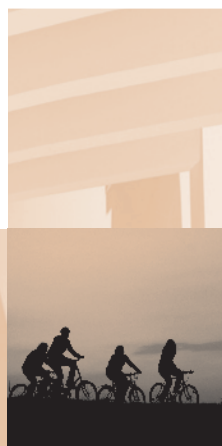
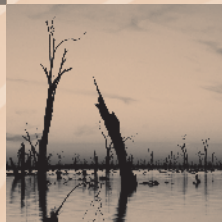
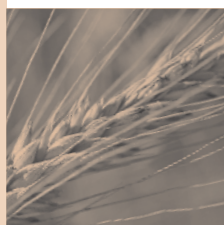
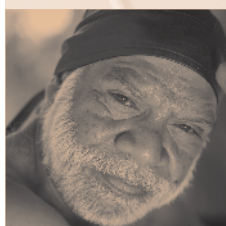




Annual Report

2010–11



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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: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

The 2010–11 ABS Annual Report can be found at: <http://www.abs.gov.au>



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The Hon Bill Shorten, MP
Assistant Treasurer

In accordance with the provisions of subsection 24(1) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, I hereby submit to you, for presentation to the Parliament, this report on the operations of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2011.

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

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

Brian Pink

20 September 2011

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Section 1

INTRODUCTION



Chapter 1

Australian Statistician's review of 2010–11



Australian Statistician, Brian Pink congratulates Assistant Statistician Population Census Branch, Paul Lowe

Introduction

In the past 12 months, we have continued towards our goal of growing the ABS as a truly modern statistical organisation. In 2010–11 we have focused on developing sustainable statistical infrastructure and maintaining the quality of our statistical program that is growing in complexity and scope.

Significant achievements were made across our statistical divisions, with a focus on meeting complex information demands in the economic, social, population and environment spheres – the four pillars of the ABS statistics program.

Key statistical achievements

2011 Census of Population and Housing

The 16th Census of Population and Housing (Census) will be held on Tuesday 9 August 2011. This will mark 100 years of national Census taking in Australia, a proud achievement for the ABS.

The Census is the most wide-ranging statistical collection undertaken by the ABS and Australia's largest regular peace-time logistical operation. It provides a snapshot of our population, where we live, and our key characteristics. As such, it is a unique lens through which we can view Australia's social landscape.

Early indicators point to the 2011 Census being a great success. Our preparations in the lead up to the Census position us well to meet any challenges, and deliver the highest quality outcome for the nation.

In 2011, we will further refine our field operation to ensure everyone in Australia on Census night is counted, wherever they are. Our field staff, including 29,000 collectors, will traverse the breadth of the country to deliver 14.2 million Census forms to Australia's 9.8 million households. In addition, we have employed highly skilled and highly trained fly-in, fly-out collectors to access our most isolated and challenging areas, special collectors to count people experiencing homelessness, in hospitals and nursing homes, bi-lingual collectors to ensure people whose first language isn't English can participate easily, and special 'teams' to ensure contact is made with residents of secure apartment complexes and shared residences.

Our Indigenous enumeration strategy is another key focus for this census, involving a stronger integration of mainstream and Indigenous enumeration in urban and regional areas, as well as improvements to enumeration in remote Indigenous communities, to improve the collection of data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Extensive on-the-ground engagement work undertaken by local engagement managers and Indigenous engagement managers in the years leading up to the Census have laid a strong foundation for us to achieve these goals, and employment of local people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to work on the Census is critical to our strategy.

An integrated public relations and advertising campaign aims to garner public support for and interest in the Census, to encourage highest possible levels of participation. For the first time, use of social media channels such as Twitter and Facebook, along with a range of other communication activities, are being targeted at young Australians to engage them more fully. Strong promotion of the fast, secure and easy online option, eCensus, is expected to result in at least 30 per cent of the population using this option as an alternative to the traditional paper form.

The first data from the 2011 Census will be available in 2012. This vast statistical output will tell us about our nation and our society at this point in time. It will be used by the community, business and all levels of government to make funding decisions and plan services and infrastructure, lighting the way for a brighter future for us all.

Information Management Transformation Program

The ABS has adopted a new strategic direction of transforming the management of key statistical information in Australia to improve the usability, value and timeliness of official statistics. Fundamental to the effectiveness of Australia's national statistical system in the future is a modern information infrastructure. The Information Management Transformation Program (IMTP) has been established to transform the way ABS manages statistical information, and thinks about its business. IMTP aims to deliver an environment in which Australian governments can readily find, access and combine the key information required to target improved service delivery and to inform decision making.

This ground-breaking program will build resilient and sustainable capability for the ABS to deliver services to government, business and the broader community into the future. The core of the initiative involves the introduction of a robust information management framework and supporting infrastructure, which will eventually be extended to other sources of statistical information for Australia. IMTP is not about defining or designing the future, it is about setting the platform for the ABS to be responsive for whatever the future will be.

Australian Health Survey

The Australian Health Survey was launched this year and went into the field in May 2011. This is the largest health survey ever conducted by the ABS. For the first time, respondents have been invited to provide biomedical samples to complete the picture of Australia's health and provide new objective measures to complement self-reported health information.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wave of the survey is also in development. This wave will inform research and policy making in the area of Indigenous health including efforts to reduce the gap between the health of Australia's Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Technical Panel has been formed to ensure that cultural sensitivities are maintained throughout the process of the survey development. This panel is providing advice on the survey components, ensuring they are appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in both remote and non-remote communities.

Measures of Australia's Progress

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) is one of the ABS flagship publications and was first produced in 2002. Setting out a suite of social, economic and environmental indicators that aim to measure a country's progress, continues to be one of the most important and challenging tasks that a national statistical agency undertakes, and the ABS is proud to be considered a world leader in the measurement of national progress.

Now a decade on from our initial consultation, and in light of recent international initiatives in progress measurement, the Social Statistics Group is currently undertaking community consultations to ensure that the approach currently used in MAP is relevant to the wider community. The consultation will also assist in the development of a conceptual framework for progress.

Establishment of data integration board

Statistical data integration work moved into a new phase during 2010–11. In late 2010, APS portfolio secretaries endorsed a set of governance and institutional arrangements to give effect to the high level principles for statistical data integration. Key to these arrangements is a Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board. The oversight board comprises the Australian Statistician (as chair), and the Secretaries of the Department of Health and Ageing; Human Services; and Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The board provides strategic and collaborative leadership, supports effective governance, and helps manage the risks of particular statistical data integration projects. Importantly, the board will help manage the potential systemic risks associated with conducting data integration projects.

The first meeting of the Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board was held in March 2011. The board agreed to an interim accreditation process for integrating authorities undertaking high risk statistical data integration projects, and requirements for integrating authorities to be authorised. The accreditation process and authorisation requirements will be key to a safe and effective environment in which existing administrative and survey data can be brought together to inform complex and cross cutting issues such as climate change and the challenges of an ageing population.

More information is presented in Chapter 3, Integrating Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes.

Other significant statistical achievements

NatStats 2010

Following the success of the inaugural NatStats Conference in 2008, the ABS hosted the NatStats 2010 Conference in Sydney from 15–17 September. Focusing on the theme of “Measuring what counts: economic development, wellbeing and progress in 21st century Australia”, the conference brought together users and producers of data from government, business, academia and the community to consider how we might improve Australia's statistics and meet the challenges of the future.

A number of recommendations were agreed upon as a result of this conference, including an increased focus to be placed on measuring progress within the economy, environment and society; and increasing the accessibility of our statistics for all of our user groups. More information is presented in Chapter 6, National Statistical Service.

Counting the homeless

In recent years, the ABS has placed a high level of importance on improving the strategy and approach taken to both counting and estimating the homeless. In understanding Australian society and its people, homelessness is an aspect of disadvantage that both derives from and implies the risk of many other aspects of disadvantage. Coming to an understanding of the scale, depth and persistence of homelessness in Australia is important in forming society views and social policy to address disadvantage. The aim of the ABS's methodological review in this area has been to ensure that any ABS homeless population derived from estimates of homeless people enumerated in the Census are compiled using a transparent, repeatable method and can produce a consistent time series from 2001 onwards.

2011 Agricultural Census

This year, the ABS distributed Agricultural Census forms to 162,500 businesses across the country. For the first time, the ABS has given respondents the option of completing their Agricultural Census form online. This has been a significant technical undertaking and has been welcomed by providers. This will allow the data providers to complete the form at a time and place most convenient to them. It also means that the ABS is working towards a more sustainable future with a decreasing reliance on paper survey forms.

The ABS has also conducted the Agricultural Land and Water Ownership Survey, which looks at the level of foreign ownership of agricultural land and businesses for the first time. The results of this survey will be released in September 2011.

Consumer Price Index review

Following an extensive public consultation process, this financial year marked the completion of our major review of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The main outcome of this process was a decision for the principal purpose of the CPI to remain as a measure of household inflation. It was also decided that from the September quarter 2011, there will be changes made to the measurement of financial services and that seasonally adjusted estimates of the CPI will be produced.

Users also indicated support for a more responsive and representative national indicator of inflation faced by households. Demand for a monthly CPI is supported by the ABS as long as no compromise in quality is made as a concession. The ABS also recommends that the CPI should be reweighted more frequently than the current six-yearly interval that coincides with the conduct of the ABS Household Expenditure Survey. More frequent reweighting can significantly reduce potential measurement bias that occurs when households substitute to lower priced items. Additional funding would be required to support both these improvements to the CPI.

Operational environment

Enterprise Agreement bargaining

A key priority for the ABS is to improve our ability to retain and attract people with the right skills, at the right place, at the right time. We have sought to improve the remuneration and conditions of employment for our employees subject to affordability and the requirement to find associated productivity savings.

During the year, new enterprise agreements for ABS Interviewers and non-ongoing employees at the Census Data Processing Centre were put into effect. However, the enterprise agreement for our office-based employees was still in negotiation at the end of 2010–11

National ABS employee survey

As part of our broader commitment to support and regularly consult with our people, we again ran a national employee survey this year, covering all office-based ABS staff. The survey results indicate that, irrespective of where in the organisation they work, the satisfaction and motivation levels of ABS staff are generally very high, and have increased significantly since 2010. Our results also compare favourably with those of other APS agencies. In particular, our people see real value in their individual roles, feel empowered to use their skills and experience, and enjoy very strong relationships with their immediate managers.

While the survey outcomes reflect positively on the quality of the ABS work environment, we remain committed to seeking new and better ways to engage with and support our staff. In the coming year, we will review the various communication and engagement initiatives we currently have in place and implement new national and local programs as part of a coordinated ABS people strategy (the ABS People Plan).

International engagement

The ABS is regarded as an international leader among national statistical organisations (NSOs). Along with this prominent position comes a responsibility to provide assistance and leadership to our neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region, and the rest of the world more broadly. The ABS continues to place considerable value on its relationships with other national agencies and with international statistical organisations. These relationships provide an opportunity to exchange knowledge, improve practices and influence international statistical standards. International engagement remains an element of both the ABS's strategic directions and corporate plan.

Through the Information Management Transformation Program (IMTP), the ABS is committed to leading a collaborative program with partner NSOs to operationalise a common information management framework, including the use of agreed metadata standards. This program includes four projects which will be integral in developing an end-to-end data management framework. The other members of the network are Statistics Sweden, Statistics Norway, Statistics Canada, Statistics New Zealand and the United Kingdom Office of National Statistics.

Over the last year, the ABS has provided assistance in statistical capability development to countries including Mongolia, Timor-Leste, Indonesia and the Pacific Islands. The ABS aims to provide training and technical assistance to encourage developing countries to establish good statistical policies and methodologies.

Graduate recruitment and long-term sustainability

The ABS places high value on our annual graduate recruitment program as it is a key factor in ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of our organisation. In 2010–11, the ABS hired its largest ever number of graduates in one intake. This represents an exciting period of growth for our organisation as we take on the important role of developing our future leaders. Upon commencement with the ABS, the graduates complete a development program, which develops their emerging skill sets while providing graduates with an in-depth overview of the operations of the ABS.

Another important way we're planning for the future is through the piloting of a graduate leadership program. This ten-month program, which will begin in August this year, is targeted to graduates with high leadership potential, giving them the training and mentoring needed to excel as effective future managers of our organisation.

On a wider organisation level, in late 2010 the ABS established the ABS Future Organisational Sustainability (AFOS) project to better position the ABS to respond to the challenges of a constantly changing and evolving external environment and ensure the ABS remains successful and sustainable into the future. These external challenges include changed labour dynamics, the pace and emergence of new technologies, an information explosion driven by the world wide web, resulting in an increased demand for information and how ABS delivers information, and increased resource pressures.

The AFOS project is specifically focused on reviewing the way ABS is structurally organised and complements other ABS organisational developmental initiatives that are underway, while enhancing our capability, culture and governance.

The ABS's presence in each of the states and territories provides an opportunity to tap into labour markets outside of Canberra and explore the reallocation of some work from Canberra to ABS regional offices as part of a longer term strategy in building overall ABS long term sustainability.

The impact of natural disasters on statistics

Natural disasters have had a wide impact for much of 2010–11, particularly during the summer. December and January saw extensive flooding to parts of Queensland and other states. Cyclone Yasi followed in February, and a few weeks later, our neighbours in Japan and New Zealand were severely impacted by large earthquakes.

The impact of these traumatic events will be reflected to varying degrees in our key statistical publications. The Consumer Price Index for the March quarter reflected price increases for many fruits and vegetables as a result of damage to crops caused by flooding and the cyclone. Between March and April this year, the International Merchandise Imports publication reported a \$711 million fall in merchandise imports from Japan. The aggregate figures in some areas of our National Accounts publication for December 2010 were also potentially impacted.

More information is presented in Chapter 4, Natural disasters and their impact on statistics.

Conclusion

It has been an eventful but successful year for the ABS, and that success is a reflection of the hard work and enthusiasm of all of our staff.

Additional funding from the Australian Government allowed us to improve our economic indicators, in particular, our National Accounts publication. This funding is imperative to ensuring that we are able to produce high-quality and relevant statistics to inform decision making, now and into the future.

Next year will be busy for the ABS as we move into the data processing stage of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The Indigenous Health Survey will also be entering the field.

In addition, I am looking forward to the release of final data from this year's Agricultural Census around June 2012. There has been much discussion about agricultural issues lately and this release is sure to be quite topical.

On that note, I would like to extend my thanks to all the agricultural producers and businesses who took the time to complete the Agricultural Census form this year. My thanks also go out to all the Australian households and businesses that respond to our surveys every year. Your contributions are appreciated and will go a long way to inform policy and decision making at every level.

Members of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) and its Chair, Mr Geoff Allen, should also be recognised. The high quality advice of ASAC has been vital to advancing our work program and raising the profile of official statistics in the government and wider community.

Finally, I would like acknowledge the support of the Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Bill Shorten MP. His support ensures the ABS can continue to be an independent producer of relevant and high-quality statistics for government and the Australian people, and to lead the nation's statistical service.

Chapter 2

Overview of the ABS

The ABS is Australia's official national statistical agency. It was 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.

The role of the ABS

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.

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.

The ABS Corporate Plan can be found on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au>. The plan outlines the strategies the ABS is using to achieve its mission, and sets out the direction for the ABS to meet future challenges.

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

The *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* also established the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) to provide input to the directions and priorities of the ABS work program (see the ASAC section in this chapter for more information).

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 2010–11.

The amendments to the *Statistics Regulations 1983* served to clarify the authority of the ABS to access common areas of certain classes of buildings, such as secure apartment buildings. The amendments also placed an obligation upon staff and residents of these classes of buildings to provide ABS staff access to common areas of buildings.

Organisational Structure

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

The ABS has three statistical groups, each reporting to a Deputy Australian Statistician. These groups are:

- Macroeconomics and Integration
- Population, Labour, Industry and Environment Statistics, and
- Social Statistics

The ABS also has three divisions reporting to the Chief Operating Officer:

- Integrated Collection and Dissemination Services
- Technology Services, and
- Corporate Services

The Methodology and Data Management Division and the Information Management Transformation Program report directly to the Australian Statistician.

The ABS has a central office in Canberra and regional offices located in the eight state and territory capitals. Apart from the ACT office, 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. In Western Australia and Tasmania, the Regional Director administering the ABS regional office is also the State Government Statistician.

All Regional Directors have a direct reporting line to a Deputy Australian Statistician (see organisational chart on next page for more detail).

Australian Statistics Advisory Council

The Australian Statistical Advisory Council 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 twice yearly.

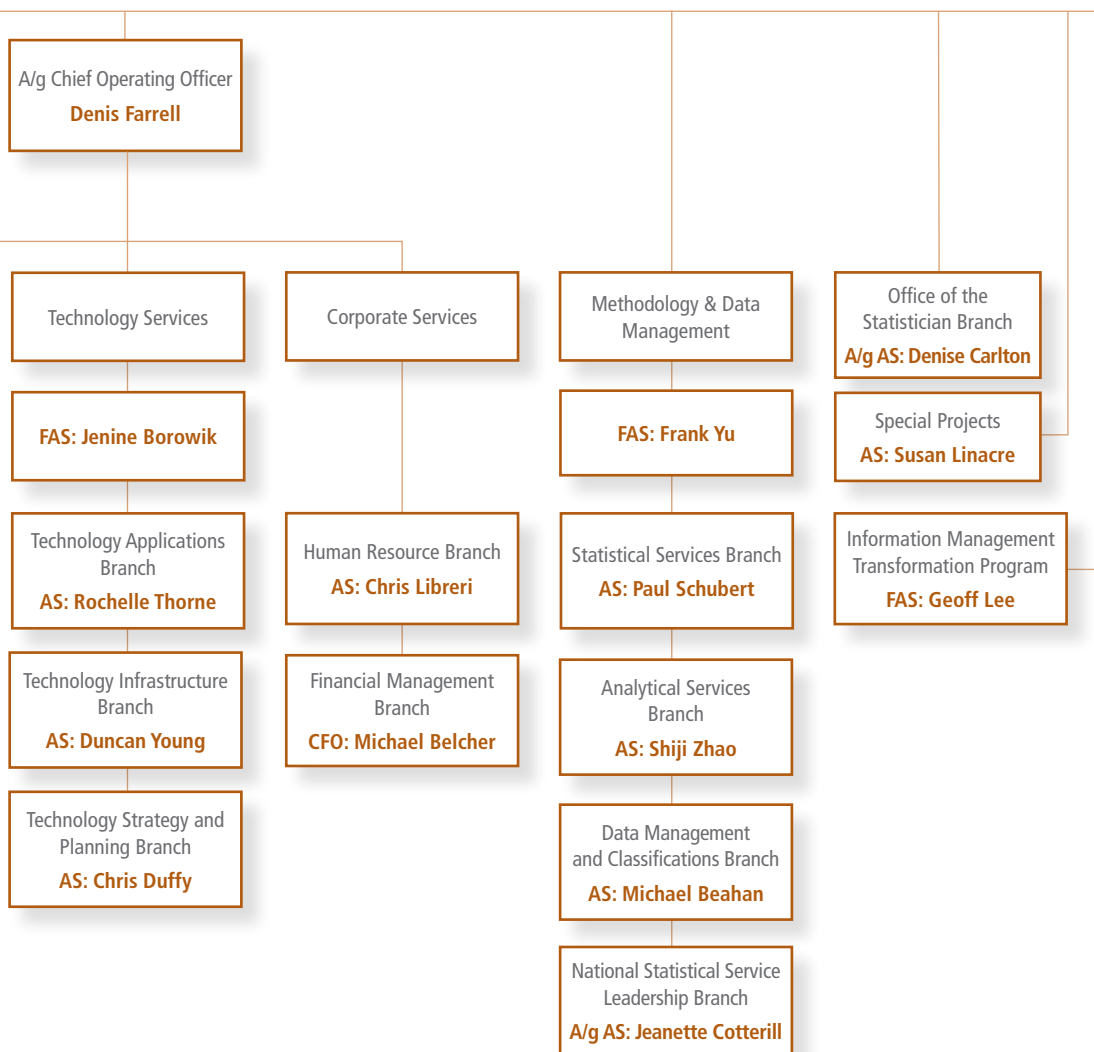
As set out in the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, the role of the Council is to advise the Minister and the Statistician in relation to:

- (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; and
- (c) any other matters relating generally to those statistical services.

The chair 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.

Organisational Chart (as at 30 June 2011)



**Key****DAS:** Deputy Australian Statistician**FAS:** First Assistant Statistician**AS:** Assistant Statistician**RD:** Regional Director**CFO:** Chief Financial Officer**A/g:** Acting

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 Minister 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 or by phone on 02 6252 7647. The Council's annual report can also be found on its website.



Australian Statistics Advisory Council members

Front row left to right: Ms Alison Watt, Mr Brian Pink, Mr Geoff Allen, Ms Elaine Henry, Dr James Moody.

Back row left to right: Mr Tony Stubbin, Ms Pam Davoren, Ms Mary Cavar, Mr Peter Verwer, Mr Grant Belchamber, Mr Ben Wilson, Mr Antony Skinner, Mr Michael Court.

Responsible Minister



The ABS is an agency under the Treasury portfolio.

Since 14 September 2010, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, Assistant Treasurer has held responsibility for the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Senator the Hon Nick Sherry held responsibility for the ABS immediately prior to Mr Shorten's appointment.

Hon Bill Shorten MP, Assistant Treasurer.

Outcome and program structure

ABS outcomes

In the Portfolio Budget Statements 2010–11, 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.

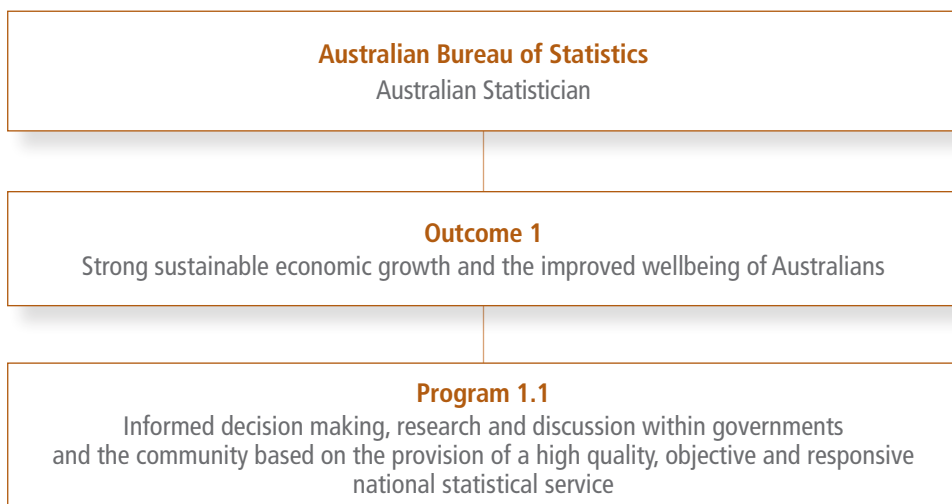
Economic statistics are produced predominantly from the ABS business survey program. They include an extensive range of statistical outputs relating to the structure and performance of the Australian economy.

Population and social statistics are produced mainly through the ABS household census and 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.

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 areas that deliver assistance and advice on statistical methods, data and metadata management, information technology, client management, dissemination, human resources and other corporate services.

Outcome and program groups



Financial position

As noted above, the ABS has one outcome. Table 2.1 provides, for 2010–11, a financial summary of the ABS outcome and the price of the outcome. The full financial statements are provided in Section 5.

Table 2.1: Summary of financial resources

	2010–11 \$m	2009–10 \$m
Price of Departmental Outcomes		
Outcome 1	426.0	352.3
Total Outcome	426.0	352.3
Revenue from Government appropriations	354.9	327.9
Revenue from other sources (a)	32.5	28.5
Total for Outcome 1	387.4	356.4

(a) Note that Revenue from other sources excludes gains. Exclusion of gains is consistent with the reporting of the Outcome in Note – 22 of the Financial Statements (appendix 5).

The ABS conducts a scholarship program in conjunction with four Australian universities. A list of grant recipients can be found on the ABS website, www.abs.gov.au.

Table 2.2: Summary of financial performance

	2010–11 \$m	2009–10 \$m	Change \$m
Appropriation revenue	354.9	327.9	27.0
Other revenue and gains	32.6	28.6	4.0
Total income	387.5	356.5	31.0
Employee expenses	283.1	237.7	45.4
Supplier expenses	109.5	84.2	25.3
Other expenses	33.4	30.4	3.0
Total expenses	426.0	352.3	73.7
(Deficit)/Surplus	(38.5)	4.2	(42.7)
Changes in asset revaluation reserve	0.9	0.0	0.9
Comprehensive income (loss)	(37.6)	4.2	(41.8)

In 2010–11, comprehensive income loss of \$37.6 million represents a technical accounting loss resulting from the change in accounting estimates for internally generated software and changes to the appropriation funding arrangements as a result of Operation Sunlight.

Total income available in 2010–11 increased by \$31 million, due mainly to the increase in activity arising from the cyclical nature of the Census of Population and Housing.

Table 2.3: Summary of financial position

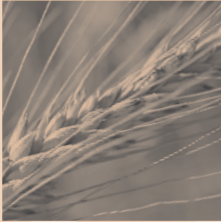
	2010–11 \$m	2009–10 \$m	Change
Financial assets (a)	70.4	45.2	25.2
Non-financial assets (b)	139.3	138.6	0.7
Liabilities (c)	147.8	128.9	18.9
Net assets (a+b-c)	61.9	54.9	7.0

The net asset increase is due to changes to the appropriation funding arrangements as a result of Operation Sunlight.

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.

Section 2

SPECIAL ARTICLES



Chapter 3

Integrating Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes



Why is data integration important?

Researchers trying to figure out ways to solve some of the really hard problems that Australians face have one crucial need – information. When tackling problems such as crime, substance abuse, family breakdown, homelessness, obesity, or unemployment, researchers and policy makers need information in order to develop and test strategies, assess impacts and benefits and minimise costs of possible actions. The sort of questions that, if answered, will provide this information include:

- What groups of people are most affected by these problems? For example, is a problem mostly impacting older people, children, young men, women, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians?
- What pathways typically lead to the problem?
- What consequences typically follow the problem?
- What are the characteristics of the people who manage to avoid the problem?

All of this information can help researchers and policy makers in finding solutions.

So how do we get this information? There are two main options: collecting new information, or using data already available from administrative systems (such as Medicare) or from censuses and surveys (such as ABS Census of Population and Housing). The second option includes data integration.

Data integration often provides an effective way to increase the amount of information available. Its main advantage is that it makes use of existing data so it can be a relatively inexpensive way of making more information available to researchers and policymakers trying to find ways to improve people's wellbeing. The other main advantage is that people and businesses don't have to answer any extra questions in the form of a new survey.

What is 'data integration for statistical and research purposes'?

Data integration involves bringing together information from two (or more) datasets to make a more comprehensive dataset. The data is usually linked for a particular individual or business or for example, information might be linked for families, communities or business groups.

The data is combined using information that is common to each of the original datasets. For example, for individuals the common information might be name and address, or it might be demographic information such as date of birth, gender and locality. For businesses, it's often an Australian Business Number (ABN).

Using data for 'statistical and research' purposes means that the information is used to produce statistics or research, not to monitor an individual person, household, family or business. For example, the data can't be used in administrative processes to identify individuals who are, or aren't, eligible for services. It can't be used to facilitate services to a particular individual, or to assess an individual's compliance with requirements.

Providing a safe and effective environment for data integration

The ABS has two roles in relation to data integration: helping to develop a safe and effective environment for integrating government data for statistical purposes; and actually integrating data. To achieve the first of these roles, since 2009, the ABS has worked with other Commonwealth agencies, in particular the Department of Health and Ageing, to develop a safe and effective environment for data integration from Australian government sources. The main focus during 2010–11 has been the development and implementation of a set of governance and institutional arrangements.

The governance and institutional arrangements reflect two key issues. The first is that data integration can lead to more valuable information being available, which can ultimately lead to improvements in people's health and wellbeing and that of societies, the economy and the environment in a very cost effective manner.

The second issue is the need to protect the personal information of individuals as set out in the *Privacy Act 1988*, and the confidentiality provisions of legislation used to collect data in the first place such as the *Health Insurance Act 1973* and the *National Health Act 1953* (in the case of Medicare data) and the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (in the case of ABS data, for example ABS census data). The governance and institutional arrangements are designed to ensure that there are sufficient safeguards in place to ensure that individuals and businesses are not likely to be able to be identified in the data.

Governance and institutional arrangements

Building on the work commenced in 2009, which saw the establishment of a Cross Portfolio Statistical Integration Committee, 2010 saw the continued collaboration of all Commonwealth Departments to develop a set of governance and institutional arrangements to enable data integration involving Commonwealth data to occur in a safe and secure way. In October 2010, the Secretaries Board (i.e. heads of all Commonwealth government agencies and the Australian Public Service Commission) endorsed the arrangements. Various Commonwealth departments are now working together to implement the arrangements. There are seven key elements to the arrangements, outlined below.

1. Setting up a high level 'Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board'.

The Oversight Board provides leadership in managing the risks around data integration. The Oversight Board is chaired by the Australian Statistician and includes the Secretaries of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; the Department of Health and Ageing; and the Department of Human Services. The Oversight Board met for the first time in March 2011, to discuss the requirements that agencies will need to meet in order to be accredited 'integrating authorities'.

2. Establishing integrating authorities.

An important part of the governance and institutional arrangements is being able to hold a single agency accountable for the safe implementation of a data integration project. To make this happen, for every data integration project involving Commonwealth data, the data custodian(s) must nominate an 'integrating authority'. While the nominated agency (i.e. the integrating authority for the project) can work with other agencies to help implement the project, the integrating authority is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the risks of a project are managed in line with the requirements of the data custodian(s).

For data integration proposals that involve Commonwealth data and are considered 'high risk', an accredited integrating authority must be used. In order to be accredited, an agency must demonstrate:

- i. the ability to ensure secure data management (in other words, that the agency has secure data management systems in place to protect data during and after integration);
- ii. that information that is likely to enable identification of individuals or organisations is not given to others;
- iii. appropriate skills such as expertise in privacy and knowledge of data quality issues;
- iv. appropriate technical capability, including secure hardware and software systems;
- v. lack of conflict of interest (since the high level principles for data integration state that statistical data integration must be used for statistical and research purposes only, agencies with a regulatory function or with responsibility for compliance monitoring must demonstrate how they will address a potential conflict of interest if linked datasets could help them with these non-statistical purposes);
- vi. a culture and values that ensure protection of confidential information and support the use of data as a strategic resource;
- vii. transparency of operation; and
- viii. that an appropriate governance and administrative framework is in place.

There are four key steps in the accreditation process:

- Agencies that want to be accredited prepare a self-assessment against accreditation criteria (i. through viii. above). The self-assessment must be endorsed by the agency head;
- An independent firm does an audit to ensure that the applicant meets the criteria;
- The Oversight Board reviews the application and the auditor's report and decides whether or not an agency will be accredited to undertake high risk projects; and
- A list of all accredited agencies, together with a summary of their application and a summary of the auditor's report, will appear on a website, so that all of this information is available to the public.

The requirements for accreditation were developed by a Commonwealth group and were endorsed by the Oversight Board at its first meeting in March 2011.

3. Write guidelines describing best practice for integration projects involving Commonwealth data

These guidelines will build on already available guidelines, such as the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*, related guidelines of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, and agency specific guidelines and pro formas. There are various elements to the guidelines, including:

- a set of information sheets which will explain what confidentiality is, why it matters, and why it's about much more than just de-identifying data;
- various papers explaining the roles and responsibilities of the key players in data integration; and
- a detailed manual covering project related aspects of data integration activities.

The different elements of these guidelines will be released progressively over the course of 2011–12.

4. Education and training to support data integration projects using Commonwealth data

A strategy to provide education and training will be developed and finalised by early 2013.

5. Expanding the role of 'survey liaison officers'

Many Commonwealth agencies have 'survey liaison officers', who provide a central contact of information and expertise in statistical collections involving businesses. The role of these officers has been expanded so that they can provide a central contact for information on data integration projects involving Commonwealth data.

6. Providing a public register of data integration projects

The arrangements include making sure that the public know how their data is being used in data integration projects involving Commonwealth data. There will be a register of all data integration projects involving Commonwealth data, and a feedback mechanism so that members of the public can provide comments, or complaints, in response to proposed projects. This will be developed in 2011–12, and following testing, will be available in 2012–13. The register and feedback mechanism will be on a public whole-of-government internet site, which will also hold other relevant information such as the high level principles governing integration projects using Commonwealth data, and the best practice guidelines.

7. Setting up a small secretariat to support the work of the Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board

Supporting the work of the Oversight Board is a small secretariat, established late in 2010, based in the ABS. Among other things, the Secretariat is responsible for maintaining the public register of projects; drafting a set of best practice guidelines for data integration; and, once the public register and feedback mechanism are available, releasing an annual report on key aspects of data integration activities, including reporting on public feedback received.

Community consultation

During March and April 2011, eleven focus groups canvassed community views on data integration for statistical and research purposes. These were commissioned by the ABS (with input from other Commonwealth stakeholders). One of the aims was to get feedback on what forms of protection people would need in order to accept data integration. The main focus was on data integration from an overall Commonwealth perspective but the focus groups also explored public views on the appropriateness of ABS doing this kind of work.

Community reactions were generally positive. People are usually supportive of their data being used for research purposes, as long as the data is well managed, the individual's privacy is protected and the public benefits are very clearly demonstrated. Participants in the focus groups felt very reassured by the high level principles for data integration endorsed by Commonwealth Portfolio Secretaries during 2010 – particularly those relating to transparency, the need for a demonstrable public benefit in order for a project to proceed, accountability of integrating authorities and custodians (they liked the idea of holding someone responsible), and preserving privacy and confidentiality.

Participants also felt that, given ABS's existing role, it was entirely appropriate for ABS to be an integrating authority.

The comments people made in these focus groups are being used to develop the specifications for the register of projects, the public feedback mechanism, and accompanying material to be made available on a public website (component 6 of the governance and institutional arrangements, discussed above).

Data integration in practice: key ABS integration projects

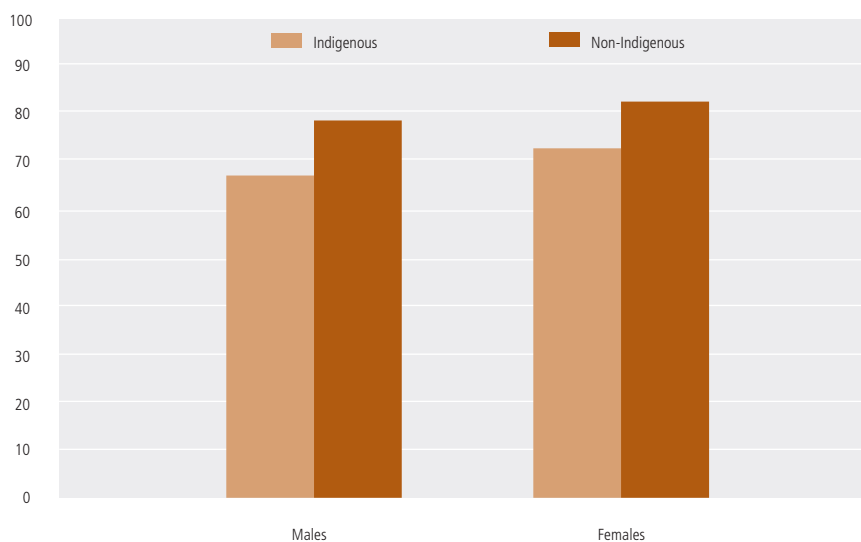
As well as playing a lead role in the development of a safe and effective environment for data integration, ABS has a key role as an integrator of data for statistical purposes. In 2006, the ABS started work to make the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing more valuable, by bringing it together, both over time and with other data, to support evidence-based decision making by governments and the community. For example, one of the projects was a study linking death registrations with Census data, to see what improvements could be made to the estimates of Indigenous life expectancy. More work is being done on this project using 2011 Census data and the death registrations from August 2011 to August 2012. The ABS has also been considering the development of an Australian Longitudinal and Learning Database, which could link data on the pathways and outcomes of Australian students from early childhood education to schooling, post-school education and subsequent labour force outcomes.

The Indigenous mortality census data enhancement project

What is it and why do it?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are at a marked disadvantage compared with the rest of the population in a number of areas. Through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), governments have committed to 'Closing the Gap' in disadvantage, including closing the gap in life expectancy within a generation. The Indigenous mortality census data integration project, funded by COAG, is designed to produce improved life expectancy estimates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and therefore to support reporting against the COAG target to close the gap in life expectancy. The project will link Census data with 12 months of death registrations data, a key input for estimating life expectancy, for deaths that occur after Census night 2011.

Life Expectancy at Birth – 2005–2007



A census data enhancement quality study undertaken in 2006 showed that estimates of Indigenous life expectancy could be significantly improved by adjusting for differences between the Indigenous status in death registrations and the Census Post Enumeration Survey. As such, adjustment factors obtained in the 2006 quality study were used in compiling life tables and life expectancy estimates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. For more information see *Experimental Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2005–2007* (ABS cat. no. 3302.0.55.003).

The 2011 project will build on the 2006 project to deliver life expectancy estimates for Indigenous Australians which are comparable with the 2006 estimates. The project will temporarily link the 2011 Census data to death registration data using names and addresses during the Census processing period. All death registrations from August 2011 to August 2012 will be linked to the 2011 Census. Once the purpose of the project has been fulfilled, all linked datasets will be destroyed as will the names and addresses on the relevant 2011 Census records.

Privacy and security

All personal information used in the Indigenous mortality project will be kept confidential. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* guarantees this protection and legally prevents the ABS from disclosing information in a way that is likely to enable the identification of a person or organisation. As a result, potentially identifiable personal information will not be released to anyone outside the ABS. In addition:

- once the purpose of the project is met, all linked datasets will be destroyed;
- the project can only be undertaken during the Census processing period when name and address are available;
- the linked datasets will not leave the ABS and will only be accessible by those ABS officers directly involved in the project; and
- the ABS will not retain Census name and address once Census processing is completed (the only exception is if a person explicitly agrees by answering the relevant question on the Census form to have their name-identified responses retained by the National Archives of Australia for release in 99 years).

The Australian Longitudinal Learning Database

What is it and why do it?

Since education is crucial to a person's wellbeing (it's widely seen as a key factor in obtaining a rewarding career, for example), and to supporting ongoing economic development, one of the key data integration projects currently being tested in the ABS is the development of the Australian Longitudinal Learning Database (ALLD).

Currently, data collected in the early childhood, education and training sectors is fragmented and sector specific. While there's lots of information available on participation in education and training, there's only limited information on the educational pathways and outcomes for students. This is where the ALLD can help. Information derived from the ALLD would give governments and researchers a better understanding of the factors affecting student progress and outcomes throughout the course of their life and help achieve better educational outcomes for children. ALLD would provide information to look at:

- how environmental factors, and the experiences of early education, affect later school performance;
- the characteristics of children not in early childhood education (this information isn't available from administrative records, but would be available if we were able to integrate education data with the Census);

- school retention measures – using the ALLD, it would be possible to get accurate measures which allow for students who move interstate, for example;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students – ALLD would provide more accurate information on the educational participation, attainment and pathways of these students;
- social inclusion, as the ALLD would provide insight on what characteristics are likely to increase barriers to education, for example by looking at students with disabilities, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and those in remote areas; and
- education outcomes – through linkage to successive cycles of the Census, the ALLD may give a comprehensive picture of labour force, income, occupation and housing outcomes.

The ALLD would be built from existing data sources. With public support, these sources might include the ABS census information, the Australian Early Development Index, and school enrolment data.

With the sponsorship of a Strategic Cross-Sectoral Data Committee comprising senior officials across levels of government, jurisdictions, education sectors and relevant information agencies, two important pieces of work are currently being undertaken by the ABS towards developing the ALLD. The first is the collection of unit record level data for children enrolled in early education and school. This could provide a better understanding of student pathways during these formative years of education. The second is a feasibility study to test data linkage between education datasets and the 2011 Census. The Census has the potential to enrich other datasets with information about the characteristics of students and their families.

Privacy and security

As with all ABS data integration projects, the use and release of data from the ALLD project will be governed by the provisions of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* and the *Privacy Act 1988*. In addition, governance, storage and analysis of the data will be informed by national guidelines such as the high level principles for statistical data integration across Australian Government.

The way forward

The key priorities in the coming year are to finalise the best practice guidelines, including the series of information sheets on confidentiality, and to develop the public register of projects and public feedback mechanism.

In addition, the ABS is currently developing a system to provide safe access to microdata: the Remote Execution Environment for Microdata (REEM). The key components of the REEM are the development of a 'table builder' for survey data (similar to the table builder tool for Census) and an analysis service. The plan is for these services to access detailed de-identified microdata, with outputs automatically confidentialised in line with ABS legislative requirements. These outputs can then be published and shared with others without restrictions.

A big advantage of this approach is that, because outputs are confidentialised at the end of the process, not the beginning, researchers can access the full power of the underlying dataset. It minimises the impact of the confidentialising process on data quality for analytical and research purposes.

REEM will use internationally recognised standards for the exchange of data and metadata. It's hoped that this infrastructure can be progressively used across government agencies to support access to integrated data.

Chapter 4

Natural disasters and their impact on statistics

Introduction

In the past year, Australia and the Asia-Pacific region more broadly have experienced a number of natural disasters, including the Queensland floods, Cyclone Yasi, the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, and the series of earthquakes that hit Christchurch in New Zealand. Such disasters present significant challenges for the ABS, both operationally in collecting statistics in disaster-affected areas, and also because of the need to ensure robust statistical methods that are able to produce reliable estimates when data may be limited and/or affected by major outliers (that is, unusual survey responses).

It is also very important that the effects of these disasters are reflected properly in the social, economic and environmental statistics published by the ABS. This points to a challenging aspect of the statistical world: that measurement of activity is often most important precisely when it is most difficult.

This article provides a brief description of the ABS's response to the recent natural disasters, and the way in which the effects of these disasters were reflected in published ABS statistics.

ABS data collection response

The ABS takes particular care to consider the effects of natural disasters on both individuals and businesses when undertaking its statistical collection activities, balancing the potential burdens imposed on those affected when recovery is the highest priority, with the need to inform government and the community.

In the event of a natural disaster such as severe weather, floods or bushfire activity, the ABS first ensures the safety of any potentially affected ABS staff (primarily interviewers and staff in local offices). Businesses and households in the affected areas are then identified to ensure that any contact with them will be with an understanding of their circumstances.

Disaster response strategy for business surveys

In the case of business surveys, potentially affected areas are defined in terms of postcodes, and businesses in these areas are approached with caution by ABS interviewers. The situation is monitored daily and if there are changes to the areas affected, an updated list of postcodes is produced. During this stage, ABS contact still occurs, but with caution. If an area is subsequently declared a natural disaster area, as advised by relevant state emergency services, businesses in affected areas are excluded from ABS contact.

This escalated disaster response was implemented on 11 January 2011 for the floods in Queensland, with the initial exclusion of all businesses in Queensland from contact by ABS business survey interviewers. The flood situation was reviewed over the following days to narrow down the impact of the floods to specific geographic areas. A total of 378 flood-affected postcodes in Queensland and northern NSW were excluded from contact by ABS staff on 17 January 2011. No survey forms or reminder letters were posted to businesses

in these postcodes, and no contact by ABS business survey interviewers was initiated. The information was recorded on the ABS internal provider management system to ensure that interviewers were fully informed in the event that businesses from affected areas contacted the ABS. Requests for exemption from ABS surveys from businesses in flood affected areas were granted. Some additional postcodes in weather-affected but non-natural disaster-declared areas remained on alert as "cautionary contact".

This situation was reviewed after two weeks, with additional reviews occurring at least weekly. As areas began to recover, they were moved from a "no contact" to "contact with caution" status.

Where the data for a business were considered critical to a specific business survey, that business could be contacted with caution, even though it may have been flagged as being in a "non-contact" area. This occurred for only a handful of businesses.

From February to June 2011, geographic areas were returned to "contact with caution" status as recovery progressed. On 7 June 2011, the final postcodes were removed from "no contact", with business survey collection activity resuming as usual.

Disaster response strategy for household surveys

In the case of household collections, after checking the safety of our own ABS interviewers, intelligence was gathered about the potential impact of the disasters on those to be interviewed to ensure that data were not collected from dwellings directly impacted by the disaster. If this assurance could not be gained, collection activities were suspended in that area. The primary source of this intelligence was the local ABS field interviewers.

When Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria suffered severe flooding in January 2011, the ABS adopted an approach tailored to each area. For Queensland, enumeration was suspended in affected areas until it could be confirmed that the selected dwellings had not suffered damage. This took a week or more due to road closures and the localised impact of the floods, even within suburbs. If the areas had suffered damage, the suspension of the enumeration was continued until such times as the damaged was assessed and repaired to a degree where it was practical to resume enumeration.

For New South Wales, the floods had almost no impact on enumeration. In Victoria, the only impact was on delays to interviews due to road closures.

Cyclone Yasi also caused major damage to two areas selected in the Monthly Population Survey and the ABS decided not to undertake enumeration in February 2011 in these affected areas.

The 2011 Census

Preparations for the 2011 Census were underway when the floods and Cyclone Yasi hit Queensland. With towns cut off and roads closed, the delivery of training material to Census district managers across the state was slow and in some cases, late arriving. Training for the district managers was further disrupted when many of them had to leave Brisbane early to travel back to Cyclone Yasi-affected areas to secure their homes and get their families to safety. Additional training was scheduled at a later date to ensure all district managers had been properly trained and were ready for the significant recruitment drive in February to employ 750 area supervisors across the State.

Despite concerns about how the natural disasters were going to affect recruitment, Queensland experienced unprecedented interest in the area supervisor roles and successfully filled the 5,500 collector roles advertised in April. This was done with the assistance of the local councils and media helping to promote the job opportunities.

Road repairs continued in Queensland with some minor roads still in disrepair in June 2011 when bulk deliveries were scheduled. Trucks delivering Census material to the area supervisors had to take alternate and often longer routes or had to be downsized to comply with the new load limits and damaged roadways.

At the time of the Census, there is likely to be a small proportion of households in Queensland where people have still not been able to move back to their homes. To ensure the quality of data collected in the Census, the ABS has produced a brochure for collectors to distribute to affected families. The brochure provides additional information to help them complete their Census form, in particular the question on usual residence. Additional training was also provided to collectors in the Lockyer Valley and Cassowary Coast to ensure they were equipped to approach households with extra sensitivity.

All reasonable steps were taken to ensure an accurate count for the 2011 Census.

ABS methodological response

Addressing non-response

The scale of the natural disasters in early 2011 meant that impacts to ABS collections were inevitable to some degree, especially given the suspension of data collection in heavily affected areas. The natural disasters had different impacts on different surveys, depending on the nature of the data collected, the frequency and timing of data collection, and on the reference period for the survey. One of the most obvious impacts, given the nature of these events, was on the non-response rates experienced in different surveys.

Increased non-response can lead to an increased standard error (or variability) of survey estimates. Where non-respondents have different characteristics to survey respondents, increased non-response may also introduce bias into survey estimates.

The ABS undertook a number of investigations for key business and household collections to assess the extent of possible non-response bias, comparing response rates and the characteristics of non-responding units across affected and non-affected areas. Investigations into the appropriateness of the current imputation techniques for non-respondents and imputation classes were also conducted for key collections to assess whether modifications to methods were required. Where possible, impact assessments were carried out to gain an approximate estimate of the impacts of the weather events to assist with validating survey movements. Imputation and estimation processes were examined closely, especially in terms of the time series, to identify any potential issues arising from an increase in the amount of imputation required.

All investigations indicated that, while response rates were lower for a number of key ABS surveys, the methodology used for imputation and estimation remained robust and required no further modification. The analysis also revealed that the likely amount of non-response bias using current methodologies was negligible. This analysis was assisted by modification to the procedures usually employed for maximising the response to ABS surveys (intensive follow up procedures) to distinguish between responses in affected and non-affected areas.

Time series analysis

The ABS produces trend and seasonally adjusted estimates to assist in the interpretation of time series data. Unusual events have the potential to affect these trend and seasonally adjusted estimates if no appropriate intervention is applied, because the methodology is sensitive to outliers.

Both the temporary suspension of collection activities due to the flood and cyclone events of early 2011, and a stay to local government and commercial business activity, compounded

the risk of potential distortion and disruption to a number of key time series indicators. A challenge, therefore, was to minimise the impact of these one-off weather events to compromise statistical processes and ensure that a consistent approach was applied to the analysis, treatment and description of the impact of the weather events.

Early consideration of the potential impact on time series helped to anticipate the kinds of action required to stabilise seasonal factors and ensure trend estimates were not distorted. As part of the process, centralised documentation about the extreme weather events and related statistical activities was maintained, including a weather events timeline, related press releases, all ABS publication commentary and any corrective action that was taken for time series.

For most time series, no intervention was necessary, although monitoring of the series has continued on a release-by-release basis since January 2011. The cases where some intervention was required include *Hours Worked* in January 2011 and *Coal Exports* during the January, February and March months of 2011, as well as the corresponding *Quarterly Business Indicator* series in the March quarter of 2011. There were also corrections to several retail series for Queensland and for the Australian total for the month of February 2011. No intervention occurred for those cases where the nature of any impact was unknown or not clearly evident. In all, over 1500 series were evaluated each month, and where necessary, time series analysts helped author technical commentary in ABS publications.

Seeing the effects of natural disasters in published statistics

The impact of the natural disasters has been reflected in a range of ABS statistics. Among the more obvious are the measures of economic activity that contribute to the national accounts.

The Queensland floods resulted in lower production during December 2010 and January 2011 than would otherwise have been the case, as a result of mines that were flooded, crops destroyed or damaged and other business operations disrupted. Conversely, in the aftermath of the floods, there was increased activity associated with the repair and replacement of damaged property. Though it is not possible to isolate the impact of these events in the national accounts, many national accounts aggregates are likely to have shown their effect. Among the most important are:

- **Household final consumption expenditure** – the value of repairs to, and the replacement of, household and personal items was reflected in this item, though the value of repairs to dwellings is classified as intermediate consumption and so would not have been captured in this item;
- **Private gross fixed capital formation** – the acquisition by businesses of new assets to replace those damaged in the floods was reflected in this item, though the cost of repairs to business assets is also classified as intermediate consumption and so was not captured in this item;
- **Government final consumption expenditure** – the value of repairs to general government fixed assets, together with any additional compensation of employees and materials used in the process of clearing flood debris from public areas, was reflected in this item;
- **General government gross fixed capital formation** – the cost of replacing general government fixed assets (including roads and bridges) destroyed in the floods was reflected in this item, though as noted above, repairs were included in government final consumption expenditure;

- **Compensation of employees** – the wages and salaries payable to employees involved in the repair and replacement of assets were reflected in this item, though this is likely to have been offset by a reduction in wages and salaries due to the loss of production activity;
- **Gross operating surplus and gross fixed income** – the lost production and increased expenses associated with the repair of damaged business assets result in reduced returns to business owners and were reflected in this item. In the accounts, this is likely to have been offset by increased returns to the owners of those businesses involved in the repair or replacement of damaged assets. Also, the value of gross operating surplus on dwellings owned by persons fell to the extent of any additional repair costs associated with the floods;
- **Industry gross value added** – the reduced value added of industries whose production was disrupted by the floods was reflected as a decline in this item. Conversely, the increased value added associated with repair work was reflected in an increase in the gross value added of industries such as the construction industry. However, the value added of industries with business assets requiring repair, and the value added of the “ownership of dwellings” industry, were reduced because of the increased intermediate consumption associated with repair expenses;
- **Household income** – secondary income receivable – insurance claims payable to households as a result of flood damage were reflected in non-life insurance claims, while government transfers to flood victims were reflected in social assistance benefits; and
- **Imports and exports of goods and services** – the closure of a number of ports and the loss of production available for export was reflected in exports of goods and services, particularly for the mining industry. For example, between the December quarter 2010 and the March quarter 2011, exports of hard coking coal and bituminous (thermal) coal fell 35% and 39% compared to average decreases of 13% and 0.1% over corresponding quarters in the previous five years. Also, the Japanese earthquake and tsunami are likely to have had an impact on merchandise trade imports from Japan, which fell 48% in original terms between March and April 2011, driven primarily by an 81% fall in non-industrial transport equipment (all values in current prices, non-seasonally adjusted terms).

The natural disasters of the past year are also likely to have been reflected in the Consumer Price Index. Though it is generally not possible to isolate the impact of any one factor, it is clear, for example, that the Queensland floods and Cyclone Yasi caused price increases in some fruit and vegetables:

- fruit prices increased by 14.5% in the March quarter 2011, compared with a fall of 5.7% in the March quarter 2010. This rise was mainly attributable to an increase of approximately 100% in the price of bananas during the March quarter; and
- vegetable prices increased by 16.0% in the March quarter 2011, compared with a rise of 10.3% in the March quarter 2010. This rise was mainly driven by price rises in cauliflowers, broccoli, lettuce, pumpkin and potatoes due to crop damage as well as the usual seasonal price rises.

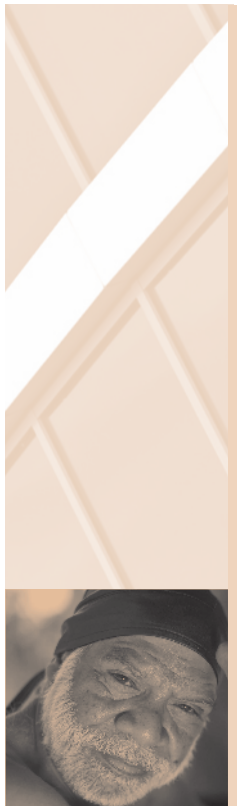
The impact of the weather events was also reflected in government finance statistics as payments to the states under the national Disaster Relief Recovery Arrangements, though these were offset by a fall in other grant payments to the states. The weather events may also have had an impact on building approvals, housing finance and engineering construction activity.

Using ABS data to assess the potential regional impacts

Natural disasters, such as those experienced recently, have a significant effect on some regions while others remained largely or wholly unaffected. Understanding the number and nature of people and businesses that may have been affected by these events, as well as the resulting impact on social, economic and environmental issues is of key interest to government and the community. The ABS has a range of regional statistics that can be used for these purposes.

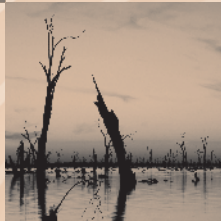
For example, *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits* (ABS cat. no. 8165.0) provides regional statistics in the form of business counts for Statistical Local Areas. These data were instrumental in servicing a number of urgent requests from several Government Departments for data on the number of businesses directly affected by the year's natural disasters. In particular, the ABS provided a count of small businesses that were located in the affected areas, along with the industry in which these businesses operated.

In conclusion, the severe weather events of the past year presented a number of challenges to the ABS, from operational difficulties in data collection, and the need to ensure that statistical methodologies were robust, to ensuring that the effects were reflected properly in ABS publications. On the whole, these challenges were handled well, and they have also helped to highlight a small number of areas in which the ABS can make improvements to its processes and procedures.



Section 3

REPORT ON PERFORMANCE



Chapter 5

Program area reports

Introduction

The ABS Forward Work Program (FWP) 2010–11 to 2012–13 sets out the strategic directions the ABS is pursuing, to meet its broad objectives. The FWP was established in response to the statistical priorities of users, and in the context of the ABS mission.

Strategic directions 2010–11 to 2012–13

1. Assist and encourage informed decision making through continued delivery of relevant, high quality, key official statistics.
2. Ensure maximum use of, and access to, official statistics, by actively building relationships and targeting specific areas to progress the National Statistical Service (NSS).
3. Maintain our relevance by determining our next generation of statistical requirements and securing the necessary funding to enable this to occur. This includes an investment in innovation.
4. Ensuring long-term sustainability by developing a set of scenarios regarding the organisation of ABS work, and by determining our next generation of information management infrastructure requirements. This includes an investment in innovation.
5. As a key information agency, maintain our strategic knowledge base by investing in future workforce needs that will be built on core capability and capacity, thereby ensuring the long-term sustainability of the ABS,
6. Meet provider expectations through continued standardisation and harmonisation of data collection requirements and methods across the Australian Government, including through e-data initiatives.
7. Ensure international statistical coherence by influencing the development and implementation of statistical standards and frameworks of relevance to our region through the implementation of the ABS's leadership role in international statistics strategies.

The Australian Statistician identified a number of key priority areas for the ABS to meet these strategic directions in 2010–11, including:

- ensuring the success of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing;
- supporting the COAG Measurement Plan;
- environmental statistics;
- modernisation of information management infrastructure; and
- statistical data integration.

The planned developments for individual program areas to meet the strategic directions are also set out in the Forward Work Program. Details of the key achievements and performance of each program during 2010–11 is presented in more detail in this chapter.

Statistical programs

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 federal and state governments, the Reserve Bank of Australia, international organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, private sector analysts, the media and academics.

Key achievements

- National Accounts implemented the revised international standard for the compilation of national accounts – System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA08) – and the revised industry classifications – Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006 – into the Input-Output tables for 2006–07. This change completed the transition of the Australian System of National Accounts to the new standards and ensured greater comparability with international standards.
- Reviewed and improved national accounts compilation processes and methods to address issues that emerged in tracking the economy through the global financial crisis and transition to new international standards.
- consulted with user groups of state accounts and input-output tables. Increased contact with key users in Australian and State government, Reserve Bank and economic analysts which provided information that was used to assess the coherence of data inputs with real world developments.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (ABS cat. no. 5206.0)	Quarterly main economic indicator. The national income, expenditure and product accounts reflect key economic flows – production, the distribution of incomes, consumption, saving and investment.
Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts (ABS cat. no. 5232.0)	The financial accounts show the financial assets and liabilities of the nation and of each institutional sector, the market for financial instruments and inter-sectoral financial transactions.
Australian System of National Accounts, 2008–09 (ABS cat. no. 5204.0)	Detailed annual presentation of annual national accounts data.
Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2008–09 (ABS cat. no. 5220.0)	Annual release that produces dissections of various national accounting aggregates by state and territory.
Australian National Accounts: Non-Profit Institutions Satellite Account, 2006–07 (ABS cat. no. 5256.0)	New publication, first released in September 2009. Presents estimates of the direct contribution of the non-profit sector to the Australian economy within the context of a satellite account linked to the Australian System of National Accounts.
Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables (electronic publication) (ABS cat. no. 5209.0.55.001)	Detailed articulation of the structure of economic production by detailing the flow of products into and between industries and their use for consumption, investment or export.

International Accounts

The International Accounts program provides statistics on Australia's Balance of Payments, International Investment Position, Merchandise Trade and International Trade in Services. The statistics are compiled from a range of surveys and administrative data sources with merchandise trade statistics derived from records lodged with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service.

The statistics are used to analyse Australia's external performance; formulate and evaluate macro-economic 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 inputs to the Australian National Accounts, providing the external transactions accounts and the external asset and liabilities components of the national balance sheet.

Key achievements

- Conducting a survey of foreign affiliates outward trade in finance and insurance services in respect of 2009–10, with the results released in June 2011. The survey provides details of the activities of foreign affiliates of Australian domiciled finance and insurance businesses. The details included the number of affiliates and their employment by country and by industry, and sales and purchases of services.
- An update of Concepts, Sources and Methods (CSM) documents for macroeconomic statistics has commenced following the implementation of revised international standards. The first part of the updated CSM for the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position was released on 8 March 2011.
- The September quarter 2010 issue of *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position*, Australia introduced an improved Analysis and comments section which better addressed the issues in which clients had expressed an interest.

Revised classification for import and export statistics

Australia and most other countries use the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) for the classification of internationally traded goods that pass their country's customs frontier. The HS is a 6-digit hierarchical classification designed and maintained by the World Customs Organisation. This classification is updated every five years to keep the commodity codes relevant. While the international HS provides codes for over 5,000 commodities, in some cases further detail is required to enable identification of goods which are of particular interest or importance to Australia. Australia extends the HS to produce the Customs Tariff (produced by the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service) to classify imports and the Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC), which is produced by the ABS, to classify exports.

The latest update to the HS will be implemented on 1 January 2012. The ABS is working with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service to develop the revised Customs Tariff and AHECC and to ensure that both businesses using the classifications to complete customs documentation and users of the resulting statistics are aware of the changes. The ABS has released information papers describing proposed changes to statistical codes to the AHECC and the Customs Tariff. The final classifications will be released later in 2011.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5302.0)	A comprehensive set of quarterly international accounts statistics including chain volume measures for trade in goods and services and seasonally adjusted data for the current account.
International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5368.0)	Monthly information on exports and imports of goods and services on a balance of payments basis. Includes a selection of tables showing merchandise exports and imports on a recorded trade basis.
International Merchandise Imports, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5439.0)	Monthly summary information on Australia's merchandise imports on a recorded trade basis.
Foreign Currency Exposure, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5308.0)	Information on the value of foreign currency exposure, the value of hedging to mitigate the exposure and qualitative information on hedging policies and practices. This is an irregular publication.
International Investment Position, Australia: Supplementary Statistics (ABS cat. no. 5352.0)	Calendar year international investment position, financial account and investment income data by partner country. International investment position and financial account by industry for direct investment.
International Trade in Services by Country, by State and by Detailed Services Category (ABS cat. no. 5368.0.55.003 – Financial Year) (ABS cat. no. 5368.0.55.004 – Calendar Year)	International trade in services data by partner country and by state on a financial year basis and on a calendar year basis.
Characteristics of Australian Exporters (ABS cat. no. 5368.0.55.006)	An annual analysis of the number and characteristics of Australia's exporters.
Information Paper: Proposed Changes to Statistical Codes in the AHECC (ABS cat. no. 5368.0.55.015)	A draft of the Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) statistical codes to be updated on 1 January 2012, resulting from an update to the international Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.
Information Paper: Proposed Changes to Statistical Codes in the HTISC (ABS cat. no. 5368.0.55.016)	Presents a draft of the Customs Tariff statistical codes to be updated on 1 January 2012 resulting from an update to the international Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.
Australian Outward Finance and Insurance Foreign Affiliate Trade (ABS cat. no. 5485.0)	Presents details of the activities of foreign affiliates of Australian domiciled finance and insurance businesses. The details included the number of affiliates and their employment by country and by industry, and sales and purchases of services.

Financial Statistics

Introduction

The Financial Statistics program compiles statistics on the stocks of financial assets and liabilities and the associated income and expense flows for financial institutions and various sectors of the economy. Also compiled are statistics on the lending commitments of the finance sector. These statistics are important inputs to Australia's national accounts, predominantly the financial accounts.

Key clients of the Financial Statistics program include financial policy agencies, financial institutions, industry associations, and analysts. The statistics are used for analysis of monetary policy outcomes, monitoring the flows in the financial system and assessing the financial performance of economic sectors and institutional classes. Housing finance commitment statistics are used as one of the key indicators of consumer sentiment. Together with personal, commercial and lease finance commitment statistics, they are used as forward indicators of demand in the economy.

Key achievements

- Working with the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), improved the quality assurance of statistical data collected from financial institutions. These statistical data are primarily used in compiling the financial accounts.
- The September 2010 quarter issue of *Managed Funds, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 5655.0) introduced a number of improvements resulting from the inclusion of new data items (mostly further dissections of existing items) to reflect revised international standards; improved analysis; and improved data quality following the introduction of reporting of source data via an electronic form.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Housing Finance, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5609.0)	Monthly data for secured and unsecured housing finance commitments for owner occupation, as well as commitments for construction or purchase of dwellings for rent or resale and loan outstandings to individuals/households for housing.
<i>Lending Finance, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5671.0)	Monthly data on the value of monthly commitments for secured housing finance, other personal finance, commercial finance and lease finance.
<i>Managed Funds, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5655.0)	Quarterly data on money pooled for investment purposes on a consolidated basis for a range of institutions, classified according to type of fund and type of asset. The statistics also present unconsolidated information on the assets of these institutions and the source of funds being invested with investment managers.
<i>Assets and Liabilities of Australian Securitisers</i> (ABS cat. no. 5232.055.001)	Quarterly data on the assets and liabilities of securitisers – financial institutions which issue short and/or long term securities against specifically matched assets.
<i>Venture Capital and Later Stage Private Equity, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5678.0)	Financial year data of venture capital and later stage private equity activity. This includes commitments, fund drawdowns by source of funds, assets and liabilities of the venture capital and later stage private equity funds. Data are also available for financial flows between the funds and their investors and investee companies, as well as the stage and industry characteristics of venture capital deals.

Prices

Introduction

The Prices program compiles a number of main economic indicators – the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the House Price Index, the Wage Price Index, an annual Labour Price Index which includes non-wage price indexes, and a range of Producer and International Trade Price Indexes. The program also produces a Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Costs Index, and Analytical Living Cost Indexes for Selected Australian Household Types.

The program promotes, through provision of information papers, seminars and other means, a greater understanding in the community of concepts, methods and uses of price indexes.

The main clients for the program's outputs are the Reserve Bank of Australia; the Treasury; the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Australian government and state government agencies whose payments are indexed; economic analysts; and the general business community.

Key achievements

- In December 2010, the ABS announced outcomes from a major review of the CPI following an extensive public consultation process. The ABS received 55 written submissions from individuals and organisations and held public seminars in each capital city, as well as holding discussions with a range of CPI users. An advisory group comprising representatives of major users assisted the ABS in its deliberations. Outcomes from the review included decisions to retain the principal purpose of the CPI as being for household inflation measurement, to move to a monthly basis if funding is available and to update the weights more frequently, preferably from a more frequent Household Expenditure Survey. Changes will also be made to the measurement of financial services in the CPI, and the ABS will produce seasonally adjusted estimates of the CPI. The 16th series CPI, which will be produced using an updated weighting pattern, derived from the ABS 2009–10 Household Expenditure Survey, will be implemented in respect of the September quarter 2011 to be released in October 2011.
- The ABS has provided assistance to the 2011 International Comparison Program (ICP) through involvement on the ICP Executive Board and the Asia-Pacific Regional Advisory Board. As Regional Coordinator for the Pacific ICP, the ABS has taken a lead role in developing and implementing a strategy that enables involvement of more Pacific countries in the ICP.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
Consumer Price Index, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6401.0)	The CPI provides a general measure of changes in prices of consumer goods and services purchased by Australian households; for production of volume estimates of components of the Australian National Accounts; as a basis for indexing pensions, superannuation payments and government taxes and charges; as an input into salary and wage negotiations, and for indexation of government bonds and business contracts.
House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (ABS cat. no. 6416.0)	Mainly used as a measure of price changes for established houses and for project homes; for analysis of trends in the housing market, and for producing estimates of the value of housing stock.
Labour Price Index, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6345.0)	Mainly used as a measure of wage inflation; to inform wage setting negotiations; for production of volume estimates of components of the Australian National Accounts, and for the indexation of business contracts.
Producer Price Indexes, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6427.0)	Mainly used for production of volume estimates of components of the Australian National Accounts; as a guide to future inflationary trends, and for indexation of business contracts. Stage of production indexes are used to assess industry inflation impacts as commodities move through the economy.
International Trade Price Indexes, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6457.0)	Mainly used for production of volume estimates of components of the Australian National Accounts; as a guide to 'rest of the world' inflationary impacts for Australia, and for indexation of business contracts.
Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6467.0)	Mainly used for measuring the impact of changes in prices on the out-of-pocket living costs experienced by pensioners and other government transfer recipient households, and as a basis for indexing pensions and other payments to government benefit recipients.
Analytical Living Costs Index for Selected Australian Household types, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6463.0)	Supplementary analytical series to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Its main uses are as a measure of the impact of changes in prices on the out-of-pocket living costs experienced by employee households, age pensioner households, other government transfer recipient households and self-funded retiree households.

Public Sector Accounts

Introduction

The Public Sector Accounts program provides Government Finance Statistics (GFS) in respect of: the Australian government; state and territory governments, and their public non-financial and public financial corporations; universities; and local governments. The statistics are compiled predominantly from government accounting systems.

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. They are also used to assist in the distribution of Australian government grants to state governments.

Key achievements

- Made further improvements to state level annual data, leading to higher quality estimates.
- Continued to work with government agencies to ensure that the GFS framework is the primary framework used for the analysis of government finances.

Review of the Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001

During 2010–11, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) commenced a review of the *Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001* (GFSM). The purpose of the review is to achieve consistency between the IMF GFSM and the System of National Accounts 2008 and to rectify inconsistencies and errors in the current manual. The expectation is that the IMF will release a revised GFSM during 2012.

The ABS was represented at the February 2011 meeting of the IMF Government Finance Statistics Advisory Committee, a small expert group established for the review of the GFSM. The ABS will participate in an IMF electronic discussion group during the review. The ABS will keep stakeholders (both government agencies providing data on a GFS basis and users of the statistics) informed of developments with the review.

Following the release of the revised IMF GFSM, the ABS will update the *Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods 2005* and develop a plan to transition to the new standards.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
Government Finance Statistics, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5512.0)	Financial year operating statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement by level of government (Commonwealth, state and local) and jurisdiction for the following sectors: general government; public non-financial corporations; non-financial public; public financial corporations; and total public.
Taxation Revenue, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5506.0)	Financial year statistics of taxation revenue collected by each level of government in Australia.
Government Finance Statistics, Education, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5518.0.55.001)	Financial year statistics on expenditure on education by the general government sector.
Government Financial Estimates, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5501.0.55.001)	Initial financial year budget forecasts for the general government operating statement and cash flow statement, compiled by each jurisdiction on a GFS basis.
Government Finance Statistics, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5519.0.55.001)	Quarterly operating statements for the general government and public non-financial corporations sectors.
Australian System of Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (ABS cat. no. 5514.0)	A description of the conceptual and analytical framework underlying global financial statistics in Australia. It also provides an overview of data sources and the compilation methodology used.

Business Indicators

The Business Indicators program is responsible for the provision of a range of monthly, quarterly and bi-annual economic indicators. This data is an essential input to the compilation of Australian National Accounts and the corresponding supply-use and input-output tables. These statistics are used as partial indicators of the national accounts and as important measures of economic activity in their own right.

The main clients of the program include the Treasury, the Reserve Bank of Australia, various state and territory departments, banks, industry associations and other financial analysts.

Key achievements

- Following the changes to classifications, methods and systems which were implemented by Business Indicators in the previous year, coherence and quality was the theme this year. Attention was placed on ensuring the statistics reflected the real world, accurately measuring the impact of the global recession, stimulus spending and natural disasters.
- A feature article 'Mining Capital Expenditure in Australia' was included in the September quarter 2010 release of *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure* (ABS cat. no. 5625.0).

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
Retail Trade, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8501.0)	Monthly estimates on the value of retail turnover. In the final month of each quarter, estimates of quarterly chain volume measures are produced.
Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5625.0)	Quarterly estimates of private sector capital expenditure activity and expectations of future expenditure. The publication also includes derived realisation ratios which may be used to assist forecasts of investment activity.
Business Indicators, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5676.0)	Quarterly data on sales, labour costs, company profits and inventories. The publication contains both national and state level data and estimates in original, seasonally adjusted and trend terms. In addition, data is presented as current price data by industry and, where appropriate, estimates are presented as chain volume measures.
Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8412.0)	Quarterly data on mineral and petroleum exploration activity classified by state, mineral, and type of lease, with petroleum data classified by onshore and offshore activity. The publication includes biannual data on expected exploration activity.

Innovation and Technology

Introduction

The Innovation and Technology program provides data to assist the understanding of research, experimental development, innovation and new technologies, including their impact on economic and social outcomes. It provides measures of the penetration and use of selected new technologies within Australian businesses and households, particularly information and communication technology.

The program provides measures of innovation for Australian businesses; these outputs are now produced from the Business Characteristics Survey and are an integral part of the Business Longitudinal Database. These measures assist the understanding of business activity and possible links to business performance and productivity.

Statistics for expenditure on research and experimental development are important inputs to Australia's national accounts. 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

- Strategies have been developed for meeting information needs arising from major government policy initiatives including the National Broadband Network, *Australia's Digital Economy: Future Directions* (July 2009), *Powering Ideas, an Innovation Agenda for the 21st Century* (May 2009) and *Inspiring Australia, a National Strategy for Engagement with the Sciences* (December 2009).
- The Innovation and Technology program has been actively involved in the development of international statistical standards and measurement frameworks, contributing to two Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development working groups – the Working Party for Indicators of the Information Society and the Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators.
- The ABS took the lead on a Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in-depth review of measuring the information society and statistics on science, technology and innovation, preparing discussion papers providing an overview of international statistical work in the area, identifying challenges and proposing potential ways forward. The papers were presented at the June 2010 plenary session of the CES in Paris and at a November 2010 meeting in Geneva.
- Considerable work has gone into the development and external funding of additional items for the Household Use of IT survey and an expanded Internet Activity Survey. These developments are critical in continuing to provide relevant and timely statistics on broadband for the development of government policy.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
Research and Experimental Development, Businesses (ABS cat. no. 8104.0)	This annual release presents measures of expenditure and human resources devoted to research and experimental development (R&D) carried out by businesses in Australia. It is classified by industry, type of expenditure, source of funds, type of employee, enterprise employment size, type of activity, research field, socioeconomic objective and location of expenditure.
Research and Experimental Development, Government and Private Non-Profit Organisations (ABS cat. no. 8109.0)	This biennial release presents statistics on research and development undertaken by the Australian government and non-profit organisations.
Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education Organisations (ABS cat. no. 8111.0)	This biennial release presents statistics on research and development undertaken by Australian higher education institutions.
Research and Experimental Development, All Sector Summary (ABS cat. no. 8112.0)	This biennial release presents summary statistics on R&D undertaken by Australian organisations within the business, government, higher education and private non-profit sectors.
Summary of IT Use and Innovation in Australian Business (ABS cat. no. 8166.0)	This annual release presents key indicators on the incidence of use of information technology and innovation in Australian business, as collected by the Business Characteristics Survey.
Innovation in Australian Business (ABS cat. no. 8158.0)	This biennial release presents information about the incidence of innovation in Australian business and related practices or influences, as collected by the Business Characteristics Survey.

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Selected Characteristics of Australian Business</i> (ABS cat. no. 8167.0)	This annual release presents business characteristics data for a selection of topics including the nature of business ownership; collaborative arrangements; franchising agreements; performance measures; barriers; government financial assistance; finance sought; innovation; business use of information technology; skills; markets; and competition.
<i>Internet Activity, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8153.0)	This biannual release contains details of internet activity supplied by Internet Service Providers in Australia. It includes information on internet subscribers and their type of connection, the type of user (business/household), the volume of data downloaded, the speed of the internet connection and the location of the subscriber (by state or territory).

Business Demography

Introduction

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

Key achievements

- Conducted a successful business demography roadshow seminar series in each capital city in Australia. These seminars covered topics such as recent business demography releases, scope and coverage of ABS business demography statistics and state-based business demography data.
- Improved the scope and included new outputs for ABS business counts statistics such as the growth of existing businesses counts.
- Signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research for the provision of statistics for analysing the economic impact of Government innovation policies.
- Continued provision of customised business and business operator counts consultancy service.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits</i> (ABS cat. no. 8165.0)	During 2010–11, the ABS business demography work program focused on achieving a regular annual release cycle, and enhanced user engagement through a national seminar series. A new publication was released in October 2010, with further enhancements and additional data released in early 2011. The next publication is expected to be released in December 2011.

Economic Analysis and Reporting

Introduction

The Economic Analysis and Reporting program contributes to a consolidated program of statistical research and development in the ABS, including macroeconomic and price research functions, productivity and human capital measurement, innovation and digital economy research and coordination functions. The program is designed to bring together micro and macroeconomic analysis functions.

The program enhances the value of ABS microdata holdings in relation to ABS economic statistics by conducting policy relevant analyses. The program publishes market sector and industry level estimates of productivity, and conducts ongoing research into the measurement and interpretation of productivity and human capital measurement.

Consultations are conducted with the wider analytical community and policy agencies to keep pace with evolving analytical imperatives. A key objective of the consolidated program is to ensure cohesion and relevance of prices, national accounts, balance of payments, financial sector and innovation and digital economy statistics.

Key achievements

- Aggregate multifactor productivity statistics were published for the first time using the expanded market sector which includes four additional services industries.
- A joint ABS and Productivity Commission research project was completed on the relationships between competition, innovation and productivity.
- Improved methods for estimating human capital measures of stocks and flows were developed. The program is recognised as a world leader in human capital measurement, and has been invited to present the research at the 2011 June Conference of European Statisticians.
- A methodology for estimating option values and economic benefits of completing secondary education has been developed and updated.
- A draft information development plan for non-profit institutions was released in response to one of the recommendations in the Productivity Commission report on the sector.
- The outcomes from the 16th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review were published following extensive public consultation.
- The ABS took a lead role in developing a strategy that enables involvement of Pacific countries in the International Comparison Program for the first time. This program is a statistical initiative to produce purchasing power parity indices, which enable international comparisons of, for example, per capita gross domestic product.
- Conceptual and methodological issues were progressed through two international task forces regarding the measurement of financial institutions services indirectly measured (i.e. interest margins) following widespread difficulties in a number of countries during the global financial crisis.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
Australian System of National Accounts, 2008–09 Productivity Measures – Selected Industries (ABS cat. no. 5204.0)	Annual release of productivity measures including labour productivity, capital productivity and multifactor productivity, as well as growth accounting measures on both an hours worked and quality adjusted hours worked basis.
Experimental Estimates of Industry Multifactor Productivity, 2008–09 (ABS cat. no. 5260.0.55.002)	Annual release of experimental industry level estimates of multifactor productivity along with aggregate measures.
Measuring Rates of Return to Post-school Education in Australia. (ABS cat. no. 1351.0.055.032);	This research paper details the methodology and estimates for rates of return to post-school education.
Measuring an Option Value of Investment in Education: A Lifetime Labour Income Approach http://www.iarivw.org/papers/2010/8cWei.pdf	This paper is an update of the previous ABS research paper on economic benefits and option values of completing secondary school in Australia, using 2006 Census data.
Outcome of the 16th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6469.0)	Summary of the consultation and outcomes from the review of the 16th series Consumer Price Index.
Information Paper: Non-Profit Institutions – A Draft Information Development Plan, July 2010 (ABS cat. no. 5256.0)	Information paper noting the information requirements on Non-Profit Institutions.

Industry Statistics

Introduction

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

The program consists of annual economy-wide financial statistics, a rolling collection program, and modelling and analytical work covering specific industries or activities. Also included are construction statistics on levels of residential building, non-residential building and engineering works.

Program outputs are widely used for economic monitoring and forecasting, as input to the Australian National Accounts, international industry statistics, construction industry, finance and investment sector analysis.

Key achievements

- First issue of the new publication *Energy, Water and Environment Management, 2008–09* (ABS cat. no. 4660.0). This publication provides information on energy and environment management practices for selected Australian industries in respect of the 2008–09 financial year. It contains data on energy and water management activities as well as expenditure and quantity data for purchases and generation of renewable and non-renewable fuels. A focus is placed on the priority industries of mining, manufacturing and transport.

- Implementation of the long-term Industry Statistics program, providing long range certainty for industry and governments.
- A method for adjusting data reported on an “off June year” basis has been developed and is currently being tested internally, with the aim of introducing these adjustments to *Australian Industry* (ABS cat. no. 8155.0) from 2010–11 reference year. With this aim in mind, an experimental series will be produced from 2009–10 reference year estimates, released later in the 2011 calendar year.
- Case studies continue to be utilised as an alternative approach and supplementary means for providing product information in the national accounts input-output data around intermediate use and production. Case studies have also been undertaken for the energy supply industry to provide input to the energy accounts.
- Completed end-to-end systems redevelopment for Engineering Construction Survey.
- Improved and updated input processing system for building approvals to increase the automation of editing and coding functions.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Australian Industry</i> (ABS cat. no. 8155.0)	<p>Presents annual estimates for most industry divisions and subdivisions at a national level for: income; expenses; industry value added; operating profit before tax; capital expenditure; and selected components of these aggregates and derivations. state/territory estimates of income, employment, and wages and salaries, at division level also included.</p> <p>Revisions have been made to data previously published in <i>Australian Industry</i> (ABS cat. no. 8155.0) for data in respect of the 2006–07, 2007–08 and 2008–09 reference years, published in May 2011. This revised data makes use of updated information gathered from providers, and improvements to estimation methodology, to provide better quality estimates for these three years.</p> <p>This product also presents information about mineral production in Australia based on data produced by the various state and Northern Territory government departments as part of their administrative responsibilities. Data are shown at the lowest level of detail at which data are comparable across jurisdictions.</p>
<i>Experimental Estimates for the Manufacturing Industry, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8159.0)	<p>Experimental estimates use a combination of data directly collected in ABS surveys and data sourced from the Australian Tax Office. Modelling techniques are applied to combine these two data sources in order to produce experimental estimates at the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) class level for the data items wages and salaries, sales and service income, industry value added and employment.</p> <p>In addition, estimates for state at the ANZSIC subdivision level are also presented for wages and salaries, sales and services income and employment.</p>
<i>Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8412.0)	<p>Quarterly release on actual and expected expenditure by private organisations exploring for minerals and petroleum (classified by state and commodity) and data provided on metres drilled.</p> <p>Petroleum exploration expenditure classified by onshore/offshore and from the September 1994 quarter, by region.</p>

Publications – Product	Explanation
Community Services, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8696.0)	Presents estimates of the economic and financial performance of businesses and other public and private sector organisations involved in the provision of community services, in relation to 2008–09. Data are presented by type of community service activity, state and territory and profit status.
Building Approvals, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8731.0)	Provides the number and value of dwelling units approved by sector and state, number and value of new other residential dwelling units approved by building type, and the number and value of non-residential building jobs. Produced monthly.
Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary (ABS cat. no. 8755.0)	Presents quarterly preliminary statistics for the value of building work done and engineering work done, for private and public sectors.
Building Activity, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8752.0)	Presents building activity statistics for states and territories, and private and public sectors. Includes number of dwelling units commenced and completed and value of building work commenced, completed, done and to be done. Released quarterly.
Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8762.0)	This quarterly product contains value of engineering construction work done, commenced and yet to be done, classified by state or territory, commodity (roads, bridges, pipelines etc), sector (public/private) undertaking the work and sector for whom the work is being done.
Dwelling Unit Commencements, Australia, Preliminary (ABS cat. no. 8750.0)	A quarterly release with preliminary estimates of the number of dwelling units (new houses, new other residential and conversions, etc.) commenced for private sector and public sector, by state. Total number of dwelling units commenced by state in seasonally adjusted and trend terms.

Agriculture

Introduction

The Agriculture program aims to meet the statistical needs of agricultural policy makers and other key users of agricultural statistics by providing reliable and relevant information on commodity production, economic performance and environmental practices. The main collections include an annual agricultural survey, a five-yearly agricultural census, and a range of monthly, quarterly and ad hoc surveys covering specific aspects of agriculture and related activities such as water use and resource management practices.

Key achievements

- The 2009–2010 Agricultural Resource Management Survey was successfully dispatched and processed with final data being released in a more timely fashion than ever before, from April 2011.
- A new survey, the Agricultural Land and Water Ownership Survey, has been developed and is designed to address the current lack of information available on foreign ownership of agricultural businesses, agricultural land ownership and ownership of water entitlements for agricultural purposes. The survey was dispatched in March 2011 with results expected to be released in September 2011.
- The 2010–2011 Agricultural Census was developed to collect content including business structures, commodity production, land use and management practices. The census was dispatched in June 2011 with preliminary estimates available in November 2011 and final data expected to be released from June 2012. For the first time, agricultural businesses are able to submit their census form using an online reporting option.

2011 Agricultural Census

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is conducting the five yearly Agricultural Census in 2011. The Agricultural Census was dispatched in June 2011 to approximately 170,000 agricultural businesses across Australia. For the first time, providers had the option of completing their Agricultural Census form online. The Agricultural Census will provide regional level information for a range of commodity, water use, land management practices and land use data. Preliminary data for a range of principal commodities for Australia and for states and territories will be released on the ABS website in November 2011, with final data available in June 2012.

Statistical Publications and Products

Publications – Product	Explanation
Australian Wine and Grape Industry (ABS cat. no. 1329.0)	This publication presents a summary of statistics on grape and wine production and related activities collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and other sources.
Vineyards Estimates (ABS cat. no. 1329.0.55.002)	An annual publication which presents estimates on the area and production of wine grapes in Australia.
Water Use on Australian Farms (ABS cat. no. 4618.0)	An annual publication which provides estimates agricultural water use (including pastures and crops irrigated), irrigation water sources, irrigation methods, irrigation water management and irrigation expenditure and assets.
Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia (ABS cat. no. 7111.0)	This publication contains preliminary estimates of principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers collected in the 2009–10 Agricultural Resource Management Survey.
Agricultural Commodities, Australia (ABS cat. no. 7121.0)	This publication contains final estimates for the main commodities collected in the 2009–10 Agricultural Resource Management Survey. Included are statistics on land use, industry activity, crop and horticultural area and production, and livestock numbers. Data is available for a range of sub-state geographic levels, including natural resource management regions.
Stocks of Grain Held by Bulk Handling Companies and Grain Traders (ABS cat. no. 7122.0.55.001)	This publication provides monthly estimates of stocks of wheat held by bulk grain handlers.
Livestock Products, Australia (ABS cat. no. 7215.0)	Provides quarterly information on livestock slaughtering, meat production, exports of live sheep and cattle, exports of fresh, chilled, frozen and processed meat, whole milk intake by factories, market milk sales by factories and receipts of taxable wool by wool brokers and dealers.
Livestock and Meat, Australia (ABS cat. no. 7218.0.55.001)	This publication presents monthly statistics on livestock slaughtering and meat production, collected from abattoirs and other major slaughtering establishments.
Wheat Use and Stocks, Australia (ABS cat. no. 7307.0)	This publication presents monthly estimates from various wheat surveys and from administrative data relating to wheat exports.
Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia. Preliminary (ABS cat. no. 7501.0)	Contains preliminary estimates of gross values of production of major agricultural commodities for all states, territories and Australia, for 2009–10. Gross value of production data are provided for selected broad acre crops, fruit and vegetable crops, livestock slaughtering and livestock products.
Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced Australia (ABS cat. no. 7503.0)	This publication contains final estimates of gross and local values of production of major agricultural commodities for the year ended 30 June 2010.

Transport

Introduction

The transport program encompasses a range of statistical collections and supports improvements in the relevance, availability and quality of national transport data. Statistics from the transport collections are used to assist in policy and planning deliberations, particularly in the areas of long term planning, the regulation of road transport operators, for accident exposure and analysis of fuel use. Information about the vehicle fleet provides a measure of the stock of vehicles registered for road use at a point in time and supports the study of links between demographic change and vehicle ownership and use. Statistics on new motor vehicle sales provide an economic indicator of consumer confidence.

The main clients of the program are various Australian government agencies, in particular the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, (including the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics); state and territory government agencies; the Commonwealth Grants Commission; the National Transport Commission; and industry and academic organisations.

The ABS provides national leadership in transport statistics by chairing the Australian Transport Data Action Network.

Key achievements

- Release of the Transport Metadata Portal on the National Statistical Services website. The portal has a dual purpose. It increases the visibility of important national transportation data while providing information that assists in the identification of priorities for harmonisation and quality improvements.
- Successful conduct of the Survey of Motor Vehicle Use for the 2009 – 10 cycle. Results from this cycle will be published in August 2011.
- Aligning future reference periods of the Survey of Motor Vehicle Use with a financial year. The first survey aligned with a reference year will be run July 2011 – June 2012.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 9314.0)	This monthly publication contains seasonally adjusted and trend data on sales of new motor vehicles in Australia. These data are based on the Vehicle Facts series produced by the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries.
<i>Motor Vehicle Census, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 9309.0)	This publication contains statistics relating to vehicles registered at 31 March 2009 with a motor vehicle registration authority. Motor vehicle registration statistics are compiled from data made available by various state and territory motor vehicle registration authorities and reflect the information in registration documents.

Tourism

Introduction

The Tourism program is responsible for producing regular, timely and coherent statistics on tourism activities. It also undertakes a coordination and liaison role between tourism statistics users and other areas of the ABS that produce related statistics. The program is responsible for the development and maintenance of tourism frameworks, standards and concepts.

Tourism statistics are used to assist in economic analysis and policy formation relating to tourism, to measure the size and structure of tourism related industries, to allocate state government funding to regional areas and for local government planning and investment.

The main clients of the program are the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (including Tourism Research Australia); state and territory tourism departments; tourism industry associations; academic and research groups; as well as marketing and consultancy bodies.

Key achievements

- Undertook preliminary research into improving measures of tourism employment in the Tourism Satellite Account.
- Assisted the United Nations World Tourism Organisation to build capability in tourism statistics within the Asia Pacific region.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Australian National Accounts: Tourism Satellite Account</i> (ABS cat. no. 5249.0)	Annual estimates of the direct contribution of the tourism industry to the Australian economy within the context of a satellite account linked to the Australian System of National Accounts. Contains information about the contribution of tourism to major economic aggregates such as gross domestic product as well as details by type of visitor, the products purchased by tourists and the industries supplying these products.
<i>Tourist Accommodation, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8635.0)	Quarterly releases provide information on the supply of, and demand for, tourist accommodation facilities. Data includes number of establishments, capacity and employment for the quarter and occupancy and takings from accommodation for each month by type of establishment and by star grading.
<i>Overseas Arrivals and Departures</i> (ABS cat. no. 3401.0)	Comprises a summary of monthly data by category of movement. For visitors arriving and residents departing short term, the intended length of stay, main purpose of journey, principal destination (departures) or country of usual residence (arrivals) and state and territory in which most time was spent.

Environment

Introduction

The Environment statistics program contributes to the growing need for comprehensive and coordinated information about Australia's environment. The program covers the production of statistics across the themes of land, waste management and biodiversity. The program also covers the development of integrated statistical frameworks supporting production of statistics across these themes and statistics on energy and water produced by related ABS programs.

Statistics produced focus on the complex inter-relationships between the environment, society and the economy, particularly through the development and production of environmental-economic accounts which link availability, use and management of natural resources and economic activity.

Given the emergence of challenging issues in the environmental field, and the range of Australian government agencies with related statistical functions, a significant component of the work program involves active engagement with partners to understand key information needs and to coordinate the development of national statistics.

Key achievements

- Instituted significant changes and advancements to the production of environmental-economic accounts. This includes an expansion of the breadth and depth of account production to incorporate new themes, the introduction of improved methodologies and stronger alignment with the System of National Accounts and other national and international environment statistics. This work is ongoing and will lead to regular releases for a suite of integrated environmental-economic accounts for Australia.
- International collaboration and continued contribution to development and revision of the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting.
- Researched the development of statistics and environmental-economic accounting concepts in the areas of environmental protection expenditure and the environment industry to support the development of national and international statistics in these areas.
- Finalised the development of the first national household survey of biodiversity conservation activity, due to be conducted in 2011–12.
- Research into the development of environmental indicators to support national and international indicator frameworks.
- Ongoing enhancement of national waste statistics, particularly relating to the delivery of waste management services.

Great Barrier Reef region land account

During 2010–11, the ABS released an experimental land account for the Great Barrier Reef region: *Land Account: Great Barrier Reef Regions, Experimental Estimates, 2011* (ABS cat. no. 4609.0.55.001). This release combines integrated social, economic and environment data with spatial location information. Information is available for geographic areas that range from small city blocks to sparse agricultural areas, remote communities and Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions. The account integrates data from a range of sources to provide a rich set of information at different scales that can be used for decision making, planning, research and other purposes. Outputs are available as a series of aggregate statistical tables for NRM regions, through a Google Earth® interface that enables drill down to data for statistical areas, and as a spatial layer so that users can overlay this socio-economic data with their own geospatial datasets to undertake further analysis.

The *Land Account: Great Barrier Reef Regions, Experimental Estimates, 2011* (ABS cat. no. 4609.0.55.001) is an experimental product and this approach could be expanded to cover other parts of Australia. The ABS is currently seeking feedback on this land account to gauge interest and guide further work in this area.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Land Account: Great Barrier Reef Regions, Experimental Estimates, 2011</i> (ABS cat. no. 4609.0.55.001)	This pilot publication provides environmental, economic and social information for the five Natural Resource Management regions that comprise the Great Barrier Reef catchments. The data are presented in the form of an experimental Land Account. For more information, see the text box above.
<i>Environmental Issues: Water use and Conservation, Mar 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 4602.0.55.003)	This publication presents information about water usage and water conservation practices of Australian households. It covers a range of topics including household water sources, water usage and water saving practices inside and outside the dwelling.
<i>Waste Management Services, Australia 2009–10</i> (ABS cat. no. 8698.0)	This publication presents information on the waste management services sector. It includes financial information on the sector, quantities and sources of waste processed and quantities of material recovered/recycled.
<i>Towards an integrated environmental-economic account for Australia, 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 4655.0.55.001)	This discussion paper describes the concept of environmental-economic accounts and looks at their potential uses for informing environmental and other policies.

Energy

Introduction

The Energy statistics program produces information about the supply and use of energy resources by the economy and society. As a number of Australian government agencies have a shared responsibility for national energy statistics, the program also actively engages with these partners to coordinate in identifying national energy information needs and collaborate in the development of relevant statistics.

Key achievements

- Advanced the ongoing development of national energy statistics through utilising physical and financial data collected in the Energy, Water and Environment Management Survey to develop energy indicators and energy price information. The results of this work will be used in statistical products such as future issues of the *Energy Account* (ABS cat. no. 4604.0).
- Provided statistical advice and support to the Energy Efficiency Data Project (EEDP). ABS has worked with Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics on a number of aspects of the EEDP and contributed to the preparation of reports for the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism and the National Framework on Energy Efficiency Data Working Group. The most significant outcome from this work will be the development of enhanced national energy statistics from data collected under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System.
- Developed content and methodology leading to the collection of data from the energy supply industry in 2011–12 through the ABS Annual Integrated Collection.
- Contributed to the development of international standards and frameworks for energy statistics through Australia's hosting of the United Nations Oslo city group meeting on energy statistics and supporting the development of the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics and the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Energy Account, 2008–09</i> (ABS cat. no. 4604.0)	This publication represents the fourth edition of the ABS Energy Account and responds to ongoing demand for information about energy products within Australia's economy. In particular, it contains estimates of the physical supply and use of energy products in Australia over the period 2001–02 to 2008–09. It also provides a time series of energy intensity measures for selected Australian industries.
<i>Energy, Water and Environment Management, 2008–09</i> (ABS cat. no. 4660.0)	This publication contains information on energy and environment management practices for selected Australian industries during the 2008–09 financial year. It contains data on energy and water management activities and expenditure and quantity data for purchases and generation of renewable and non-renewable fuels. A focus is placed on the industries of mining, manufacturing and transport.
<i>Energy in Focus</i> (ABS cat. no. 4614.0.55.001)	This publication presents an ongoing series of small articles on topical energy related issues highlighting ABS statistics in the field.

Water

Introduction

The Water statistics program supports the integration of information about water resources, such as availability and use. There is an emphasis on highlighting the relationships between water and society, the economy and the environment.

The program actively engages with partners to coordinate water information needs and the development of water statistics.

Clients of the program include Australian government departments and agencies such as: the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities; Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; National Water Commission; Murray-Darling Basin Authority; Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and Bureau of Meteorology, as well as state/territory government departments with water responsibilities, research organisations and businesses.

Data usage is varied and includes the formulation of policies, economic analysis, research and forecasting as well as meeting international reporting obligations.

Key achievements

- *Water Account Australia 2008–09* (ABS cat. no. 4610) was released in November 2010.
- *Water Account Australia* is now being produced on an annual basis, with the next release due in November 2011. During 2010–11, the ABS conducted survey and case study collections to gather water supply and use information from water service providers and business. The two ABS surveys used for the 2009–10 Water Account are the Water Supply Survey and the Agricultural Survey. The Water Supply Survey was complemented with administrative data from federal and state governments, reducing the reporting burden on water utilities.
- The ABS continues to work with the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) on the development of a National Water Account and National Water Information Standards under the *Water Act 2007*. In 2010–11, the focus was on establishing greater uniformity of the water information collected under the *Water Act* and articulating the respective roles of the two agencies. The ABS is represented on BoM's National Water Account Committee and interdepartmental committee on water information.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Water Account, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4610)	The ABS Water Account provides statistics on the physical flow (supply and use) of water in the Australian economy, and economic statistics relating to water suppliers and water users. <i>Water Account, Australia</i> is now released on an annual basis.
<i>Water Use on Australian Farms</i> (ABS cat. no. 4618.0)	This annual publication presents estimates of agricultural water use (including pastures and crops irrigated), irrigation water sources, irrigation methods, irrigation water management and irrigation expenditure and assets. Estimates are presented at national, state/territory, Statistical Division, Natural Resource Management Region and Murray-Darling Basin geographic levels.
<i>Experimental Estimates of the Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production</i> (ABS cat. no. 4610.0.55.008)	Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production (GVIAP) refers to the gross value of agricultural commodities that are produced with the assistance of irrigation. A set of experimental estimates has been created for the reference period 2000–01 to 2008–09 at Australia, state/territory and Murray-Darling Basin level, as well as Natural Resource Management region area estimates for 2005–06 to 2008–09.
	The ABS will continue to release GVIAP estimates on an annual basis.

Demography

Introduction

The key objectives of the Demography program are to produce estimates of the recent and projected future population, and report analysis of components of population growth and related demographic trends.

The program produces population estimates and projections for households, families and Indigenous populations, as well as fertility, mortality and overseas and internal migration statistics.

These statistics are produced to meet a range of legislative requirements that make reference to population estimates. Demographic data assists in the formulation of government policies, and in the planning and administration of government programs. The information enables planning, analysis and research by all those interested in the causes and consequences of population change. These include governments, businesses, community organisations and academic institutions.

Key achievements

- Compiled, analysed and reported on the numbers of permanent and temporary visa holders arriving and departing Australia, and their contribution to net overseas migration. This will aid informed discussion and decision-making on the contribution of temporary visa holders to recent population growth in Australia.
- Conducted a Population Estimates Technical Workshop with representatives of each state and territory government. This was aimed at explaining and discussing methodological issues associated with the conduct of an enhanced 2011 Census Post Enumeration Survey and compilation of population estimates based on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.
- Implemented use of a wider range of information and indicators to formulate assumptions of short-term future population growth used in the compilation of population benchmarks for monthly labour force estimates.

Stakeholder consultation on demographic statistics on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

With increasing and unprecedented demand for detailed demographic statistics on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians for government reporting, the ABS has undertaken a consultation process with key Indigenous people, communities and organisations as well as key policy stakeholders and data users. The aim of the consultation has been to better understand expectations and concerns about the quality of existing ABS Indigenous demographic statistics so that these issues can be addressed, where possible, including planning, development, compilation, quality assurance and dissemination phases for statistics based on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
Australian Demographic Statistics (ABS cat. no. 3101.0)	Quarterly releases of population estimates and components of growth for Australia, states and territories
Births, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3301.0)	Annual statistics on live births and fertility for Australia, states and territories, and sub-state regions, based on calendar year of registration data.
Deaths, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3302.0)	Annual statistics on deaths and mortality for Australia, states and territories, and sub-state regions, based on calendar year of registration data.
Migration, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3412.0)	Annual statistics on international migration into and out of Australia, interstate migration within Australia and information on overseas born residents of Australia.
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3401.0)	Monthly summary statistics on overseas arrivals and departures by category of movement.
Household and Family Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2031 (ABS cat. no. 3236.0)	Projections of the number of households, families and living arrangements of persons, based on results of the Census of Population and Housing.

Labour

Introduction

The Labour 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 (jobs and job vacancies); employment conditions and working arrangements; employee earnings and labour costs; and workplace relations.

Labour statistics are used extensively in the analysis, evaluation, and monitoring of the economy; the labour market; government policies and programs; and population groups of particular concern.

Statistics on labour force participation, employment, unemployment, underutilisation and hours worked are released either monthly or quarterly.

Statistics on particular aspects of the Australian labour market, including earnings, working arrangements, forms of employment, trade union membership, labour mobility, underemployment, job search experience, independent contracting, labour hire, retirement and retirement intentions, barriers and incentives to labour force participation, and marginal attachment to the labour force, are published periodically.

Statistics on average weekly earnings of employees are released quarterly, with distributional data on employee earnings and hours, occupational earnings, and award and agreement coverage available every two years. Statistics on job vacancies and industrial disputes are released quarterly.

Key achievements

- Revised population benchmarks were introduced into the Labour Force Survey, to take account of revisions made to the estimates of Net Overseas Migration. This re-benchmarking of Labour Force Survey resulted in revisions to the statistical series for the period July 2006 to June 2010.

- A comprehensive review of the Labour Employer Survey program was undertaken, involving both an assessment of how well the program meets key user requirements and a review of work practices. This review reaffirmed the critical priority that users place on the outputs from the program, and identified a number of processing and/or systems efficiencies that could be implemented.
- Two significant reviews aimed at reinvigorating the labour statistics program have commenced. The first review is focusing on the broad content of the labour household survey program, including the Labour Force Survey, labour supplementary surveys and labour multi-purpose household surveys to improve the utility, relevance and conceptual robustness of the program. The second review is focusing on improving the set of products released from the Labour Force Survey.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Labour Force, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6202.0)	These publications provide results from the Labour Force Survey, including monthly statistics on labour force participation, employment, unemployment and hours worked. Key summary data are presented in 6202.0, with detailed data presented in 6291.0.55.001 on a monthly basis, and in 6291.0.55.003 quarterly.
<i>Labour Force, Australia, Detailed – Electronic Delivery</i> (ABS cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)	
<i>Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly</i> (ABS cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)	
<i>Average Weekly Earnings, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6302.0)	This publication provides quarterly estimates of average weekly earnings classified by sector, state or territory, and by industry for males, females and persons.
<i>Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6306.0)	This publication contains distributional data on employee earnings and hours, occupational earnings, and data on pay setting instruments. The survey from which the information is produced is run every two years with the latest data relating to May 2010.
<i>Job Vacancies, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6354.0)	This publication provides quarterly estimates of the number of job vacancies classified by sector, state and territory and industry.
<i>Industrial Disputes, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6321.0.55.001).	This publication provides quarterly data on industrial disputes including working days lost, working days lost per thousand employees, number of employees involved, cause of dispute and reason work resumed.
<i>Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6310.0)	This annual publication provides data on earnings of employees cross-classified by a wide range of socio-demographic characteristics. It also provides information on the number of trade union members and other information on union membership history.
<i>Labour Mobility, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6209.0)	This two-yearly publication provides data on changes in work including information on people changing employers as well as people having some change in work while remaining with their current employer.
<i>Forms of Employment, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6359.0)	This annual publication provides data about the nature of employment arrangements in the Australian workforce. It provides information on a range of characteristics including fixed-term contracts, casual work, job flexibility and security and independent contracting.
<i>Australian Labour Market Statistics</i> (ABS cat. no. 6105.0)	The quarterly publication brings together key indicators of the labour market. It includes feature articles on current labour market issues and also provides information on news and developments in ABS labour statistics.

Rural and Regional Statistics

Introduction

The Rural and Regional Statistics program aims to improve the availability of regional data. Regions may include cities and other urban areas, or be part of 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 regional indicators where feasible.

A particular focus of this program has been on improving access to geospatial data and preparing for the transition to the new ABS standard geography (Australian Statistical Geography Standard – ASGS), which will support many improvements for users of regional data (such as better ability for time series analysis and more flexibility in compiling customised regions).

Another ongoing focus has been on utilising administrative data maintained by Australian, state and territory government agencies, where data have a location identifier with the potential to be used in presenting data geographically.

The activities of the Rural and Regional Statistics program are undertaken by the Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre, which provides leadership on regional and spatial statistics across the National Statistical Service. It coordinates, produces and disseminates statistics that will assist policy analysts and researchers understand change in regions across Australia; meet the regional policy needs of Australian Government agencies; and meet the needs of other researchers and analysts interested in comparative assessment between regions.

Key achievements

- Regional statistics products have been enhanced with more data, including additional Government payments in the National Regional Profile, and average total income in the personal income tax series. In addition, some efficiency gains have been realised with the data update processes for regional data products.
- Clients can now access a longer time series of regional data on a consistent geography. This was achieved by maintaining stability in the geographic boundaries on which data was output (using ASGC 2008). At the same time planning has begun for adoption of the new ASGS which will ensure greater stability and efficiency in providing regional time series data.
- Access to information about regional data has been improved with new Regional ‘@ a glance’ pages on the ABS website. These now include a selection of data for capital cities presented on an interactive map and a new page on data for local government areas.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>National Regional Profile 2005–2009</i> (ABS cat. no. 1379.0.55.001)	Annual release. Provides a statistical profile for over 2,000 regions across Australia, including all Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Statistical Local Areas (SLAs). The profiles contain approximately 300 data items covering key social, economic and environment data. Data in the profiles are from ABS and non-ABS sources. Where possible, a five year time series has been presented for each region.
<i>Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2003–04 to 2007–08</i> (ABS cat. no. 6524.0.55.002)	Annual release. Data are provided on the number of individuals and the amount of income received from wage and salary, own unincorporated business, investment, superannuation and annuities, and other income (excluding government pensions and allowances). An estimate of total income (excluding government pensions and allowances) is also provided. The estimates have been compiled using aggregated individual income tax data from the Australian Tax Office (ATO).
<i>Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, 2003–04 to 2007–08</i> (ABS cat. no. 5673.0.55.003)	Annual release. This data shows the detailed characteristics of wage and salary earners in cross-tabulations by age, sex, occupation and income for the years 2003–04 to 2006–07. Most of this data is presented for each SLA and LGA in Australia. The estimates have been compiled using aggregated individual income tax data from the ATO.

Census of Population and Housing

Introduction

The Census of Population and Housing (Census) is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the ABS and one of the most important. Its objective is to accurately 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 of the states, territories and local government areas, primarily for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funds.

The Census also provides the characteristics of the Australian population and its 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 governments and other users. The 2011 Census will take place on Tuesday, 9 August 2011.

Key achievements

- Completed the development of detailed enumeration strategies and implemented operational plans for the 2011 Census.
- Established Census management units in each state and territory.
- Established the Data Processing Centre in Melbourne including recruitment of processing staff.
- A program of successful engagement with relevant stakeholders, including those at all levels of government, peak bodies, community groups and Indigenous organisations and communities.
- Recruited Census field staff, including district managers, area supervisors (3,500) and Census collectors (29,000).
- Finalised the development of the public relations campaign.
- Completed the development and testing of the internet application of the Census form (eCensus).

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
Outcomes from the 2011 Census Output Geography Discussion Paper, 2011 (ABS cat. no. 2911.0.55.003)	This release is the follow-up publication to the March 2010 <i>Discussion Paper: ABS Views on the 2011 Census Output Geography</i> (ABS cat. no. 2911.0.55.002). This second paper outlines feedback received to the first paper and the ABS response which includes a revised matrix of products that will be released by geographic area.
How Australia takes a Census (ABS cat. no. 2903.0)	The purpose of this publication is to outline how the 2011 Census will be conducted. This publication describes the history of the Census, the process by which the 2011 Census was planned, the way it will be conducted and processed and the type of output that will be available.
The 2011 Census Data Dictionary (ABS cat. no. 2901.0)	The 2011 Census Dictionary is a comprehensive reference guide designed to assist users of 2011 Census data to determine and specify their data requirements and to understand the concepts underlying the data. A major section of the Dictionary contains the 2011 Census classifications. These classifications are generally referred to as the standard output variables for which data can be produced. The classification section is an essential resource for users who wish to specify tables customised to their specific needs or to derive their own data from the Census web site. The 2011 Census Dictionary should prove an invaluable reference document for all Census data users.

Health and Disability

Introduction

The Health and Disability program seeks to develop, compile and disseminate information concerning the health of the Australian population. It does this through a range of health information collections:

- Causes of Death collection;
- Australian Health Survey and the former National Health Surveys;
- Patient Experience Survey;
- Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers; and
- Private health establishments collection.

Through these data collections, information is extracted and analysed to understand the 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.

This information is used by Australian, state and territory governments for identifying public health and disability issues, assessing their magnitude and distribution, assessing health system performance, developing health policies and undertaking program evaluation. The information is used by non-government organisations in designing programs to support community groups, by academics to better understand the health outcomes of the population and their drivers, and by the general public and media to better understand health risks and issues.

Key achievements

- Designed and operationalised of the 2011 Australian Health Survey including new nutrition, biomedical and physical activity components.
- Design of the 2012 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey.
- Released reports examining patterns of disability as expressed across multiple surveys and through analysis of the 2009 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.
- Released short reports on key aspects of health drawn from the 2007–08 National Health Survey.
- Released 2009 Causes of Death publication, including improved suicide data.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Causes of Death, Australia, 2009</i> (ABS cat. no. 3303.0)	Presents national data collected and coded by the ABS on leading causes of death, underlying causes of death, and selected area of mortality interest including suicide and Indigenous deaths.
<i>Disability, Australia, 2009</i> (ABS cat. no. 4446.0)	Presents the latest findings from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.
<i>Health @ a glance, 2011</i> (ABS cat. no. 4841.0)	Presents findings from the National Health Survey 2007–08 on smoking patterns in Australia.
<i>Private Hospitals Australia, 2009–10</i> (ABS cat. no. 4390.0)	Presents national aggregated data on patient and hospital characteristics for private hospitals in Australia, including private acute and psychiatric hospitals as well as free-standing day hospitals.
<i>Perinatal Deaths, Australia, 2009</i> (ABS cat. no. 3304.0)	Presents national data collected and coded by the ABS on perinatal deaths.
<i>Aspects of Disability and Health, in Australia 2007–08</i> (ABS cat. no. 4367.0)	Presents information about the relationship between health and disability using data from the National Health Survey 2007–08.
<i>ABS Sources of Disability Information</i> (ABS cat. no. 4431.0.55.002)	Describes a range of sources of information for measuring disability and how they compare.
<i>Health Services: Patient Experiences in Australia, 2009</i> (ABS cat. no. 4839.0.55.001)	Describes the experience of patients using health services such as general practitioners and hospitals, and identifies barriers and issues in that interaction.
<i>Mental Health of Young People, 2007</i> (ABS cat. no. 4840.0.55.001)	Describes the patterns of mental health of people aged 16 to 24 years in Australia, based on results from the National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, 2007.

Education and Training

Introduction

The Education and Training Statistics program covers the activities of the National Centre for Education and Training Statistics. This includes the development and compilation of statistics from early childhood education and care, through to formal and non-formal adult learning. The information is used by Australian and state and territory governments for performance assessment and policy making and by organisations involved in educational research and analysis.

Key elements of the program include the development of an Australian Longitudinal Learning Database (ALLD); management of the National Schools Statistics collection and the national early childhood education and care collection; and the regular conduct of a number of surveys related to education, training and work.

Key achievements

- The Education and Training program area took a leading role in the implementation of the new national early childhood education and care collection, which supports information requirements for the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) early childhood reform agenda. The data collection will facilitate assessment of the commitment to universal access to early childhood education for all children in the year before formal schooling.
- Provision of data for the third cycle of COAG reporting under the National Education Agreement and National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development.
- Work to develop the ALLD has commenced. This longitudinal research base will be constructed as an integrated dataset, drawing together information on education and training across the life-course. The core of the database will be enrolment data from early childhood education programs, school enrolments, data on participation in vocational education and training and higher education.
- The program provides the secretariat for a new governance group, the Strategic Cross-sectoral Data Committee for Early Childhood, Education and Training. This committee operates within the framework of the Ministerial Standing Committees in the education and training sectors, and will oversee development of the ALLD.

National early childhood education and care collection

The ABS published the first estimates of preschool education from a new national early childhood education and care collection in April 2011 in *Experimental Estimates of Preschool Education, Australia, 2010* (ABS cat. no. 4240.0). This new data collection, established under the COAG National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education, has been achieved through cooperation and collaboration by jurisdictions and the Australian Government – the ABS, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The collection represents a significant achievement in better use of administrative data and will support performance reporting and research on childhood development into the future.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Education and Work, Australia, May 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 6227.0)	This annual publication supports ongoing monitoring of information about the educational experiences of persons aged 15–74 years, along with data on people's transition between education and work. It is published along with a series of data cubes that cover key national, state and territory education and training performance information.
<i>Schools, Australia 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 4221.0)	Detailed annual presentation of information on Australian schools, students and staff.
<i>Experimental Estimates of Preschool Education, Australia 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 4240.0)	This is the first release of estimates from the newly established National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection. Due to the data limitations in the first year of the collection, the estimates have been labelled 'experimental'. Future annual releases of data from this administrative data collection will provide an information base for the COAG early childhood reform agenda.
<i>Concept Paper: Australian Longitudinal Learning Database (ALLD)</i> (NSS website www.nss.gov.au – Statistical References)	This concept paper introduces the ABS proposal to create an Australian Longitudinal Learning Database (ALLD) as a means of enhancing the evidence-base for education research and policy into the future. It is envisaged that the ALLD would be constructed as an integrated dataset drawing together available administrative data on education and training across the life-course. Information from the Census could also be integrated into the database to provide a foundation of socio-demographic characteristics and labour force outcomes.

Crime and Justice

Introduction

The Crime and Justice statistics program leads national statistical activity aimed at developing and improving the information available in this field. 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 to improve the quality of these collections in cooperation with statistical practitioners in the jurisdictions.

The ABS also oversees 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

- *Recorded Crime – Offenders, Australia 2009–10* (ABS cat. no. 4519.0) achieved coverage of all states and territories with the inclusion of penalty data for Victoria.
- *Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia 2010* (ABS cat. no. 4510.0) was redesigned to assist users in understanding the data and issues relating to comparability across jurisdictions.
- Continued quality assurance of Indigenous status data across the three criminal justice sectors resulted in expanded dissemination of Indigenous status data into the Criminal Courts collection.
- *Release of the national ABS Crime Victimization Survey for 2009–10* (ABS cat. no. 4530.0) included a social disorder module for the first time.
- Re-release of the *Australian Standard Offence Classification 2008* (ABS cat. no. 1234.0) as the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification 2011, after it was adopted by several New Zealand justice agencies in efforts to harmonise statistical outputs across the region.
- The conduct of a feasibility study into the production of information about federal prisoners and parolees from various states.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Recorded Crime – Offenders, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4519.0)	Annual publication which presents characteristics of alleged offenders proceeded against by police during the 12 month reference period.
<i>Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4510.0)	Provides annual indicators of the level and nature of recorded crime victimisation in Australia.
<i>Crime Victimization, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4530.0)	Presents annual survey data on feelings of personal safety, and victimisation information for selected personal and household offences.
<i>Criminal Courts, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4513.0)	Annual publication which presents characteristics of defendants, including information on their offences and sentence outcomes.
<i>Federal Defendants, Selected States and Territories</i> (ABS cat. no. 4515.0)	Annual publication which presents characteristics of federal defendants, including information on their offences and sentence outcomes.
<i>Prisoners in Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4517.0)	Includes annual information from the National Prisoner Census on persons held in adult prisons, including their characteristics, sentence lengths and offences for which they are imprisoned.
<i>Corrective Services, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4512.0)	Presents quarterly information on numbers and rates of persons in custody and those serving community-based corrections orders.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

Introduction

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics program provides information to monitor the social and economic circumstances of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It supports the development, implementation and evaluation of relevant policies and programs of Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

In broad terms, the program provides a range of information to:

- assist in monitoring the social and economic circumstances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians
- support the development, implementation and evaluation of relevant policies and programs of Australian governments
- support research related to better understanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perceptions, expectations and experiences of 'wellbeing'
- enhance the quality and utility of relevant data sets across Australia's national statistical system.
- Australian governments, researchers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations are key users of the information produced by the program.

Key achievements

- Further dissemination of results from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2008, including summary booklets targeted at communities, additional data cubes, an additional microdata file to support detailed geographical analysis, and a number of analytical reports.
- Provision of data and technical support for key external reports including the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Council's performance report on the National Indigenous Reform Agreement, the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report of the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, and the Department of Health and Ageing's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework.
- Continuation of COAG-funded work to assess the quality of Indigenous status information in key administrative data sets, as described in Schedule F of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement.
- Continued work on the ABS's Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy to facilitate the return of information to Indigenous communities and organisations and maintain dialogue on data collection and use, with a focus on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
Supplementary releases from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, Australia: Summary Booklets, 2008 (ABS cat. no. 4714.0.55.003)• Data cubes (ABS cat. no. 4714.0)	<p>The summary booklets present a shorter summary of the results from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, on a range of topics including population, culture and language, health, education, labour force, housing, family and support networks, children and young adults. They are intended for use by ABS Indigenous Engagement Managers to return information to communities.</p> <p>An additional data cube, focused on Law and Justice issues, was released. The data cube includes information on arrest, incarceration, victims of violence, use of legal services, age first formally charged and neighbourhood/ community problems.</p>

Publications – Product	Explanation
Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, Detailed State by Remoteness, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2008 (ABS cat. no. 4720.0.55.001)	A third microdata file from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey was released. The new file includes additional geographical detail to support analysis at the state/territory by Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Area level.
The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2010 (ABS cat. no. 4704.0)	This release provides a comprehensive statistical overview, at the national level, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and welfare. Analysis is released on a topic by topic basis as it is available. The 2010–11 releases included social and emotional wellbeing, disability, mortality, housing circumstances and access to health and community services.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing: A focus on children and youth, (ABS cat. no. 4725.0)	This publication provides information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people from data collected in the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey. It is structured around the <i>Framework for Measuring Wellbeing: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples</i> (ABS cat. no. 4703.0). Analysis is released on a topic by topic basis as it is available. The 2010–11 releases included culture and language, housing circumstances, and law and justice.

Social Conditions

Introduction

The Social Conditions program covers:

- family and community statistics; and
- living conditions statistics.

The family and community statistics program component provides leadership in this field, as well as in a wide range of statistics related to family and community wellbeing. Some of the statistics it provides are derived from collections based on registration systems (such as for marriages and divorces) and from the Census of Population and Housing. Others are derived from collections managed by the program, including: families, pregnancy and employment transitions topics on the monthly population survey; and surveys of time use on areas such as volunteering, work and family balance, social capital and personal safety. Statistics and analysis are provided for women, men, couples, one-parent families, children, youth, older people, carers and other population subgroups.

The living conditions statistics program provides leadership in, and information about, the material living conditions of the population, including household income, wealth, expenditure, housing and superannuation. Related areas of measurement and analysis include economic hardship and financial stress, which help to provide a wider picture of the material circumstances and living conditions of Australians.

Social Conditions statistics are used to support the development and evaluation of government programs, as well as to inform planning and program delivery decisions. Academics and other analysts use the statistics for analysing a range of social and economic characteristics that have an impact on the wellbeing of Australian society. These analyses include international comparisons, which show Australia's relative progress relative to other nations.

Key achievements

- Chaired an international task force, established in 2009 under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau, to undertake an update and extension of standards for micro-level household income statistics. This will be published in the Second Edition of the Canberra Group Handbook, which is expected to be endorsed at the June 2011 Plenary Session of the CES.
- Developing the 2012 Personal Safety Survey, which is expected to be repeated four-yearly as part of the Australian Government's response to the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children. Apart from a larger sample than in the 2005 PSS, the 2012 survey now includes a redeveloped emotional abuse module to improve the measurement of violence in Australia.
- Provision of data for the second cycle of COAG reporting under the National Affordable Housing Agreement.
- Successful completion of Wave 4 enumeration for the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children and progress towards the development for Wave 5, including deployment of an online form for capturing contact details.

Discussion paper – *Methodological Review of Counting the Homeless, 2006* (ABS cat. no. 2050.0.55.001)

This discussion paper was a step towards the development and publication of the first official estimates of the number of people enumerated in the Census of Population and Housing (Census) who were likely to be experiencing homelessness on Census night. The expected methodology will enable time series comparisons from the 2001 and 2006 Censuses, as well as for future Censuses. The ABS is working with policy agencies, researchers and homelessness organisations towards enhancing the methodology in time for the first release of results from the 2011 Census. A homelessness reference group is being established to advise and guide the range of ABS developments in homelessness measurement and analysis. The five-yearly point in time (prevalence) measures, built on the Census, will be supported with new survey-based estimates of the incidence of homelessness. While the 2010 General Social Survey is the first such survey (due for release in September 2011), the evaluation of the module is expected to lead to its incorporation in other ABS surveys where the link with past experiences of homelessness and current socio-economic status is strong, as well as in surveys conducted by other agencies and researchers. The ABS is also undertaking research into the potential for using administrative data to provide intercensal measures of homelessness, and working towards reporting on homelessness longitudinally, through the Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset.

New Gender Statistics Advisory Group

The ABS convened the first meeting of its new Gender Statistics Advisory Group in November 2010, after releasing a new gender topics page on its website, a central access point to existing sources and products with gender-related and sex-disaggregated content. The topics page responds to calls for better navigation to these sources. The ABS is well advanced in the production of an initial release in July 2011 of a new gender indicators product. Both products will be progressively expanded as the content is developed over time. Together, these products should better support analysis of gender issues as well as bring the available rich data sources to the attention of researchers and policy makers working in this field. ABS is a member of a task force developing international standards for gender statistics.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Family Characteristics, Australia, 2009–10</i> (ABS cat. no. 4442.0)	Presents results from the three-yearly 2009–10 Family Characteristics Survey and compares them to results from the 1997, 2003 and 2006–07 surveys. It provides information about: the changing patterns of family and household composition in Australia; children's contact with their grandparents; and about both child support arrangements for children who have a parent living elsewhere, and about the contact they have with that parent.
<i>Discussion paper – Methodological Review of Counting the Homeless, 2006</i> (ABS cat. no. 2050.055.001)	This discussion paper was a step towards the development and publication of the first official estimates of people who were likely to be experiencing homelessness on Census night. The expected methodology will support, for performance reporting purposes, time series comparisons from the 2001 and 2006 Censuses, as well as future Censuses.

Culture and Recreation

Introduction

The Culture and Recreation Statistics program has responsibility for the leadership and coordination of national statistical activity in the fields of culture, sport and leisure. Activities include understanding current and emerging policy issues and debates, and determining what statistics might be appropriate to inform decision making. Expertise within the ABS is also provided regarding the collection of relevant data as well as informing governments and the community about culture, sport and leisure statistics, relevant classifications and standards, and appropriate data analysis.

The main clients of the program are the Cultural Ministers Council, the Sport and Recreation Ministers Council, Australian government agencies (including the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Australia Council, Screen Australia and the Australian Sports Commission), state and territory government departments (in both the culture and sport sectors), and industry bodies.

Key achievements

- The results from the Survey of Participation in Sport and Physical Activity (2009–10) and the Survey of Attendance at Selected Culture and Leisure and Sports Venues (2009–10) were released in December 2010.
- The Survey of Cultural Participation was conducted for the first time in 2010–11, with results expected to be released in early 2012. The results will provide information about people participating in cultural activities with a focus on creative participation.

Biennial Survey of Participation in Sport and Physical Activity

The National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics has been working with the Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport and the Australian Sports Commission to develop and undertake a biennial survey of Participation in Sport and Physical Activity. The survey will provide information about the characteristics of persons aged 15 years and over who participate in activities for the purposes of sport, recreation and exercise. This new collaboration addresses the duplication in the collection and dissemination of sports and physical activity participation data by the ABS and by the Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport Statistical Research Group (through Newspoll), as recommended in the Independent Sport Panel Report titled, *The Future of Sport in Australia* (also known as the Crawford Report).

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview</i> (ABS cat. no. 4172.0)	Contains information on a range of topics including employment in culture, time spent on cultural activities, attendances at cultural venues and events, expenditure on culture, and imports and exports of cultural goods and services. It also provides profiles of the cultural sectors, grouped according to the Australian Culture and Leisure Industry Classification.
<i>Sports and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4177.0)	Topics covered in this report include output of the sports and physical recreation sector, employment in sports and physical recreation, government outlays on recreation, international trade in sports and physical recreation goods, attendances at sporting events and participation in sports and physical recreation activities.
<i>Perspectives on Sport</i> (ABS cat. no. 4156.0.55.001)	The latest release examines trade in sporting goods; physical activity and health; and children's participation in the most popular Commonwealth Games sports.
<i>Perspectives on Culture</i> (ABS cat. no. 4172.0.55.001)	The latest release looks at attendance at art galleries, museums, cinema, libraries, archives, zoological parks and botanic gardens.

Social and Progress Reporting

Introduction

The Social and Progress Reporting program informs government and the community about social conditions and progress in Australia. It draws together data and analysis both from within the ABS and from a range of other sources, and produces reports covering a wide range of issues. The reports include analysis of current circumstances, how circumstances have changed over time, how different groups of people have been affected and how various factors may have accounted for observed trends. The reports provide information on the wellbeing of the population, the extent of need and disadvantage in society, contemporary social issues, the interrelationships between economic, social and environmental aspects of life, and whether life in Australia is getting better.

Key achievements

- *Measures of Australia's Progress* was released in September 2010. This product, is aimed at answering the question 'Is life in Australia getting better?'. It drew together a wide range of data to present a national summary of economic, social and environmental progress through headline indicators and descriptive text. It was also significantly redeveloped in a new and improved electronic format that allowed the presentation of key information in a visually appealing and high impact manner. The electronic format also allowed the interactive interrogation of data using web technology.
- The program expanded the reach and value of ABS's statistics through the release of four editions of *Australian Social Trends* (ABS cat. no. 4102.0).

MAP 2.0

During 2011, the ABS is undertaking extensive community consultation for the *Measures of Australia's Progress* product. This product aims to answer the question 'Is life in Australia getting better?' and the consultation process will help ensure the ABS continues to measure the areas which are important to Australia and Australians. Community comment will be encouraged through social media including a blog. Comments will be used to help articulate a conceptual framework to underpin the question of whether life in Australia is getting better. This framework will be used as the basis for future editions of *Measures of Australia's Progress* publication.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Australian Social Trends</i> (ABS cat. no. 4102.0)	This quarterly publication contains articles on contemporary social issues in an easily digestible format to meet the needs of a wide range of users. Articles produced over the last year included a focus on fertility, life expectancy, health services, Indigenous wellbeing, Year 12 attainment, holidaying abroad and Australian households in the future.
<i>Measures of Australia's Progress</i> (ABS cat. no. 1370.0)	<i>Measures of Australia's Progress</i> (MAP) was first produced in 2002 as a ground-breaking and innovative product. MAP 2010 was the fourth release and drew together a wide range of data to present a national summary of economic, social and environmental progress through headline indicators and descriptive text.

Migrants

Introduction

The Migrants statistics program aims to address a broad range of statistical needs with respect to the settlement outcomes of temporary and permanent migrants to Australia. The program provides data relevant to migrant populations, and involves the development and compilation of a range of survey and administrative data outputs relevant to migrants. There is a focus on understanding current and emerging policy issues and debates, and determining what statistics might be appropriate to inform decision making relevant to migrants. The program also provides leadership regarding the collection of relevant data, as well as informing governments and the community about migrant and ethnicity statistics, relevant classifications and standards, and appropriate data analysis.

The major stakeholders of the program are the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the various government agencies providing services to migrants, including state and territory government departments.

Key achievements

- The results from the triennial Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey were released in May 2011.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
Guide to Migrant Statistical Sources, 2011 (ABS cat. no. 3414.0)	This guide provides users with a ready reference to sources of statistical information either directly related to migrants and ethnicity or which collect migrant or ethnicity related data items.
Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6250.0)	This publication presents data on migration category, country of birth, proficiency in spoken English, educational attainment on arrival and since arrival, employment prior to arrival and since arrival, and sources of household income.
Migrant Data Matrices (ABS cat. no. 3415.0)	This product provides a range of summary data on migrants from a variety of ABS collections that include a broad selection of demographic, geographic, socio-economic and collection specific data items.

State and Territory Statistical Services

Introduction

The State and Territory Statistical Services (STSS) program operates within each state and territory office of the ABS. The program aims to contribute to the development of well-informed policy and decisions within states and territories. STSS seeks to increase availability of good quality state and territory and regional data from ABS and non-ABS sources that meet high priority state and territory statistical needs. STSS works closely with state and territory governments and ABS program areas to develop strategies to meet state and territory statistical requirements that are beyond those that can be satisfied by the ABS national program

Key achievements

ABS officers are outposted to state and territory government departments and agencies as a key strategy adopted to meet the STSS program's objectives. An outpost can be a combination of both technical and strategic roles. In 2010–11 successful outposts occurred in all states and territories. These include:

- an outpost with the Chief Minister's Department to complete the collation, analysis and dissemination of Estimated Resident Population statistics for the Australian Capital Territory;
- an outpost with the Department of Health and Families to contribute to the development of a strategy for improving the quality, consistency and reliability of domestic and family violence data in the Northern Territory. A data sources inventory was developed alongside recommendations to improve quality and availability of these statistics;
- provided an outpost as assistance to the South Australia Department of Education and Children's Services to develop the Education and Learning Visual Information System, a national education business intelligence tool;
- placed an outpost officer with the Social Inclusion Unit of the Department of Premier and Cabinet to provide support for the development of a Cost of Living Strategy for Tasmania;
- commenced an outpost with the Australian Crime Commission to assist with the preparation of a major analysis report utilising data collected relating to threats; and
- completed an outpost with the Royal Children's Hospital to confidentialise the 2009 Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) so that it can be released to the general public and further research can be performed. The AEDI is a population measurement of children's development in communities across Australia.

A continuing area of focus for the STSS program over the past year has been to improve the availability and quality of statistics relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Australians, a high priority theme for governments across all jurisdictions. Projects include:

- forming regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics networks;
- working with state and local agencies to ensure full support and assistance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enumeration in the 2011 Census of Population and Housing and to build COAG action plans to address data gaps issues at the state and local levels;
- a collaboration between STSS and the ABS Indigenous Engagement Managers in each jurisdiction developed "Census in Class" classroom materials which are used in remote communities to improve understanding of statistical concepts and surveys; and
- a national investigation into the quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status information in school enrolments. The investigation report was tabled at the NIRA Performance Indicator Management Group meeting in March 2011.

The STSS provides state government agencies with the opportunity to gain detailed information about specific aspects of economic or social life through conducting State Supplementary Surveys. This service is an important source of statistical information for state government to assist in the formulation of policy. In 2010–2011, information was collected about flexible working arrangements including people's preferences for caring responsibilities and volunteering activities for Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. The survey is run as a supplement to the ABS Monthly Population Survey and is usually held in the month of October.

STSS is partnering with state and territory government agencies, as the key users the output from the Census of Population and Housing (Census), to assist the ABS to achieve a high quality Census. This partnership includes the provision of demographic intelligence for planning and validation, networks and infrastructure to increase the resources available to the ABS and facilitating the recruitment of Census collectors.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Western Australia at a Glance</i> (ABS cat. No. 1306.5)	Contains a wide range of statistics on Western Australia, including physical data, population, vital statistics, employment and wages, price indexes, mineral production, manufacturing, building, foreign trade and tourism.
<i>Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators</i> (ABS cat. No. 1307.6)	Contains state summary economic and social information presented by topic, with commentary, tables, maps and graphs. Some non-ABS and regional data are also included. More detailed data are contained in Excel spreadsheets. Released quarterly.
<i>InfACT</i> (ABS cat. No. 1308.8)	Contains key social and economic information on the ACT and the surrounding region. It provides statistical analysis drawing on both ABS and non-ABS information.
<i>Qld Stats</i> (ABS cat. No. 1318.3)	An electronic magazine presenting an overview of Queensland's key economic and social indicators presented in graphs, tables and analytical summaries with links to detailed products.
<i>Qld Interstate Trade</i> (ABS cat. No. 8502.3)	A quarterly survey which collects information about the interstate movement of goods into and out of Queensland from other parts of Australia.
<i>NSW State and Regional Indicators</i> (ABS cat. No. 1338.1)	Contains summary NSW economic and social information in commentary, tables and graphs. More detailed data is contained in spreadsheets. Released quarterly in electronic format only.

Publications – Product	Explanation
SA Stats (ABS cat. No. 1345.0)	Provides a monthly overview of the South Australian population and economy. Most releases also feature an article that provides a South Australian focus on economic, social and environmental issues.
Regional Statistics, Northern Territory (ABS cat. No. 1362.7)	Presents a wide range of key economic, social and environmental data about the Northern Territory and its regions and included links to non-ABS statistics.
State and Regional Indicators Victoria (ABS cat. No. 1367.2)	A quarterly publication containing recently released statistical information about the whole of Victoria. Data is sourced from ABS and non-ABS collections. It provides measures of economic, social and environmental elements.
Western Australian Statistical Indicators (ABS cat. No. 1367.5)	A portal to the most recent statistics on Western Australia, including links to data, brief topic overviews and analytical feature articles on the state's economy, society and environment.
Statistics Victoria (ABS cat. No. 1100.2)	A quarterly newsletter primarily providing information about new developments, recent statistical releases, seminars, training and reviews.
Tasmanian Statistical News (ABS cat. No. 1301.6.55.001)	A quarterly newsletter providing information about new developments, publications, seminars, training and reviews.
Inform NT (ABS cat. No. 1308.7)	A quarterly newsletter providing information about new developments, publications, seminars, training and reviews.
Abstract (ABS cat. No. 1344.8.55.002)	A newsletter providing information on the work of the ACT regional office and the information and services it offers. It also provides news about the latest ABS publication releases.
Statistical News SA (ABS cat. No. 1392.0)	A quarterly release providing relevant information about significant ABS data releases, state data releases, survey developments, training, information sessions and major changes to the statistical program.

Infrastructure Programs

Data Acquisition and Collection

Introduction

The Data Acquisition and Collection program provides data collection services for the ABS across business, household and administrative data collections. 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:

- developing and adopting the world's best practice in data collection;
- maintaining a skilled and committed field and office based interviewer workforce;
- upholding the confidentiality of information provided to the ABS;
- delivering efficiencies in collection activities by applying improvements in technology and process; and
- working with providers of ABS data to minimise the impact of ABS collection activities on households and businesses.

Key achievements

- Data Acquisition and Collection provided collection services for a range of surveys over 2010–11 with target response rates achieved in all cases. Approximately 400,000 household survey interviews were conducted and approximately 350,000 returns were received from business providers in 2010–11.
- Key household surveys undertaken include the Monthly Population Survey, General Social Survey, the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, and the newly expanded and innovative Australian Health Survey.
- Key business surveys conducted which fed into Main Economic and Other Leading Indicators included the Retail Business Survey, Quarterly Business Indicators Survey, Survey of New Capital Expenditure, Survey of International Investment, Job Vacancies Survey, Survey of Average Weekly Earnings, Survey of International Trade in Services, Survey of Financial Information, Engineering Construction Survey, Building and Construction Survey and Producer Prices Index.
- The establishment of a new Interviewers Enterprise Agreement providing competitive and flexible working arrangements to over 500 field staff, focused on maintaining and strengthening the ABS's commitment to retaining an ongoing, professional, and highly productive interviewing panel.
- Delivery of a new web reporting system developed for the 2011 Agricultural Census. The Agricultural Census is ABS second largest collection after the Census of Population and Housing. For the first time, participants in the Agricultural Census will be able to respond online.
- Improved administrative data capture including assessing the potential application of the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) and Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) standards for the acquisition of administrative data.
- The creation of specific support areas to work alongside the core data collection and acquisition operational sections, to facilitate development and implementation of new ideas and innovation. This has provided the capacity to progress innovative ideas as well as the flexibility to respond more quickly to changing business partner needs, while continually improving the delivery of operational work programs.

Collection of data via the internet

The ABS places a very high value on the trust and cooperation it receives from households and businesses selected to participate in statistical surveys and is committed to ensuring the process of reporting data is as convenient as possible. In line with this commitment, the ABS has moved towards providing secure electronic reporting options for its survey providers. Implementation of a web-based data collection system for business providers commenced in 2009–10. This functionality allows businesses selected in a number of ABS surveys to log in securely through an ABS website, complete an internet form and submit it electronically. In 2010–11, the ABS developed a web reporting system for the 2011 Agricultural Census – a system based on the successful eCensus system used in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. The ABS plans to provide a web reporting option for Monthly Population Survey respondents from July 2012.

The longer term vision for the ABS in terms of electronic data acquisition and collection is that by June 2016, the ABS will have developed an integrated, comprehensive, corporate electronic facility that offers world-class electronic reporting options to household and business survey respondents.

Minimising collection activities in disaster areas

The ABS responded quickly to a range of natural disasters occurring in December 2010 through to February 2011, working actively to ensure that those businesses and households located in fire, flood or cyclone affected areas were not unduly burdened by participation in ABS surveys at a time they were dealing with their own recovery. Contact with those in affected areas was ceased until such time as recovery was well underway.

The ABS is a member of the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee. As a member, its role is to provide a statistical picture, primarily demographic information, of the area impacted by a disaster immediately following the declaration of such an event. The ABS works directly with the relevant government agencies to provide the needed information and also assists with statistical information used to service and rebuild communities.

Survey Design and Methods

The Survey Design and Methods program provides specialist services to meet new demands in statistics and improve the quality and cost efficiency of ABS products and operations. Much of the work has the goal of ensuring the methods underlying ABS outputs are based on sound, defensible statistical principles. The program also provides leadership in cutting edge research and development of survey design and other methods.

The program has specific responsibilities in providing methods that maximise the quality of statistical outputs given an imposed budget (or conversely, minimising the resources required to achieve a stated quality level). It provides advice and assistance on statistical collection design and methods, data collection operations, and management of data quality, through

the various stages of the survey cycle. It has a role in alerting the organisation to areas of risk to quality of statistical outputs, promoting efficiency improvement and leading the development of new methods that could reduce costs or improve quality. To do so, the program undertakes research on statistical and operational research methods to improve the efficiency and quality of ABS work.

Key achievements

- Completed a range of new or updated form design for use across the ABS, leading to higher quality data and enhanced provider experience, and developed sample and estimation methods for new and existing household and business surveys including;
 - design of the Australian Health Survey which involved a range of innovative developments in respondent engagement, sample design and selection for the health, nutrition and physical activity components of the survey;
 - progression of ABS household survey sample redesign including a research paper on options for 'decoupling' Monthly Population Survey and Special Social Survey master samples;
 - sample and estimation design for the Census Post Enumeration Survey to improve the estimation of the Indigenous population;
 - design of the weighting method for Household Income and Expenditure Survey, including development of complex method for combining data from pensioner supplementary sample; and
 - contribution to the development and design of the Australian Land and Water Ownership Survey.
- Provided significant contribution to the Annual Integrated Collections Review including investigations into the accuracy of national accounts and the coherence with other ABS business surveys, and implementation of the quality gates.
- Provided extensive development and methodological support for the 2011 Agricultural Census, in particular the introduction of a web reporting option including investigation of web form design, usability test, sample frame and Sample Frame Management Procedure quality.
- Provided assistance in introducing computer audio recorded interviewing for evaluating the interview process during field testing of household questionnaires. This method records the interactions between interviewers and respondents.
- Coordinated the establishment of quality assurance mechanisms for the production of the estimated resident population based on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.
- Developed methods for significance editing and output editing for the Labour Price Index and other surveys.
- Improved ABS capability in operation research and methods for optimal allocation of household interview work.
- Reviewed the ongoing modelling work on survey response, cost and estimation bias, and produced a research paper which provides valuable methodological assessment and future development direction.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>The Use of Scores to Detect and Prioritise Anomalous Estimates</i> (ABS cat. no. 1352.0.55.104)	The purpose of the paper is to introduce the concept of significance for macro-editing and recommends for developing score-based macro-editing for ABS business surveys.
<i>Sample Design Frameworks for ABS Household Surveys</i> (ABS cat. no. 1352.0.55.108)	This paper compares some alternative sampling frameworks for ABS household surveys, describing key sample design issues which need to be considered.
<i>Quality Management of Statistical Outputs produced from Administrative Data</i> (ABS cat. no. 1522.0)	The purpose of the paper is to educate and assist external agencies in the implementation of strategies for quality management during the production of statistical outputs from administrative data.
<i>Quality Management of Statistical Risk using Quality Gates</i> (ABS cat. no. 1540.0)	This information paper describes the concept of quality gates as used in the ABS, and their six components, followed by a discussion and examples to assist other agencies to implement quality gates in their own statistical processes.
<i>Methodological News</i> (ABS cat. no. 1504.0)	The Methodological News is a quarterly information bulletin from the Methodology and Data Management Division. The newsletter features articles and developments in relation to work done within the division.

Data Management and Classifications

Introduction

The Data Management and Classifications program provides essential support functions that underpin the ABS mission. The program is responsible for promoting the comparability, integration and quality of ABS statistics, through its leadership role in the development, implementation and use of standard concepts, definitions, classifications and procedures. It is also responsible for the development and maintenance of a range of critical statistical infrastructure used to hold key definitional metadata, to store statistical data from which ABS outputs are sourced and which enables the efficient and accurate coding of statistical data.

Data Management and Classifications sets and reviews ABS policies, principles and best practice for key statistical standards, classifications and data/metadata management

The program also provides advice and assistance on the application of Australian statistical and data management standards to official bodies.

Key achievements

- Support for the Information Management Transformation Program and associated projects, particularly in relation to practical understanding of the existing data management environment, accessing data from the ABS Information Warehouse, and the application of new data and metadata exchange formats.
- Completed development, updating and testing of autocoders and related indexes for Occupation, Industry and Social classification topics in preparation for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing (Census).
- Development and delivery of coder training in preparation for the Census.

- A comprehensive evaluation completed of a new automatic coding system (NextGen), based on the 'occupation' topic. Further evaluation based on the 'Industry' will also be undertaken to prove NextGen's broad applicability.
- Completion of four classification reviews: the Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups, the Australian Standard Classification of Language, the Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups and the Standard Australian Classification of Countries. The new versions of these classifications will be published in July 2011.
- Substantive progress in the implementation of the Standard Economic Sector Classification 2008.
- Business process improvements in support of the Australian Business Register, supplied by the Australian Tax Office, and the Business Register Unit, from the ABS.

Information Management Transformation Program

Initial planning for the Information Management Transformation Program (IMTP) commenced in February 2010. In May 2011, the ABS formally adopted a new strategic direction of transforming the management of statistical information in Australia to improve the usability, value and timeliness of official statistics.

The program seeks initially to transform ABS operations so that statistical assets are better managed for statistical and research purposes. In later phases, the program will position the ABS to provide specialist statistical and information management expertise backed by supporting infrastructure to assist other government agencies.

Transforming information management in the ABS is fundamental to achieving our mission of leading a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service. Re-engineering processes, establishing other infrastructure and culture will enable the ABS to advance information management. This is essential for ensuring future sustainability.

To implement this change, we will:

- develop a formal change management framework;
- undertake systematic communication, consultation, and engagement;
- design and implement a metadata-driven information management framework and governance;
- develop robust information management practices to improve the coherence of statistical content;
- use end-to-end metadata to drive standardised business processes; and
- seek international collaboration to share the costs and workload of developing harmonised statistical methods and tools.

Significant investment will be required to complete this transformation. The ABS will develop a business case and pursue external support.

The role of the central program team is to undertake program management, facilitation and coordination activities. Implementation will occur in a planned, systematic and coordinated way, to minimise the impact on ongoing operations. The ABS will continue to deliver key business as usual statistical outputs over this period.

Key achievements

Significant progress has been made since the commencement of the program, including:

- developing the high level vision and target benefits, outcomes and outputs for IMTP;
- establishing an IMTP governance framework and meeting stringent project and program management requirements;
- using international standards to develop the ABS Statistical Information Management Framework, including:
- adopting the Generic Statistical Business Process Model;
- leading the international development of the Generic Statistical Information Model;
- producing an initial proof of concept that demonstrates these concepts in the form of a Metadata Registry/ Repository (MRR) (using DDI and SDMX);
- providing program management support to selected early start ABS projects that will work with the MRR; and
- instigated the creation of the Statistical Network (SN) in June 2010, comprised of national statistical organisations from six countries (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden); and collaborating with SN partners on five key projects (operationalising a common metadata information management framework, editing, web data capture, disclosure control, and innovation in dissemination).

Statistical Data Integration

Introduction

Linking datasets in the economic, social and environmental fields will provide expanded information for governments to assess policies and their outcomes. However, data linking also comes with risks. There is a strong need for consistent governance, methods, policies and protocols around data integration to ensure maximum use of available data, while protecting the privacy of the individuals who, and organisations which, provide the data.

The Statistical Data Integration program has responsibility for advancing ABS's two key roles in relation to statistical data integration: providing leadership in establishing a safe and effective environment for data integration involving government data for statistical and research purposes; and acting as an integrator of key enduring datasets for statistical and research purposes in areas of strong policy interest.

Key achievements

- In October 2010, Portfolio Secretaries endorsed a set of governance and institutional arrangements for the safe and effective use of Commonwealth data in data integration projects for statistical and research purposes.
- A Data Integration Oversight Board, chaired by the Australian Statistician, has been established, with membership of three Portfolio Secretaries: Health and Ageing; Human Services; and Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.
- Accreditation criteria for integrating authorities wishing to undertake high risk data integration projects involving Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes were endorsed by the Data Integration Oversight Board at its first meeting in March 2011.
- During March and April 2011, eleven focus groups were conducted to obtain community views on data integration for statistical and research purposes.

5% Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset

The 5% Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset (SLCD) is a major data integration project that the ABS is currently undertaking.

Each five-yearly Census of Population and Housing (Census) provides a rich set of information about Australian people and households at a point in time. It provides information on topics such as family structure; education and qualifications; presence of a severe or profound disability; work, including hours worked, occupation and industry; income and housing; country of birth; year of arrival and indigenous status. It is able to provide a rich picture of social and economic conditions at a particular point in time, and how these conditions are changing over time and across population groups.

What the 5% SLCD adds is the ability to study patterns in how social and economic conditions change over time at the individual level, and provide insight into the pathways that tend to lead to particular outcomes, and how these pathways vary for different population groups. It also enables the study of likely outcomes for certain socio-economic groups, as evidenced by the patterns in the longitudinal data.

Wave 1 of the 5% SLCD was created from the 2006 Census dataset by selecting a random sample of 5% of persons responding to the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. Wave 2 of the 5% SLCD will endeavour to bring together the wave 1 records with their corresponding records in the 2011 Census. The third wave will be in 2016. Subsequent waves will be created with each new Census adding to the longitudinal dataset of information about five per cent of the Australian population.

The 5% SLCD containing 2006 and 2011 Census data will be available for statistical analysis and research purposes from 2013. Standard ABS confidentiality methods will be applied and the data will be accessible through standard ABS secure data access arrangements. No information that is likely to enable identification of an individual or household will be released.

More information is presented Chapter 3 Integrating Commonwealth Data for Statistical and Research Purposes.

Geography

Introduction

The Geography program produces and maintains the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The program also provides geographic information systems and geocoding infrastructure as well as geographic analysis and mapping support services for the ABS.

Statistical geography is used to define areas for the dissemination of statistics. This supports more informed decision making and better regional and small area analysis.

Key achievements

- Completion and publishing of the first volume of the ASGS. This included finalising over 347,000 mesh blocks and defining the higher level geographies including new definitions of capital cities.
- Consultation and development of an ASGS implementation plan, including running a series of workshops in each capital city.
- Development of a new system for maintaining mesh blocks for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Census). The system uses building approval data and information on new addresses together with imagery to identify where changes have occurred and provides tools to edit the mesh blocks.
- Design of workload areas and the production of over 62,000 maps to support field operations for the 2011 Census, including, for the first time, the production of digital files to allow collectors to view their areas in Google Maps.

Google Maps for Census collectors

For the 2011 Census, over 62,000 hard copy maps were produced for Census collectors to use in the field. For the first time, these maps were also made into digital files that will allow collectors to view their areas in Google Maps. The major advantage of collectors being able to view their areas in Google Maps is that collectors will be able to zoom in much more closely to the boundary of their collection area to see the details of where their area starts and stops, which will assist in the reduction of dwellings being missed or double counted. These same digital files are also being used in a trial of smart phones, where the collector is able to walk around their area and see exactly where they are in relation to the boundary on their phone. This will be a major advantage in rural areas where there are often few landmarks to help ascertain location. In the future, this technology may be extended to tasks such as recording information directly into the smart phone rather than hard copy, route planning, and recording distances travelled, among other possible applications.

Statistical publications and products

Date of Release	Publications – Product	Explanation
16/07/2010	<i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) – Electronic Structures, July 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 1216.0.15.001)	The product contains four text files showing the levels and hierarchy of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) structures.
16/07/2010	<i>ASGC Correspondences, July 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 1216.0.15.002)	This publication provides the necessary correspondence to enable users to understand the relationships between different geographic units within the ASGC and to enable comparisons as areas change over time.
16/07/2010	<i>ASGC Digital Boundaries (intercensal) Australia, July 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 1259.0.30.001)	This publication contains all the ASGC boundaries in a digital format suitable for use in a geographic information system.
16/09/2010	<i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification, July 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 1216.0)	This is a manual on the current standard used by ABS and many external users to define geographic areas used for the interpretation of sub-state statistics. Contains maps of ASGC regions.
23/12/2010	<i>Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 – Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011</i> (ABS cat. no. 1270.0.55.001)	This publication is the first volume of a series detailing the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). It deals with the ASGS Main Structure (Statistical Area Levels 1–4) and the Greater Capital City Statistical Areas. This product provides ASGS maps, ASGS digital boundaries and geographic information systems and ASGS structure files in .csv format.
04/03/2011	<i>Glossary of Statistical Geography Terminology, 2011</i> (ABS cat no. 1217.0.55.001)	Contains brief explanations and definitions of various geographical terms and classifications used in ABS products.

Analytical Services

The Analytical Services Branch is a core analytical unit of the ABS and a key contributor to its research and development program. It has responsibility for building analytical capability and related infrastructure, exploring methodology and data sources to develop new analytical products and provide analysis services to producers and users of statistics. In 2010–11, its major areas of focus include development of new methodology for data access and confidentiality and time series analysis, techniques for data linkage and pooling, improvement of price index methodology, econometric and statistical modelling, and construction of socio-economic indexes.

The branch develops new and innovative analytical products, such as modelled estimates, indexes and other analyses to improve ABS outputs in the areas of macroeconomic indicators, price indexes, demography, labour force and a range of other socioeconomic statistics. The branch also provides services to inform policy and decision making through consultancy. It is responsible for developing methods for releasing microdata files which enable researchers outside the ABS to transform data, and undertake analysis and modelling with greater flexibility and efficiency. The branch plays a major role in the engagement of the research community, domestically and internationally, to improve analytical use of ABS statistics and explore new territories of knowledge.

Key achievements

Analytical Services works closely with statistical program areas throughout the ABS to identify areas of methodological priority and improvement. Achievements for 2010–11 include:

- examined the feasibility and benefits of pooling data to improve accuracy of estimates;
- investigated the feasibility of using administrative datasets to estimate homelessness;
- provided major support to the 16th Series Consumer Price Index Review;
- investigated the feasibility of constructing a price index for non-house dwellings (i.e. units, apartments and townhouses);
- explored the analytical potential of the confidentialised 1% sample of the personal income tax data;
- commenced research on the use of scanner data for price index purposes;
- investigated the likely impacts on the production of socioeconomic indexes for areas (SEIFA) due to the introduction of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS);
- completed a feasibility study on producing small area estimates of wealth;
- provided technical and methodological support to the rest of the ABS in the implementation of the Data Integration program, including the release of a data linking manual;
- developed methodology for a new seasonally adjusted series for hours worked;
- supported the analysis of the statistical impact of major natural disasters in several states (floods, cyclones);
- developed a prototype software for examining the behaviour and assessing the quality of time series data;
- released a new version of the system for seasonal adjustment of ABS time series, with enhancements in both new functionality and efficiency; and
- extended methodology for seasonal adjustment, including automation of analysis decisions relating to modelling and transformation of time series.

Enhancing user access to microdata in Australia

Access to microdata enables wider use of ABS data for research and analysis into social and economic fields. Since 1985, the ABS has been making microdata available, under certain conditions, in the form of Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs). In response to demand for more flexible access to a wider array of datasets, while safeguarding confidential information, the ABS commenced development of a new Remote Execution Environment for Microdata (REEM) in 2009–10.

REEM differs from the existing microdata access suite in that the underlying microdata is not confidentialised, but rather the outputs requested and returned to users are confidentialised dynamically. The two key components of the REEM environment are the development of a TableBuilder (similar to the Census TableBuilder) for survey data and an analysis service. REEM will use internationally recognised standards for the exchange of data and metadata, such as Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) and Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) and machine to machine interfaces. These will bring the ABS to the forefront of international efforts of developing new analytical tools and statistical practice in the area of microdata access.

The first stage of REEM, the development of TableBuilder for count estimates from Household survey collections commenced during 2009–10 and a limited number of datasets will be made available to external users in mid-2011. Progressively through 2011–12 additional datasets will be made available in TableBuilder and additional functionality will be added including the ability to produce key estimates from magnitude data items (such as income) from household survey collections.

In parallel, research has continued on developing automated confidentiality methods for the analysis service and development has commenced on an early demonstrator.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Research Paper: Business Innovation and the Use of Information and Communications Technology</i> (ABS cat. no. 1351.0.55.033)	This research finds a strong link between business' use of information and communications technology (ICT) and innovative activity. Using a variety of ICT intensity specifications, businesses using successively more sophisticated types of ICT are each found to be significantly more likely to undertake some type of innovation. This result is further strengthened when we consider each type of innovation separately. The existence of automatic links between internal systems and customer or supplier systems, in particular, is strongly associated with innovative activity. Furthermore, we show that businesses which use ICT more intensely develop more novel innovations, engage in multiple types of innovation and are more likely to develop these innovations internally.
<i>Research Paper: Sampling-Based Clerical Review Methods in Probabilistic Linking</i> (ABS cat. no. 1351.0.55.034)	Clerical review is a time-consuming and resource-intensive stage of the data linking process requiring careful visual inspection and keyboard use. Acceptance sampling is proposed to dramatically reduce the amount of clerical inspection. Sampling is also proposed as a method to provide an accurate and reliable means of assessing and setting the most appropriate clerical review bounds.

Publications – Product	Explanation
Research Paper: Developing Measures of Economic Hardship for Australian Households (ABS cat. no. 1351.0.55.035)	<p>This study develops two measures of ‘low consumption possibilities’ that incorporate information on both income and wealth. Persons living in households assessed to have low consumption possibilities (those at the lower end of the income and wealth distributions) are likely to be at risk of experiencing economic hardship.</p> <p>This research paper is a companion paper to the ABS publication <i>Low Consumption Possibilities Framework: A Conceptual Framework for Assessing Economic Hardship, 2011</i> (ABS cat. no. 6504.0), which is the first comprehensive attempt by the ABS to describe and examine the multidimensional factors influencing household economic wellbeing.</p>
Research Paper: Small Area Estimation with Simulated Samples from the Population Census (MAC Paper) (ABS cat. no. 1352.0.55.106)	<p>Analytical Services Branch has been researching and applying small area estimation (SAE) techniques since 2003 – including a recent study to evaluate estimates of labour force status at the Local Government Area level. The primary quality measure for SAE is estimated relative root mean squared errors. This paper describes an investigation into the quality of SAE and estimated relative root mean squared errors.</p>
Research Paper: Analysis of Micro-data: Controlling the Risk of Disclosure (MAC Paper) (ABS cat. no. 1352.0.55.110)	<p>This paper considers the problem of managing the disclosure risk associated with releasing analytical output based upon micro-data – including regression parameters and model diagnostics for generalised linear models.</p> <p>The disclosure risk is managed by adding noise in two different ways. The first adds noise to the input data prior to analysis and the second adds noise to the counts present in the estimating equation.</p> <p>The methods are evaluated using the 2008 National Health Survey. The results show that perturbing counts in the estimating equation leads to a very small loss in accuracy.</p>

Customer Services

The Customer Services program supports the corporate mission to assist and encourage informed decision making, by providing high quality communication and dissemination services to clients. The program seeks to utilise leading edge technology and aspires to showcase ‘best practice’ communication of official statistics.

We provide a range of information solutions for customers, including self-serve statistics and other information on the ABS website, the free national information and referral telephone service, user-pays information consultancies and support for the complex needs of researchers through streamlined access to, and use of, microdata.

Underpinning Customer Services’ support for the ABS mission is our development of an ABS national approach to improving statistical literacy and capability across the Australian population.

Key achievements

- Released 700 statistical releases in 2010–2011, including 12 new microdata confidentialised unit record files.
- Established a Facebook presence, a number of blogs and two Twitter accounts. These social media facilities allow the community to engage and interact with our data, ideas and methodologies, and to participate in ABS events.
- That statistical literacy is at the forefront of Australia's new national curriculum. The ABS has been working with the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority to ensure the adequate and appropriate inclusion of statistics, not only in mathematics, but across the whole curriculum.
- ABS licences almost all the content of our vast website and most customised data provided through our information consultancy service under a Creative Commons Attribution licence. This means that people are free to re-use, build upon and distribute such data, even commercially, without first seeking permission or a secondary distribution licence from us.
- Digitised and published 300 State Year Books on the ABS website, dating from Federation, as well as Census material for the period 1911–1976. This material is a useful resource for researchers and the community. The material allows users to take advantage of previously hidden information through the use of advanced search tools.
- Released the "Interact With our Data" web page that provides interactive charts including an animated population pyramid, Google Motion Charts for the House Price Index and population projections, horizontal bar charts for historical populations and tourist accommodation – room occupancy rates, as well as an interactive Inflation calculator.
- The National Information Referral Service continues to provide a first point of reference to incoming calls from ABS customers with approximately 65,000 transactions completed during 2010–11, mainly related to access to recent ABS statistical results via the ABS website. Incoming telephone requests are normally answered within 30 seconds and the vast majority of such requests are completed within five minutes.

Open Licensing of ABS Data

The ABS is committed to providing open access to public sector information to facilitate innovation, research and development, and informed decision making.

We now licence almost all the content of our website and most data provided through our information consultancy service under a Creative Commons Attribution licence. This means that people are free to re-use, build upon and distribute such data, even commercially, without first seeking permission or a distribution licence from us. This change saves users of statistics valuable time and money. It also makes data more readily available to governments, the community, researchers and businesses. This, in turn, facilitates innovative research and development projects based on quality statistics and promotes the use of statistics in the community, which is one of our core objectives.

To take advantage of the opportunities afforded by Creative Commons Attribution licensed material, all that is required is that the ABS be attributed as the source of the material and the licence terms be acknowledged.

More information on ABS copyright and licensing is available from our website copyright statement.

ABS BetaWorks™

The Gov2.0 Taskforce's final report provides a compelling roadmap for the Australian public sector's future online journey. The role of Web 2.0 in government cannot be underestimated. It is an effective and efficient means of demonstrating how the ABS is active, is listening and is responding to customer ideas is ABS BetaWorks™.

ABS BetaWorks™ is an open invitation to the Australian community to assist the Australian Bureau of Statistics with identifying, prioritising and developing concepts for the ABS website. It is a "sandpit" environment enabling new web design concepts and enhancements to be showcased to the community.

Customer feedback is used to realign concept priorities, validate future directions based on needs of the community and ensuring that the work program of the Web Design team is structured towards effective and efficient use of public money.

ABS BetaWorks™ generates keen discussion and provides vital information on customer wants and needs in particular areas of the ABS website. It has become an effective web 2.0 solution for our client consultation.

Technology Services

Introduction

Information and communication technology (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 the 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 solutions. In 2010–11, TSD continued to support existing ABS programs, while strategically supporting the ABS to meet its future direction and business requirements. TSD provides these services nationally, to staff in the ABS's central and regional offices, to ABS's interviewers who work from home and in the field, and to ABS data providers and clients.

The ABS also works closely with other Australian government agencies, statistical organisations and key stakeholders to identify and develop information technology best practice approaches. The ABS is able to utilise these collaborative efforts to support its objectives and those of the Australian Government. The ABS has continued to be actively engaged in whole-of-government information technology work programs.

Key projects

Specific projects worked on by TSD during 2010–11 include:

- delivering systems, hardware, software infrastructure and technical support for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing including supporting a significant increase in internet (eCensus) returns and Council of Australian Governments (COAG) funded improvements in Indigenous enumeration;

- providing ICT services and systems for the 2011 Agricultural Census including web data collection;
- continuing development work for the Prices System Improvement project, that will deliver an integrated system across all the price indexes;
- support and development for increased web-based dissemination of statistics;
- proceeding with development of new systems supporting ABS work on progress indicators for COAG National Agreements in the areas of health, disability, education and housing;
- upgrading the ABS desktop software, including Microsoft Windows 7, refreshing desktop hardware and conducting an organisation-wide education program;
- continuing to enhance staff productivity through improvements to the ABS IT environment by delivering a modernised knowledge management environment, improved video conferencing facilities and desktop collaboration tools;
- beginning preliminary work to implement a replacement human resources system;
- continuing development of new systems to support the creation of a new index to measure expenses in pensioner households;
- delivering the International Trade in Services system; and
- beginning implementation, initially on the ABS concepts website, of products supporting user driven macro-data query and presentation as well as computer to computer access to macro-data.

Key achievements

- ICT facilities and systems to support the 2011 Census of Population and Housing (Census) have been established. Core Census field systems for recruiting and paying collectors and a web presence for communicating and monitoring Census enumeration progress are in production and performing well. Systems for the Census Data Processing Centre provide significant functional improvements over the previous Census. These systems use more streamlined processes for the 9 million Census forms and will increase confidence in Census data quality, particularly at the smaller geographical level.
- ABS commenced the Identity and Access Management project under the Security@ABS Program. The primary focus of the Identity and Access Management project is to improve access control mechanisms, which will ensure the ongoing security of ABS data and systems, and provide accompanying staff productivity and usability enhancements. Important milestones this year have been the implementation of prerequisite technologies and the establishment of processes to define business roles. This work will enable the deployment of new “role-based access control” mechanisms across the ABS during 2011–12.
- Over a six month period, all ABS staff have been upgraded to a new standard desktop (including Windows 7, Office 2010 and Notes 8.5.2), refresh of desktop hardware and an organisation-wide education program. Desktop and laptop users are enjoying faster log-ins, easier software installs, increased functionality and a more secure desktop as a result of the Desktop@ABS roll out.

- New online data dissemination and data collection facilities have expanded the suite of applications in our web gateway environment. During the last twelve months, the old gateway has been decommissioned, the new gateway has been refreshed and a new dedicated data collection arm of the gateway has been installed. These enhancements have positioned ABS for internet returns for the Agriculture Census, Census field operations and multimedia streaming.
- A key outcome of the Remote Execution Environment for Microdata (REEM) project is to provide a flexible, real-time, secure environment where clients can analyse a wide range of microdata. The first production release of the REEM environment was made in 2010–11. This release includes enhanced TableBuilder functionality, provided by SpaceTime Research, as well as ABS developed functionality. The initial release is focused on providing a robust and secure architecture that supports the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) and Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange standards for statistical data formats.
- In 2010–11, a proof of concept for the Metadata Registry and Repository was completed, as part of ABS information management improvements. The proof of concept validated the technical approach and components that will enable new information-centric business processes, which in turn will deliver better quality services more efficiently to key clients.

Corporate Services

Introduction

Corporate Services Division (CSD) provides leadership and strategic support to assist the ABS and its employees in the achievement of business objectives. The division provides services direct to employees as well as those which involve a support and coordination role such as policy advice, framework development and internal consultancy. Within an environment of continuous improvement, CSD:

- provides timely, relevant, high quality corporate 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 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 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; and
- maintains and develops corporate support systems and services.

Key achievements

- Through implementation of the Corporate Services Improvement Project and with assistance across the ABS, CSD redeveloped its business model to better address the needs of the ABS. In support of the model, investment has been made in leadership through a series of regular executive development workshops and on promotion of a culture shift focused on the achievement of business outcomes.
- The first ABS People Corporate Business Plan released in September 2010 has been embedded in the corporate governance and planning framework, integrating other corporate strategies. The plan supports organisational performance through implementation of key people-related initiatives and provides a platform for developing local level strategies.
- Commencing the change processes and planning for a future move to a more efficient and effective way for ABS staff to access CSD services through an integrated service centre.
- The Census of Population and Housing (Census) Data Processing Centre (DPC) Enterprise Agreement for 2010–12 was bargained, supported and approved. The finalisation of this agreement was an important milestone as it provides certainty with respect to the employment arrangements applying to employees working at the DPC for the 2011 Census. The division has incorporated these arrangements into the relevant systems and has ensured support has been provided to facilitate accommodation and management of DPC staff.
- A review of statistical and financial delegations and authorisations in the ABS recommended improvements to policy and principles to better guide decision making as well as recommendations to improve the future management including education of delegates.
- A review of corporate expense items was undertaken, resulting in clear definition of expenditure items and the development of a framework for improving management and accountability and establishment of an annual review process.
- Development of a capital management plan to support and assist the ABS in its overall capital management.
- Recruitment of graduates to the ABS in 2010–11 reached new heights for the ABS with over 1,600 applications resulting in approximately 160 graduate appointments.
- Following the benchmark 2010 National Staff Survey, the 2011 survey was conducted in March 2011. The survey provides an extensive range of information on the views of employees at both the organisational and local levels.
- Progressing an upgrade of the existing HR and Financial systems to provide improved capability and management of information.
- Following the 2010 review of performance management, CSD has progressed work for the 2010–11 performance cycle including development of a new development and performance framework and launch of new development and performance agreement templates and supporting documentation.
- Following competitions in 2010 for Australian Public Service and Senior Executive Service staff, the ABS launched the Executive Level (EL) Innovation competition in November 2010. Nearly 200 EL staff from across all offices completed the competition challenge which was judged in three stages. The benefits to the ABS from the competition included improving the relevance and quality of ABS data; improving services to clients; offering easier and more flexible reporting options to households and businesses and improving organisational performance. Ideas from all 34 competition entries will be considered for future possible implementation.

Chapter 6

National Statistical Service

Introduction

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

The National Statistical Service (NSS) is a community of government agencies, led by the ABS as Australia's national statistical organisation, building a rich statistical picture for a better informed Australia. The objectives of the NSS are to:

- deliver a high quality, up-to-date, comprehensive and coherent statistical picture of Australia's economy, society and the environment, in order to assist and encourage informed decision making, as well as research and discussion within governments and the wider community;
- provide a world class official statistical service that retains the confidence and trust of the Australian society;
- maximise the use, for official statistical purposes, of data available within government administrative systems;
- minimise the burden of statistical reporting at all levels of the Australian community; and
- document and retain, as an enduring national resource, key statistical outputs and their underlying data sources.

The NSS pyramid

The ABS has identified 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 infrastructure – Statistical standards, policies and tools are shared to maximise the value of investment, reduce provider load and support integrated statistics.

Statistical capability – Producers and users are able to manage data, make it accessible and use it well.

Statistical content – Public information sources are fully used to provide a statistical picture of the economy, society and the environment.

National Statistical Service



National Statistical Service initiatives

Over the course of 2010–11, the ABS has undertaken a range of activities to expand and improve the NSS.

Valuing statistics

Council of Australian Governments

The ABS has been active in supporting the reporting requirements of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) for the National Agreements on healthcare; indigenous reform; affordable housing; skills and workforce development; education and disability. These agreements specify the performance outcomes and benchmarks that Australian, state and territory governments have set.

The ABS is working in collaboration with other agencies across government to refine measures, improve datasets and address data gaps relating to key COAG performance indicators, and to assist with the review of indicator frameworks currently underway.

Strategic engagement with NSS stakeholders

Recognising that enduring partnerships are crucial to building a strong NSS, the ABS has embarked on a program of strategic engagement with key stakeholders. Activities undertaken as part of this program include bilateral discussions with Australian and state governments, as well as increasing the strategic focus of existing forums. This will develop strong relationships with NSS partners, leading to the identification of opportunities for collaboration and progression of NSS priorities across government.

Measuring community trust in ABS statistics

In 2009, the Committee on Statistics of the OECD established a working group to develop an instrument to measure community trust in official statistics, with a view to providing national and international benchmarks on trust in official statistics. As an active member of the working group, the ABS has provided leadership to this project in the development of a trust framework. The ABS has also given support in the development of question modules for measuring trust under this framework and the final cognitive instrument recommendations.

In June 2010, the Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey was undertaken as part of the OECD study and this independent survey was the first commissioned in Australia. The results were released to coincide with Australia's celebration of World Statistics Day in October 2010. The Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey surveyed the general community and specialist users on perceptions of the ABS. Indicative of ABS's standing in the wider community, 92% of Australians surveyed rated the ABS as a trusted institution. In addition to trusting the ABS as an institution, the survey also showed that there was a high level of trust in the ABS's statistical products.

Measures of trust in official statistics have also been undertaken in Europe and the ABS results compare very favourably internationally. For more detail please refer to www.nss.gov.au for the full report titled *Trust in ABS and ABS Statistics*.

World Statistics Day

World Statistics Day was held on 20 October 2010 and celebrations occurred around the country to acknowledge statisticians across the NSS and ABS as well as the people of Australia for their contribution to official statistics. To coincide with the celebrations, the ABS produced a guide for using statistics for evidence based policy and decision-making, and released the findings of the first Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey, undertaken as part of an Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development study into measuring trust in official statistics.

NatStats 2010 Conference

Following the success of the inaugural NatStats Conference in 2008, the ABS hosted the NatStats 2010 Conference in Sydney from 15–17 September. Focusing on the theme of "Measuring what counts: economic development, wellbeing and progress in 21st century Australia", the conference brought together around 500 users and providers of data from government, business, the media, academia and the wider community to consider how we might improve Australia's statistics and strengthen the national statistical system to meet the challenges of the future.

NatStats 2010 Conference Recommendations

The NatStats 2010 Conference produced a set of ten recommendations for improving the statistical system; standards policies and tools; understanding statistics; and Australia in the global economy. The recommendations provide a focus for shaping ongoing discussion around the requirements for ensuring a responsive statistical system for Australia.

Recommendation 1 – Greater focus be placed on measuring outcomes across the economy, environment and society.

Recommendation 2 – Better understanding and measurement of the causal pathways and transitions which lead to improved economic, social, demographic, environment and wellbeing outcomes.

Recommendation 3 – Improve the quality (relevance, timeliness, accuracy, coverage, coherence, usability and accessibility) of economic, social and environmental statistics.

Recommendation 4 – Producers of official statistics should make the data they collect freely available to citizens and local communities

Recommendation 5 – Producers of official statistics at all levels of government should follow best practice to ensure consistent application of concepts, standards and classifications, and eliminate duplication.

Recommendation 6 – New and enhanced statistical infrastructure is required, to identify patterns in the expanding volume of information available, predict consequences, and enable timely action.

Recommendation 7 – Leverage datasets to unlock their potential to shed light on key policy questions, to understand the interactions between our population, economy, and the environment.

Recommendation 8 – As statistics underpin our democracy, public accountability of government and decision making at all levels are enhanced if Australians are able to critically evaluate and understand statistics. Noting the different capabilities required for communicating, interpreting, analysing and applying statistics, users and producers of statistics should both advocate and take practical measures to support enhanced statistical education that will lead to improved statistical literacy.

Recommendation 9 – Statistical users and producers must work together to use and promote suitable evidence for policy design, delivery, analysis and evaluation of government programs.

Recommendation 10 – The shape of Australia's economy and society is influenced by our changing relationship with the rest of the world, and in particular by our trading partners, strategic alliances and near neighbours. Understanding and responding to the challenges posed by our place in the world requires robust and comparable international statistics.

Some ABS key achievements during 2010-11 that contributed to the advancement of the NatStats 2010 Conference Recommendations are:

- Release of *Measures of Australia's Progress, 2010* (cat. no. 1370.0) in September 2010 included a new dashboard display of key social, economic and environmental headline indicators to improve accessibility and visibility. The 2010 issue also included a 'low income rental affordability' indicator in the Housing dimension; and restructure of the Environment dimension to better align with other major environmental reports. The ABS has also commenced the MAP 2.0 consultation process which aims to address how we can best measure progress towards goals that are most important to the Australian population across society, the economy and the environment.
- The 2010 cycle of the ABS General Social Survey (results expected to be released in September 2011) added new and improved content relating to access to services, civic participation, tolerance of diversity, experiences of homelessness and overall life satisfaction to its already wide range of socio-economic measures used to analyse quality of life, wellbeing, participation and multiple disadvantage.
- Increased use of Mesh Blocks to better target populations of concern.
- ABS licences almost all the content of our website and most customised data provided through our Information Consultancy Service under a Creative Commons Attribution licence. This means that people are free to re-use, build upon and distribute such data, even commercially, without first seeking permission or a secondary distribution licence from us, as long as the ABS is attributed as the source.
- Establishment of the Metadata Community of Interest to influence outcomes for the broader information community and discuss whole of government approaches to metadata issues.
- Provision of industry coding tools to government to assist in improving the quality of statistical data.
- Implementation of a new Australian Statistical Geography Standard which is built on a new smaller geographic area, the Mesh Block to enable better comparability and usefulness of statistics.
- Establishment of a Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board (chaired by the Australian Statistician, with membership comprising three Portfolio Secretaries: Health and Ageing; Human Services; and Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs) to oversee the establishment of a safe and effective environment for data integration involving Commonwealth data.
- Release of *A guide for using statistics for evidence based policy, 2010* (cat. no. 1500.0).
- Release of an improved Data Quality Online tool, and promotion of the tool to a range of government agencies and organisations.
- Chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting, which oversees the System of Integrated Environmental Economic Accounting development.
- Chair of an Organisation for Economic and Co-operation and Development (OCED) Expert Group tasked with developing an international framework for the measurement and analysis of micro level household income, consumption and wealth.

Developing statistical capability

Australian Government Statistical Forum

The Australian Government Statistical Forum (AGSF) encourages communication among senior staff of Australian government agencies who are important partners in the National Statistical Service (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. Initiatives considered during 2010–11 include: privacy; governance models for statistical data integration; the development of guidelines to support statistical data integration activities; and the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

State Statistical Forum

Each year the ABS hosts two meetings of the State Statistical Forum (SSF), with the state and territory government members of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council coming together to discuss their statistical priorities, with an emphasis on regional data issues. During 2010–11, the SSF continued to focus on agreed priority areas – improving statistics about Indigenous Australians; children and youth statistics; and demographic and economic development measures at the local level. The SSF also discussed Indigenous estimates for the 2011 Census and issues around identification, the role of states and territories in Council of Australian Governments data improvement exercises, state and territory needs for interim population/demographic projections, identification of nationally important statistics, and statistical data integration.

Statistical infrastructure

Developing better approaches to information management

Internally, the ABS is working on its transforming information management infrastructure with the Information Management Transformation Program (IMTP) and externally, is working collaboratively across the Australian Government and academic sectors on information management initiatives. Two key external initiatives include collaborative projects with the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) and the establishment of the Metadata Community of Interest.

Information Management Transformation Program

The demand for official data to inform policy and program delivery is rapidly increasing across all sectors. The Information Management Transformation Program (IMTP) aspires to establish an environment in which Australian governments and the community can easily find, access, and combine statistical information which can then be used confidently as an evidence base for policy, to target service delivery and to inform decision making. In its later phases, the program will also seek to position ABS to provide specialist statistical and information management expertise backed by supporting infrastructure to assist other government agencies.

Metadata Community of Interest

A Metadata Community of Interest, comprising key Australian government agencies, was established during 2010. The objective of the community is to influence outcomes for the broader information community and discuss whole of government approaches to metadata issues to enhance the visibility, accessibility and usability of information. To date, the primary focus has been on developing terms of reference, membership and agreement as a priority to work towards focusing on identifying the minimum standards for discovery metadata for data.gov.au.

ABS collaborations with the Australian National Data Service

In 2010–11 the ABS has worked with Australian National Data Service (ANDS) on a range of initiatives. ABS is playing a key role in exposing metadata (ABS standards and classifications) to the research sector via the ANDS portal project, and the Vocabulary Registers Committee. Further opportunities which are being explored include the potential application of the ABS's Data Quality Framework within the research sector.

ABS statistical data integration

Data integration is a key priority for the ABS and wider National Statistical Service as the demand for data continues to increase.

Greater statistical data integration across government organisations will enable significant cost-effective improvements in evidence-based advice and the development of a new range of official statistics. Well organised and integrated datasets, with supporting analytical capacity, have the potential to provide new insights for policy, highlighting key issues for government response.

For example, key integrated datasets have the potential to provide information on the short and long term impacts of policy across Australian businesses, population groups and geographic areas. They can assist in costing new government-based programs and in simulating the impact of changes in policy. These rich datasets can help people understand the transitions of the population between government support programs over time, and identify factors that influence these transitions, including the influence of business-based programs on particular population groups. They provide opportunities to address the social inclusion agenda by examining various facets of social interaction and economic support captured by Commonwealth data systems.

There is a strong need for consistent governance, methods, principles, policies and protocols around data integration. In October 2010, Australian Government Portfolio Secretaries endorsed a set of governance and institutional arrangements designed to support Australian government statistical data integration activities, while maintaining confidentiality. As part of these arrangements, a Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board has been established to oversee the establishment of a safe and effective environment for data integration involving Commonwealth data. The Board is chaired by the Australian Statistician, with membership comprising three Portfolio Secretaries: Health and Ageing; Human Services; and Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

More information is presented in Chapter 3 – Integrating Commonwealth Data for Statistical and Research Purposes.

Data Quality Online

The ABS has been assisting in developing the data framework for the quality statements of the Council of Australian Governments National Agreement performance indicators. The online assistant was designed and launched in March 2010 to help data suppliers apply the framework when preparing data quality statements. A second release during August 2010 of a Data Quality Online (DQO) 'general stream' has facilitated broader use by government agencies for assessing data quality for decision making. This free online assistant is available on the National Statistical Service website (<http://www.nss.gov.au>) and is based on a series of prompting questions for each of the seven quality dimensions. The website is being expanded to support a wider range of user groups and to encourage data collectors and custodians to declare and publicise quality declarations statements relating to their data.

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. During the period July 2010 to April 2011, there were 127 surveys submitted to the SCH for clearance. Of these, 74 were approved, 8 were classified as 'In scope – not to be reviewed', 8 were out of scope, 6 were cancelled by agencies after submission, and 31 were in the review process at the end of April 2011. 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 Statistical Clearing House is a successful NSS initiative in improving statistical coordination and reducing provider burden. In 2010–11 the SCH undertook a review to seek feedback on improving the SCH approval process and awareness of the role. The recommendations of the review were endorsed by the SCH Advisory Forum in December 2010. Outcomes from the review which will be implemented during 2011 include:

- implementation of electronic submission of survey approval requests, development of an integrated Australian Government Business Survey register and improved management reporting;
- strengthening relationships across Commonwealth agencies;
- exploring opportunities to streamline ABS List release procedures to improve timely access to high quality survey frames; and
- seeking government support for future establishment of a Household Survey Clearing House.

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

Nationally important statistics and datasets

The identification of national datasets that are essential indicators of the nation, and of national statistical priorities based on research and consultation, were two recommendations from the Allen Review (2004). Since this report, the Australian Statistical Advisory Council (ASAC) has had several discussions on the challenges of progressing the National Statistical Service, in particular priorities for improvement, extension and coordination. In 2010, ASAC endorsed *Measures of Australia's Progress* as an underlying framework to present the plural supply of statistics across Australia's complex federated system. In 2010–11, ASAC and the State Statistical Forum also considered a framework for identifying nationally important statistics and datasets to ensure that investment in statistics is focused on statistics and datasets which are most important in informing public policy. This is an international trend, with many other countries and organisations including New Zealand, the United Kingdom, United Nations, International Monetary Fund and OECD having developed principles and initiatives to identify important datasets and statistics that are critical for the nation.

The ABS will progress the development and identification of nationally important statistics and datasets in 2011–12, commencing with consulting and collaborating with key stakeholders across governments.

Australian Health Survey

The ABS has commenced collecting information towards the largest and most complex health survey ever undertaken in Australia. The Australian Health Survey (AHS) commenced in March 2011 and will be run in two main parts – with the general community part running in 2011–12 and a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey in 2012–13, involving approximately 50,000 respondents. It will measure health status, medical conditions, health risk factors, health-related actions and medications, nutrition and physical measures.

The new components in the AHS include a detailed examination of nutrition and physical activity and a voluntary biomedical measurement, using the results from blood and urine testing. The Department of Health and Ageing and the Heart Foundation Australia have provided support funding for these new components.

The survey results will meet the information needs of government, the health sector, community and academic researchers. The statistics will support policy and program development and evaluation, research into health issues and assist community education.

The collection of such comprehensive health information has not previously been undertaken in Australia on this scale; however similar surveys have been implemented in other countries such as New Zealand, the United States and Canada.

For more information please visit <http://www.abs.gov.au/australianhealthsurvey>.

Regional Australia – positioning Australia with geography and place

It is estimated that over 80 per cent of government information has a geographic or 'location' context. The demand for the use of location information to inform policy and program delivery is rapidly increasing across government. The emerging commitment to regional Australia presents an important and valuable opportunity for government to review how location information is created, managed, shared, and used across departments and agencies and to establish clear priorities to guide future planning and decision making.

The ABS can make a significant contribution to the development of relevant statistical information at a regional scale, and has been engaging with government agencies to support this development. In addition to developing bilateral collaborations with a number of agencies, the ABS is represented on an APS200 Location Project involving the collaboration of a number of government agencies, to present a framework of options to address three critical areas: location information policy, governance, and investment. The project will identify key stakeholders and their requirements, including how government decides priorities for spatial information and related investments; undertake an existing government data and program inventory; and develop a business case demonstrating the value of linking information to location. The ABS drives regional statistics development through its Rural and Regional Statistics program and Geography program, with many areas of ABS also contributing on particular areas of regional data interest (across environment, economic and social statistics).

Other initiatives which have contributed to the enhancement of the NSS include:

- collaborating with Australian, state and territory government agencies on various projects;
- hosting seminars, workshops and conferences to share information on statistical activities, and making statistical resources easily accessible on the NSS website, such as video presentations of the NatStats 2010 Conference;
- delivering resources to support informed decision making, such as the *A Guide for Using Statistics for Evidence Based Policy publication*;
- providing statistical leadership to Commonwealth and State government through the extensive outposted officer network;
- providing statistical training across all levels of government via the National Statistical Training Institute; and
- promoting government statistical initiatives through the *NSS News newsletter* and NSS website; and Advancing the Australian Community Indicators Network, which resulted in a self-sustaining group which exchanges ideas and strategies, shares knowledge, and reports on advancements in the field of community indicators, both in Australia and internationally.

Chapter 7

International engagement

Introduction

As established in the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, one of the ABS's functions is to 'provide liaison between Australia, on the one hand, and other countries and international organisations, on the other hand, in relation to statistical matters' (section 6(f)). During 2010–11, the ABS met its international responsibilities through active and high level involvement in the international statistical community.

The ABS engages internationally for three distinct purposes:

- to influence the development of international statistical standards and set the direction for the future;
- to engage with other organisations from around the world on better practice to ensure the ABS remains a world class statistical organisation; and
- to assist developing countries (particularly those in the Asia Pacific region) to improve the statistical information available for decision making.

In addition, the ABS provides accurate data about Australia to international organisations.

The ABS is also coordinating an international collaboration initiative that shares expertise and resources to deliver co-designed and co-developed projects that aim to harmonise statistical methods and tools internationally. This work falls under the Information Management Transformation Program (IMTP). The ABS was instrumental in establishing the Statistical Network (SN) in June 2010. This network includes national statistical organisations from six countries (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden), working on five key projects. The key goal is to harmonise statistical methods, systems and capabilities across the statistical institutions in the network. The projects were identified as important opportunities to promote collaboration to achieve mutual benefits across all participating SN members.

The strategic importance of statistical information management is increasingly being recognised among statistical agencies worldwide. In addition to the Statistical Network Steering Committee, the ABS also contributed to discussions about strategic approaches to statistical information management at various high level meetings, such as under the High-Level Group for Strategic Directions in Business Architecture in Statistics and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The ABS has continued to make a significant contribution to the development of international standards through effective representation on a number of international committees.



Australian Statistician Mr Brian Pink and Mongolian Statistician Mr S. Mendsaikhan with senior colleagues from the ABS and the National Statistical Office of Mongolia.

International meetings and conferences

The ABS participated in a number of important international meetings and conferences during 2010–11, including:

- Regional Heads of Statistics and Planning Meeting, Noumea, New Caledonia;
- International Association for Research in Income and Wealth Conference, St Gallen, Switzerland;
- Committee on Statistics, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Bangkok, Thailand;
- 40th Anniversary of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific Bangkok, Thailand;
- 42nd Session of the United Nations Statistics Commission, New York, USA;
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Committee on Statistics Meeting, Paris, France;
- Conference of European Statisticians Paris, France;
- 15th Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians, Delhi, India;
- ESCAP Regional Forum on Vital Statistics and Civil Registration in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand;
- Data Documentation Initiative Expert Committee, Vancouver, Canada;
- Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange and Data Documentation Initiative Dialogue, Portugal;
- High-Level Group for Strategic Directions in Business Architecture in Statistics Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland; and
- Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS) Meeting, Luxembourg.

During 2010–11, members of the ABS Executive Leadership Group held the following positions on international bodies:

The Australian Statistician, **Mr Brian Pink**:

- Vice Chairperson, United Nations Statistics Commission
- Chairperson, Committee on Statistics of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- Chairperson, Statistics Committee, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Member, Executive Bureau, Conference of European Statisticians

Mr Denis Farrell, Chief Operating Officer:

- Member, Governing Council, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Mr Peter Harper, Deputy Australian Statistician, Population, Labour, Industry and Environment Statistics Group:

- Chairperson, United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental Accounting
- Member, Friends of the Chair group for the Human Development Indicators

Mr Ian Ewing, Deputy Australian Statistician, Macroeconomics and Integration Group:

- Chairperson, United Nations Statistics Commission Friends of the Chair group, considering the barriers to the implementation of SNA
- Member, Executive Board, World Bank International Comparison Project

Mr Trevor Sutton, Deputy Australian Statistician, Social Statistics Group:

- Member, Taskforce Committee on Improvement of Vital Statistics and Civil Registrations in the Asia Pacific

Engaging with other organisations from around the world on better practice to ensure the ABS remains a world-class statistical organisation

In addition to participating in international meetings and conferences, the ABS maintains close relationships with a number of NSOs and inter-governmental organisations. These relationships provide opportunities for sharing experiences on the latest developments or benchmarking specific activities.

Countries with which the ABS maintains a close relationship with include: New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America, Indonesia, Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands, Norway and Brazil.

The ABS also received a number of visits from other National Statistical Offices, statistical agencies and international statistical organisations during the year, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Statistics Division, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

The duration and purpose of these visits varied, but all acted to build stronger relationships and share knowledge.

In the last 12 months the ABS has held discussions with a range of NSOs including Austria, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the United Arab Emirates.

Assisting developing countries to improve the statistical information available for decision making

The ABS continues to contribute to international statistical capability building through organisations such as the United Nations, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the Secretariat of the Pacific Communities and the International Monetary Fund.

The ABS aims to provide training and technical assistance to encourage developing countries to establish good statistical policies and methodologies. The ABS does not normally undertake statistical work for other countries; rather, the aim is to assist by transferring ABS knowledge and practical skills to the relevant country. An important principle for the ABS, and a key component of the design of any technical assistance program, is the expected long-term benefit that will be derived from this assistance.

Indonesia

The ABS has had a long association with Badan Pusat Statistik – Statistics Indonesia (BPS) structured under a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in statistics. Specifically, the goal of the ABS's involvement in Indonesia is to assist the BPS to improve its statistical system and to establish greater coordination and a stronger relationship between Australia and BPS.

The majority of work undertaken in Indonesia is completed with the assistance of AusAID under their Government Partnership Fund (GPF). In December 2010, the ABS completed activities of the GPF and has recently signed up to the GPFII for the next three years.

This new program of activities includes the areas of national accounts, manufacturing trade statistics, labour statistics, statistical methodology, information technology infrastructure and price statistics.

An important component of the Program is the continued high level support provided by ABS executives to BPS executives on strategic statistical issues including governance, human resource and project management.

Pacific islands

The ABS has commenced a program of assistance to Pacific Island Countries for the next three to five years, to be funded by AusAID. The program explicitly recognises the importance of the Secretariat for the Pacific Community as a coordinating body for statistical assistance in the region. It aims to provide appropriate assistance to Pacific Island Countries based on their size and institutional capability.

The program activities will be made up of training for small to medium NSOs based in Australia; bilaterally engagement with larger national statistical offices; the implementation of the International Comparison Program (ICP); mentoring and engaging with senior Pacific Island Countries National Statistical Office staff; and supplementing regional bodies' capacity to implement the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy.

Additional assistance

In addition to these programs of work, the ABS signed Memoranda of Understandings with Timor-Leste in November 2010 and Abu Dhabi in February 2011 in the area of statistical capability development. This is in addition to Memorandum of Understanding signed with Mongolia in November 2009. In 2010–11, the ABS provided assistance to all three countries.

The ABS also provides assistance as required to countries around the world. In 2010–11, this assistance included work with Chile, Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam.



Australian Statistician, Brian Pink and Director General, Research and Analysis, Timor-Leste, Antonio Freitas signing the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the area of statistical capacity development.

Chapter 8

Key performance indicators

The ABS is required to report against the outcome and key performance indicators specified in the 2010–11 Portfolio Budget Statements, presented to the Parliament in May 2010.

The Treasury's Portfolio Budget Statements set out the performance indicators used to evaluate the Program 1.1: Australian Bureau of Statistics, against its one outcome.

Table 8.1: Outcome and key performance indicators for the ABS

Outcome 1: 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 key performance indicators	
1. An objective statistical service as demonstrated by:	1.1 Release of reliable and accurate statistics
	1.2 Transparent statistical process
	1.3 Trust and cooperation of providers
2. Statistical output which meets the needs of key users of economic and social data in terms of:	2.1 Support for decision making
	2.2 A high level of use
3. Appropriate use of statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies by:	3.1 Leading the development of national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, and their implementation within the broader Australian statistical system
	3.2 Contributing to the development of key international standards, frameworks and methodologies, and implementing them as appropriate

1. An objective statistical service as demonstrated by:

1.1 Release of reliable and accurate statistics

To ensure the continued high level accuracy of ABS statistics, the ABS continues to conduct reviews and implement risk mitigation strategies to ensure that survey methodologies and processes are sound, and any weaknesses are addressed. During 2010–11, the ABS implemented a range of measures aimed at maintaining a low incidence of statistical errors.

Reviews in progress during 2010–11 include a review of the conceptual basis, coherence and efficiency of the Labour Monthly Population Survey Supplementary Survey Program; a review into Annual Integrated Collections Methods; a review of user engagement in labour employer surveys; a review of the quality and potential for efficiencies in statistical editing and validation processes; and a review of the sources and requirements for financial statistics.

Throughout 2010–11, the ABS continued a systematic process for assuring the quality of business surveys and household surveys. The strategy, which is known as ‘quality gates’, involves explicit assessment of the statistical risks at strategic points of the survey process. Training on quality gates – ‘Managing Statistical Risk’ – continued across the organisation during 2010–11.

Non-sampling error is a general term that describes all sources of error other than the error introduced by the sampling process. Some sources of non-sampling error that are most relevant to statistical surveys include: non-response bias; errors in identifying and contacting the population of interest for a survey; errors introduced by the questionnaire design, such as misunderstanding or inadvertently missing questions, or phrasing questions that predispose a respondent to answer in a particular way; and data capture, processing and coding errors.

The ABS minimises the impact of non-sampling errors in its own surveys by the use of best practice procedures in questionnaire design, interview procedures, data validation and repair, and processing. Any significant changes to questionnaire wording or data collection methods are carefully trialled and evaluated before they are implemented.

Measure: Relative standard errors

The accuracy of statistical information is one dimension of quality, and assesses the degree to which the information correctly describes the phenomena it was designed to measure. The relative standard error (RSE) is a measure of the sampling error associated with an estimate. The magnitude of standard errors varies between collections and between data items within a collection due to factors such as the responding sample size and the nature of the data item. The RSE is a useful indicator for comparing the accuracy of estimates between surveys. Table 8.2 presents a summary view of the estimated RSEs for key statistics from a number of major ABS surveys. Further detailed information is included with each ABS publication, as well as in the concepts, sources and methods publications released by the ABS.

Table 8.2: Relative standard errors (RSEs) for selected indicators (a)

Publication	Indicator	RSE (%) 2010–11	RSE (%) 2009–10	RSE (%) 2008–09
Economic indicators				
<i>Retail Trade, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8501.0)	Total turnover for the retail industry, Australia	0.7	0.7	0.7
<i>Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5625.0)	Actual private new capital expenditure, Australia	2.5	2.4	1.3
<i>Business Indicators, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5676.0)	Company gross operating profit, Australia	1.1	1.9	1.6
<i>Building Activity, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8752.0)	Value of building work done, Australia	0.7	0.7	0.7
<i>Average Weekly Earnings, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6302.0)	Full-time adult ordinary time earnings, Australia	0.7	0.8	0.7
<i>Job Vacancies, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6354.0)	Job vacancies, Australia	4.7	5.3	4.6 (b)
Social indicators				
<i>Labour Force Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6202.0)	Total number of persons employed (aged 15 and over), Australia	0.7	0.3	0.4

(a) RSEs are presented for surveys conducted in respect of the reference periods for 2008–09, 2009–10 and 2010–11.

(b) The Job Vacancies Survey was suspended for the most of 2008–09 and reinstated in the early part of 2009–10.

The rise in the RSEs for the Capital Expenditure indicator in 2009–10 and continuing in 2010–11 is due to a survey redesign and the inclusion of non-employers into the Quarterly Economy Wide Survey from which it is produced. Some design efficiency has been lost due to having to sample non-employers without increasing the total sample size. The ABS is reviewing the design of this survey, and aims to adjust the allocation for some industries, which will help reduce the total level of RSE in the future.

The Job Vacancies Survey sample design was adjusted in 2009–10 to improve the sampling variability of state-level estimates. This involved a sample shift from the larger states to the smaller states to improve their RSEs, at some minor expense to the Australia-level RSE.

Table 8.3 provides an international comparison of Australian RSEs for two key statistical indicators with those of selected countries.

Table 8.3: Relative standard errors (RSEs) for selected indicators, with selected international comparisons

Publication	Indicator	RSE (%)	RSE (%) for comparable indicator in selected country	
		Australia	New Zealand	United States of America
<i>Retail Trade, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8501.0)	Total turnover for the retail industry, Australia	0.7	2.0	0.7
<i>Labour Force Survey</i> (ABS cat. no. 6202.0)	Total number of persons employed (aged 15 and over), Australia	0.4	1.0	0.1

(a) Source: Statistics New Zealand: Retail Trade Survey, ISSN 1178-0355 (<http://www.stats.govt.nz>)

(b) Source: Statistics New Zealand: Labour Market Statistics, ISSN 1177-8040 (<http://www.stats.govt.nz>)

(c) Source: US Bureau of Census Monthly Retail Trade Survey (<http://www.census.gov>)

(d) Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey (<http://www.bls.gov>)

1.2 Transparent statistical process

The ABS statistical system is open to outside scrutiny. Its methodologies are based on sound statistical principles and practices, and methodological developments, through the release of information papers, are disseminated widely.

The key forum for peer expert review of methodological developments in the ABS is the Methodological Advisory Committee (MAC). MAC meets twice a year, and consists of professional statisticians, economic and social analysts external to the ABS from universities and other research organisations. Most MAC papers are published on the ABS website, where they can be located from the Methods & Standards page. Topics presented in the past year include a new sample selection approach which better coordinates and manages provider load for business and household surveys; methods for use of administrative data for more efficient estimation in repeated business surveys; a generic replicate variance estimation method with application to balanced sampling; and empirical models for survey cost, response rate and bias.

In addition to having transparent methodologies, the ABS also has an open process for key users and providers to forward input and feedback on statistical collections and products, to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

During 2010–11, the Australian Bureau of Statistics improved compilation processes and methods to address issues in tracking the economy through the global financial crisis and transition to new international standards. As part of this process the ABS increased interaction with key users in Commonwealth and State Treasuries, Reserve Bank and economic analysts to assess the coherence of data inputs with real world developments.

In December 2010, the ABS announced outcomes from a major review of the Consumer Price Index following an extensive public consultation process. The ABS received 55 written submissions and received direct feedback at public seminars held in each capital city. Additional discussions were also held with a range of Consumer Price Index users. An advisory group comprising representatives of major users assisted the ABS in its deliberations

across the full scope of the review. Some key outcomes from the review include decisions to retain the principal purpose of the CPI as being for household inflation measurement, to move to a monthly basis if funding is available and to update the weights more frequently, preferably from a more frequent Household Expenditure Survey.

Information on statistical concepts, sources and methods for individual statistical collections is available through the explanatory notes and technical notes of each relevant publication on the ABS website.

1.3 Trust and cooperation of providers

The ABS recognises its obligation to respondents in statistical collections. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires the ABS to publish and disseminate compilations and analysis of statistical information, and 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 unidentifiable micro data files to support research and analysis. In addition, the ABS ensures that identifying information provided by a household is not revealed.

ABS Surveys Charter

In recognition of its obligation to those who provided information in our statistical collections, the ABS has produced a service charter covering both business and household surveys.

This charter includes information on how surveys are conducted, and outlines the rights and obligations underpinning the relationship between the ABS and those who participate in our surveys. The Charter explains what people can expect when dealing with the ABS and ABS interviewers, including expected standards for the ABS in managing complaints.

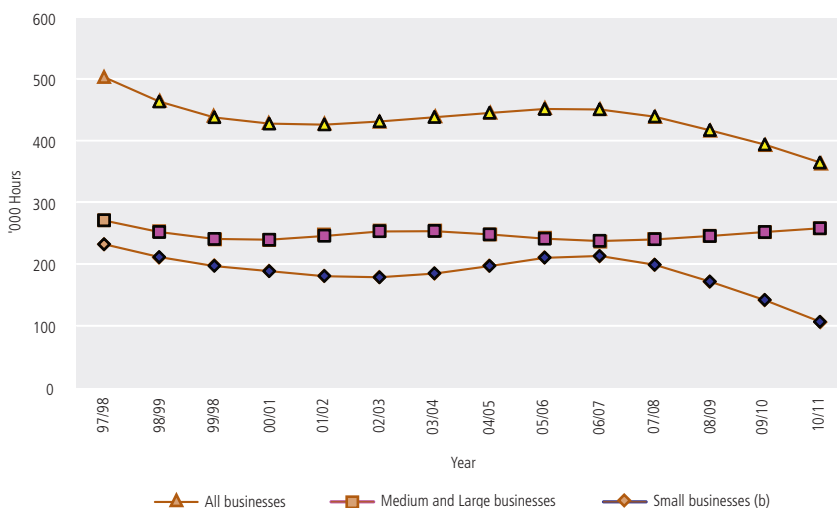
The ABS Surveys Charter is available on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au>. Translation services are also available.

Measure: Provider load in business surveys

The total ABS provider load on businesses fell to 377,000 hours in 2010–11. This is the unadjusted provider load and measures the number of hours taken by providers to complete the business survey forms.

Provider load figures from 1997–98 to 2010–11 have been calculated using an 11-term Henderson moving average to reveal the underlying trend. This process smooths the effect of irregular and regular contributors to provider load, such as the five-yearly Agricultural Census last conducted in 2006–07. As shown in Graph 11.2, total provider load for all businesses has continued to decline in 2010–11.

Graph 11.2 Provider load (a)



(a) Smoothed using an 11-term Henderson moving average.

(b) Businesses with less than 20 employees.

Measure: Response rates for selected surveys

Continuing high response rates demonstrate a good level of cooperation by providers.

The excellent response rates for selected business collections can be attributed to the high regard the business community has for the ABS, and the follow-up procedures used by the ABS to help providers. These procedures are developed to target those businesses that are most significant to the estimates of the collection. Typically, these are businesses with high turnover or employment relative to the rest of the industry.

However, it is important to note that the activities of small businesses are just as important as large businesses, as they have different characteristics from large businesses and make an important contribution to the Australian economy, especially at state and territory levels. Usually, a sample of smaller businesses is selected to represent other like businesses and as such, their impact on the survey results is important.

Maintaining high response rates is also a major focus for the household survey program. This is becoming more difficult due to the increased tendency towards dual income families, and hence reduced opportunities for interviews to be held outside of evening hours.

The ABS's high response rates for both household and business surveys as shown in Table 8.4.

Table 8.4: Response rates for selected surveys (a)

	Target response rate (%) (b)	Final Response rate 2010–11 (%)	Final Response rate 2009–10 (%)	Final Response rate 2008–09 (%)
Business Surveys				
Retail Business Survey	95	95 (c)	96 (c)	96 (c)
Quarterly Business Indicators Survey	85	90 (c)	90 (c)	92 (c)
Capital Expenditure Survey	90	94 (c)	94 (c)	95 (c)
Economic Activity Survey	90	89	89	90
Survey of Tourist Accommodation	90	90 (c)	92 (c)	90 (c)
Business Characteristics Survey	95	95	93	96
Vineyards Survey	85	88	(d)	87
Survey of Average Weekly Earnings	98	97 (c)	97 (c)	98 (c)
Survey of International Trade in Services	90	95 (c)	96 (c)	95 (c)
Household Surveys				
Labour Force Survey	97	97	97	97
Multi-purpose Household Survey	87 (e)	87 (e)	87 (e)	86 (e)
Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children	89	86	88	88
General Social Survey	85	88	(d)	(d)
National Health Survey	90	(f)	(d)	(d)
National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey	90	(f)	(d)	(d)
Survey Income and Housing	87	(d)	88	(d)
Survey of Disability and Carers	89	(d)	90	(d)
Household Expenditure Survey	75	(d)	76	(d)
Pensioner Household Expenditure Survey	75	(d)	72	(d)
Survey of Education and Training	90	(d)	(d)	90

(a) Response rates apply to the period in which the data are collected.

(b) Method of measuring target response rates can vary by survey (e.g. a form receival rate or a live response rate).

(c) Average response rate over the year.

(d) Survey not conducted during the year.

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

(f) New survey cycle. Rates not yet available.

Measure: Provider correspondence

The 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 each year to request an exemption or complain to the ABS in writing.

Households and businesses have a number of avenues available to them if they have queries or complaints about being selected in a survey or about the processes involved. Free call contact numbers are provided with all information sent to survey participants and, for the majority of cases, when participants call these numbers their concerns are resolved by the ABS officers receiving the calls.

For 2010–11, the ABS received a total of 829 letters of correspondence from businesses. This is an increase of 38 (4.8%) compared to the previous year.

The majority of correspondence received is from businesses seeking exemption for ongoing participation in the ABS Business Survey Program. In exceptional circumstances, the ABS provides general exemptions from surveys to certain small businesses, including temporary exemptions on compassionate grounds. The ABS received 779 requests for exemption during 2010–11. Most of these did not meet the ABS exemption criteria, however a limited number of compassionate and general exemptions were granted. Strict criteria assist the ABS to maintain high quality collections while also managing provider load for small businesses.

Thirteen complaints about business surveys were submitted to the ABS Complaints Review Officer, and no complaints were received from the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman regarding business surveys. The majority of complaints to the ABS Complaints Review Officer were a second request for exemption after the first had been denied. In responses to businesses, the ABS advises that the ABS Complaints Review Officer can be contacted if the business is not satisfied with the outcome.

Table 8.5 details written correspondence directed to the ABS from businesses and households selected in ABS surveys. Table 8.6 details correspondence from businesses and households referred to the ABS by the Assistant Treasurer.

Table 8.5: Written correspondence from businesses and households selected in ABS surveys, 2010–11

	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11
Correspondence directly to ABS – Total Numbers (a)				
Business surveys and censuses	283	627 (b)	791 (c)	829
Requests for exemption (e)				779
Other complaints and queries (e)				50
Household surveys	37	14	49	73
Requests for exemption (e)				23
Other complaints and queries (e)				50

(a) Excludes correspondence to politicians (ministerial correspondence), these are detailed in table 8.6.

(b) Increase from previous year is a result of introduction of improved processes for identifying written complaints, and requests for exemption included with survey forms.

(c) Increase from previous year reflects improved communication of complaints procedures and impact of global financial crisis on businesses.

(d) Information is not available due to non-standard recording processes across regional offices in earlier years.

(e) Breakdown of correspondence by requests for exemption from surveys vs complaints and other queries not available prior to 2010–11.

Table 8.6: Correspondence to Politicians (Ministerial Correspondence), 2010–11

	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11
Letters to Politicians				
Business surveys and censuses	5	5	12	3
Household surveys	18	14	31	23

Measure: Provider correspondence resolution

Every item of provider correspondence is responded to either in writing or by telephone contact as outlined in the ABS Surveys Charter. Performance against the standards for managing correspondence from businesses is summarised below in Table 8.7.

Table 8.7: Performance against ABS Surveys Charter complaint resolution standards for 2010–11: targets and actual performance

Performance standard – responding to correspondence from businesses	Target (weeks)	Actual performance (average weeks)	Actual performance (% of total where target achieved)
Sent written acknowledgement	1	1	97%
Sent written advice of outcome	4	6	32%

Approximately half (49%) of all correspondence is responded to within 5 weeks of receipt. An increase since 2009–10 in both volume and complexity of requests has affected responsiveness in 2010–11.

Measure: Notices of Direction and prosecution actions

Under sections 10(4) and 11(2) of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the Australian Statistician may, by notice in writing, direct a person/business to complete a survey form or answer a question that is necessary to obtain statistical information.

Under section 14 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, a person/business commits an offence if they fail to comply with a Notice of Direction. The penalty for this is set at one penalty unit (\$110 in 2010–11) in respect of each day after the Notice of Direction is served until the person/business complies with the direction. The application of this penalty is at the discretion of the Court.

These provisions are used sparingly, as the ABS prefers to seek the willing cooperation of respondents. However, it is sometimes necessary to use the legislative provisions, in order to maintain the integrity of ABS statistics.

The number of Notices of Direction issued and the number of prosecution actions approved in recent years are shown in Table 8.8. The number of Notices of Direction and prosecution actions approved is higher every five years, when the Census of Population and Housing is conducted (as shown for 2006–07).

Table 8.8: Notices of Direction issued and prosecution actions approved

	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11
Notices of Direction (NoDs) issued	68	87	79	188
Census of Population and Housing	–	–	–	–
Household surveys	66	83	62	163 (a)
Business censuses and surveys	2	4	17	25
Prosecution actions approved (b)	30	0	0	0
Census of Population and Housing	25	0	0	0
Household surveys	5	0	0	0
Business censuses and surveys	–	0	0	0

a. The increase in the number of Notices of Direction issued to household survey respondents reflects improved processes and an increased effort in seeking compliance from households.

b. Approved by the Australian Statistician for referral to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. Any particular prosecution approval may relate to a number of Notices of Direction. Each prosecution action approval is counted in the year in which the corresponding notices of Direction are issued. Not every prosecution action approved proceeds to court.

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

2.1 Support for decision making

The ABS continues to assist and encourage informed decision making, research and discussion by increasing relevance and accessibility to the outputs of statistical activities. In 2010–11, ABS statistics were used to support decision making and research by business, community and government.

Statistics produced by the ABS are widely used to support decision making and research including:

- formulating and assessing government policies;
- assisting with allocation of Australian Government funds to state and territory governments;
- formulating industry development policies;
- supporting policy development, program delivery and evaluation of key government and non-government agencies involved in health, community and family services; and
- carrying out electoral distribution.

ABS statistics are widely understood and used by policy makers and analysts in Australia and around the world. The strength of these statistics is their consistency and relevance across different periods and in comparison with other countries. A continued focus in 2010–11 has been in ensuring coherence in ABS economic indicators and to enhance the breadth and depth of ABS social indicators to ensure our statistics provide a clear picture for decision makers into the future. Major new enhancements include the Australian Health Survey (which will deliver, for the first time, integrated survey and biomedical data for Australia), new surveys under development for measurement in areas of personal safety and energy use, a new Early Childhood Education collection, and improved frequency of the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.

Key users of ABS statistics include the Department of Treasury, the Reserve Bank of Australia, financial institutions, COAG, Departments of Health and Ageing, Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and Prime Minister and Cabinet, state and territory governments, employee organisations, the media and academia.

In support of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), in 2010–11 the ABS developed and reported statistics to support a range of performance indicators in the areas of health care, education, affordable housing, disability, skills and workforce development, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage. Further, the ABS has undertaken work to improve enumeration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the 2011 Census of Population and Housing and in the associated Post-Enumeration Survey. This work will directly assist in strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates, specifically delivering to the needs of users such as COAG.

To further support decision making, in 2010–11, the ABS published *A guide for using statistics for evidence based policy, 2010* (ABS cat. no. 1500.0). This publication provides an overview of how statistical information can be used to make well-informed policy decisions, and refers to relevant frameworks, training and tools to further assist in policy evaluation, analysis and development. The ABS also published *Measures of Socioeconomic Status* (ABS cat. no. 1244.0.55.001) to meet a demand from key stakeholders including COAG and DEEWR for information on issues relating to the measurement of socioeconomic status and the different types of socioeconomic status indicators and the uses for which then be applied.

More details on how the ABS supports informed decision making is available in Chapter 5, Program reports. This chapter focuses on the achievements, new developments, key products and user consultations of ABS statistical programs for 2010–11.

Measure: Outposted officers for key clients

The National Statistical Service is the community of government agencies, led by the ABS as Australia's national statistical organisation, building a rich statistical picture for a better informed Australia.

To enhance engagement with the key users and producers of statistics, the ABS outposts statistical officers in selected Australian and state and territory government agencies.

The purpose of the outposted officer program is to assist in ensuring a strong and effective working relationship between the ABS and other government agencies. The outposted officers contribute to informed decision-making by harnessing ABS resources, where appropriate, to address the host agency's information needs.

The primary objectives of longer term outpostings are to:

- Identify opportunities for the ABS to assist with identifying and providing information for policy development, implementation or evaluation purposes
- develop statistical capability in government agencies, to improve understanding and use of statistics
- support the National Statistical Service by promoting the use of shared standards, classifications and data policies to encourage coherence between complementary data sources
- build a strong partnership with agencies to support, develop, use and share information to meet current and emerging requirements
- keep the ABS informed about emerging statistical issues, to ensure the ABS forward work program remains relevant.

In addition, ABS outposted officers assist with coordinating statistical activities, including collection and dissemination of data, so that duplication is reduced and quality is improved. Outcomes of coordination include reduced cost and provider load associated with information collection, as well as improved comparability of data.

Table 8.9: Government agencies with outposted officers, 2010–11

Level of government	Number 2009–10	Number 2010–11	List of agencies with outposted officers in 2010–11
Australian	11	9	
			Australian Taxation Office
			Australian Crime Commission
			Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
			Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
			Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
			Department of Immigration and Citizenship
			Department of Health and Ageing
			Productivity Commission
State and territory	27	17	
			Western Australian Department of Indigenous Affairs
			New South Wales Department of Treasury
			New South Wales Department of Transport and Infrastructure
			New South Wales Department of Finance and Services
			New South Wales Department of Environment and Heritage
			New South Wales Department of Premier and Cabinet
			Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet (Social Inclusion Unit)
			Victorian Department of Primary Industry
			Victorian Department of Justice
			Victorian Department of Transport
			Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet
			Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development
			Northern Territory Department of Justice
			Northern Territory Department of Business and Employment
			Northern Territory Department of Health and Families
			South Australian Department of Education
			South Australian Department of Children's Services.
			Australian Capital Territory Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate

The ABS regularly consults with a range of user groups that include all levels of government, industry, researchers, policy makers and community organisations to guide our work program, and ensure our statistics inform decision making. A full list of user groups active in 2010–11 is available in Appendix 2 – User groups advising the ABS.

2.2 A high level of use

Measure: Service Delivery

The ABS *Service Delivery Charter*, outlines the ABS's commitment to providing quality customer service, and describes the products and services that users can expect when they approach the ABS for information. The charter offers guidance to customers wishing to provide compliments, or register complaints, on any aspect of customer relationships or service. A quality customer service experience is crucial to the ABS maintaining a high level of use and confidence in its products. The Customer Services program report in Chapter 5 contains further information on ABS initiatives to improve the distribution of and engagement with ABS products.

Informing Decisions – Australian Bureau of Statistics Service Delivery Charter 2008–2011 (ABS cat. no. 1007.0) outlines the service standards for the ABS, and can be accessed on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au>.

Performance against these service standards for 2010–11 can be found in Table 8.10.

Table 8.10: Target and actual performance against service standards for 2010–11

Performance Standard	Target (%)	2009–10 Actual Performance (%)	2010–11 Actual Performance (%)
General enquiries			
Answer 85% of calls to our telephone enquiry service within 30 seconds (between the hours of 8:30am and 5:00pm (EST), Monday to Friday)	85	85	85
Acknowledge the receipt of 99% of email enquiries within five working days	99	99	99
Respond to 90% of Enquiry Form correspondence within five working days	90	99	99
Consultancy services			
Provide 90% of quotes for information consultancy services within three working days of receiving the customer's final specifications	90	86	94
Provide 90% of information consultancy services within five working days, or to a timeframe negotiated between the customer and the consultant	90	72 (a)	77
Complaints			
Acknowledgment of a service delivery complaint within one working day of receipt	100	75	88
Response from the Director, Client Services in the relevant ABS office, within five working days	100	75	77
Website			
Commence publishing to website at 11:30am (EST) Monday to Friday	100	100	100
Ensure the website is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, subject to events out of our control	100	100	100
Advertise website unavailability for maintenance purposes one working day prior to the website being unavailable	100	100	100
Fix 99% of broken web page links within 3 working days of notification by a customer	99	99	100 (b)
Refer 99% of 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	99	n.a. (c)	n.a. (c)
CURF Microdata			
Acknowledge the receipt of 99% of microdata enquiries within one working day	99	93	98
Provide a full response to 85% of microdata enquiries within five working days	85	96	95
Dispatch 90% of CURF microdata products within 15 working days of receipt of the completed application form	90	90	100
Provide 90% of new CURF users with access within five working days to a CURF already approved for use in that organisation	90	85	100

(a) based on sample for Central Office and New South Wales service only. National service level unavailable due to data quality issues.

(b) Fixed or referred to content owner.

(c) No requests received.

Measure: Use of ABS products***ABS website***

The ABS website is the primary access point for the majority of users of ABS information, with website visits increasing by approximately 900,000 on the previous year to a total of 8.4 million visits in 2010–11. In September 2010, the ABS introduced improved search functionality to the website. The increase in visits compared with the reduction in the number of pages viewed per visit indicates that visitors are able to find what they need in fewer clicks. 'Rate this site' search ratings have improved by 100% since moving to the improved system.

Table 8.10 details the number of pages viewed, pages published, and products downloaded in 2010–11. The decline in products downloaded in the context of increased visits to the website may be a result of an increase in the number and quality of HTML publications, reducing the need to download additional files.

Finalist in Government 2.0 awards

The ABS web development sandpit, BetaWorks™, was a finalist in the Government 2.0 award. BetaWorks™ is an open invitation to the Australian community to assist the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) with identifying, prioritising and developing concepts for the ABS web site. It enables new web design concepts and enhancements to be showcased to the community and facilitates feedback. This feedback is used to realign concept priorities and validate future directions based on needs of the community. BetaWorks™ generates keen discussion and provides vital information on customer wants and needs in particular areas of the ABS website, demonstrating how the ABS is active, listening and responding to customer ideas. It is an effective web 2.0 solution for client consultation.

As a finalist, BetaWorks was recognised as demonstrating excellence in the use and effectiveness of Government 2.0 tools to improve agency and program performance. BetaWorks™ was applauded for improving engagement with the public and supporting open and transparent operations.

National Information and Referral Service (NIRS)

The National Information and Referral Service is a free service that provides the main entry point for those seeking assistance finding information, including statistical data from the ABS. NIRS provide phone and email services to clients. The number of emails received by NIRS in 2010–11 was similar to that in 2009–10, as shown in table 8.11.

The number of calls answered decreased by nearly nine per cent between 2009–10 and 2010–11, possibly due to the increased functionality of the ABS website.



Senator Kate Lundy awarding Julia Harris (ABS) with finalist award in the Gov 2.0 competition.

Confidentialised unit record files

Confidentialised unit record files (CURFs) are special data for special research. CURFs provide valuable source of data for researchers in government, universities and for organisations in the not-for-profit and private sectors.

CURFs consist of records of individual responses to ABS surveys from persons, households or organisations. These records have been modified to protect respondent confidentiality. In all cases, information such as names and addresses has been removed, and a variety of statistical techniques have been applied to further ensure respondent confidentiality is maintained.

Basic CURFs are the most confidentialised CURFs available and are provided on CD-ROM. Expanded CURFs provide more detailed data than Basic CURFs, are slightly less confidentialised and hence are available only in the more secure environments of the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL™) and the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL). Specialist (customised) CURFs are produced to client requirements and are only available in the ABSDL.

The RADL™ enables approved users to submit statistical queries to be run on CURFs. Users do not access the data directly, and there are checks and controls in the system to maintain the security of the data. During 2010–11, 248 researchers from 67 organisations completed 34,771 jobs in RADL™, up from 28,849 jobs in 2009–10. Details are presented in Table 8.10.

The ABSDL is a microdata processing environment located in ABS premises. It provides a more interactive processing environment than the RADL™ for the analysis of Expanded and Specialist CURFs.

Table 8.11: Number of accesses by types of access, 2007–08 to 2010–11

Type of Access	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11
Website				
Visits to website (sessions)	–	–	7,451,497	8,352,307
Number of web pages viewed (a)	36,844,298	50,907,654	54,983,668	52,646,145
Pages published	45,371 (c)	45,371 (d)	84,716 (b)	96,513
Products downloaded (a)	3,301,444	1,479,636	1,823,852	1,767,282
National Information and Referral Service				
Emails	15,772	16,293	18,388	18,230
Calls completed	56,739	50,716	55,893	51,039
Information Consultancy Service				
Consultancies dispatched	3,751	2,968 (e)	2,396	1,958
Secondary Providers				
Number	245 (f)	33	32	NA (k)
Remote Access Data Laboratory				
Organisations active on RADL™(h)	60	73	70	67
Individuals active on RADL™(i)	173	189	254	248
Statistical programs executed (j)	19,305	16,160	28,849	34,771

- (a) Data for pages viewed and products downloaded have been rebased. Rebased refers to the process by which ABS uses the most recent results (in this case, 2009–10) to revise all prior estimates. Rebased ensures that the time series are comparable with the latest estimates made using the latest available tools. The rebasing of page views embraces current web analytic methodologies in that it excludes the influence of internal staff web access, indexing/spidering and robots, and single-session page revisits. The rebasing of downloads was necessary due to the decommissioning of legacy infrastructure and implementation of a new web analytics tool.
- (b) Includes approximately 100,000 Census first release pages
- (c) The 2008–09 ABS Annual Report had this figure published as 193,515. This was a cumulative total and has been corrected in this edition.
- (d) The 2008–09 ABS Annual Report had this figure published as 238,886. This was a cumulative total and has been corrected in this edition.
- (e) The 2008–09 ABS Annual Report had this figure incorrectly listed as 3,968.
- (f) Includes 32 secondary distributors who incur a licence fee for on-selling purchased data.
- (g) Re-calculation of the RADL usage figures has shown that slightly fewer organisations and individuals actively used RADL in 2005–06 than was shown in previous issues of the ABS Annual Report. The number of statistical programs executed remains unchanged over the same period.
- (h) Organisations active on RADL refers to organisations with users who executed statistical programs in RADL during the period shown.
- (i) Individuals active on RADL refers to registered RADL users who executed statistical programs in RADL during the period shown.
- (j) Statistical programs executed refers to jobs run in RADL during the period shown.
- (k) This figure is no longer available. ABS now releases the majority of its data with Creative Commons licensing which means that secondary providers no longer need to approach the ABS for permission to on-provide ABS data.

3. Appropriate use of statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies

The ABS has a lead role in maximising the utilisation of statistics, attaining comparability between collections undertaken by different agencies and avoiding duplication in the collection of statistics.

Coherent data gives all citizens and governments the ability to compare different aspects of Australia's society and economy, and to assess Australia's progress. The ABS produces a range of widely-adopted statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies that enable the production of a meaningful statistical picture of society and the economy. As the real world changes, statistics can lose their relevance if not updated, leading to a reduction in the quality and usefulness of the statistical information. In maintaining standards, the ABS must balance the potential for the decreased relevance of statistics against the significant cost of introducing new standards and the desire for comparability over time.

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

The ABS develops national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies which are applied, as appropriate, to all ABS statistical collections, including business and household surveys. The ABS takes a leading role by encouraging other Australian, state and territory government agencies to adopt these standards, frameworks and methodologies in their statistical activities. The ABS also works closely with other agencies involved in the development of standards and frameworks.

These standards are developed and implemented on the basis of consultation and input from a range of stakeholders and interest groups in the statistical and user community.

During 2010–11, the ABS developed a number of new standards, frameworks and methodologies, as described below.

Standard Economic Sector Classifications of Australia

The new edition of the Standard Economic Sector Classifications of Australia (SESCA 2008) was released in June 2009. This publication describes the suite of economic sector classifications which group businesses based on their economic behaviour and legal structure. It is also used in the compilation of the National Accounts, Government Finance and International Accounts statistics as well as other component economic indicators.

The revised SESA reflects the changes in the System of National Accounts (SNA) institutional sector classification as described in SNA 2008, and has been implemented with the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC 2006) in collections (other than the Government Finance Survey) and in the Australian National Accounts.

Australian Statistical Geography Standard

Statistical geography is used to define areas for the dissemination of statistics, supporting more informed decision making and better regional and small area analysis. In 2010–11, the first volume of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) was completed and published

More detail is available Chapter 5, Infrastructure programs.

Social Classifications

The Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups

The Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) is used in the collection, storage and dissemination of Australian statistical and administrative data relating to religious affiliation. The classification was originally developed in 1996 in response to wide community interest in the religious profile of the Australian population and the consequent need to for high quality, consistent statistical and administrative data on religious affiliation within Australia.

During 2010–11 the ABS completed a minor review of the ASCRG in preparation for its use in classifying religion data to be collected in the August 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The review was undertaken in consultation with users of religious data, key religious bodies, community groups and academics expert in the field. The revised classification is scheduled for release in July 2011.

Standard Australian Classification of Countries

The Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) is used in the collection, analysis and dissemination of Australian statistical data classified by country, and provides a single classificatory framework for both population and economic statistics. It was first released in 1998.

During 2010–11 the ABS conducted a minor review of the SACC in preparation for its use in classifying country of birth data to be collected in the August 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The review was undertaken in consultation with users, in particular the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The revised classification reflects current global circumstances and common used country groupings. It is scheduled for release in August 2011.

Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) developed the Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG) for use in the collection, storage and dissemination of Australian statistical and administrative data relating to ethnic and cultural identity, as well as ancestry. The classification was developed in 2000 in response to wide community interest in the cultural diversity of the Australian population and the consequent need to provide high quality, consistent statistical and administrative data on cultural and ethnic groups within Australia.

The ABS uses the classification in its own statistical work, for example, in classifying ancestry data from the Census of Population and Housing, and encourages the use of ASCCEG by other government agencies, community groups, and academic and private sector organisations collecting, analysing, or using information relating to ethnicity, cultural diversity and ancestry.

In 2010–11 a minor review of ASCCEG was undertaken to ensure the classification reflects Australia's current ethnic profile. The review involved consultation with users and producers of cultural diversity data, academics and experts, and ethnic and community groups. It is scheduled for release in August 2011.

Australian Standard Classification of Languages

The Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) provides a framework for the collection, storage and dissemination of Australian statistical data relating to the languages spoken in Australia. The classification was a response to wide community interest in the language usage of the Australian population and the consequent need to provide high quality, consistent statistical and administrative data on this topic. It was first published in 1997.

A minor review of ASCL was carried out during 2010–11 to ensure the currency of the classification in preparation for its use in coding responses to language-related questions reported in the August 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The review enabled improvements to the classification in terms of language coverage, particularly for Australian indigenous languages. The review of the classification involved extensive consultation with users and producers of language data, academic, and ethnic and community groups. The revised ASCL is scheduled for release in August 2011.

Further developments

Following the classification reviews of language, country, religion and cultural and ethnicity, in 2011–12 standards relating to language, country, the ancestry, and religious affiliation will be reviewed. Reviews will also commence on standards relating to labour force, family composition and household composition in 2011–12.

Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification

The Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC), 2011 (ABS cat. no. 1234.0) was released on 2nd June 2011. This publication was developed for use in the compilation and analysis of crime and justice statistics in Australia and New Zealand.

The objective of the ANZSOC is to provide a uniform national statistical framework for classifying criminal behaviour. The ANZSOC is used in Australian Bureau of Statistics statistical collections, Statistics New Zealand statistical collections, Australian police, criminal courts and corrective services agencies and New Zealand police and justice agencies.

The third edition, re-titled to ANZSOC, supersedes the second edition of the Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC) and incorporates a title change and corrections to some minor typographic errors. The classification content and structure remains unchanged from the second edition. The revised title reflects the international use of the framework to classify criminal behaviour and highlights the collaborative work occurring between Australia and New Zealand. The title change from ASOC to ANZSOC is also in accordance with the agreed policy between the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Statistics New Zealand to harmonise classifications where possible.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Framework

In 2010, the ABS developed an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Framework. The framework attempts to provide a holistic approach to the mapping of statistics about the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians. It is presented as a broad level document, balanced across selected themes or 'domains'. The nine domains of the framework for Indigenous wellbeing are:

- culture, heritage and leisure
- family, kinship and community
- health
- education, learning and skills
- customary, voluntary and paid work
- income and economic resources
- housing infrastructure and services
- law and justice
- citizenship and governance.

Within each domain, the elements covered are often of particular importance to Indigenous wellbeing or are greater in scope than in the wider Australian population. For example, the domains of 'Culture, heritage and leisure' and 'Citizenship and governance' have been raised as being of particular importance for many discussions on Indigenous wellbeing. Together the domains attempt to provide a holistic view of Indigenous wellbeing.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Framework will be used to guide the development of ABS Indigenous statistics, by providing an organisational structure to aid the identification of data gaps and areas for statistical improvements. The framework can also be used as a holistic guide for areas to consider when measuring Indigenous wellbeing and reviewing information priorities. The ABS encourages its use by other organisations as a concept map for the measurement of wellbeing.

Upgrading classification coding infrastructure – Next Generation Coders

Coding survey responses is an essential component of producing statistics. For complex topics such as occupation and industry, the existing coding tools currently code between 60% and 65% of Census responses automatically. The remaining 35% to 40% of responses require human intervention to code, and this is a costly and time-consuming process.

The ABS is investing in a project to upgrade its existing classification coding infrastructure (which dates back to the mid 1990s) to increase the level of automatic coding, whilst maintaining or improving coding quality. Evaluation of a proof-of-concept Next Generation coder prototype will be undertaken for Census 2011 (in parallel to the existing coding) and for new registrations on the Australian Business Register in 2011–12.

Data Quality Online

The ABS Data Quality Framework was endorsed by the Heads of Treasuries SPP Working Group (2008) as the framework for evaluating the quality of COAG performance indicators. The ABS has been working in collaboration with the Productivity Commission in developing an on-line data quality framework that prepares quality statements for the COAG National Agreement performance indicators across seven quality dimensions (Relevance, Timeliness, Accuracy, Coherence, Interpretability, Accessibility and Institutional Environment). The Data Quality Online (DQO) tool was designed and launched in March 2010 to help data suppliers apply the framework when preparing data quality statements.

A second release during August 2010 of a DQO 'general stream' has facilitated broader use by government agencies for assessing data quality for decision making across administrative and survey collections. The general stream is also being used to support the Report on Government Services indicators.

The DQO tool is a free online assistant available on the NSS website (<http://www.nss.gov.au>) and is based on a series of prompting questions for each of the seven quality dimensions. The website is being expanded to support a wider range of user groups and to encourage data custodians to declare and publicise quality declaration statements relating to their data.

Data and metadata standards

The ABS is an active participant in the Government 2.0 taskforce and the establishment of the www.data.gov.au website. The initiatives the ABS has instigated in developing and implementing data and metadata standards will improve the ABS capacity to contribute to these developments. In addition, they lay a foundation for other agencies in the broader government and statistical community to enhance the value of their individual contributions.

Methodological design developments

A number of methodological design initiatives were implemented in 2010–11; including:

- An innovative design of the Australian Health Survey
- Improved estimation procedures of the Indigenous population
- Enhanced weighting methodology for Household Income and Expenditure Survey
- Introduced web data collection to the Agricultural Census
- Methodological improvements to the coherence of economic statistics
- Established quality assurance mechanisms for the production of Estimated Resident Population
- Quality management materials to assist other agencies in their statistical processes
- Improved editing procedures for economic statistics.

For more detail see Chapter 5, Infrastructure programs.

Governance and institutional arrangements for statistical data integration

During 2010, as part of a framework designed to provide a safe and effective environment for data integration, the ABS and other Commonwealth agencies worked together to develop a set of governance and institutional arrangements for data integration involving Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes. In October 2010 the Secretaries Board (i.e. heads of all Commonwealth government agencies and the Australian Public Service Commission) endorsed the governance and institutional arrangements.

The arrangements include setting up a high level 'Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board' to provide leadership and help manage the risks around data integration. The Board is chaired by the Australian Statistician and includes the Secretaries of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; the Department of Health and Ageing; and the Department of Human Services. The Board met for the first time in March 2011.

The ABS will be engaging with a number of key external agencies in 2011–12 to provide methodological and analytical support to facilitate the undertaking of high quality data integration studies.

More information on the governance and institutional arrangements is in the special article in Chapter 2, Integrating Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes.

Enhancing user access to microdata in Australia

The ABS has developed a new Remote Execution Environment for Microdata (REEM), which enables the confidentialisation process to be applied to the outputs requested rather than the underlying microdata. This will enable users of statistics access to a wider array of datasets.

A limited number of datasets will be made available to external users in mid 2011, with additional datasets and functionality being developed and made available throughout 2011–12. For further information this initiative, see Chapter 5, Infrastructure programs, Analytical Services and Support.

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

The ABS is at the forefront of National Statistical Offices in developing and adopting international standards, frameworks and methodologies, either by directly adopting the published standards or by developing Australian derivatives which facilitate international comparability. All national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies can be aligned with international equivalents.

Information management is at the heart of standard, framework and methodology development and so a key strategic effort of the ABS is international collaboration in information management.

International collaboration effort and information management transformation

Australia is not alone in facing demands for better managed statistical information. Many other countries face the same challenges. The harmonisation of statistical production and information management approaches needed within Australia is also needed by many other National Statistical Institutions (NSIs).

Collaboration between NSIs on the development of the next generation of statistical infrastructure has gained momentum since the establishment of the Statistical Network in June 2010. The ABS has been instrumental in this development, providing the network Secretariat function and progressively developing governance and operating guidance to facilitate and promote effective collaboration.

The network includes NSIs from six countries (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden) and has been working on five projects (Operationalising a Common Metadata Information Management Framework (OCMIMF), Editing, Web Data Capture, Disclosure Control, and Innovation in Dissemination). The key goal is to harmonise statistical methods, systems and capabilities across the statistical institutions in the network. These projects were identified as important opportunities to promote collaboration to achieve mutual benefits across all participating NSIs.

Many NSIs have demonstrated a commitment to the International Collaboration Effort initiative and its longevity by incorporating the collaboration projects into their ongoing work programs. Project teams are currently working to collate and understand these requirements to produce business cases for consideration by the Statistical Network Steering Committee.

In the ABS, the International Collaboration Effort is a key stream of work under the ABS Information Management Transformation Program (IMTP). This program, which will be undertaken in a number of phases, seeks to substantially improve Australia's statistical system, centring on a robust information management framework and supporting infrastructure. Achievement of these objectives will realise benefits from better and broader research capability, improved policy development, better targeting of government service delivery, improved evaluation of government outcomes and a more competitive and innovative Australian economy.

In addition to performing the role of network secretariat, the ABS is leading the collaborative project to Operationalise a Common Metadata Information Management Framework (OCMIMF). This project is integral to the success of developing an end-to-end data management framework, and in the ABS, also falls under the IMTP.

At the conceptual level, ABS has led an international group developing a Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM). In simple terms, GSIM is an internationally agreed definition of information objects (such as questionnaires, classifications, etc) needed to produce official statistics. At a practical level, this means using internationally agreed metadata standards: SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange) and DDI (Data Documentation Initiative). Together they provide standard ways to describe the information objects defined in GSIM.

The project has sought to build understanding and capabilities within the ABS in relation to these information standards, from both the technical and business perspectives. This has included arranging visits from international experts in these standards, and collaborating with early 'pathfinder' projects applying these standards to support future ABS dissemination channels. Network partners have been exploring the potential of SDMX and DDI to provide a conceptual framework and practical facilities to support a coherent and integrated environment for the life cycle management of statistical data.

In March 2011, the ABS hosted discussions in Portugal between the two standards bodies responsible for developing SDMX and DDI. This event generated significant interest from participants in the GSIM work.

Senior staff from the ABS have made significant contributions to international dialogue about the strategic importance of statistical information management to the future of the international statistical system. This has included meetings in the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and in our local region at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

International classifications

In May 2011, the ABS was represented at the United Nations Expert Group (EG) on Classifications and Standards meeting in New York. The EG considered the following:

- the Family of International Classifications
- classification best practice guidelines
- classification review schedules
- implementation of international standard classifications
- product classifications; including energy, agriculture and trade classifications
- classification management systems
- communication with users.

The ABS is one of the lead agencies in reviewing the Classification of Environmental Activities, which will be presented to the 2012 UN Statistical Commission.

Australia/New Zealand classifications

The ABS and Statistics New Zealand are co-owners of two major statistical classifications, the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) and the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). The ABS meets with Statistics New Zealand biannually to ensure that the classifications remain relevant to the economies of both countries. In addition, best practice on the development and implementation of classifications and standards is also shared between the two organisations.

Macroeconomic statistics

The ABS made numerous contributions to macroeconomic standards frameworks and methods during 2010–11, including:

- an OECD lead task force developing standards for measuring financial services output, particularly the output paid for by interest margins
- the IMF lead international standards for reducing data gaps identified by G20 finance ministers
- the OECD standards project on use of household survey data in national accounts
- an OECD task force on standards for emissions trading schemes
- the UN/OECD/ECB handbook on compiling financial output, income, flows and balances
- the UN/OECD/IMF/BIS handbook on measuring financial securities
- the OECD handbook on house price measurement.

Government finance statistics manual

The ABS is currently participating in the review and update of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) *Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001* (GFSM 2001). The update of this international standard for Government Finance Statistics will ensure consistency with the *System of National Accounts 2008* (SNA08) and rectify inconsistencies in the current manual. It is expected that the IMF will release their revised GFSM during 2012.

To enhance the coherence of ABS macroeconomic statistics and to ensure that Australian Government Finance Statistics remain relevant, the ABS will subsequently update the *Australian System of Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods 2005* (GFS CSM 2005) to reflect the changes to the IMF GFSM. In addition to these changes, the ABS will review and update the GFS CSM 2005 to ensure that it fulfils the function of a standards document to underpin Australia's Government Finance Statistics. The update to the GFS CSM is expected to be finalised in 2012–13.

International Standard Classification on Education

In 2009 the UNESCO Institute for Statistics established a Technical Advisory Panel to make recommendations for the review of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) to reflect changes in education since its last revision in 1997. As part of the review the ABS, together with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, provided a consolidated Australian view on the proposed draft International Standard Classification on Education (ISCED) to UNESCO.

The ABS was also separately invited by the United Nations Expert Group on Economic and Social Classifications to comment on the proposed draft ISCED. ABS provided an assessment of the draft ISCED's suitability as a statistical classification against best practice guidelines.

The revised ISCED will be presented for adoption at the UNESCO General Conference late in 2011.

Microeconomic household statistics

The ABS has taken a leading role in two international groups which have been established to improve, expand and develop international standards and guidelines for the production and analysis of micro level household income, consumption and wealth statistics.

The *Canberra Group Handbook on household income statistics* was developed by an International Expert Group established at the initiative of the ABS in the mid 1990s. The Final Report and Recommendations of the Expert Group on Household Income Statistics (2001) was highly influential in the establishment of revised international standards for household income statistics, and has been widely used internationally as a guide for statistics in the field. At the initiative of the Conference of European Statisticians, and undertaken by an International Task Force led by the ABS, the Handbook has been updated over the past two years to reflect the latest international standards and best practice in household income measurement. The Second Edition of the Handbook will be published in late 2011.

More recently, in response to the recommendations of a number of international groups, including the Canberra Group and the Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Report), the OECD established an Expert Group to develop an international household income, consumption and wealth framework, and new standards and guidelines for the compilation of micro level household wealth statistics.

The Expert Group met for the first time in March 2011. It is being chaired by the ABS and comprises experts from 18 national statistical offices, the Statistical Offices of the European Community and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the European Central Bank and the Luxembourg Income Study. A work program for calendar years 2011 and 2012 has been developed, with draft publications covering the two areas of work expected to be produced in late 2012.

Time Use Statistics

The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) selected time use surveys (TUS) as a topic for an in-depth review to be carried out in November 2010. To obtain input from the CES members the topic was considered at the CES plenary session in June 2010.

The demand for time use data has been increasing over the past few years with a realisation that TUS data can be used to monitor economic performance and social progress. The Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report highlighted the capability of TUS data as an instrument to measure wellbeing. However, conducting a quality TUS is relatively expensive and is a budget issue for many national statistical offices to undertake regularly. The budget issue is compounded by limited best practice guidelines and the results from existing TUS have limited comparability internationally.

CES has set up a taskforce to prepare guidelines and compilations of best practice to help countries in carrying out the TUS and improve comparability of the TUS results at the international level. The ABS chairs this taskforce. The taskforce will present a final report at the end of 2012.

Gender statistics

The April 2010 UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics recommended undertaking work to identify key gender indicators related to internationally agreed policy goals. At its fifty-eighth plenary session in June 2010, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) recognised the need to continue work on gender statistics utilising high level expertise in member countries. A new task force on indicators of gender equality was formed, of which ABS is a member.

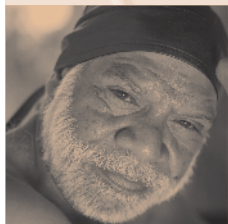
The objective of the Task Force is to improve the monitoring of gender equality in the UNECE region by consolidating and systematizing the existing proliferation of gender-relevant statistical indicators and by proposing sustainable data collection options for selected indicators. The task force will also develop a framework for grouping indicators by domains and a hierarchy of indicators (i.e. headline and supporting indicators).

The work of the Task Force began in December 2010 and will be completed by October 2012. The work is being conducted in the framework of the activities of the Conference of European Statisticians and the Task Force will present its final draft report to the CES Steering Group on Gender Statistics in October 2011. The Steering Group will provide comments for discussion at the Work session on gender statistics in April 2012. The report will be finalised by October 2012.

System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA)

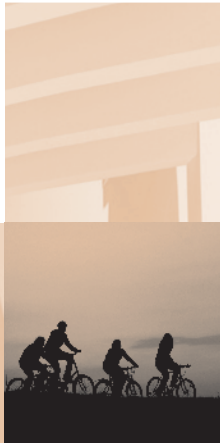
Environmental-economic accounting brings together economic and environmental information in a common framework to measure the contribution of the environment to the economy and the impact of the economy on the environment. The revised System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) will be the statistical standard for environmental-economic accounting just as the System of National Accounts is the statistical standard for economic accounts. SEEA will provide an internationally agreed set of recommendations expressed in terms of concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and standard tables in order to obtain international comparability of environmental-economic accounts and related statistics.

The revision of the SEEA is now entering final stages prior to its release as an internationally recognised statistical standard in 2012. In 2010–11 the ABS continued its significant contribution to this work through major contributions to the drafting of revised chapters and associated editorial deliberations.



Section 4

HOW THE ABS OPERATES



Chapter 9

ABS 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 current and emerging statistical priorities of users, and is consistent with the ABS 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 (see Appendix 2 – User groups advising the ABS);
- 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 level; and
- 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 the 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 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; and
- 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 2010–11 are outlined in the following table.

Table 10.1: Senior Management Committees for 2010–11

Executive Leadership Group meetings	The Executive Leadership Group (ELG) consists of the Australian Statistician (chair) and the four Deputy Australian Statisticians. ELG meetings are held fortnightly to ensure that ongoing attention is given to strategic issues that affect the future of the organisation, including giving high-level focus to the National Statistical Service and strategic client engagement.
Senior Management Group meetings	<p>Senior Management Group (SMG) meetings are held weekly to provide tactical management oversight of ABS operations and to advise the ELG on strategic and policy issues. The meetings ensure the ABS is a well-run organisation with well formulated work programs that are reviewed appropriately with proper consideration of cross-cutting issues. SMG meetings also address other issues, including information resource management, publishing and dissemination, human resources and accountability.</p> <p>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 Human Resources branches attend. Other senior officers attend as required for particular items. The ELG and the SMG meet jointly on a quarterly basis to discuss strategic and policy issues.</p>
ABS Management Meetings	<p>ABS Management Meetings play a major role in determining ABS strategic directions, priorities and resource allocations. These 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 Statistician of the Office of the Statistician attend.</p>
Capital Strategy Committee	<p>The Capital Strategy Committee (CSC) contributes to ABS planning and budgeting processes by ensuring ABS capital expenditure and funding are aligned with strategic directions in the longer term.</p> <p>The CSC is responsible for working with the Chief Financial Officer in developing and executing an ABS capital plan that is aligned with strategic directions and approved by the ABS Management Meeting.</p> <p>The CSC ensures the ABS has robust internal mechanisms for planning and managing capital assets and technology applications funding over the medium to long term.</p> <p>The Chief Operating Officer chairs the CSC meetings and SMG members attend. Meetings are held quarterly, with additional meetings scheduled as required for the planning and budgeting cycle.</p>

Audit Committee	<p>The Australian Statistician has established an Audit Committee in accordance with section 46 of the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>.</p> <p>The Audit Committee provides assurance to the Australian Statistician that the ABS has in place a comprehensive control framework for all its business systems, including those used to support statistical activities, and that this framework is working 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 seven members, two 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>
Protective Security Management Committee	<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 the corporate plan provide the context for decision making on the ABS forward work program.

While much of the ABS 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;
- The contribution statistical activities make to meeting National Statistical Service objectives; and
- 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 the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC). The statistical work program is then finalised, taking into consideration the advice provided by ASAC.

The Forward Work Program is published every year in hard copy, and is also available on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Audit and risk management

The ABS has a robust Risk Management Framework, which provides the basis for identifying, assessing and mitigating risks at all levels within the organisation. The framework is set out in the ABS's Risk Management Strategy. The strategy and framework 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 places 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.

On an annual basis, the ABS reviews and identifies strategic risks that have the potential to significantly impact on 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 determined. Each Risk Owner has responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the identified mitigation strategies. This approach provides clear ownership of risk mitigation responsibilities and the opportunity for the Executive to review the success of risk mitigation.

The ABS conducts operational risk workshops to assist program managers to identify and manage risks that have the potential to impact on program objectives.

Each year, a program of internal audits is developed to address performance and compliance risks to the ABS. These internal audits are undertaken by an external audit provider and are developed from identified auditable areas using an 'audit universe' (see text box) to take a risk-based assessment of topics.

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.

Audit Universe

In 2010–11, the ABS introduced an 'audit universe' to help guide and develop its internal audit and review program.

An audit universe takes a risk-based approach of high level auditable areas, including all key businesses processes, systems and activities to ensure a more objective, risk-based audit program is developed.

The ABS audit universe ensures all potential audits are risk-assessed, to determine their priority for inclusion in the annual audit program.

This risk assessment approach is conducted on an annual basis and includes an annual assessment of emerging areas of risks identified through the Enterprise Risks review and business planning processes.

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 2010–2012 ABS Fraud Control Plan in December 2010. The plan shows the ABS has a relatively low exposure to fraud, but also recommends some mitigating actions to provide increased protection in some areas. The ABS monitors progress against these recommendations and reports regularly to the Audit Committee.

An internal audit of the ABS Fraud Control Plan will be undertaken in 2011–12 and the plan will be reviewed and updated for release in 2012.

Security of premises

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

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 annual accreditation by the National Communications and Computer Security Advisory Authority, Defence Signals Directorate.

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 the ABS computing systems during 2010–11.

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

The ABS is subject to external scrutiny from a range of bodies. These include the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) and other advisory groups which comment on the ABS work program. For more information on ASAC, please refer to Chapter 2 – Overview of 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 Commonwealth Ombudsman during 2010–11.

The ABS's obligations under Freedom of Information are examined in Appendix 5. Information on submissions made to Parliamentary Committees, and documents tabled in Parliament by the ABS are available in Appendix 7 and 8 respectively. There were no adverse comments relating to the ABS from the Commonwealth Auditor General, the Commonwealth Ombudsman, Parliamentary Committees, or courts or tribunals during 2010–11.

Privacy

As an Australian government agency, the ABS must comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the associated Information 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 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, attending quarterly privacy officer network meetings and seeking advice on any new ABS initiatives about which privacy advocates may have concerns. Every year, the ABS contributes to the Privacy Commissioner's Personal Information Digest, which is published to inform the general public of the types of personal information that Australian government departments hold.

Chapter 10

Management of Human Resources



Introduction

The ABS Corporate Plan recognises and values ABS employees as the key to delivering our mission. The ABS depends on capable and motivated employees to achieve its objectives, and human resources management is a critical function within the agency. The ABS needs employees:

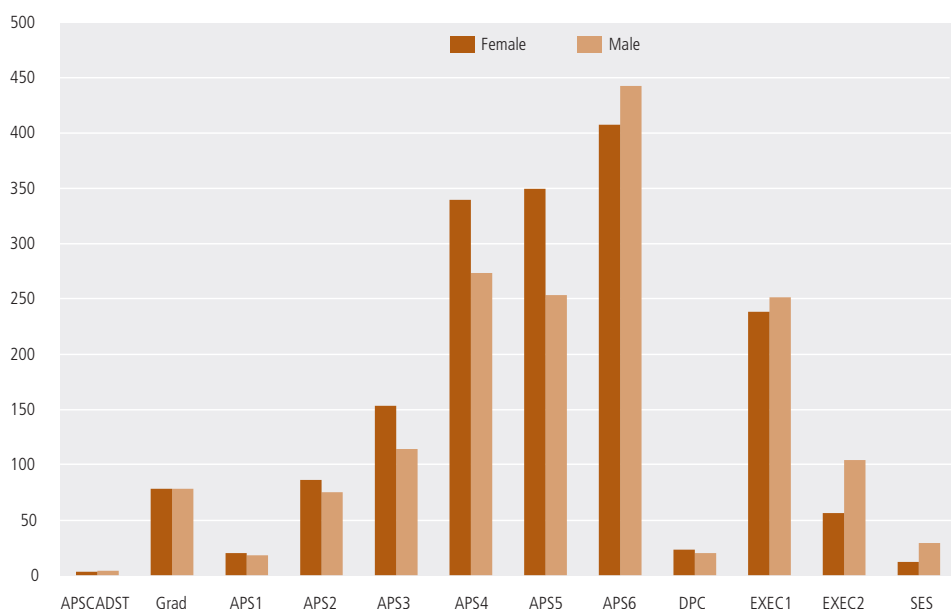
- who understand Australia's evolving information needs, and can assist the ABS to meet these needs;
- who recognise the changes to the ABS operating environment, and can help the ABS to adapt to those changes; and
- possess professional competencies and a commitment to both Australian Public Service (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 2011, there were 3,529 staff employed at the ABS under the *Public Service Act 1999* – 1,700 males and 1,829 females. This includes operative, paid inoperative and unpaid inoperative staff and staff working at the Census Data Processing Centre (DPC). The ABS had 3,425 operative and paid inoperative staff, as at 30 June 2011.

There were also 587 staff 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 staff were mostly household survey interviewers.

Graph 10.1 and tables 10.1 and 10.2 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 104 unpaid inoperative staff are excluded from the tables.

Graph 10.1: Employment classification by sex, 30 June 2011 (a)

(a) Operative and paid inoperative staff.

(b) Includes Australian Statistician (Statutory appointment).

(c) Includes Data Processing Centre.

Table 10.1: Number of ABS staff by location and status, at 30 June 2011 (a)

	Ongoing		Non-ongoing		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Central Office (ACT)	1369	229	88	115	1801
Data Processing Centre (Melbourne)	14		43	1	58
NSW	268	41	26	78	413
VIC	214	46	25	10	295
QLD	138	16	20	5	179
WA	131	29	34	5	199
SA	157	50	23	6	236
TAS	73	19	27	9	128
NT	34	6	37	31	108
ACT	7	1			8
Total	2405	437	323	260	3425

(a) Includes operative and paid inoperative staff.

At 30 June 2011 there were 11 women in the ABS Senior Executive Service (SES), representing 29.7% of the total number of SES officers in the ABS.

Table 10.2: Number of ABS Senior Executive Staff (SES) by level, sex and year (a)

Year (at 30 June)	SES Level			Sex		Total
	1	2	3	Male	Female	
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

(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 2008–2010.

Australian Public Service values in the ABS

Australian Public Service (APS) values are widely promoted and strongly observed throughout the ABS. The ABS Mission Statement reflects the apolitical nature of the ABS, as well as its commitment to the provision of comprehensive, accurate and timely advice.

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

- **Integrity** – data, analysis and interpretation are always apolitical with the highest standards of integrity upheld;
- **Service** – the ABS understands its service role and seeks to understand and meet its clients' statistical needs;
- **Professionalism** – the professionalism of employees is actively supported to ensure the ABS has the technical and leadership skills required for the future;
- **Relevance** – all information provided by the ABS is relevant in terms of timeliness and content;
- **Trust of providers** – the ABS maintains provider trust by adhering to the highest level of data protection and privacy standards; and
- **Access for all** – the ABS ensures its statistics can be easily accessed and used by the community, business and governments.

The importance of the APS values 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;
- reflected as appropriate throughout ABS corporate documents, which are readily accessible to all employees through the ABS Intranet; and
- advertised through promotional material including posters and the distribution of bookmarks 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 key objective of the plan is to ensure that we can continue to meet our mission, through our people. Four high-level national strategies have been identified to achieve this. These are:

1. Build core capability at all levels to improve organisational and individual performance;
2. Strengthen leadership to help ensure organisational sustainability;
3. Improve our ability to attract and retain people with the right skills, at the right place, at the right time; and
4. 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 very closely aligned with the 'Key Focus Areas for Commonwealth Agencies' that were identified in the 2008–09 Australian Public Service Commission report into the *State of the Service*.

Training and Development

Training activities across the ABS are designed to ensure that the current and future ABS workforce is equipped to deliver on the ABS mission and strategic directions. This requires a dual focus on building core capability to sustain current business operations while simultaneously developing executive leadership capability to transform the ABS.

The training focus continues to be on Leadership and Management, Understanding the Business of the ABS, Professional Expertise and Information Technology.

The review of training programs offered to ABS staff continues to be an essential element to ensure alignment with current organisational priorities and strategies. The continual development of middle management (Executive Level 1 and 2) is a critical component of the capability development strategy during 2010–11. Further there has been an increased effort in providing Senior Executive Staff with development opportunities, especially for new officers to SES level.

The delivery of Information Technology development has been focused on the maintenance of the existing suite of development options, together with exploring more efficient ways of providing MS Office programs, for example utilising on-line learning options.

Table 10.5: ABS Employee Training

	Total ABS Operative Staff (b) (e)	Attendance Days	Average Training Days
2004–05	2,630	12,562	4.8
2005–06	2,865	16,163 (c)	5.6
2006–07	3,065	13,491 (c) (d)	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	3,416	12,054	3.5

(a) Exclude on-the-job training.

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

(c) Figures revised down since first published, as more accurate information has since become available.

(d) Excludes Census Data Processing Training.

(e) Increase due to commencement of Census Management Unit operations.

A new learning management system, Workplace Collaborative Learning (WCL) has been implemented. This has been put in place as a temporary measure prior to the implementation of a broader human resource system.

The ABS is committed to providing a range of opportunities for all employees to enhance their skills and qualifications, to meet the current and future skill requirements. As part of this commitment, a range of development initiatives have occurred, such as: Accelerated on-boarding which is a process to get new starters job ready; the Graduate Development Program; the Graduate Certificate of Statistics; and the future implementation of a Graduate Leadership Program and the Strategic Executive Program. In addition, the ABS continues to fund a Study Support Program offering paid study leave and financial assistance to approved students.

The delivery of 'technical and professional expertise' programs will focus on targeting these offerings in a timely and flexible way to meet the needs of ABS Staff. Training and Development will also be initiating a review of these programs so that they are meeting the needs of individuals and the business.

Recruitment

Effective and targeted recruitment continues to be a priority area for the ABS. Recruitment projects in 2010–11 included:

- finalising the centralisation of 'end-to-end' recruitment functions in the ABS NSW office as part of the Corporate Services Improvement Program;
- developing an annual Recruitment Plan to focus system and process improvements;
- reconfiguring our e-recruitment system and related administrative processes to better support business needs;
- commencing a process of segmenting our target candidate markets and developing tailored attraction strategies, including reviewing our employer brand;
- exploring innovative approaches to recruitment including the use of social media; and
- continuing to focus on Indigenous recruitment, with participation in the Australian Public Service Commission Indigenous Pathways programs.

Graduate Recruitment



The ABS Graduate Development Program is extremely valuable to the agency in identifying new talent and helping to secure our future. Graduate recruitment forms a significant part of the ABS's succession planning and entry level recruitment strategy.

In 2010–11, the ABS welcomed 161 graduates into the ABS Graduate Program, an increase of 96% on the 82 graduates from 2009–10. The 2012 graduate recruitment campaign is progressing with the number of graduates expected to commence with the ABS in January 2011 being of similar size to 2011.

The National Graduate Development Program includes a two-day induction program in Central Office Canberra as well as nationally coordinated training events during the program.

Workplace Health and Safety

Overview

The ABS is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace and meeting its responsibilities under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991 (OH&S Act)* and the *Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRC Act)*. A dedicated National Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) team in the Victorian Office, complemented by representatives in all the other ABS offices, ensures the requirements of the *OH&S Act* and *SRC Act* are met.

Consultation and Communication

The ABS has a network of WHS committees in which employees' WHS issues are addressed. There is a Regional Health and Safety Committee (RHSC) in each office, as well as a presiding National Health and Safety Committee (NHSC). In 2010–11, 4 employees were elected as Employee Representatives for RHSCs. These 4 committee members; consisting of management, employee and union representatives, all received Health and Safety Committee training during the year. The ABS had 97% WHS communication compliance with regard to holding planned WHS committee meetings.

The ABS has continued to meet its commitments under the ABS Health and Safety Management Arrangements (HSMAs). During 2010–11, the current HSMA was reviewed in consultation with all ABS staff. Several proposed improvements included:

- Clarifying Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) roles and responsibilities;
- Clarifying Health and Safety Representative (HSR) responsibilities, and the inclusion of detailed election procedures;
- Updating the process for reporting incidents and investigations, in particular for field interviewers;
- Outlining RHSC meeting procedures and the inclusion of a standard agenda and meeting template; and
- The development of dispute resolution procedures.

Training

Within the ABS, there are a number of WHS positions filled by employees who represent their colleagues, and ensure the ABS upholds its WHS duty of care. These positions include First Aid Officers, Health and Safety Representatives and Wardens. Of the WHS positions filled, a total of 86 employees received training over this period. Refer to Appendix 13 – Table 1.0.

Incidents and Investigations

The ABS reported 11 notifiable incidents to Comcare in 2010–11.

Additionally, no Comcare WHS investigations were undertaken in the ABS and no Provisional Improvement Notices, Improvement Notices or Prohibition Notices were issued.

Workplace Injuries and Illnesses

The Lost Time Injury Incidence Rate is the number of lost time injuries per 100 FTE employees. For 2010–11, this rate was 1.3. Refer to Appendix 13 – Figure 1.0 and 1.1.

During 2010–11, the employee assistance provider usage rate for office-based staff was 6.73% and 1.57% for PSO Interviewers. The primary work issues for accessing the service were conflict with supervisor or manager, and work satisfaction. Refer to Appendix 13 – Table 1.4 and Figure 1.4.

Workers' Compensation

The total number of workers' compensation claims for 2010–11 was 31. Refer to Appendix 13 – Figure 1.3.

Table 1.1: ABS Premium Group claims incidence (number)

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11
Number of accepted claims	42	28	31

The ABS's Comcare premium rate for 2010–11 was 1.39% of total salary (including GST). Details of the ABS and the agency pool average premium rates are presented in Appendix 13 – Table 1.3.

Table 1.2: Comcare workers' compensation premium rate (a, b)

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11
ABS	1.42	1.37	1.39
All agencies combined average	1.36	1.25	1.20

a) Figures taken as a percentage of wage and salary expenditure; 35% of which is attributed to ABS conducting the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

b) The slight increase from 2009–10 to 2010–11 also includes the estimated costs of claims for injuries suffered in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Attendance Management

The unscheduled absence rate for 2010–11 was 11.3 days per full-time equivalent employee. In 2009–10, the ABS averaged 11.5 days. This compares with the APS median rate of 12.6 days for large agencies for 2009–10, and 10.5 days APS-wide.

In 2010–11, the ABS continued its proactive approach to the management of unscheduled leave in order to improve attendance management. Initiatives included the management accountability for organisational performance through inclusion of regular reporting data. These reports provide detailed information on the amount and type of unscheduled leave taken within each resource centre, and help to identify high areas of incidence for further consideration and action.

Table 1.2: Unscheduled leave absence rates (average number of days absent) 2008–09 – 2010–11.

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11
ABS	12.7	11.5	11.3
APS Median Rate	12.4	10.2	N/A*

*The 2010–11 APS figures were not available at the time of production of the 2010–11 ABS annual report.

Achievements

Measures taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees during 2010–11 included:

- An ongoing review and development of the ABS's WHS policy framework based on risk management principles. This included a review of: the influenza pandemic flu response plan; Managers Handbook; HSMA's; Interviewers WHS and remote travel manual; Interviewers' development program and Electrical Safety policies.
- Education and awareness of employees and managers of WHS responsibilities, injury prevention, and risk management. This was accomplished through regular news points and induction training for all new staff. In conjunction with these initiatives, and to complement the 2012 harmonisation of WHS laws, the team also met with senior executives to discuss legislative changes.
- Completion of the National Hazard and Inspection Program (NHIP) which identified 445 hazards across the ABS's 36 designated work groups. To assist in tracking the completion of assigned actions to hazards, a risk matrix and actions register were introduced in October 2010. 86% of all actions have been completed. In addition, all high risk hazards have been addressed.
- Work commenced on the development of a targeted Workplace Health and Wellbeing Program; one of the outcomes of the National Health Assessment Program (NHAP) held in May-June 2010. The NHAP established the baseline for the health risk profile of ABS staff. Further to this, the WHS team implemented the following initiatives:
 - ABS National 10,000 Steps Walking Challenge in which 135 teams, totalling 1,260 participants engaged nationally. Overall the ABS walked a total of 586 million steps. This equates to an average of 7,755 per person per day;
 - A number of Health Seminars were run by PPC Worldwide such as: Managing Workplace Conflict, Self Care for Carers and Working with Respect – Bullying and Harassment. A combined total of 1513 employees viewed these seminars;
 - ABS International Men's Health Week during which a seminar was held with guest speaker, Stan Alves; AFL Coach, media personality and successful businessman. The

week aimed to promote awareness of preventable health problems, and the early detection and treatment of diseases among men;

- Improved WHS reporting through the ABS Quarterly Health and Safety Indicators Report January – March 2011; and
- The National Flu Vaccination program was conducted across all offices from April to May 2011, with 639 employees participating in the program.

Consultation in the ABS

The ABS is committed to communication, cooperation and effective consultation with employees and, where they choose, their representatives, about matters that affect their workplace.

The ABS consultative framework includes:

- Line managers who have the key responsibility for communication and consultation in the workplace;
- Consultative forums in each resource centre, including each regional office;
- The National Forum, which includes ABS management, employee and union representatives and which meets at least biannually; and
- Representatives of unions meeting with management as necessary.

A review of ABS consultative arrangements was completed in early 2011 and the benefits of maintaining a culture of consultation and cooperation were recognised. The recommendations from this review are being implemented and include the development of training and best practice guides, the development of a change management framework to facilitate the effective management of major change, and improved arrangements for the national and local consultative forums.

Extraordinary meetings of the National Forum were scheduled to discuss the results of the 2010 National Employee Survey, and the corporate and local strategies that had been put in place to respond to the results. Issues discussed at the last National Forum held in March 2011, included shaping the organisational structure of the ABS for the future, the People Plan, the 2011 National Employee Survey, the Executive Level (EL) Innovation Competition, the Review of ABS Consultative Arrangements, Enterprise Bargaining, the Report from National Health and Safety Committee, bulk round processes, the Performance Management Review, career advancement in Regional Offices for EL staff and the ABS Graduate Leadership Program.

Agreement Making

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

- The *Australian Bureau of Statistics Enterprise Agreement 2009–2011* which covers office-based employees;
- The *Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011, Census of Population and Housing, Data Processing Centre Enterprise Agreement 2010–2012* which covers non-ongoing Census Data Processing Centre employees; and
- 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 Certified Agreement 2005–2011* which covers home-based Interviewers; and
- A collective Determination under s.16(3) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* which covers Census field employees working on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

During 2010–11, the ABS bargained three enterprise agreements to cover office-based employees, home-based Interviewers and non-ongoing Census Data Processing Centre employees. The *Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011, Census of Population and Housing, Data Processing Centre Enterprise Agreement 2010–2012* came into effect in March 2011. At the time of writing, the ABS had completed the bargaining for the enterprise agreements for office-based employees and home-based Interviewers and arrangements for ballots were underway.

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 2011 are as follows:

- ABS employees covered by a Section 24(1) determination:
 - Senior Executive Service (SES): 37 (includes all SES, not just substantive, operative SES employees referred to in Table 10.2)
 - Non-SES employees: 0
- ABS employees covered by the ABS Enterprise Agreement 2009 – 2011: 3,489
- ABS employees covered by the ABS Interviewers Certified Agreement 2005–2011: 587.

The ABS Salary System

The *ABS Enterprise Agreement 2009–2011* outlines the salary arrangements for ABS employees.

In 2010–11, salary increases for APS1 to EL2 employees were paid from 8 July 2010, with three components to the salary increases:

- a general salary increase of 3% for all employees, where the minimum and maximum amounts of the salary ranges were increased by 3%. Table 10.3 shows the salary ranges for ABS employees with the general salary increase factored in; and
- a performance based increase equivalent to a one pay point movement (2.5% of the minimum of the relevant salary range) for all employees rated as Effective or better, subject to the maximum of the salary range not being exceeded; and
- for employees rated as Outstanding, a one-off lump sum bonus payment of 2% of the minimum of the relevant salary range after the general salary increase was applied. During 2010–11, the total amount paid as one-off lump sum payments was \$305,670 and it was paid to 208 employees. Table 10.4 shows the performance bonus payments by employee classification for 2010–11.

A five point salary range was introduced from 8 July 2010 for each classification. Employee salaries were transitioned to the new salary ranges by applying the salary advancement provisions outlined in clause 15 of the *ABS Enterprise Agreement 2009–2011*, subject to the maximum of the salary range not being exceeded i.e. employee salaries were not forced to align with the new pay points.

Table 10.3: Salary ranges by classification as at 30 June 2011

Classification	Minimum (\$)	Maximum (\$)
Australian Public Service (APS) Level		
APS1 (Adult)	37,691	41,460
APS2	42,658	46,924
APS3	48,584	53,442
APS4	54,693	60,162
APS5	61,004	67,104
APS6	69,389	76,328
Executive Officer Level (EL)		
EL1	84,921	93,413
EL2	107,364	118,100
Senior Executive Service (SES) Level		
SES Band 1	142,028	176,294
SES Band 2	176,294	204,727
SES Band 3	204,727	na (b)

(a) The APS1 to EL2 and SES Band 1 to SES Band 3 salary ranges took effect from 8 July 2010.

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

Table 10.4: Annual performance bonus payments by level, 2010–11 (a)

Classification	Number of employees at each level who received a bonus	Amount (b) paid to employees at each level who received a bonus (\$)	Aggregate (\$)
Australian Public Service (APS) level			
APS1	0	N/A	0
APS2	0	N/A	0
APS3	10	972	9,720
APS4	29	1,094	31,726
APS5	19	1,220	23,180
APS6	74	1,388	102,712
Executive Officer (EL)			
EL1	53	1,687	89,411
EL2	23	2,127	48,921
Senior Executive Service (SES) level			
SES1, SES2, SES3	0	N/A	0
Total	208		305,670

(a) In previous ABS annual reports performance pay tables included performance linked advancements to a higher pay point. The 2010–11 figures represent just the one off bonus payment component, and not the increases that become a part of an employee's nominal salary.

(b) All eligible staff receive a bonus payment of 2% of the minimum of the relevant salary range.

Recognition and reward

The ABS operates a Recognition and Reward Scheme, which recognises exceptional one-off achievements by individual employees and work groups. Rewards may be made in the form of hospitality (such as work group morning teas) and prepaid vouchers.

During 2010–11 the ABS undertook a review of its Recognition and Reward Scheme which resulted in a decision to introduce an annual Statistician Award(s) for extraordinary contribution by individuals as well as agreement to develop organisational guidelines to ensure consistent conduct of Recognition and Reward in the ABS.

Total ABS expenditure for the scheme in 2010–11 was \$115,351

Performance Management in the ABS

ABS is committed to being a high-performing public agency focused on achieving excellence through helping people to be the best they can be. To this end, 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.

The new DPF provides an opportunity for all employees to connect their individual efforts with the ABS's strategic direction. Employees are encouraged to demonstrate insight and thinking beyond current practice. The innovation of its people is critical for the ABS to increase business performance and maintain organisational sustainability.

In the last year, the ABS senior management group have lead the focus on improved people management within the ABS.

The following key initiatives have been implemented to market and support the Development and Performance Framework:

- SES have played a leading role in facilitating the cascading of Development and Performance Agreements in their Resource Centres and Branches to ensure agreements are complementary to each other and collectively aimed at achieving the objectives of the ABS;
- New DPA templates and supporting documents and tools have been released;
- Work has commenced on the development and roll out of suite of manager capability programs focused on improving organisational and individual performance;
- 'Managing for Good Performance' sessions have been rolled out nationally. These sessions focused on promoting a culture where our leaders develop talent to promote innovation and continuous improvement and demonstrate our corporate values through action; and
- The Managers Handbook and relevant guidelines have been reviewed and updated to reflect best practice people management and ensure consideration of people management issues in all ABS decisions.

Chapter 11

Management of Assets



The ABS's assets are integral to the cost-effective conduct of its business, and are part of the combination of resources required to enable delivery of services. This chapter outlines the asset management principles, including the approach to purchasing, used by the ABS during 2010–2011.

The ABS directly manages its non-financial assets in accordance with Chief Executive Instructions and Australian Accounting Standards. The total value of assets are \$139.3 million. Most of the assets are intangible (internally generated software), and were valued at \$77.8 million in 2010–2011. Tangible assets (leasehold improvements and property, plant and equipment) were valued at \$53.4 million with other non-financial assets (prepayments and accrued revenue) valued at \$8.1 million. Tangible asset values are maintained with the assistance of an independent valuer.

Asset management in the ABS

Principles

Overall, the 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
- service delivery needs to guide asset management practices and decisions
- asset planning and management are integrated with corporate and business plans, as well as budgetary and reporting processes
- capital expenditure decisions are based on evaluations of alternatives that take into account full life-cycle costs, benefits and risks of assets, and
- ownership, control, accountability and reporting requirements for assets are established, clearly communicated and implemented.

Planning and managing information and technology assets

Information technology asset plans are developed each financial year and inform the development of the annual asset plan. The asset program is funded through the Departmental Capital Budget, which was finalised with the Federal Government in 2010, under Operation Sunlight. The investment program includes corporate and cross-cutting strategic investments, prioritised within funding levels. The investment window is for four years, with an annual rolling program reviewing and re-prioritising investments as required.

The first review of the health of statistical and business applications in the ABS was completed late in 2009 and is now updated annually. It provides a good baseline of the business value and technical fit of the ABS applications portfolio. The information from this portfolio is already informing the planning for investment and replacement of information and communications technology intangible assets over the medium to long-term.

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 assets 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 Guidelines, 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.

Through the use of efficient processes and effective application of the 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 for the ABS. The ABS continues to invest in developing procurement skills and reviewing processes to ensure that efficiency and value-for-money outcomes are achieved.

The ABS has not undertaken any competitive tendering and contracting activities during the year that have resulted in the contracting out of government activities previously performed by the ABS.

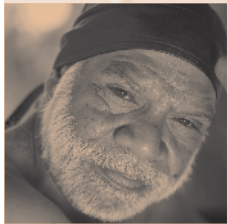
Information relating to expenditure on contracts and consultancies is available on the AusTender website: <http://www.tenders.gov.au>.

Exempt contracts

During the 2010-2011 financial year, the ABS did not exempt any contracts from publication by AusTender, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Section 5

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Assistant Treasurer

Scope

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2011, which comprise: a Statement by the Australian Statistician and Chief Financial Officer; Statement of Comprehensive Income; Balance Sheet; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Schedule of Contingencies; Schedule of Asset Additions; Schedule of Administered Items and Notes comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

The Responsibility of the Australian Statistician 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 the Australian Statistician determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that 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 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

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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.

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 2011 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



John Jones

Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

11 August 2011

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 2011 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.....

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

11 August 2011

Signed.....

Michael Belcher
Chief Financial Officer

11 August 2011

Australian Bureau of Statistics
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period ended 30 June 2011

	Notes	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
EXPENSES			
Employee benefits	3A	283,141	237,708
Supplier expenses	3B	109,494	84,212
Depreciation and amortisation	3C	30,558	27,305
Finance costs	3D	66	167
Write-down and impairment of assets	3E	2,591	2,768
Other		124	132
Total expenses		425,974	352,292
LESS:			
OWN-SOURCE INCOME			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	32,353	28,012
Other Revenue		124	453
Total own-source revenue		32,477	28,465
Gains			
Sale of assets	4B	6	16
Other	4C	125	126
Total gains		131	142
Total own-source income		32,608	28,607
Net cost of services		393,366	323,685
Revenue from Government	4D	354,851	327,928
Surplus (Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government		(38,515)	4,243
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation reserves		887	-
Total other comprehensive income		887	-
Total comprehensive income (loss) attributable to the Australian Government		(37,628)	4,243

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
BALANCE SHEET
as at 30 June 2011

	Notes	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5A	4,037	3,561
Trade and other receivables	5B	66,354	41,604
Total financial assets		70,391	45,165
Non-Financial Assets			
Leasehold improvements	6A,6B	30,959	27,437
Property, plant and equipment	6A,6B	22,385	20,852
Intangibles	6C,6D	77,805	82,638
Other	6E	8,148	7,710
Total non-financial assets		139,297	138,637
Total assets		209,688	183,802
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	7A	29,745	30,964
Unearned revenue	7B	18,434	5,671
Other	7C	9,812	6,976
Total payables		57,991	43,611
Interest Bearing Liabilities			
Loans	8A	-	1,699
Total interest bearing liabilities		-	1,699
Lease Incentives			
Lease incentives	9A	6,146	7,321
Total lease incentives		6,146	7,321
Provisions			
Employee provisions	10A	77,843	76,296
Other	10B	5,785	-
Total provisions		83,628	76,296
Total liabilities		147,765	128,927
Net assets		61,923	54,875
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		63,894	19,218
Reserves		18,075	17,188
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)		(20,046)	18,469
Total equity		61,923	54,875

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the period ended 30 June 2011

	Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)		Asset revaluation reserves		Contributed equity/capital		Total equity	
	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Opening balance								
Balance carried forward from previous period	18,469	14,226	17,188	17,188	19,218	18,203	54,875	49,707
Adjusted opening balance	18,469	14,226	17,188	17,188	19,218	18,203	54,875	49,707
Comprehensive income								
Other comprehensive income	-	-	887	-	-	-	887	-
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	(38,515)	4,243	-	-	-	-	(38,515)	4,243
Total comprehensive income	(38,515)	4,243	887	-	-	-	(37,628)	4,243
of which:								
Attributable to the Australian Government	(38,515)	4,243	887	-	-	-	(37,628)	4,243
Transactions with owners:								
Distributions to owners:								
Returns of capital:								
Restructuring (Note 11)	-	-	-	-	-	(378)	-	(378)
Contributions by owners:								
Appropriation (equity injection)	-	-	-	-	623	1,303	623	1,303
Departmental capital budget	-	-	-	-	44,053	-	44,053	-
Sub-total transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	44,676	925	44,676	925
Closing balance at 30 June	(20,046)	18,469	18,075	17,188	63,894	19,218	61,923	54,875
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	(20,046)	18,469	18,075	17,188	63,894	19,218	61,923	54,875

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
CASHFLOW STATEMENT
for the period ended 30 June 2011

	Notes	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Goods and services		51,277	26,833
Net GST received		7,951	5,947
Appropriations		339,577	320,454
Total cash received		398,805	353,234
Cash used			
Employees		278,758	230,932
Suppliers		124,480	87,813
Borrowing costs		66	167
Total cash used		403,304	318,912
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	12	(4,499)	34,322
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		51	89
Total cash received		51	89
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		9,831	11,395
Purchase of intangibles		13,268	16,908
Leasehold improvements		3,618	3,176
Total cash used		26,717	31,479
Net cash used by investing activities		(26,666)	(31,390)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations - contributed equity		33,340	952
Total cash received		33,340	952
Cash used			
Repayment of borrowings		1,699	1,608
Total cash used		1,699	1,608
Net cash from financing activities		31,641	(656)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		476	2,276
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		3,561	1,285
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	5A	4,037	3,561

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
as at 30 June 2011

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
BY TYPE		
Commitments receivable		
GST recoverable on commitments	(17,299)	(15,199)
Total commitments receivable	(17,299)	(15,199)
Capital commitments		
Property, plant and equipment	5,446	5,710
Total capital commitments	5,446	5,710
Other commitments		
Operating leases	172,164	150,075
Other	12,682	11,407
Total other commitments	184,846	161,482
Net commitments by type	172,993	151,993
BY MATURITY		
Commitments receivable		
One year or less	(4,288)	(3,819)
From one to five years	(11,943)	(10,155)
Over five years	(1,068)	(1,225)
Total other commitments receivable	(17,299)	(15,199)
Capital commitments		
One year or less	5,446	5,710
Total capital commitments	5,446	5,710
Operating lease commitments		
One year or less	33,754	24,894
From one to five years	126,664	111,702
Over five years	11,746	13,479
Total operating lease commitments	172,164	150,075
Other commitments		
One year or less	7,971	11,407
From one to five years	4,711	-
Total other commitments	12,682	11,407
Net commitments by maturity	172,993	151,993

NOTE:

Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS (Continued)

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 2011.

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 schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES
as at 30 June 2011

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Contingent assets		
Indemnities	-	-
Claims for damages or costs	968	-
Total contingent assets	<u>968</u>	<u>-</u>
Contingent liabilities		
Indemnities	-	-
Claims for damages or costs	-	3,435
Total contingent liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>3,435</u>
Net contingent assets (liabilities)	<u>968</u>	<u>(3,435)</u>

Details of each class of contingent liabilities and contingent assets listed above are disclosed in Note 13 Contingent liabilities.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
SCHEDULE OF ASSET ADDITIONS
for the period ended 30 June 2011

The following non-financial non-current assets were added in 2010-11:

	Leasehold improvements	Property, plant and equipment	Computer software internally generated	Computer software purchased	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Additions: funded in the current year					
By purchase - appropriation ordinary annual services					
Departmental capital budget	3,083	9,581	7,569	4,521	24,754
By purchase - appropriation other services					
Equity injections	-	250	477	-	727
By purchase - other	535	-	701	-	1,236
Total funded additions funded in the current year	3,618	9,831	8,747	4,521	26,717
Additions recognised in 2010-11 to be funded in future years					
Makegood	5,785	-	-	-	5,785
Total future years/unfunded additions	5,785	-	-	-	5,785
Total additions	9,403	9,831	8,747	4,521	32,502

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
SCHEDULE OF ASSET ADDITIONS (Continued)

The following non-financial non current assets were added in 2009-10:

	Leasehold improvements	Property, plant and equipment	Computer software internally generated	Computer software purchased	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Additions: funded in the current year					
By purchase - appropriation ordinary annual services	3,176	11,395	8,702	7,254	30,527
By purchase - equity appropriation	-	-	952	-	952
Total additions	3,176	11,395	9,654	7,254	31,479

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED ITEMS
for the period ended 30 June 2011

	Notes	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Income administered on behalf of Government <i>for the period ended 30 June 2011</i>			
Non-taxation revenue			
Fines ¹	17	-	-
Other ²	17	8	49
Total non-taxation revenue		8	49
Total revenues administered on behalf of Government		8	49
Total income administered on behalf of Government		8	49
 Administered cash flows <i>for the period ended 30 June 2011</i>			
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Fines		-	-
Other		8	49
Total cash received		8	49
Net increase in cash held		8	49
Cash at beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Cash to the Official Public Account		8	49
Cash at the end of the reporting period	17	-	-

¹The 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 schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
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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 Australian Bureau Of Statistics

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is an Australian Government controlled 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 statistics, and population and social statistics groups. Indirect costs for support services have been allocated to the economic, population and social statistical groups in Note 22 Reporting of Outcomes in the Financial Statements.

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 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 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 2010; 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 on the balance sheet 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 unrealised 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.

Administered revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and cash flows reported in the Schedule of Administered Items and related notes are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items.

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 eleven leases for office space around Australia. All of the lease agreements include a make good clause.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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 seven leases, it is not considered probable that the make good requirement would 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.

In the 2009-10 financial statements, the consideration for make good in three state offices was disclosed as a contingent liability as the make good at that time was considered unlikely to occur. In the 2009-10 financial statements no makegood arrangements were disclosed in Other Provisions.

Revaluation of Computer Hardware Assets

Computer hardware assets have been revalued by an independent valuer as at 30 June 2011.

Actuary Review of Employee Entitlements

Employee entitlements have been reviewed by an independent actuary as at 30 June 2011.

No other accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next accounting period.

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.

The following new standards, amending standards, and interpretations were issued prior to the signing of the statement by the Australian Statistician and Chief Financial Officer, and are applicable to the current reporting period but did not have a financial impact on the entity.

Standard	Nature of Change	Impact
AASB 1	First-time Adoption of Australian Accounting Standards – February 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 3	Business Combinations - June 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 7	Financial Instruments: Disclosures – June 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 8	Operating Segments – May 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 118	Revenue – May 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 121	The Effects of Changes in Foreign exchange rates – June 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 128	Investments in Associates – June 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 131	Interests in Joint Ventures – June 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 132	Financial Instruments: Presentation – June 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 139	Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement – December 2009 (compilation)	No impact
Interpretation 19	Extinguishing Financial Liabilities with Equity Instruments – December 2009 (principle)	No impact

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Future Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

The following new standards, amending standards, and interpretations were issued prior to the signing of the statement by the Australian Statistician and Chief Financial Officer, and are applicable to the future reporting periods and are not expected to have a future financial impact on the entity.

Standard	Nature of Change	Impact
AASB 1	First-time Adoption of Australian Accounting Standards – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 3	Business Combinations – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 4	Insurance Contracts – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 5	Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discounted Operations – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 8	Operating Segments – December 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 9	Financial Instruments – December 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 107	Statement of Cash Flows – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors – December 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 110	Events after the Reporting Period – December 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 112	Income Taxes – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 118	Revenue – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 119	Employee Benefits – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 121	The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 124	Related Party Disclosures – December 2009 (principle)	No impact
AASB 132	Financial Instruments: Presentation – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 134	Interim Financial Reporting – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 137	Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 139	Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 140	Investment Property – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 1023	General Insurance Contracts – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Standard	Nature of Change	Impact
AASB 1031	Materiality – December 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 1053	Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards – June 2010 (principle)	No impact
AASB 1054	Australian Additional Disclosures – May 2011 (principle)	No impact
AASB 2010-2	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements – June 2010	No impact
AASB 2010-6	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosures on Transfers of Financial Assets – November 2010	No impact
AASB 2010-7	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 – December 2010	No impact
AASB 2010-8	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Deferred tax: Recovery of Underlying Assets – December 2010	No impact
AASB 2010-9	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Severe Hyperinflation and removal of Fixed Dates for First-time Adopters – December 2010	No impact
AASB 2011-1	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Trans-Tasman Convergence Project – May 2011	No impact
AASB 2011-2	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Trans-Tasman Convergence Project – Reduced Disclosure Requirements – May 2011	No impact
AASB 2011-3	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Orderly Adoption of Changes to the ABS GFS Manual and Related Amendments – May 2011	No impact
Interpretation 4	Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease – December 2009 (compilation)	No impact
Interpretation 115	Operating Leases – Incentives – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
Interpretation 127	Evaluating the Substance of Transactions Involving the Legal Form of a Lease – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
Interpretation 132	Intangible Assets – Web Site Costs – October 2010 (compilation)	No impact
Interpretation 1039	Substantive Enactment of Major tax Bills in Australia – December 2009 (compilation)	No impact
Interpretation 1052	Tax Consolidation Accounting – December 2009 (compilation)	No impact

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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.

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 entity.

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 entity.

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 and Comcover recoveries.

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 end of reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

Parental Leave Payments Scheme

The ABS offsets amounts received under Parental Leave Payments Scheme (for payment to employees) by amounts paid to employees under that scheme, because these transactions are only incidental to the main revenue-generating activities of the entity. Amounts received by the entity not yet paid to employees would be presented gross as cash and a liability (payable). The total amount received under this scheme is disclosed as a footnote to Note 4D: Revenue from Government.

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 agency or authority as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements (Refer to Note 1.8).

Sale of Assets

Gains from disposal of non-current assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

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 7B).

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

1.8 Transactions with the Australian 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 in that year.

Restructuring of Administrative Arrangements

Net assets/liabilities received from or relinquished to another Australian Government agency or authority under a restructuring of administrative arrangements are recognised as contributions or distributions of equity respectively, at their net book value. In 2009-10 the ABS relinquished to the Australian Taxation Office assets in relation to the Standard Business Reporting Program (SBR) (Refer Note 11).

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 Agency 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 apply at the time the leave is taken, including the ABS' employee superannuation contribution rates to the extent that 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 2011. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

A 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 by the Department of Finance and Deregulation as an administered item.

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. 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.

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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.

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 benefits incidental to ownership of leased non-current 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 Borrowing Costs

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

1.13 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 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 loans and receivables, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the Assets's carrying amount and

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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.

1.14 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).

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 rate 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.

1.15 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the balance sheet but are disclosed in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset, or represent an existing liability or asset 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.

1.16 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 agency's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.17 Property, Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the balance sheet, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000 (\$1,000 for IT assets and purchased software, and all internally generated software assets), 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).

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Revaluations

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

Asset Class:	Fair Value Measured at:
Leasehold Improvements	Depreciated replacement cost
Property, plant and equipment	Market selling price

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets do not materially differ from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reverse 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.

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 made 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:

	2011	2010
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 2011. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment 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.

1.18 Intangibles

The ABS' intangibles comprise internally generated software and purchased software. 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.

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All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2011.

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 6C). 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 2011. Impairment on intangibles is recognised in Note 3E.

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.

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:

	2011	2010
Computer software (proprietary)	Lease term	Lease term
Computer software (internally generated)	5-10 years*	5-10 years*

The above table outlines the range of life in years for computer software, however, the average life is currently 8 years (2009-10: 8 years).

The aggregate amount of amortisation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 3C.

1.19 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 property, plant and equipment, and intangibles balances.

Software assets are not depreciated until the year in which the development phase is completed and the asset is operational. Where use of the asset commences after substantial completion of the development phase, but some improvements or enhancements to the system continue to be made, the date of substantial completion is treated as the date of completion and depreciation commences from that date.

1.20 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.

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1.21 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.

1.22 Taxation

The ABS is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- for receivables and payables.

1.23 Reporting Of Administered Activities

Administered revenues, assets, and cash flows are disclosed in the schedule of administered items and related notes. There are no administered expenses, liabilities, contingencies or commitments in 2010-11, nor were there any in 2009-10.

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 and Deregulation. 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 statement of cash flows in the schedule of administered items and in the administered reconciliation table in Note 17.

Revenue

All administered revenues are revenues relating to the core operating 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.

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 2. Events Occurring 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 2011.

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 3. Expenses		
<u>Note 3A. Employee Benefits</u>		
Wages and salaries	217,298	184,722
Superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	12,685	8,203
Defined benefit plans	20,696	23,348
Leave and other entitlements	8,618	10,513
Interviewer wages	11,246	12,502
Interviewer superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	673	1,280
Defined benefit plans	1,306	854
Census field staff wages	13,322	249
Census field staff superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	1,135	21
Defined benefit plans	35	1
Separations and redundancies	3,103	4,606
Other employee expenses	1,771	1,063
	<u>291,888</u>	<u>247,362</u>
Less amounts capitalised for IGSW	<u>(8,747)</u>	<u>(9,654)</u>
Total employee benefits	<u>283,141</u>	<u>237,708</u>

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 3B. Suppliers		
Goods and services		
Consultants	2,509	2,998
Contractors	7,067	4,877
IT related	12,881	10,275
Printing and subscriptions	5,615	5,959
Property related	7,202	6,314
PSO interviewer related	4,668	4,665
Recruitment and employment related	5,001	2,806
Stationery and postage	7,075	3,334
Travel and training	17,758	12,671
Other	5,915	2,633
Total goods and services	75,691	56,532
Goods and services are made up of:		
Provision of goods – related entities	364	482
Provision of goods – external parties	21,757	17,536
Rendering of services – related entities	5,107	5,231
Rendering of services – external parties	48,463	33,283
Total goods and services	75,691	56,532
Other supplier expenses		
Operating lease rentals - external parties:		
Minimum lease repayments	31,056	24,495
Workers compensation expenses	2,747	3,185
Total other supplier expenses	33,803	27,680
Total supplier expenses	109,494	84,212
Note 3C. Depreciation and Amortisation		
Depreciation		
Property, plant and equipment	14,837	11,810
Total depreciation	14,837	11,810
Amortisation		
Intangibles:		
Computer software	15,721	15,495
Total amortisation	15,721	15,495
Total depreciation and amortisation	30,558	27,305
Note 3D. Finance Costs		
Loan from Government	66	167
Total finance costs	66	167

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	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 3E. Write-Down and Impairment of Assets		
Asset write-downs and impairments from:		
Impairment on intangible assets	870	80
Impairment of financial instruments	8	3
Asset write-offs	1,713	2,685
Total write-down and impairment of assets	2,591	2,768

Note 4. Income

REVENUE

Note 4A. Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services

Provision of goods - related entities	1,430	1,530
Provision of goods – external parties	34	5
Rendering of services – related entities	30,179	26,385
Rendering of services – external parties	710	92
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	32,353	28,012

GAINS

Note 4B. Sale of Assets

Property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	51	89
Carrying value of assets sold	(26)	(40)
Selling expense	(19)	(33)
Net gain from sale of assets	6	16

Note 4C. Other Gains

Resources received free of charge	125	125
Other	-	1
Total other gains	125	126

REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT

Note 4D. Revenue from Government*

Appropriations:		
Departmental appropriation	354,851	327,928
Total revenue from Government	354,851	327,928

*The ABS received \$20,520 (2010: Nil) under the Paid Parental Leave Scheme; these amounts were offset against the amounts paid to employees in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 5. Financial Assets		
Note 5A. Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	4,037	3,561
Total cash and cash equivalents	4,037	3,561
Note 5B. Trade and Other Receivables		
Goods and Services:		
Goods and services - related entities	1,578	2,518
Goods and services - external parties	1,082	950
Total receivables for goods and services	2,660	3,468
Appropriation receivable:		
For existing programs	63,471	36,861
Total appropriations receivable	63,471	36,861
Other receivables:		
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	106	489
Sundry receivables	117	786
Total other receivables	223	1,275
Total trade and other receivables (net)	66,354	41,604
Receivables are expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months	66,354	41,604
Total trade and other receivables (net)	66,354	41,604
Receivables are aged as follows:		
Not overdue	65,921	41,478
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	184	77
31 to 60 days	156	19
61 to 90 days	28	11
More than 90 days	65	19
Total receivables (gross)	66,354	41,604

All trade receivables are current assets. Credit terms are net 30 days (2009-10: 30 days). The ABS has no provision for doubtful debts and all receivables are expected to be recovered.

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 6. Non-Financial Assets		
<u>Note 6A. Property, Plant and Equipment</u>		
Leasehold improvements:		
Fair value	39,731	28,567
Work in progress	1,251	3,012
Accumulated depreciation	(10,023)	(4,142)
Total leasehold improvements	30,959	27,437
Other property, plant and equipment:		
Fair value	27,086	33,962
Accumulated depreciation	(4,701)	(13,110)
Total other property, plant and equipment	22,385	20,852
Total property, plant and equipment	53,344	48,289

The ABS reviewed the fair value of property, plant and equipment assets as at 30 June 2011, and found that the fair value of those assets was not materially different to the carrying value as reported.

All revaluations are independent and are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1.17. On 30 June 2011, the Australian Valuation Office conducted a revaluation on the computer hardware asset class.

A revaluation increment of \$686,767 (2010: Nil) was credited to the asset revaluation reserve and included in the equity section of the balance sheet. No decrements were expensed (2010: Nil).

No indicators of impairment were found for property, plant and equipment.

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 6B. Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment (2010-11)

	Leasehold improvements \$'000	Other property, plant and equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2010			
Gross book value	31,579	33,962	65,541
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	(4,142)	(13,110)	(17,252)
Net book value 1 July 2010	27,437	20,852	48,289
Additions:			
By purchase	3,618	9,831	13,449
Make good	5,785	-	5,785
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	887	887
Reclassification	-	(5)	(5)
Depreciation/amortisation expense	(5,881)	(8,956)	(14,837)
Disposals:			
Other disposals	-	(26)	(26)
Write-offs	-	(198)	(198)
Net book value 30 June 2011	30,959	22,385	53,344
Net book value as of 30 June 2011 represented by:			
Gross book value	40,962	27,086	68,068
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	(10,023)	(4,701)	(14,724)
	30,959	22,385	53,344

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 9B: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment (2009-2010)

	Leasehold improvements \$'000	Other property, plant and equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2009			
Gross book value	28,168	24,382	52,550
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	(2)	(6,890)	(6,892)
Net book value 1 July 2009	28,166	17,492	45,658
Additions:			
By purchase	3,176	11,395	14,571
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Reclassification	226	(226)	-
Depreciation expense	(4,131)	(7,679)	(11,810)
Disposals:			
Write-offs	-	(90)	(90)
Other disposals	-	(40)	(40)
Net book value 30 June 2010	27,437	20,852	48,289
Net book value as of 30 June 2010 represented by:			
Gross book value	31,579	33,962	65,541
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	(4,142)	(13,110)	(17,252)
	27,437	20,852	48,289

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 6C. Intangibles		
Computer software:		
Internally generated - in progress	6,473	6,854
Internally generated - in use	151,262	148,768
Purchased	20,452	17,553
Accumulated amortisation	(99,004)	(90,019)
Accumulated impairment losses	(1,378)	(518)
Total computer software	77,805	82,638
Total intangibles	77,805	82,638

No intangibles are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 8D. Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles (2010-11)

	Computer software internally generated \$'000	Computer software purchased \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2010			
Gross book value	155,622	17,553	173,175
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	(83,062)	(7,475)	(90,537)
Net book value 1 July 2010	72,560	10,078	82,638
Additions:			
By purchase	-	4,521	4,521
Internally developed	8,747	-	8,747
Impairments recognised in the operating result	(870)	-	(870)
Reclassifications	-	5	5
Amortisation	(12,522)	(3,199)	(15,721)
Disposals:			
From disposal of operations	-	-	-
Write-offs	(1,364)	(151)	(1,515)
Net book value 30 June 2011	66,551	11,254	77,805
Net book value as of 30 June 2011 represented by:			
Gross book value	157,735	20,452	178,187
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	(80,806)	(9,198)	(90,004)
Accumulated impairment losses	(1,378)	-	(1,378)
	66,551	11,254	77,805

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Note 8D: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles (2009-10)

	Computer software internally generated \$'000	Computer software purchased \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2009			
Gross book value	158,714	12,358	171,072
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	(80,179)	(6,615)	(86,794)
Net book value 1 July 2009	78,535	5,743	84,278
Additions:			
By purchase		7,254	7,254
Internally developed	9,654	-	9,654
Impairments recognised in the operating result	(80)	-	(80)
Reclassifications	-	-	-
Amortisation	(13,139)	(2,356)	(15,495)
Disposals:			
From disposal of operations	-	(378)	(378)
Write-offs	(2,410)	(185)	(2,595)
Net book value 30 June 2010	72,560	10,078	82,638
Net book value as of 30 June 2010 represented by:			
Gross book value	155,622	17,553	173,175
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	(82,544)	(7,475)	(90,019)
Accumulated impairment losses	(518)	-	(518)
	72,560	10,078	82,638

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 6E. Other Non-Financial Assets		
Accrued revenue	103	423
Prepayments	<u>8,045</u>	<u>7,287</u>
Total other non-financial assets	<u>8,148</u>	<u>7,710</u>
Total other non-financial assets are expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months	6,190	5,480
More than 12 months	<u>1,958</u>	<u>2,230</u>
Total other non-financial assets	<u>8,148</u>	<u>7,710</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

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
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Note 7. Payables

Note 7A. Suppliers

Trade creditors and accruals	15,613	15,568
Sundry creditors	27	130
Operating lease rentals	14,105	15,266
Total suppliers payable	29,745	30,964

Supplier payables expected to be settled within 12 months:

Related entities	34	714
External parties	17,183	16,424
Total	17,217	17,138

Supplier payables expected to be settled in greater than 12 months:

Related entities	-	-
External parties	12,528	13,826
Total	12,528	13,826
Total suppliers payable	29,745	30,964

Settlement is usually made within 30 days.

Note 7B. Unearned Revenue

Unearned revenue	18,434	5,671
Total unearned revenue	18,434	5,671

Total unearned revenue is expected to be settled in:

No more than 12 months	17,367	5,671
More than 12 months	1,067	-
Total unearned revenue	18,434	5,671

Note 7C. Other Payables

Salaries and wages	8,026	5,601
Superannuation	1,050	875
Separations and redundancies	736	500
Total other payables	9,812	6,976

Total other payables are expected to be settled in:

No more than 12 months	9,812	6,976
More than 12 months	-	-
Total other payables	9,812	6,976

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 8. Interest Bearing Liabilities		
Note 8A. Loans		
Loans from Government	-	1,699
Total loans	-	1,699
Payable:		
Within one year	-	1,699
Total loans	-	1,699

The loan was issued in 2001-02 and was repayable in quarterly instalments ending in 2010-11.

The interest rate on the loan was 6.12%.

Note 9. Lease Incentives

Note 9A. Lease Incentives

Lease incentives	6,146	7,321
Total lease incentives	6,146	7,321
Payable:		
Within one year	1,214	1,210
In one to five years	4,917	5,774
In more than five years	15	337
Total lease incentives	6,146	7,321

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 10. Provisions		
<u>Note 10A. Employee Provisions</u>		
Leave	77,843	76,296
Total employee provisions	77,843	76,296
Employee provisions are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	19,323	19,353
More than 12 months	58,520	56,943
Total employee provisions	77,843	76,296
<u>Note 10B. Other Provisions</u>		
Make good provision	5,785	-
Total other provisions	5,785	-
Other provisions are represented by:		
No more than 12 months	-	-
More than 12 months	5,785	-
Total other provisions	5,785	-
	Make good provision	Total
	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying amount 1 July 2010	-	-
Additional provisions made	5,785	5,785
Amounts used	-	-
Amounts reversed	-	-
Unwinding of discount or charge in discount rate	-	-
Closing balance 30 June 2011	5,785	5,785

The ABS currently has four agreements for the leasing of premises which have provisions requiring the entity to restore the premises to their original condition at the conclusion of the lease. The entity 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

	2011	2010
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 11. Restructuring

Note 11A. Departmental Restructuring

As a result of a restructuring of administrative arrangements, the Australian Bureau of Statistics relinquished responsibility for the following function (Refer Note 1.8):

Standard Business Reporting

In respect of functions relinquished, the following assets and liabilities were transferred by the Australian Bureau of Statistics:

Assets relinquished:

Purchased software	-	378
Net assets relinquished	-	378

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 12. Cash Flow Reconciliation		
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow Statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash Flow Statement	4,037	3,561
Balance Sheet	4,037	3,561
Difference	-	-
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from operating activities:		
Net cost of services	393,366	323,685
Add revenue from Government	354,851	327,928
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Net gains from sale of assets	(25)	(49)
Depreciation and amortisation	30,558	27,305
Net writedown of assets	2,583	2,765
Changes in assets/liabilities		
Decrease/(increase) in net receivables	(13,414)	(8,658)
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	-	29
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	1,547	4,706
Increase/(decrease) in suppliers payable	(1,219)	7,730
(Increase)/decrease in other non financial assets	(438)	(765)
Increase/(decrease) in unearned revenue	12,763	(4,082)
Increase/(decrease) in lease incentives	(1,175)	(972)
Increase/(decrease) in other payables	2,836	2,070
Net cash from / (used by) operating activities	(4,499)	34,322

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 13. Contingent Liabilities and Assets

	Claims for damages or costs		Total	
	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Contingent assets				
Balance from previous period	-	245	-	245
New	968	-	968	-
Re-measurement	-	-	-	-
Assets recognised	-	(245)	-	(245)
Expired	-	-	-	-
Total contingent assets	968	-	968	-
Contingent liabilities				
Balance from previous period	3,435	3,465	3,435	3,465
New	-	-	-	-
Re-measurement	-	(5)	-	(5)
Liabilities recognised	-	(16)	-	(16)
Obligations expired	(3,435)	(9)	(3,435)	(9)
Total contingent liabilities	-	3,435	-	3,435
Net contingent assets (liabilities)	968	(3,435)	968	(3,435)

Quantifiable Contingencies

The Schedule of Contingencies reports contingent assets in relation to an insurance claim for \$942,831, and a claim for costs of \$25,000 (2010 : Nil). There are no contingent liabilities reported (2010: \$3,435,000). The amounts represent an estimate of the ABS' liability based on reasonable expectations.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Note 14. Senior Executive Remuneration		
<u>Note 14A. Senior Executive Remuneration Expense for the Reporting Period</u>		
Short-term employee benefits		
Salary (including annual leave taken)	7,259,234	5,709,494
Annual leave accrued	71,138	49,086
Performance bonus	7,500	2,085
Other ¹	1,018,662	830,389
Total short-term employee benefits	<u>8,356,534</u>	<u>6,591,054</u>
Post-employment benefits		
Superannuation	1,195,160	988,383
Total post-employment benefits	<u>1,195,160</u>	<u>988,383</u>
Other long-term benefits		
Long-service leave	240,109	379,186
Total other long-term benefits	<u>240,109</u>	<u>379,186</u>
Termination benefits		
	81,439	330,431
Total	<u>9,873,242</u>	<u>8,289,054</u>

Notes:

1. 'Other' includes motor vehicle allowances and other allowances.
2. Note 14A was prepared on an accrual basis (so the performance bonus expenses disclosed above differ from the cash 'Bonus paid' in Note 14B).
3. Note 14A excludes acting arrangements and part-year service where remuneration expensed was less than \$150,000.
4. A senior executive in the prior year has been excluded in 2010-11 comparatives as the salary bandwidth for reporting was increased to \$150,000.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 14B. Average Annual Remuneration Packages and Bonus Paid for Substantive Senior Executives as at the end of the Reporting Period

Fixed Elements and Bonus Paid ¹	Senior Executives No.	as at 30 June 2011				as at 30 June 2010			
		Fixed Elements		Total	Bonus paid ²	Fixed Elements		Total	Bonus paid ²
		Salary	Allowances			Salary	Allowances		
Total Remuneration (including part-time arrangements)									
\$150,000 to \$179,999	20	146,358	23,596	169,954	375	140,987	23,596	164,583	329
\$180,000 to \$209,999	15	172,986	24,068	197,054	-	165,968	24,050	190,018	-
\$210,000 to \$239,999	3	204,538	24,776	229,314	-	196,757	24,776	221,533	-
\$240,000 to \$269,999	3	241,183	25,956	267,139	-	234,158	25,956	260,114	-
\$420,000 to \$449,999	1	357,790	80,970	438,760	-	343,690	77,682	421,372	-
Total	42								

Notes:

1. This table reports on substantive senior executives who are employed by the ABS as at the end of the reporting period. Fixed elements are based on the employment agreement of each individual - each row represents an average annualised figure (based on headcount) for the individuals in that remuneration package band (i.e. the 'Total' column).
2. Represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period. The 'Bonus paid' is excluded from the 'Total' calculation, (for the purpose of determining remuneration package bands). The 'Bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the ABS during the financial year.
3. Two senior executives on long term leave who are not on secondment to another entity have been included in 2010-11. (2009-10: 1).
4. Allowances available to senior executives include motor vehicle allowance.
5. Salary available to senior executives excludes superannuation, annual leave and long service leave.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Variable Elements:

With the exception of performance bonuses, variable elements are not included in the 'Fixed Elements and Bonus Paid' table above. The following variable elements are available as part of senior executives' remuneration package:

- a) Performance bonuses:
 - Senior executives who receive a rating for salary purposes of outstanding will receive a one-off lump sum payment of 2% of the minimum of the relevant salary range, after the general salary increase has been applied. The one off lump sum payment is taxable and will not count for superannuation purposes.
- b) On average senior executives are entitled to the following leave entitlements:
 - Annual Leave will accrue at the rate of 20 days for each full year worked and pro-rata for part time employees. Annual leave accrues daily and may be accessed as it accrues.
 - Long Service Leave will accrue and be available to eligible employees in accordance with the Long Service Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1976.
 - Personal leave will accrue at the rate of 18 days for each year worked and pro-rata for part time employees.
- c) Senior executives are members of one of the following superannuation funds:
 - The Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap). Senior executives also have the choice of commercial accumulation superannuation funds.
- d) Variable allowances:
 - Senior executives that do not participate in the ABS Executive Vehicle Scheme are entitled to an annual cash-out allowance in lieu of an executive vehicle.
 - Various salary sacrifice arrangements are available to senior executives including superannuation and motor vehicle.

Note 14C. Other Highly Paid Staff

During the reporting period, there were no employees whose salary plus performance bonus were \$150,000 or more in their payment summary, where the employees did not have a role as a senior executive. (2010 : Nil). This was calculated by reference to the gross payments line on employee's payment summary.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011	2010
	\$	\$

Note 15. Remuneration of Auditors

Financial statement audit services are provided free of charge to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The fair value of the services provided was:

Australian National Audit Office	125,000	125,000
	<u>125,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>

No other services were provided by the Australian National Audit Office.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011	2010
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 16. Financial Instruments

Note 16A. Categories of Financial Instruments

Financial Assets

Loans and receivables:

Cash and cash equivalents	4,037	3,561
Trade and other receivables*	2,777	4,254

Carrying amount of financial assets	6,814	7,815
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Financial Liabilities

At amortised cost:

Loans from Government	-	1,699
Trade and sundry creditors	15,640	15,698

Carrying amount of financial liabilities	15,640	17,397
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Note 16B. Net Income and Expense from Financial Assets

Financial assets

Bad debts written off	8	3
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Net gain/(loss) from financial assets	8	3
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Note 16C. Net Income and Expense from Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities – at amortised cost

Interest expenses	66	167
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Net gain/(loss) from financial liabilities	66	167
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Note 16D. 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 16 Financial Instruments, trade and other receivables excludes appropriation receivable and GST receivable from the Australian Tax Office.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 16E. 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 (2011: \$2,776,948 and 2010: \$4,254,103).

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.

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,037	3,561
Trade and other receivables	2,777	4,254
Total	6,814	7,815

Credit quality of financial instruments not past due or individually determined as impaired

	Not past due nor impaired 2011 \$'000	Not past due nor impaired 2010 \$'000	Past due but not impaired 2011 \$'000	Past due but not impaired 2010 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	4,037	3,561	-	-
Trade and other receivables	2,344	4,128	433	126
Total	6,381	7,689	433	126

Ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2011

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade and other receivables	184	156	28	65	433
Total	184	156	28	65	433

Ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2010

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade and other receivables	77	19	11	19	126
Total	77	19	11	19	126

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 16F. 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 2011

	On demand \$'000	Within 1 year \$'000	1 to 2 years \$'000	2 to 5 years \$'000	> 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
Loans from Government	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trade and sundry creditors	-	15,640	-	-	-	15,640
Total	-	15,640	-	-	-	15,640

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities 2010

	On demand \$'000	Within 1 year \$'000	1 to 2 years \$'000	2 to 5 years \$'000	> 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
Loans from Government	-	1,699	-	-	-	1,699
Trade and sundry creditors	-	15,698	-	-	-	15,698
Total	-	17,397	-	-	-	17,397

Note 16G. Market Risk

The ABS holds basic financial instruments that do not expose the ABS to 'currency risk' or 'other price risk'.

Note 16H. Interest Rate Risk

The only interest-bearing item on the balance sheet is the Government Loan. The Government Loan bears interest at a fixed rate and will not fluctuate due to changes in the market interest rate.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Notes to the Schedule of Administered Items	2011	2010
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 17. Administered Reconciliation Table		
Opening administered assets less administered liabilities as at 1 July	-	-
Plus: Administered income	8	49
Administered transfers to/from Australian Government:		
Transfers to OPA	(8)	(49)
Closing administered assets less administered liabilities as at 30 June	-	-

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 18. Appropriations

Note 18A. Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

	2011 Appropriation							Appropriation applied in 2011 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance \$'000
	Appropriation Act		FMA Act						
			Section 30 \$'000	Section 31 \$'000	Section 32 \$'000	Total appropriation \$'000			
	Annual Appropriation \$'000	Appropriations reduced(a) \$'000	AFM(b) \$'000						
DEPARTMENTAL									
Ordinary annual services	354,851	-	-	1,292	45,787	-	401,930	382,619	19,311
Other services	44,676	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equity									
Total departmental	399,527	-	-	1,292	45,787	-	446,606	33,340	11,336
									30,647

Notes:

- Appropriation reduced under Appropriation Acts (No. 1.3.5) 2010-11: sections 10.11.12 and 15 and under Appropriation Acts (No.2, 4, 6) 2010-11: sections 12, 13, 14 and 17. 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 2010-11.
- Advance to the Finance Minister (AFM) – Appropriation Acts (No. 1.3.5) 2010-11: section 13 and Appropriation Acts (No. 2.4.6) 2010: section 15. No advances were made in 2010-11.
- The variance between the total appropriation and the appropriation applied for the reporting period is due to undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2010 being applied during the reporting period and there being undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2011, as detailed in note 18B.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2010 Appropriation						Appropriation applied in 2010 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance \$'000	
	Appropriation Act		FMA Act						
	Annual Appropriation \$'000	Appropriations reduced(a) \$'000	AFM(b) \$'000	Section 30 \$'000	Section 31 \$'000	Section 32 \$'000			Total appropriation \$'000
DEPARTMENTAL									
Ordinary annual services	327 928	-	-	946	23 626	-	352 500	342 750	9 750
Other services									
Equity	1 303	-	-	-	-	-	1 303	952	351
Total departmental	329 231	-	-	946	23 626	-	353 803	343 702	10 101

Notes:

- Appropriation reduced under Appropriation Acts (No. 1,3,5) 2009-10: sections 10,11,12 and 15 and under Appropriation Acts (No.2, 4, 6) 2009-10: sections 12, 13, 14 and 17. 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 2009-10.
- Advance to the Finance Minister (AFM) – Appropriation Acts (No. 1,3,5) 2009-10: section 13 and Appropriation Acts (No. 2,4,6) 2010: section 15. No advances were made in 2009-10.
- The variance between the total appropriation and the appropriation applied for the reporting period is due to undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2009 being applied during the reporting period and there being undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2010.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 18B. Unspent Departmental Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

Authority	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 2009-10	-	34,049
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 2010-11	55,821	-
Departmental Appropriation Act 3 2009-10	-	6,022
Departmental Act 4 - Non Operating - Equity Injection 2009-10	-	351
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 - Capital Budget (DCB) - Non Operating 2010-11	11,687	-
Total	67,508	40,422

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 19. Special Accounts

Trust Fund and Other Trust Moneys (Departmental)	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
<i>Appropriation: Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997; section 20</i>		
<i>Establishing Instrument: Determination 1997/01. Determination 2008/15 varied the initial determination</i>		
<i>Abolishing Instrument: Determination 2010/03</i>		
<i>Purpose: For the receipt of moneys temporarily held on trust or otherwise for the benefit of persons or entities other than the Commonwealth</i>		
Balance brought forward from previous period	-	138
Receipts	-	3
Total increase	-	3
Payments made	-	(141)
Total decrease	-	(141)
Total balance carried to the next period	-	-

Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys (Departmental)	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
<i>Appropriation: Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997; section 20</i>		
<i>Establishing Instrument: Determination 2010/04</i>		
<i>Purpose: Disburse amounts held on trust or otherwise for the benefit of a person other than the Commonwealth</i>		
Balance brought forward from previous period	-	-
Receipts	-	49
Total increase	-	49
Payments made	-	(49)
Total decrease	-	(49)
Total balance carried to the next period	-	-

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Note 20. Compensation and Debt Relief		
Departmental		
No 'Act of Grace' expenses were incurred during the reporting period (2010: 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. (2010: No waivers)	-	-
No payments were provided under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration (CDDA) Scheme during the reporting period (2010: No payments).	-	-
No ex-gratia payments were provided for during the reporting period. (2010: 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. (2010: One payment).	-	25,000

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 21. Assets Held in Trust

Financial Assets

Financial assets held in trust include the Special Accounts; Trust Funds Other Trust Moneys, and Services for Other Entities and Trust moneys. These assets held in trust are disclosed in Note 19: Special Accounts.

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Trust Fund Other Trust Moneys		
Total amount at the beginning of the reporting period	-	138
Receipts	-	3
Payments	-	(141)
Total amount held at the end of the reporting period	-	-
Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys		
Total amount at the beginning of the reporting period	-	-
Receipts	-	49
Payments	-	(49)
Total amount held at the end of the reporting period	-	-
Total	-	-

Non-monetary Assets

ABS has no non-monetary assets held in trust in both the current and prior years.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 22. Reporting of Outcomes

Note 22A. Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

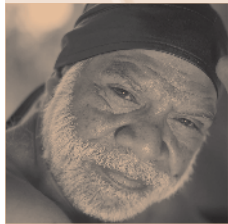
	Outcome 1		Total	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses				
Departmental	425,974	352,292	425,974	352,292
Total	425,974	352,292	425,974	352,292
Income from non-government sector				
Departmental				
Activities subject to cost recovery	744	97	744	97
Total departmental	744	97	744	97
Total	744	97	744	97
Other own-source income				
Administered	8	49	8	49
Departmental	31,864	28,510	31,864	28,510
Total	31,872	28,559	31,872	28,559
Net cost/(contribution) of outcome delivery	393,358	323,636	393,358	323,636

Outcome 1 is described in note 1.1.

Net costs shown include intra-government costs that are eliminated in calculating the actual Budget Outcome.

	2011	2010
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 23. Comprehensive Income (Loss) Attributable to the ABS		
Total comprehensive income (loss) attributable to the Australian Government ¹	(37,628)	4,243
Plus: non-appropriated expenses		
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	30,558	-
Total Comprehensive Income (Loss) Attributable to the ABS	(7,070)	4,243

¹ As per the Statement of Comprehensive Income.



Section 6

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Contact details

For enquiries about the ABS Annual Report, please contact:

Director, Corporate Communications, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616

Telephone: 02 6252 7197

Email: richard.burgess@abs.gov.au

Access to all ABS documents (including the ABS Annual Report) and statistics is available through the ABS website: <http://www.abs.gov.au>.

For any queries about statistical information, contact the National Information and Referral Service from anywhere in Australia between 9.00am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday on

1300 135 070 (from Australia)

International clients may call **+61 2 9268 4909**

Alternatively, you can email your query to client.services@abs.gov.au

For media requests, contact ABS Corporate Communications on **1300 175 070**.

The ABS has offices in every state and territory as listed below:

Office	Street Address	Postal Address
Central Office (Canberra)	ABS House 45 Benjamin Way, Belconnen ACT 2617	Locked Bag 10 Belconnen ACT 2616
New South Wales	44 Market Street, Sydney NSW 2000	GPO Box 796 Sydney NSW 2001
Victoria	5th Floor Commercial Union Tower 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne VIC 3000	GPO Box 2796Y Melbourne VIC 3001
Queensland	Level 3 639 Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006	GPO Box 9817 Brisbane QLD 4001
South Australia	Level 9 ANZ House, 11 Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000	GPO Box 2272 Adelaide SA 5001
Western Australia	Level 15 Exchange Plaza, Sherwood Court, Perth WA 6000	GPO Box K881 Perth WA 6842
Tasmania	200 Collins Street, Hobart TAS 7000	GPO Box 66A Hobart TAS 7001
Northern Territory	Level 3 Civitas Building, 22 Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin NT 0800	GPO BOX 3796 Darwin NT 0801
Australian Capital Territory	ABS House Ground floor, 45 Benjamin Way, Belconnen ACT 2617	Locked Bag 10 Belconnen ACT 2616

Appendix 2

User groups advising the ABS

The following is a list of user groups that advise the ABS work program, and were active throughout 2010–11.

National groups for 2010–11

- Advisory Committee on Australian and International Disability Data
- Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
- Agriculture Statistics Forum
- Analytical Community Reference Group
- Australasian Mortality Data Interest Group
- Australia-New Zealand Population Workshop
- Australian Bureau of Statistics – Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources High Level Liaison Committee
- Australian Government Statistical Forum
- Australian Health Survey Reference Group
- Australian Statistics Advisory Council
- Australian Transport Data Action Network
- Census – Indigenous Enumeration Strategy Working Group
- Consumer Price Index Advisory Group – 16th Series Review
- Cultural Ministers' Council Statistics Working Group
- Demography Statistics Advisory Group
- Early Childhood Data Subgroup
- Economic Statistics User Group
- Employment Arrangements, Retirement, Superannuation, Time Use Survey Reference Group
- Energy Statistics Forum
- Gender Statistics Advisory Group
- General Social Survey Reference Group
- Household Income and Expenditure Statistics User Advisory Group
- Housing Statistics User 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

- Measures of Australia's Progress Expert Reference Group
- Methodology Advisory Committee
- Migrant Statistics Advisory Group
- Migrant Statistics Reference Group
- Mining User Advisory Group
- National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data
- National Community Services Information Management Group
- National Corrective Services Statistics Advisory Group
- National Crime Statistics Advisory Group
- National Criminal Courts Statistics Advisory Group
- National Disability Information Management Group
- National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee
- National Housing and Homelessness Information Management Group
- National Housing Supply Data Sub-group
- Patient Experience Survey Reference Group
- Personal Safety Survey Advisory Group
- Population Estimates Technical Workshop
- Population Health Information Development Group
- Private Hospital Statistics User Group
- Productivity Measurement Reference Group
- Standard Business Reporting Taxonomy Approval Committee
- Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport Research Group
- State Accounts User Group
- Statistical Clearing House User Group
- Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision
- Structural Issues in the Workforce Sub-Committee, Workforce Profile Working Group (Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council (CDSMAC) Sub-Committee)
- Survey of Adult Competencies Reference Group
- Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers Advisory Group

State and Territory Government Groups for 2010–11

- Government Agencies Statistical Committee (South Australia)
- Northern Territory Statistical Liaison Committee
- Queensland Statistical Table
- Social Statistics Consultative Groups (Western Australia)
- State Statistical Forum (all States and Territories)
- Statistical Coordination and User Forum (New South Wales)
- Statistical Policy Committee (Tasmania)
- Statistical Policy Committee and Economic (Western Australia)
- Tasmanian Statistical Advisory Committee
- Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum

Appendix 3

Consultancy services

Policy on Selection and Engagement of Consultants

ABS policy on the selection and engagement of consultants is consistent with ABS Chief Executive Instructions, and the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. The ABS selects and engages consultants in a way that provides value for money.

Total Consultancies let in 2010–11

During 2010–11, 26 new consultants were engaged to carry out projects or provide professional and technical advice that could not be provided by ABS staff. The total expenditure of the 26 new consultancies during 2010–11 was \$1,103,327. Expenditure on 22 consultancies which had been engaged in previous years, and continued into 2010–11, was \$1,405,591.

Appendix Table 3.1 shows the total expenditure on all consultancies, covering both payments made on new contracts let in 2010–11, and payments made on contracts let in previous years. The larger consultancy contracts (those to the value of \$10,000 or more) are detailed in Appendix Table 3.2 along with brief notes on the procurement method used.

Appendix Table 3.1: Consultancy services contracts engaged by the ABS

	Consultancies (number)	Expenditure (\$) including GST
2006–07	23	794,618
2007–08	30	677,999
2008–09	43	1,353,005
2009–10	53	3,298,010
2010–11	48	2,508,918

Appendix Table 3.2: Consultancy services contracts let in 2010–11 to the value of \$10,000 or more

Key

Justification for recourse to consultancy arrangements:

(a) Skills currently unavailable within the agency

(b) Need for specialised or professional skills

(c) Need for an independent study

1 Public Tender

2 Restricted Tender

3 Direct Source

Vendor Name	Amount	Reason	Reason for Engagement	Procurement Method
ACTIVITY (AUST) PTY LTD	\$99,386.70	Two-factor Authentication System	b	1
DIMENSION DATA AUST P/L	\$22,000.00	ABS – VC Strategy Consultancy	c	3
EW CONSULTING PTY LTD	\$12,759.26	Technical pathology services for the Australian Health Survey	a	3
FIANIAN PTY LTD	\$104,720.50	Planning and Designing Internal and External Communication and Engagement Strategies for TSD	b	3
FIANIAN PTY LTD	\$60,775.00	IMTP (Information Management Transformation Program) Change Management Communication	b	3
GLOBAL SPEECH NETWORKS PTY LTD	\$11,042.85	Voice Services Options Consulting	b	3
HEWLETT PACKARD AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	\$22,000.00	Hewlett Packard EVA performance analysis	b	3
IBM AUSTRALIA LTD	\$46,686.14	Software services consultancy for TSM upgrade & health check	b	3
IBM AUSTRALIA LTD	\$67,180.80	Review of Agricultural Survey	b	3
IBM AUSTRALIA LTD	\$46,691.35	External consultancy on segregated domains & ECL planning	b	3
IBM AUSTRALIA LTD	\$91,867.40	Application integration for Lotus Connections	b	3
INSTITUTE OF INTERNAL AUDITORS – AUSTRALIA	\$23,221.75	QA of the Internal Audit Process	a	3
KEITH BLACKBURN STATISTICAL CONSULTANT	\$57,522.94	Pacific International Comparison Project Assessment – 1st disbursement 21/5–24/6/10	a	3
LANGFORD CONSULTING PTY LTD	\$111,299.11	Focus Group Services for improving the statistical value of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander administrative data	c	1
MARK DIGNAM AND ASSOCIATES PTY LTD	\$60,181.00	Focus group testing	c	1
MARKET ATTITUDE RESEARCH SERV	\$45,715.74	Focus group testing	c	1
METADATA TECHNOLOGY NORTH AMERICA	\$238,966.46	Metadata Repository Technical Advisor	b	3

Vendor Name	Amount	Reason	Reason for Engagement	Procurement Method
MICHAEL COLLEDGE STATISTICAL CONSULTING PTY LTD	\$32,000.00	IMTP Information Management Consultant	b	3
MULTICALL PTY LTD	\$124,183.95	2011 Census Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communication Strategy Services	b	2
OAKTON SERVICES PTY LTD	\$23,100.00	Review of Cost Recovery Model	b	3
OAKTON SERVICES PTY LTD	\$67,771.00	P3M3 planning and assessment.	b	3
OAKTON SERVICES PTY LTD	\$241,887.37	Internal Audit services	c	1
OAKTON SERVICES PTY LTD	\$107,361.10	Capability Maturity Model Integration Improvement	b	3
OAKTON SERVICES PTY LTD	\$146,234.00	SSP development	b	3
OAKTON SERVICES PTY LTD	\$60,236.00	ICT Components – Business Case – Project Costs for Period 11/01/11 to 28/01/11	b	3
ORACLE CORPORATION AUST P/L	\$11,606.29	Expert business advice on Oracle eBusiness	b	3
PANALYSIS PTY LTD	\$17,792.50	Services to prepare for stakeholder interviews	b	3
PPC WORLDWIDE PTY LTD	\$15,240.95	Organisational development	c	3
PRESENCE OF IT	\$139,365.60	Development and production of project planning documents, in relation to the replacement of the current HR systems with Oracle HR (stage 1)	c	3
PRICE WATERHOUSE COOPERS	\$126,417.83	Quality Assurance IMTP Business Case	b	2
RAPANEA CONSULTING LIMITED	\$72,000.00	Quality assurance technical advisor	c	3
ROBERT BRENNAN & ASSOCIATES	\$12,650.12	ICDSD Capability Assessment	b	1
SAS INSTITUTE AUST PTY LTD	\$37,254.67	Architecture work for SAS EBI upgrade	b	3
SIGMA MANAGEMENT SCIENCE P/L	\$36,300.00	IMTP Project Assurance & Quality Advisory Services	b	3
THOMAS DURYEA CONSULTING PTY LTD	\$16,500.00	Altiris infrastructure review	c	3
UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG	\$22,000.00	New methods for small grouped analysis from sample surveys	c	3

Appendix 4

Advertising and Market Research



The ABS paid \$1,166,173.37 (GST Exclusive) for advertising, \$149,194.50

(GST Exclusive) for public relations consultancies, and \$381,891.14 (GST Exclusive) for market research in 2010–11.

The increase in advertising and public relations consultancy expenditure from

2009–10 was due to activities related to the Census 2011. The organisations that supplied these services included Leo Burnett and Multicall Pty Ltd.

There was no expenditure for marketing consultancies for the year.

Market research expenditure incurred in 2010–11 is in relation to focus group testing for the Census 2011, community trust in ABS statistics survey, secondary providers of ABS data and the data integration research project. The organisations that supplied the market research services included Taylor Nelson Sofres, Market Attitude Research Services, Hall and Partners Open Mind Pty Ltd and Mark Dignam and Associates.

Appendix 5

Freedom of Information Requests

Introduction

Section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* 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 Chapter 2, Overview of the ABS.

Information held by the ABS

Appendix Table 5.1: Categories of documents in the possession of the ABS

Documents open to public access upon payment of a fee	The ABS does not hold any of these types of documents.
Documents available for purchase or customarily available free of charge	The ABS has a wide range of statistical publications available free of charge on its website: http://www.abs.gov.au , and through major public libraries. Charged publications can be purchased via the ABS National Information Referral Service (Ph: 1300 135 070).
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 Personal Information Digest published by the Privacy Commissioner.
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, 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 Corporate Services Division, and the Assistant Statistician in the Office of the Statistician.

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*.

The following table provides details of Freedom of Information activities during the years 2005–06 to 2010–11 inclusive. Seven requests were made to the ABS under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* during 2011–10.

Appendix Table 5.2: Freedom of information activities, 2004–05 to 2009–10 (number)

	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11
Requests received	1	3	3	6	7*
Decisions made					
Access granted in full	–	–	–	–	2
Access granted in part	1	3	1	5	–
Access not granted	–	–	2	1	4

*One request was withdrawn.

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:

Freedom of Information Contact Officer
Australian Bureau of Statistics,
Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616
Ph: 02 6252 7967
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

Appendix 6

Professional Papers by ABS Officers

Officers of the ABS prepared the following professional papers which were presented or published between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011.

Billing, John, Kindermann, Bindi, McColl, Bob and Rolfe, Natalie, 'Improving our understanding and measures of economic hardship: Australia's development of a low consumption possibilities framework'. 31st General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, St Gallen, Switzerland, 22-28 August, 2010.

Chipperfield, James O., and Steele, David G., 'Efficiency of split questionnaire surveys'. *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference*, Volume 141, Issue 5, May 2011, Pages 1925-1932.

Chipperfield, James O., Bishop, Glenys R. and Campbell, Paul, 'Maximum likelihood estimation for contingency tables and logistic regression with incorrectly linked data'. *Survey Methodology*, Vol. 37, No. 1, pp. 13-24, June 2011.

Comisari, Peter and Cadogan-Cowper, Andrew, 'Integrated Environmental-Economic Accounting in Australia: Progress and Plans'. 15th Commonwealth Statistician Conference, New Delhi, India, 7-10 February 2011.

Cullen, Derick, 'A Progress Report on ABS Investigations into FISIM in the National Accounts, the Consumer Price Index and Balance of Payments'. Meeting of the ISWGNA Task Force on Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM), hosted by the IMF, Washington DC, 3-4 March 2011.

Forrest, Caley, 'Australian Retail Trade Margin Index'. 25th Voorburg Group, Vienna, Austria, 20-24 September 2010.

Frost, Stephen, Yang, Margaret and Conn, Lewis, 'Approaches to measuring telecommunications services for the CPI'. 12th meeting of the Ottawa Group, Wellington, New Zealand, 4-6 May 2011.

Frost, Stephen, 'Sampling general-insurance policies for the CPI'. 12th meeting of the Ottawa Group, Wellington, New Zealand, 4-6 May 2011.

Gaudie, Jennifer et al., 'Antecedents of teenage pregnancy from a 14-year follow-up study using data linkage'. *BMC Public Health*, 2010, 10:63.

Gaudie, Jennifer et al., 'Antecedents of hospital admission for deliberate self-harm from a 14-year follow-up study using data-linkage'. *BMC Psychiatry*, 2010, 10:82.

Gore, Mark, 'Increasing the informed use of statistics – How do we make it happen?' International Marketing and Output Database Conference, Vilnius, Lithuania, 19 - 23 September 2010.

Harris, Julia and Tam, Siu-Ming, 'Online Engagement: Gathering Feedback, Successes and Learning'. UNECE Work Session on the Communication of Statistics, Geneva, 29 June - 1 July 2011.

Horspool, Natalie and Mowle, James, 'Investigating how social security data could improve estimates of Australia's homeless'. Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference, Auckland, New Zealand, 17-19 November 2010.

Horspool, Natalie and Mowle, James, 'Using the ABS Census of Population and Housing to compile estimates of Australia's homeless'. Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference, Auckland, New Zealand, 17-19 November 2010.

Kluth, Susan and Cullen, Derick, 'A progress report on ABS investigations into FISIM in National Accounts, Consumer Price Index and Balance of Payments'. 12th meeting of the Ottawa Group, Wellington, New Zealand, 4-6 May 2011.

Kluth, Susan and Cullen, Derick, 'FISIM and the Consumer Price Index: The Australian Experience'. 1st Meeting of the Task Force On Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM), Luxembourg, 4-5 October 2010.

Khurmi, Banmeet, Naidu, Sachind and Williams, Bernard, 'Potential for Developing Container Statistics'. Working Party on International Trade in Goods and Trade in Services Statistics, Paris, 4-6 October 2010.

Khurmi, Banmeet, Naidu, Sachind and Meadows, Peter, 'A Progress Report on Compiling 2008 SNA Table 17.10 for Australia'. Working Party on Financial Statistics, Paris, 29 November - 1 December 2010.

Lanyon, A.J., 'Evaluating the quality of vital statistics: paper for discussion'. United Nations Expert Group Meeting on International Standards for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, New York, 27-30 June 2011.

McColl, Bob, Billing, John and Mowle, James, 'Measuring housing affordability in Australia: Recent development and trends in agreed national performance indicators'. 31st General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, St Gallen, Switzerland, 22-28 August, 2010.

McColl, Bob, Billing, John, Kindermann, Bindi and Burgess, Heather, 'Micro and macro economic estimates for Australian households: Recent developments and future directions'. 31st General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, St Gallen, Switzerland, 22-28 August, 2010.

McColl, Bob, Kindermann Bindi and Billing, John, 'Update of the Canberra Group Handbook on Household Income Statistics'. 31st General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, St Gallen, Switzerland, 22-28 August, 2010.

O'Toole, Libby, et al., 'Can near real-time monitoring of emergency department diagnoses facilitate early response to sporadic meningococcal infection? - prospective and retrospective evaluations'. *BMC Infectious Diseases*, 2010, 10:309.

Schmider, Anneke, 'Advocating for civil registration: guide to developing a business case for civil registration'. *UQ Health Information Systems Knowledge Hub, Working Paper Series*, Number 15, November 2010.

Spencer, Samuel, 'Using metadata to drive data capture and processing'. 36th IASSIST Conference, New York, 1-4 June 2010.

Wei, Hui, 'Measuring an Option Value of Investment in Education: A Lifetime Labour', 31st General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, St Gallen, Switzerland, 22-28 August, 2010.

Wei, Hui, 'Using the Jorgenson-Fraumeni Approach to Develop Measures of Human Capital: the ABS Experience'. 59th plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians, Measuring Human Capital Seminar, Geneva, Switzerland, 14-16 July 2011.

Yang, Margaret, Cullen, Derick and Frost, Stephen, 'Progress report on the implications of using supermarkets' scanner data in the CPI'. 12th meeting of the Ottawa Group, Wellington, New Zealand, 4-6 May 2011.

Appendix 7

Submissions to Parliamentary Committees

Committee/Inquiry	Description of submission/information provided
Senate Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Inquiry into the Social Security Amendment (Income Support for Regional Students) Bill 2010	In December 2010, the ABS provided a submission to the inquiry which provided details about the Remoteness Structure from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) to assist Committee members' understanding of the design, purpose and use of the classification in consideration of issues affecting income support for regional students.
Senate Standing Committee on Economics Inquiry into Foreign Acquisitions Amendment (Agricultural land) Bill 2010	In February 2011, the ABS provided a submission to the inquiry which provided background on a new survey being undertaken by the ABS, the Agricultural Land and Water Ownership Survey (ALWOS), which would address the current lack of information available on foreign ownership of agricultural businesses, including land and water entitlements. The ABS also provided details about its role and legislated functions, particularly around its confidentiality provisions.

Appendix 8

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, 16 proposals for the collection of information for statistical purposes. Details of the proposals are shown in the following table.

Appendix Table 8.1: Tabling – proposals for the collection of information for statistical purposes, 2010–11

Date tabled (a)	Statistical collection (b)
28 September 2010	New Topics in the Monthly Population Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workforce Participation and Workplace Flexibility (Victoria and Western Australia)• Flexible Working Arrangements (Queensland)
28 September 2010	Survey of Outward Finance and Insurance Foreign Affiliates Trade in Services
28 September 2010	Poultry and Game Birds Slaughtered Survey
28 September 2010	Wool Receivals and Purchases Survey
27 October 2010	Water Supply Survey
8 February 2011	Energy Use and Conservation Survey 2011
8 February 2011	Agricultural Land and Water Ownership Survey 2011
8 February 2011	Australian Health Survey
10 May 2011	Agricultural Census
10 May 2011	Major Labour Costs Survey
10 May 2011	Childhood Education and Care Survey
15 June 2011	2011 Census of Population and Housing and Post Enumeration Survey
15 June 2011	Survey of Income and Housing
20 June 2011	Economic Activity Survey
20 June 2011	Transport Industry Survey
22 June 2011	Manufacturing Industry Survey

(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 business 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 business names, addresses and other information, provided to a specified department or authority. The information released is shown in the following table.

Appendix Table 8.2: Tabling – disclosure of lists of business names and addresses, 2010–11

Date tabled (a)	Information released
27 October 2010	Lists of Agricultural Farm Businesses for the Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics – Bureau of Rural Sciences
22 November 2010	List of Businesses for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
21 March 2011	Lists of Agricultural Farm Businesses for the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
20 June 2011	Lists of Agricultural Farm Businesses for the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

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

Appendix 9

Special Articles in Previous Annual Reports

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

Developments in Data Integration (2009–10, Chapter 3)

100 Years of Census (2009–10, Chapter 4)

The Role of a National Statistical Agency in a global financial crisis (2008–09, Chapter 3)

Climate change and official statistics (2008–09, Chapter 4)

The role of official statistics in COAG information related initiatives for measuring outcomes (2008–09, Chapter 5)

Australia's National Statistical Service in the 21st Century (2007–08, Chapter 3)

100 Years of International Trade Statistics (2007–08, Chapter 4)

Retirement of the Australian Statistician (2006–07, Chapter 6)

2006 Census of Population and Housing (2006–07, Chapter 7)

Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (2006–07, Chapter 8)

Communicating statistics to the nation (2005–06, Chapter 6)

Development and implementation of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC 2006) (2005–06, Chapter 7)

International engagement (2004–05, Chapter 3)

History of Australian Censuses of Population and Housing (2004–05, Chapter 4)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reducing Respondent Load (1992–93, Chapter 2)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Statistics and Privacy (1987–88, Chapter 3)

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

ABS Corporate Plan (1986–87, Chapter 2)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minimising Reporting Burden (1980–81, Section 2)

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix 10

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 2010 to 30 June 2011, legal services expenditure by the Australian Bureau of Statistics is shown in the following table.

Appendix Table 10.1: Summary of Legal Services Expenditure 2010–11 (inclusive of GST)

Total External Legal Services Expenditure	\$289,948.19
Total number of Counsel briefed	2
Total number of Counsel direct briefed	0
Total value of Counsel briefs	\$2,455.06
Total of disbursements (excl. Counsel)	
Total of professional fees paid	
Total Internal Legal Services Expenditure	\$0.00
Total Costs Recovered	\$0.00

Appendix Table 10.2: External Legal Services Expenditure 2010–11 (inclusive of GST)

Counsel	
Total number of Counsel briefed	2
Male counsel briefed	1
Female counsel briefed	1
Total number of Counsel direct briefed	0
Male counsel direct briefed	0
Female counsel direct briefed	0
Total value of Counsel briefs	\$2,455.06
Male counsel briefs	\$1,492.56
Female counsel briefs	\$962.50
Disbursements (excluding Counsel)	\$3864.50
Professional Fees	
Total professional fees paid	\$283,628.63
Breakdown of Professional Fees paid	
Australian Government Solicitor	\$215,810.29
Blake Dawson	\$61,401.82
Minter Ellison	\$6,416.52

Appendix 11

Access for People with Disabilities

The ABS has undertaken a review of its Disability Action Plan and is incorporating these findings into a broader strategy under the 2011–2015 Workplace Diversity Plan, due to be released in the 2011–12 financial year.

Reporting requirements under the employer role have been transferred from the ABS to the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC). The ABS has reported on its activities for disability through the APSC's State of the Service survey for 2010–2011.

Commonwealth Disability Strategy

The ABS has the following public statement of commitment in its Disability Action Plan.

To provide:

1. Access to ABS products and services for clients with disabilities, and
2. Equal employment opportunity for employees with disabilities.

The ABS Disability Action Plan incorporates the principles of the Commonwealth Disability Strategy, and consolidates ABS policies and programs to assist in the prevention of discrimination on the basis of disability. The plan includes a checklist to assist all ABS employees in the prevention of disability discrimination.

The ABS has conducted a review of the effectiveness of the current plan, and seeks to ensure that business areas are able to assist clients and employees with disabilities through a variety of mechanisms, ranging from existing policies through to work practices.

Appendix Table 11.1 assesses the ABS's performance against the indicators set out in the Commonwealth Disability Strategy.

Appendix Table 11.1: Commonwealth Disability Strategy – Provider Role

Performance Indicator	Assessment
1. Providers and users have established mechanisms for quality improvement and assurance.	<p>The ABS is committed to making its website as accessible as possible so that no group is excluded from access to our services. The ABS operates in the spirit of the Australian Government Information Management Office guidelines relating to accessibility, and is working to comply with <i>Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.0</i> developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).</p> <p>If any of the web products are not suitably accessible, the ABS has available a free service to convert its files to more accessible formats. This service can be requested by contacting the ABS through the general information channels, as listed in Appendix 1 of this report.</p>
2. Providers and users have an established service charter that specifies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the role of the provider and consumer and, – service standards which address accessibility for people with disabilities. 	<p>The <i>ABS Service Delivery Charter</i> describes the relationship between the ABS and its customers. The <i>Charter</i> specifies what to expect when accessing the ABS website and other services. This <i>Charter</i> will be reviewed in 2011–12.</p>
3. Complaints/grievance mechanisms, including access to external mechanisms, are in place to address concerns raised about performance.	<p>Feedback and complaint mechanisms for ABS customers are set out in the <i>ABS Service Delivery Charter</i>.</p>

Measuring Disability

The ABS has three collection mechanisms relating to disability. These are: The Survey of Disability; Ageing and Carers (SDAC); the ABS Short Disability Module; and, the Census of Population and Housing (Census). The collection of disability related measures from each of these sources differ in methodology, but are conceptually related.

Of the three mechanisms, the SDAC, with a 75 question set, provides the largest and most comprehensive collection of disability data on the Australian population. Information is collected on three population groups – people with a disability, people aged 60 years and over and people who provide assistance to others because of a disability or old age. Results from the latest iteration of the SDAC, conducted in 2009, were first released in December 2010.

The Short Disability Module comprises a limited number of questions based on the SDAC. The module was developed to be incorporated into social surveys, so that disability can be investigated alongside other socio-economic factors.

The Census includes four questions related to disability which provide information on people who needed assistance with the core activities of self care, mobility and communication because of a disability, long-term health problem (lasting six months or more) or the effects of old age.

Appendix 12

Environmental and Ecological Sustainability

During 2010–11, the ABS has 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 Environmental Management System (EMS) provides evidence of the ABS's commitment to ecological sustainable development. The ABS operates primarily in an office based environment and is increasingly moving from paper to electronic products. This is being achieved by continuing to:

- make free publications available on the ABS website and increasing the number of publications available electronically, to reduce demand for hard copies of publications;
- use duplex printing and copying;
- have a knowledge framework, incorporating digital recordkeeping rather than paper records and automatic recordkeeping facilities for ABS workgroup databases; and
- utilise computer assisted interviewing to replace paper forms.

Other matters relating to ecologically sustainable development at the ABS include:

- incorporating environmental efficiency measures into the market testing process for new leases with the integration of Green lease schedule to each new tenancy;
- inclusion of environmental and whole of life cycle clauses as part of the tender and evaluation process in most procurement activities;
- promoting sustainable environmental practises in the current enterprise agreement; and
- the use of automatic shutdown of computer workstations overnight and the virtualisation of servers to allow for more efficient use of resources resulting in energy savings.

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 is working closely with the community and governments to further build information on environmental statistics, to complement the more established information bases around population, society and the economy. An essential aspect of this development work is focused around 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 Area Reports in Chapter 5 for:

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

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

The ABS activities have the potential to affect the environment through consumption of energy, waste production and the impact on local waterways, flora and fauna. A number of ongoing action plans, with relevant targets and objectives have been put in place to reduce the ABS environmental impact. These include:

- reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas pollution;
- reducing paper consumption;
- reducing carbon emissions in transportation;
- decreasing water usage;
- increasing waste recycling; and
- increasing 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?

The ABS has sought to minimise its impact by:

- implementing Green IT initiatives like Wake-on-LAN to allow software updates whilst automatically shutting down computers across the ABS, upgrading to Windows 7 software, Ei-Power software to enable benchmarking and monitoring of ICT components and Data Centre server virtualisation;
- installing 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;
- procuring 10% green energy as part of the whole of government energy contract for ABS House and 10% green energy for the Victorian office;
- programming automatic shorter shutdown periods on most ABS printers together with duplex printing as a default;

- establishing digital recordkeeping processes and methods for collecting, managing and delivering knowledge databases;
- promoting free electronic publications on the website, reducing the number of printed hard copies;
- using computer assisted interviewing, in place of paper forms;
- introducing ENVI, a carbon neutral paper for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing;
- upgrading video conferencing equipment software and increasing the number of video conferencing facilities to support virtual teams thus reducing the amount of interstate travel;
- using the Greenhouse Vehicle Guide when leasing ABS owned vehicles;
- using re-manufactured and recycled cartridges for photocopiers, faxes and printers, and recycling used printer cartridges wherever possible;
- recycling paper, bottles, aluminium cans, steel cans, plastic and cardboard products in all offices;
- recycling mobile phones, batteries, polystyrene and plastic shopping bags in Central Office;
- using A4 paper with a 100% recycled content;
- purchasing white goods with heavily weighting energy ratings;
- using organic inks and biodegradable coating in printed publications;
- promoting and participating and celebrating environmental and energy programs around national and international events such as World Environment Day, Earth Hour, Walk and Ride to Work days, Business Clean Up Week, National Recycling Week and sustainable transport activities;
- providing tips via the intranet on ways to reduce work and home environmental footprint; and
- promoting the use of Wiki where staff can discuss environmentally sustainable ideas and events.

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

The ABS has implemented an Environmental Management System at its primary site, ABS House, and continues to monitor the aspects of the organisation that have an environmental impact. Objectives and targets are set each year to manage and reduce the impact.

Appendix 13

Workplace Health and Safety

Training

Work Health and Safety (WHS) positions that were filled or vacant and, employees who received position-specific training during 2010–11 are presented in Table 1.0. First Aid Officers require refresher course training every three years, Health and Safety Representatives require training every two years, and Wardens are required to attend a number of different training sessions throughout the year.

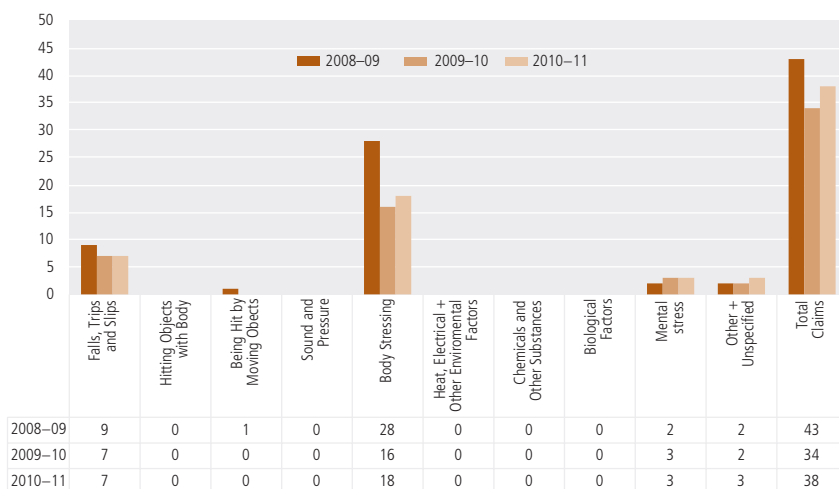
Table 1.0: Work Health and Safety positions filled, vacant, and training provided during 2010–11.

Position	Filled	Vacant	Trained 2010–2011
First Aid Officer	59	4	36
Health & Safety Representative	59	14	25
Warden	227	27	25

Workplace Injuries and Illnesses

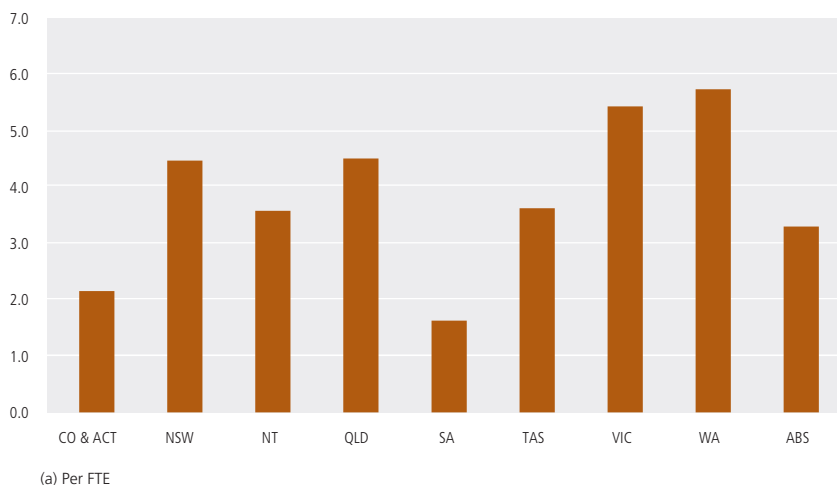
The total accepted Comcare claims by mechanism of incident from 2008–09 to 2010–11 is shown in Figure 1.3. The number of accepted claims for falls, trips, slips and mental stress remained the same over the past two years. However, there was a slight increase in body stressing from 2009–10 to 2010–11, which resulted in an overall increase in total claims.

Figure 1.3: Total Number of Comcare Accepted Claims by Mechanism of Incident 2008–09 to 2010–11.



During 2010–11 the ABS incident rate was approximately 3.3 incidents per 100 full time employees (FTE). Figure 1.0 shows the distribution by ABS office for the year. The incident rate is the number of incidents divided by the total number of employees, multiplied by 100.

Figure 1.0: 2010–11 Incident Rate (a) by ABS office and ABS overall average.



In comparison, the lost time injury incidence rate for each ABS office and the ABS average are presented in Figure 1.1. This rate is a calculation of those incidents that resulted in one day or more time off work during 2010–11. The ABS financial year total was 1.3 per 100 FTE employees for this period.

Figure 1.1: Lost Time Injury Incidence Rate (b) by ABS Office 2010–11

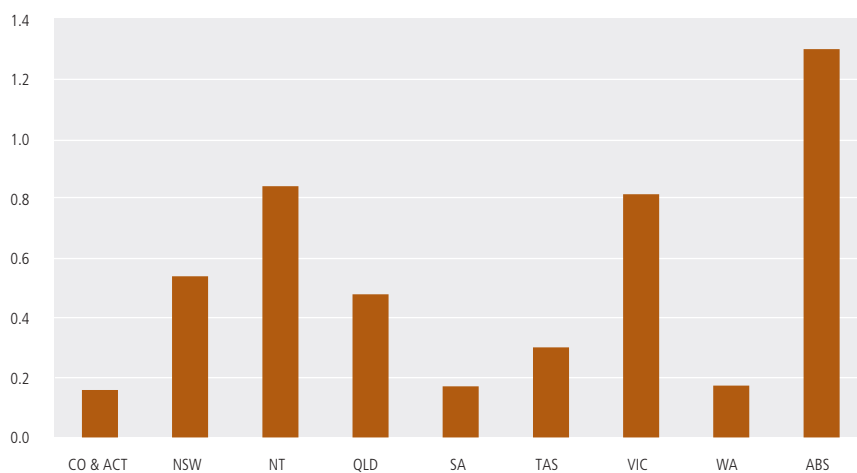


Figure 1.1 (b) Per 100 FTE

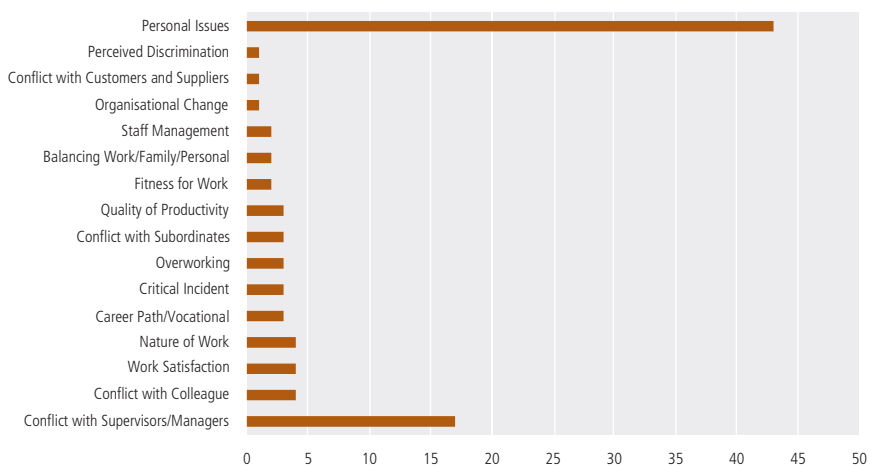
Employee Assistance Provider Report

The primary reasons for new clients (ABS employees, or their families) accessing the Employee Assistance Provider (EAP) during 2010–11 are presented in Table 1.4 and Figure 1.4.

Table 1.4 – Primary Reasons for Office-based staff and PSO Interviewers Employee Assistance Provider usage, 2010–11.

Primary Issues 2010–11	Number of Clients	
	Office-Based Staff	PSO Interviewers
Conflict with Supervisors/Managers	17	0
Work Satisfaction	4	0
Career Path/Vocational	3	0
Critical Incident	3	0
Overworking	3	0
Conflict with Colleague	3	1
Conflict with Subordinates	3	0
Quality of Productivity	3	0
Fitness for Work	2	0
Nature of Work	2	1
Balancing Work/Family/Personal	2	0
Staff Management	2	0
Organisational Change	1	0
Conflict with Customers and Suppliers	1	1
Perceived Discrimination	0	1
Sub-total	49	6
Personal Issues	40	3
Grand Total	89	9

Figure 1.4 – Primary Reasons for Office-based staff and PSO Interviewers Employee Assistance Provider combined usage, 2010–11.



Appendix 14

ABS Reconciliation Action Plan

Our vision for reconciliation

In line with the ABS mission, the ABS assists and encourages informed decision making, research and discussion among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 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.

Summary of progress for 2010–2011

As at 30 June 2011, the ABS has exceeded, achieved, or is on track to meet, 16 of the 20 targets outlined in its Reconciliation Action Plan. In particular, noteworthy results have been achieved in relation to statistical literacy, access and capacity building through improved outcomes in our:

- ABS Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy (ICES); and
- ABS Statistical Literacy Programs.

During 2010–2011 the ABS continued to focus on recruitment and retention strategies to increase the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the organisation. Strategies included active participation in whole-of-government recruitment campaigns targeted at cadetship and graduate opportunities. There was also a focus on encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees to attend external networking and learning and development opportunities.

Through the development of its new Reconciliation Action Plan for 2011–2014, the ABS has committed to continuing to build on its reconciliation objectives.

Moving forward

The two main reconciliation priorities for the ABS will continue to be:

- increasing the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees; and
- the ongoing improvement of data capture and collection processes to improve the availability and quality of relevant metrics and to support the inclusion of more targeted strategies in the 2011–2014 Reconciliation Action Plan.

In meeting these challenges, and continuing to strive towards associated targets around community engagement and cultural awareness, we will continue to actively engage with Reconciliation Australia and key Commonwealth agencies.

The Reconciliation Action Plan report provides details of specific actions progressed under the ABS Reconciliation Action Plan during 2010–11. A copy of the report is available on the Reconciliation Australia website: www.reconciliation.org.au.

Appendix 15

Agency resource statement and resources for outcome

Agency resource statement 2010–11	Actual Available Appropriation for 2010–11 \$'000 (a)	Payments Made 2010–11 \$'000 (b)	Balance Remaining 2010–11 \$'000 (a-b)
Ordinary Annual Services ¹			
Prior year departmental appropriation	40,071	40,071	–
Departmental appropriation Act 1	354,851	299,030	55,821
S.31 Relevant agency receipts	45,787	45,787	–
S.30 Repayments to the Commonwealth	1,292	1,292	–
Departmental appropriation Act 1 - Capital Budget (DCB) ²	44,053	32,366	11,687
Total	486,054	418,546	67,508
Total ordinary annual services	486,054	418,546	67,508
Other services Departmental non-operating ³			
Prior year departmental appropriation	351	351	–
Departmental appropriation Act 2	623	623	–
Total	974	974	–
Total other services	974	974	–
Total Resourcing	487,028	419,520	67,508

1 Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2010-11. This includes Prior Year departmental appropriation and S.31 relevant agency receipts.

2 \$44m in 2010-11 for the Departmental Capital Budget. For accounting purposes this amount has been designated as 'contributions by owners'.

3 Includes Appropriation Bill (No 2) 2010-11. This also includes Prior Year departmental appropriation.

Resources for outcomes

Expenses and Resources for Outcome 1 ^A	Budget 2010–11 \$'000 (a)	Actual Expenses 2010–11 \$'000 (b)	Variation 2010–11 \$'000 (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			
Ordinary Annual Services (Appropriation Bill No.1) ^B	354,851	393,497	
Revenues from independent sources (section 31) ^C	39,391	32,477	
Total Expenses for Outcome 1	394,242	425,974	-31,732

	2009–10	2010–11
Average staffing level (number)	2,637	2,988

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: 2010-11 Portfolio Budget Statements

C Budget Source: 2010-11 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements

* Note: The variance of \$31.7m is due to:

Non appropriated depreciation expense	\$30.6m
2010 -11 operating deficit attributable to the ABS	\$7.1m
Reduction in revenue from independent sources and other gains	\$6.0m

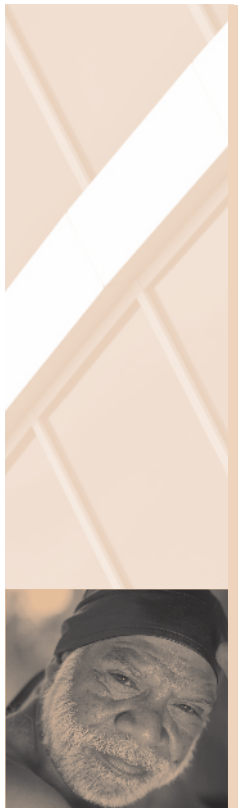
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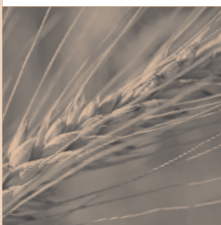
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Section 7

GLOSSARY AND INDEX



Glossary

ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABS cat. no.	ABS catalogue number
ABN	Australian Business Number
ABSDL	Australian Bureau of Statistics Data Laboratory
AEDI	The Australian Early Development Index
AFL	Australian Football League
AFOS	Australian Bureau of Statistics Future Organisational Stability
AGIMO	Australian Government Information Management Office
AGSF	Australian Government Statistical Forum
AHS	Australian Health Survey
AHECC	Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification
AIC	Annual Integrated Collection
ALLD	Australian Longitudinal Learning Database
ALWOS	Australian Land and Water Ownership Survey
AM	Member of the Order of Australia
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
ANDS	Australian National Data Service
ANZ	Australia and New Zealand
ANZLIC	Spatial Information Council of Australia and New Zealand (formerly known as the Australia New Zealand Land Information Council)
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ANZSOC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification
AO	Order of Australia
APIs	Application Programming Interfaces
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
APS	Australian Public Service
APSC	Australian Public Service Commission
ASAC	Australian Statistics Advisory Council
ASCCEG	Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups
ASCL	Australian Standard Classification of Languages

ASCRG	Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups
ASCDC	Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
ASOC	Australian Standard Offence Classification
ASDS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
ATDAN	Australian Transport Data Action Network
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
AWA	Australian Workplace Agreement
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
BLD	Business Longitudinal Database
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
BPM	Balance of Payments Manual
BPS	Badan Pusat Statistik (Statistics Indonesia)
CA	Certified Agreement
CATI	Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing
CBE	Commander of the Order of the British Empire
CDE	Census Data Enhancement
CDS	Commonwealth Disability Strategy
CDSMAC	Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference
CES	Conference of European Statisticians
CO	Central Office
COO	Chief Operating Officer
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CPRS	Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme
CPSIC	Cross Portfolio Statistical Integration Committee
CPSU	Community and Public Sector Union
CRC	COAG Reform Council
CSIP	Corporate Services Improvement Program
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CSC	Capital Strategy Committee
CSD	Corporate Services Division
CSM	Concepts Sources and Methods
CURF	Confidentialised Unit Record File
DBCDE	Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
DC	District Council

DDI	Data Documentation Initiative
DECS	Department of Education and Children's Services, South Australia
DEEWR	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
DEST	Department of Education, Science and Training
DEWHA	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
DoHA	Department of Health and Ageing
DoFD	Department of Finance and Deregulation
DHS	Department of Human Services
DIAC	Department of Immigration and Citizenship
DIISR	Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
DPA	Development and Performance Agreement
DPC	Data Processing Centre
DPF	Development and Performance Framework
DQO	Data Quality Online
DRET	Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs
EA	Enterprise Agreement
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
EEDP	Energy Efficiency Data Gathering and Analysis Project
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EG	Enterprise Group
EL	Executive Level
ELG	Executive Leadership Group
EMS	Environmental Management Statement
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FaHCSIA	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
FISIM	Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured
FOES	Forms of Employment Survey
FOI	Freedom of Information
FTE	Full Time Employee
FWP	Forward Work Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFS	Government Financial Statistics
GFSM	Government Financial Statistics Manual
GFC	Global Financial Crisis
GIS	Geographic Information System
GST	Goods and Services Tax
GPF	Government Partnership Fund

GVIAP	Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production
HR	Human Resources
HS	Human Services
HSMA	Health and Safety Management Arrangement
HSR	Health and Safety Representative
HTISC	Hamonized Tariff Items Statistical Codes
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language
IASSIST	International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology
IBCS	Integrated Business Characteristics Strategy
ICDSD	Integrated Collection and Dissemination Services Division
ICP	International Comparison Program
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDP	Information Development Plan
IDSC	Information Development Steering Committee
IEM	Indigenous Engagement Manager
IDWG	Information Development Working Group
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMTP	Information Management Transformation Program
ISSN	International Standard Serial Number
ISWGNA	Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts
IT	information technology
JVS	Job Vacancies Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LGA	Local Government Area
LSAC	Longitudinal Study of Australian Children
MAC	Methodological Advisory Committee
MAP	Measure of Australia's Progress
MDBA	Murray-Darling Basin Authority
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
MRR	Metadata Registry/ Repository
MSIS	Management of Statistical Information Systems
NATSISS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
NCATSIS	National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
NCCJS	National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics
NCCRS	National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics
NDN	National Data Network
NEIS	National Environmental Information System
NHAP	National Health Assessment Program

NHIP	National Hazard and Inspection Program
NHSC	National Health and Safety Committee
NIRA	National Indigenous Reform Agreement
NIRS	National Information and Referral Service
NoD	Notice of Direction
NOM	Net Overseas Migration
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NSIs	National Statistical Institutions
NSO	National Statistical Organisation
NSS	National Statistical Service
NSTI	National Statistical Training Institute
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OCMIMF	Operationalising a Common Metadata Information Management Framework
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
OHS Act	<i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991</i>
OPALS	Organisational, People and Learning Systems
OOTS	Office of the Statistician
OPC	Office of the Privacy Commissioner
PBLCI	Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index
PHRN	Population Health Research Network
PM&C	The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PSO	Population Survey Operations
PSS	Personal Safety Survey
QA	Quality Assurance
QLD	Queensland
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
REEM	Remote Execution Environment for Microdata
RHSC	Regional Health and Safety Committees
RRMSEs	Relative Root Mean Squared Errors
RSE	Relative Standard Error
SA	South Australia
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SAE	Small Area Estimation
SCH	Statistical Clearing House
SCOT	Standing Committee on Transport
SDAC	Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers

SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange
SEEA	System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
SEIFA	Socioeconomic Indexes for Areas
SES	Senior Executive Service
SESCA	Standard Economic Sector Classifications of Australia
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SLA	statistical local area
SLCD	Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset
SMG	Senior Management Group
SN	Statistical Network
SNA	System of National Accounts
SNSC	Statistical Network Steering Committee
SNZ	Statistics New Zealand
SPP	Specific Purpose Payments
SRC Act	<i>Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988</i>
SSF	State Statistical Forum
STSS	State and Territory Statistical Services
TAS	Tasmania
TSD	Technology Services Division
TUS	Time Use Surveys
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Divisions
UQ	University of Queensland
USA	United States of America
VIC	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
WCL	Workplace Collaborative Learning
WHS	Workplace Health and Safety

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