of Statistics, Italy
IT	Information technology
ITAB	International Technical Advisory Board
ITPIs	International Trade Price Indexes
IYOS	International Year of Statistics
KPIs	key performance indicators
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LNG	Liquefied natural gas
MAP	Measure of Australia's Progress
MFP	multifactor productivity
MIAD	Methodologies for an Integrated Use of Administrative Data
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
MRR	metadata registry and repository
N/A	not applicable
NaPLAN	National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy
NASIS	National Agricultural Statistical Information System
NASR	National Agricultural Statistics Review
NATSISS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
NCCRS	National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics
NMSU	National Migrant Statistics Unit
NPI	non-profit institutions
NSO	National Statistical Organisation
NSS	National Statistical Service
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
NTDS	National Training and Development Section
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
onboarding	Use of electronic resources for employee induction and familiarisation
PBLCI	Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index
PCF	People Capability Framework
PMF	Project Management Framework

PMO	Program Management Office
PPIs	Producer Price Indexes
QLD	Queensland
R&D	research and development
REASP	Rural Environment and Agriculture Statistics Program
RPPI	Residential Property Price Index
SA	South Australia
SCCD	Statistical Capability and Capacity Development program
SCH	Statistical Clearing House
SDB	Settlement Data Base
SDDS	IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard
SEEA	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
SEEA-AA	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting: Applications and Extensions
SES	Senior Executive Service
SFIC	Strategic Finance and Investment Committee
SIAP	Statistics Institute of Asia and the Pacific (UN)
SLCIs	Selected Living Cost Indexes
SMG	Senior Management Group
SMVU	Survey of Motor Vehicle Use
SNZ	Statistics New Zealand
SSF	State Statistical Forum
SSF	Statistical Spatial Framework
STEM	science, technology, engineering and maths
STSS	State and Territory Statistical Services
TAS	Tasmania
TETIA	Transforming Education and Training Information in Australia
TSA	Tourism Satellite Account
TSD	Technology Services Division
TYPSS	Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN EG-ISGI	United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
UNESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UN-GGIM	United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
USA	United States of America
VET	Vocational Education and Training
VIC	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
WAVES	Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services
WHS	work health and safety
WPI	Wage Price Index

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