Australian Bureau of Statistics

National Statistical Service

Cat. No. 1395.0

ESSENTIAL STATISTICAL ASSETS FOR AUSTRALIA

INVESTING IN THE INFORMATION THAT COUNTS MOST

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Please note, Appendix 1 only has been revised to reflect refinements from the quality assessment process at December 2014, all other content in this publication is at March 2013.

FOREWORD

The increasingly diverse and rapidly changing environment of statistical information presents both significant opportunities and challenges for government agencies responsible for producing official statistics, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as Australia's national statistical office.

Advances in technology in the lives of Australian people and businesses provide new opportunities for collecting statistical information, and increasing electronic interactions between the community and government provides exciting opportunities for enhancing the statistical potential of information held by government agencies.

Australia has a world class statistical system. However, there is increasing demand for more timely and comprehensive information across the economy, environment and society to inform complex public policy challenges, to enhance service delivery and to inform Australians on their progress. To meet this challenge, government agencies need to continue to work together to improve the national statistical system. Under its legislation, the ABS has a role to coordinate the statistical activities of official bodies, which underpins the National Statistical Service.

Against this backdrop of opportunities and challenges, it is critical that governments' investments in official statistics are effectively targeted to achieve the greatest benefit. The Essential Statistical Assets (ESA) for Australia initiative supports this, by identifying those statistics that are critical to decision making in Australia. In doing so, the ESA for Australia initiative can identify critical data gaps so they can be addressed, help ensure that critically important statistics are of sufficient quality, and enhance the effectiveness of the national statistical system by helping to identify areas of underutilisation and potential duplication.

In consultation with other producers of statistics and with a wide range of government and non-government users of statistics, the ABS has developed this first 2013 list of ESA for Australia, which is presented in this paper. The 2013 list of ESA for Australia has been endorsed by the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC), which is the peak body for advising the Australian Government on the national statistical system.

In developing a list of essential statistical assets, the inevitable question is what of the statistics that are not on the list? I would like to stress that there are many important statistics that are not on the list which play a significant role in decision making, and the ESA for Australia initiative should not be seen as a mechanism for determining statistics that are no longer needed. Instead, the focus of the initiative is on enhancing the statistical system by guiding future investments into the system.

A number of statistics on the list, and many of the data sets that underpin statistics on the list, have custodians other than the ABS. The ABS has no direct role in determining investments in these but will aim to continue to work with the custodians to ensure that the essential statistics they have responsibility for meet their needs and the wider community's needs.

The ABS would like to thank everyone who participated in the ESA for Australia consultation process. We appreciate the feedback, which was critical to the development of the list. The process also provided an important opportunity to discuss, with a wide range of stakeholders, the critical importance of high quality, high integrity statistics to the community to inform debate and decision making.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician
March 2013

ABOUT THIS PAPER

This publication summarises the Essential Statistical Assets (ESA) for Australia initiative, including presenting the 2013 list of ESA for Australia, which was endorsed by the Australian Statistics Advisory Council in February 2013. The publication also outlines the plan for the future phases of the initiative. These include assessing the current quality of those statistics identified on the list, identifying the supporting statistical infrastructure that are vital for the production of high quality and trusted statistics and finally, identifying opportunities for the ABS to work collaboratively with government agencies to make improvements to the statistical system where it would be of greatest benefit.

The 2013 list of ESA for Australia represents the first holistic assessment of the most essential statistics to meet current user requirements undertaken in Australia, and as such will require periodic review to ensure that it remains relevant. As the initiative is an evolving project, we welcome your comments and feedback on this version of the list, the next phases of the ESA for Australia initiative, and what areas of statistics you feel may warrant consideration in future iterations of the list (it is planned that the list will be revised in two years' time). Please send any comments you may have to:

Director National Statistical Service Leadership Section
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2616
or **inquiries@nss.gov.au**

OVERVIEW OF THE ESA FOR AUSTRALIA INITIATIVE

Origin of the ESA for Australia initiative

The origin of the Essential Statistical Assets (ESA) initiative was a strategic review into the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), undertaken by the Allen Consulting Group in 2004. Their first recommendation was that:

> *"The ABS should set out to identify, in a highly consultative way, the key national datasets that are the essential indicators of the state of the nation, regardless of which organisations produce them."*

The focus of this recommendation was to deal with perceived concerns around underutilisation and duplication of statistical information. The ABS did not immediately act on this recommendation as preparatory work, including enhancing the ABS's strategic relationships with key users, was required. In 2010, the ABS developed a proposal to identify Australia's essential statistics. In November 2010 the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC)[1] endorsed the ABS, as part of its legislated role to coordinate the provision of official statistics across the National Statistical Service (NSS)[2], to undertake identifying the list of ESA for Australia.

Objectives of the ESA for Australia initiative

The purpose of the ESA for Australia initiative is to allow for effective prioritisation of investment, focus and effort within the NSS, by identifying those essential statistical assets which are critical to decision-making in a complex and sometimes fragmented information environment across Australia.

Developing a list of agreed essential statistical assets will enable the Australian Government, in partnership with state and territory governments, to pursue the following objectives:

1. Identification of critical information gaps, so that these can be addressed,
2. Ensuring that the critically important information (statistics/data) are of sufficient quality, and
3. More efficient use of government resources by identifying areas of duplication and underutilisation.

Ultimately, the pursuit of these objectives through the ESA for Australia initiative aims to enhance the quality and value of the Australian statistical system to ensure providers and users of statistics have the confidence to trust the statistics produced within it.

What are official statistics?

Official statistics are defined as those statistics produced by government departments and agencies, and include statistics collected by surveys or from administrative systems.

Official statistics tell us how our society is working and progressing. They are also fundamental to open government, providing a window through which the work and performance of government can be seen, revealing the scale of government activity in every area of public policy, and allowing the impact of public policies and actions to be assessed – by both government itself and by the community more generally.

The availability of trusted statistical information to inform public debate and enable effective decision-making is fundamental to transparent government and democracy. As the world becomes more complex and interconnected, the importance of quality, accessible and timely information on Australia's changing circumstances increases.

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[1] ASAC was established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* to be the key advisory body to the Minister and the ABS on statistical services. It provides valuable input to the directions and priorities of the ABS work program and reports annually to Parliament. All state and territory governments are represented on ASAC. The other Council members are chosen to represent a broad cross-section of perspectives, covering government, business, academic and community interests. (www.asac.gov.au)

[2] 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. It aims to develop and improve a statistical system that ensures providers and users of statistics have the confidence to trust the statistics produced within it. (www.nss.gov.au)

What are essential statistical assets?

Statistical assets are the statistics, as well as the datasets that they are drawn from (where they exist).

Essential statistical assets are defined as a small, core subset of official statistical assets that, due to their application and importance, should be given priority in order to provide a high quality and trusted statistical service. Recognising those statistics considered to be most critical to Australia will help ensure their level of quality is maintained and enhanced over time.

Figure 1 provides a framework for all official statistics. This framework provides a visual representation of the range of official statistics, as the expectation is that the number of statistical assets that make up the ESA for Australia list will only be a small core subset of all official statistics.

Figure 1. Framework of official statistics

	Essential Statistical Assets for Australia	**Other official statistics**
Exist	Meets quality standards	Self-select to meet standards
	Do not yet meet quality standards (investment priority)	All other existing statistics
Do not exist	Statistical gap (investment priority)	Statistical gap

The broader set of official statistics that do not make up the 2013 list of ESA for Australia are still important statistical assets, and will continue to be produced, managed and invested in when needed. Distinguishing those statistical assets that are "essential" aims to identify where investment in the statistical system will yield the broadest benefit.

Why only consider official statistics for the 2013 list of ESA for Australia?

The scope of the ESA for Australia initiative is currently limited to official statistics. This has been necessary given that governments' ability to make resourcing decisions about statistical assets, including investing in improvements, does not extend beyond those that are produced or commissioned by official bodies.

Non-government organisations, such as businesses and not-for-profit and research institutions, also produce a range of valuable and important statistics and information that are used for decision making by governments and the community. Opportunities to recognise the importance of these statistics in the Australian statistical system may be considered in future iterations of the ESA for Australia initiative.

How will the initiative support the objectives?

Information obtained from the ESA for Australia initiative is expected to contribute to governments' investment decision-making processes to improve the overall quality of Australia's official statistical assets, enhance the utilisation of these assets and allow for more effective integration and comparability thereby increasing the value of Australia's statistical system.

At a minimum, the ESA for Australia initiative will contribute to the ABS's existing annual four-year forward work program review process. This initiative will increase the efficacy of this process, as well as highlight the breadth of demands for statistical information across policy domains which the ABS and other producers of official statistics are required to consider.

It is important to note that there are many statistics that are not on the list of ESA for Australia but are nonetheless important for decision making, and the ESA for Australia initiative will not in itself lead the ABS or any other agency to cut any statistics which are not present on the list.

The phases of the ESA for Australia initiative

The development of a list of essential statistical assets alone would be unable to address all of the objectives. Accordingly, the initiative has a broader scope with four distinct phases:

Phase 1 – Developing the 2013 list of Essential Statistical Assets for Australia

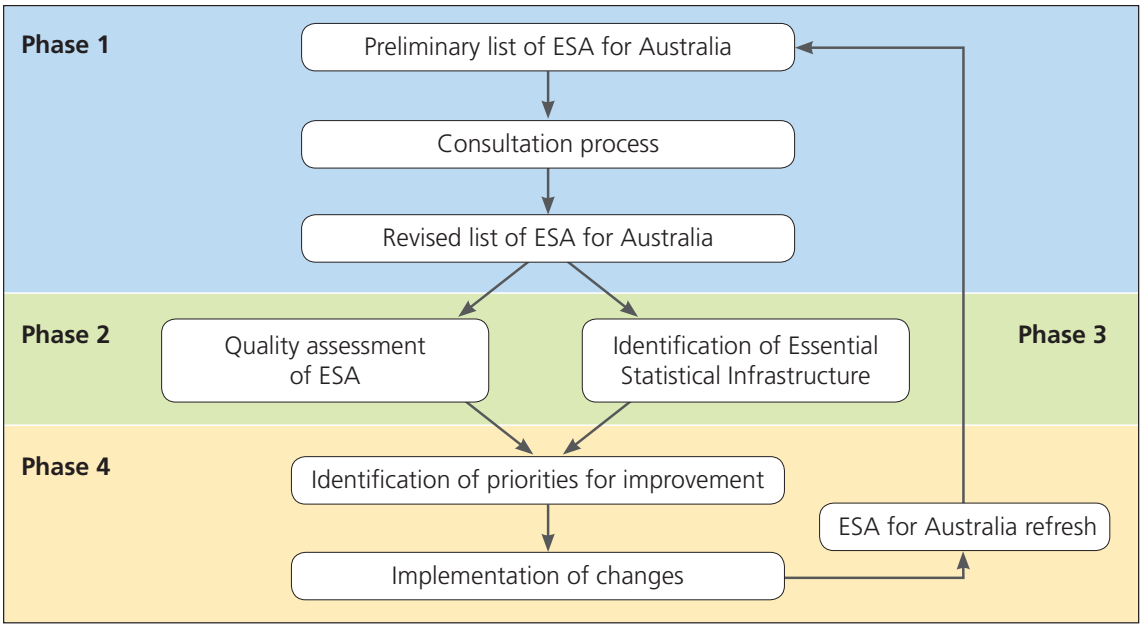
Phase 2 – Assessing the quality of the assets present on the list of Essential Statistical Assets for Australia

Phase 3 – Developing a list of Essential Statistical Infrastructure

Phase 4 – Identifying and pursuing future investment priorities

While this paper focuses primarily on the outcome of phase 1 of the initiative, the 2013 list of ESA for Australia, further information on phases 2–4 of the initiative are available in the section, Next phases of the ESA for Australia initiative, on page 21.

Figure 2. Phases in the ESA for Australia Iniative



Is this a one-off exercise?

The ABS is proposing to review the 2013 list of ESA for Australia after two years, with future reviews to occur every three to five years to ensure that the list remains relevant. The timing of the initial review is intended to allow for advancements in other complementary whole of government initiatives to be incorporated, to allow for refinements to be applied based on the outcomes of the subsequent phases of the initiative, and to allow for changes in the demand for statistical information that inevitably occurs over time.

The ABS is keen to continue to obtain ongoing feedback in relation to the ESA for Australia initiative, given its dynamic and evolutionary nature. If you wish to provide feedback on the initiative, please email your comments to the Director of the NSS Leadership Section at inquiries@nss.gov.au.

There are some emerging fields of statistics that are currently under conceptual development, nationally and internationally, which have the potential to be considered for inclusion once their uses are further established. Some specific examples that arose during the consultation process, which are expected to still be relevant when the next review of the list of ESA for Australia is undertaken, include statistics relating to governance, subjective wellbeing and the impact of the evolving digital economy on all aspects of Australian society.

Why is the ABS leading the process?

The ABS has been established by the Commonwealth Parliament as Australia's national statistical office. The ABS provides key statistics on a wide range of economic, environmental and social issues, covering government, business and the Australian population. Under its legislative mandate, the ABS also plays an important leadership and coordination role in relation to the statistical activities of other official bodies, both within Australia and internationally.

Section 6 (1)(c) of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975 (the ABS Act) outlines the role of the ABS in ensuring the coordination of statistical activities across official bodies, and through this in leading the NSS.

> *6 – Functions of the Bureau*
>
> *(1)(c) to ensure co-ordination 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 utilization, for statistical purposes, of information, and means of collection of information, available to official bodies;*

The ABS is not the only producer of highly important official statistical information for purposes such as policy formulation and evaluation, and effective delivery of community services. Demand for, access to, and usage of, the wealth of administrative data collected and held by government bodies has resulted in other departments and bodies that are involved in the production of statistical information.

The ABS has always sought to utilise its legislative mandate to promote coordination and collaboration between official bodies and the ESA for Australia initiative is no exception.

Relationship of the ESA for Australia initiative to other government initiatives

National initiatives

There are other initiatives to identify information needs for the Australian Government, although none of these have the particular objectives of the ESA for Australia initiative. These include performance reporting for COAG National Agreements, the National Plan for Environmental Information jointly led by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC), the Measuring Sustainability program by SEWPaC, and Measures of Australia's Progress by the ABS.

The ABS has been working with the relevant agencies on the range of complementary initiatives identified above, noting that the timeframes, objectives, concepts and frameworks for each initiative vary, and the ESA for Australia initiative has benefitted from this. It is expected that future iterations of the ESA for Australia list will benefit from the existence of other cross-cutting initiatives such as these to help identify critical information requirements in particular areas.

The other initiatives can also provide an insight to how priorities are changing. This will also inform the future revisions of the ESA for Australia list. For further information on these other initiatives is available on page 8.

State and territory initiatives

In addition to the work noted above, it is also important to note the emergence of similar initiatives in various states and territories. Some initiatives were already in their early stages at the time of the commencement of the ESA for Australia initiative, whilst others have been prompted by the desire to develop a more locally focused list of critical statistical assets.

The ABS welcomes these developments and their prospective contribution to the enhancement of the broader NSS. As with other initiatives at the Australian Government level, the ABS will seek to collaborate with these initiatives.

International efforts

The notion of identifying a nation's key official statistics as a means of focusing efforts where it will make the most difference is not confined to the ABS or Australia. Similar initiatives have been undertaken in recent years in other countries, including New Zealand and the United Kingdom, as well as international bodies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are also working to prioritise the global statistical information base required by countries for international comparability purposes, and to guide societal progress and policy development. The ESA for Australia initiative has benefitted from consideration of these international initiatives, noting that the ESA for Australia initiative has been developed in regard to the Australian context and as a result there are differences between the Australian approach and those adopted elsewhere.

Summary of current related Australian Government Initiatives

COAG National Agreements (COAG Reform Council)

The COAG National Agreements establish policy objectives in a number of key sectors. There are currently six National Agreements in place across healthcare, education, skills and workforce development, disability services, affordable housing and Indigenous reform. They define the objectives, outcomes, outputs and performance indicators, and clarify the roles and responsibilities that will guide the Australian Government and the states and territories in the delivery of services across a particular sector. In addition to performance reporting, COAG has asked that the Productivity Commission report on the economic impacts and benefits of COAG reforms.[3]

National Plan for Environmental Information (jointly led by the Bureau of Meteorology and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities)

The *National Plan for Environmental Information* is an Australian Government program, which aims to improve the quality and accessibility of environmental information for decision-making.

It will build Australia's capacity to monitor, detect and predict change in the environment and maintain this capacity over the long-term. The *National Plan for Environmental Information* will outline the long-term vision and a roadmap for implementation. It is an Australian Government environmental information reform program that will help account for changes in the environment and understand the impacts of decisions on the environment, economy and society.

Measuring Sustainability program (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities)

The *Measuring Sustainability* program was one of the measures announced under the *Sustainable Australia - Sustainable Communities: A Population Strategy for Australia* in the 2011–12 Australian Government budget. Part of this initiative is the development of a set of sustainability indicators for Australia, which will provide information on social and human capital, natural capital and economic capital to assist decision-making and planning at national and community levels.

Measures of Australia's Progress (ABS)

Measures of Australia's Progress is an initiative led by the ABS which presents a suite of indicators to help Australians answer the question, 'Is life in Australia getting better?' The indicators encompass a range of dimensions under the broad areas of society, economy, environment and governance.

In 2012 ABS undertook a national consultation to find out what is important to Australians for the nation's progress. One of the key outcomes of the consultation is that from 2013 there will be a fourth pillar - governance - incorporated into the new MAP framework, in addition to the existing pillars of society, economy and the environment.

[3] For a description of this reporting requirement and the terms of reference, see *Impacts and Benefits of COAG Reforms: Reporting Framework, Productivity Commission Research Report, Canberra, December 2010.*

PHASE 1 – THE 2013 LIST OF ESA FOR AUSTRALIA

The purpose of the 2013 list of ESA for Australia

The development of the 2013 list of ESA for Australia will provide the essential information base which, along with the subsequent phases of the initiative, will support the realisation of all three objectives.

The absence of a particular set of statistics from the list should not be interpreted as a suggestion they are not important. The motive for the initiative is to seek improvement in the official statistics available for decision making through new investments in the most critical areas, and not to identify statistics that are of lower priority.

How will the list be used?

Establishing the 2013 list of ESA for Australia will enable some preliminary identification of critical information gaps, particularly where there is currently no data to support a particular statistic on the list. Many gaps in the current statistical environment, however, relate to the need for more detailed breakdowns or improved quality of existing statistics. These partial gaps, and how they can be filled, are expected to be more clearly identified and articulated in future phases of the initiative

Criteria used to determine the 2013 list of ESA for Australia

To determine the 2013 list of ESA for Australia, the following criteria were used (in order of importance):

i. **Application in public policy and service delivery**
   Relied upon to support enduring public policies and service delivery.

ii. **Importance to key national progress measurement**
   Used to illustrate progress in Australian economic performance, environmental sustainability and social wellbeing.

iii. **Domestic legislative requirement**
   Australian Government and/or majority of state and territory legislation identifies requirement for production of statistical information.

iv. **International reporting obligation and/or critical for international comparability**
   Includes mandatory reporting obligations to IMF, OECD, UN and key internationally comparable indicators.

How the list was developed

Using the criteria noted above, and drawing on its extensive knowledge of the Australian statistical system and the needs of users of official statistics, the ABS established a preliminary list of ESA for Australia. This preliminary list was released for external consultation in May 2012 on the NSS website (www.nss.gov.au). This initiated a six month consultation period, during which the ABS engaged in an extensive range of bilateral and multilateral discussions with key producers and users of official statistics. In addition, a number of submissions were received from a range of organisations. The ABS took on board the feedback from the consultation process to develop the 2013 list of ESA for Australia, which was endorsed by ASAC in February 2013. Further information on the consultation process is provided on page 18.

How the criteria were applied

The criteria were designed as a guide for the creation of the preliminary list, to add clarity and direction to the consultative process undertaken.

The consultation paper for the ESA for Australia initiative identified the criteria used to produce the preliminary list, presented in order of importance. Feedback received through the consultation process reflected general agreement that criteria 1 and 2 are of higher importance than 3 and 4. It was further suggested that satisfying criterion 1 could be seen as sufficient justification for inclusion in the list, depending on the importance of the policy; how critical the statistics were to their development; or how widely spread their use was across different policies. This feedback was incorporated, as reflected in the inclusion of statistics which do not satisfy all the criteria, but are essential to supporting critical policies or are critical to measuring Australia's wellbeing.

Acknowledging that the ABS is not always aware of the full range of uses of each statistic, the criteria succeeded in guiding the feedback towards concentrating on the reasons why each individual statistic is considered essential, and ensured the discussions with stakeholders added additional detail where required.

The 2013 list of ESA for Australia reflects the first iteration of the list to be produced for Australia. As the first release, there will no doubt remain some debate as to whether particular statistics have a case for inclusion, or potentially should be removed from the list. This debate is encouraged and supported and the next iteration of the list is proposed for 2015 to ensure relevancy.

Are there any obligations for data custodians identified on the list?

The ABS is not the only agency identified on the 2013 list of ESA for Australia; there are a number of other agencies identified as data custodians of essential statistical assets, and these are identified in Appendix 1.

Under Section 6(1)(c) of the ABS Act, the ABS is legislated to lead the coordination of statistical activities across official government agencies, but it is not legislated to undertake compliance activities with regard to datasets held by those official agencies. The ABS intends to work collaboratively with custodian agencies in phase 2 of the initiative, which is focused on assessing the quality of the existing statistics and datasets on the list, in order to minimise the imposition on data custodians (further information is available in the section, Next phases of the ESA for Australia initiative, on page 21).

There is no obligation or cost to data custodians as a result of their statistics/datasets appearing on the 2013 list of ESA for Australia. Appearing on the list highlights the importance of their statistics for decision making and service delivery, and will raise awareness of the availability of their statistics more generally. Any decision to act upon recommendations that are identified during the quality assessment phase will rest with the custodian agency.

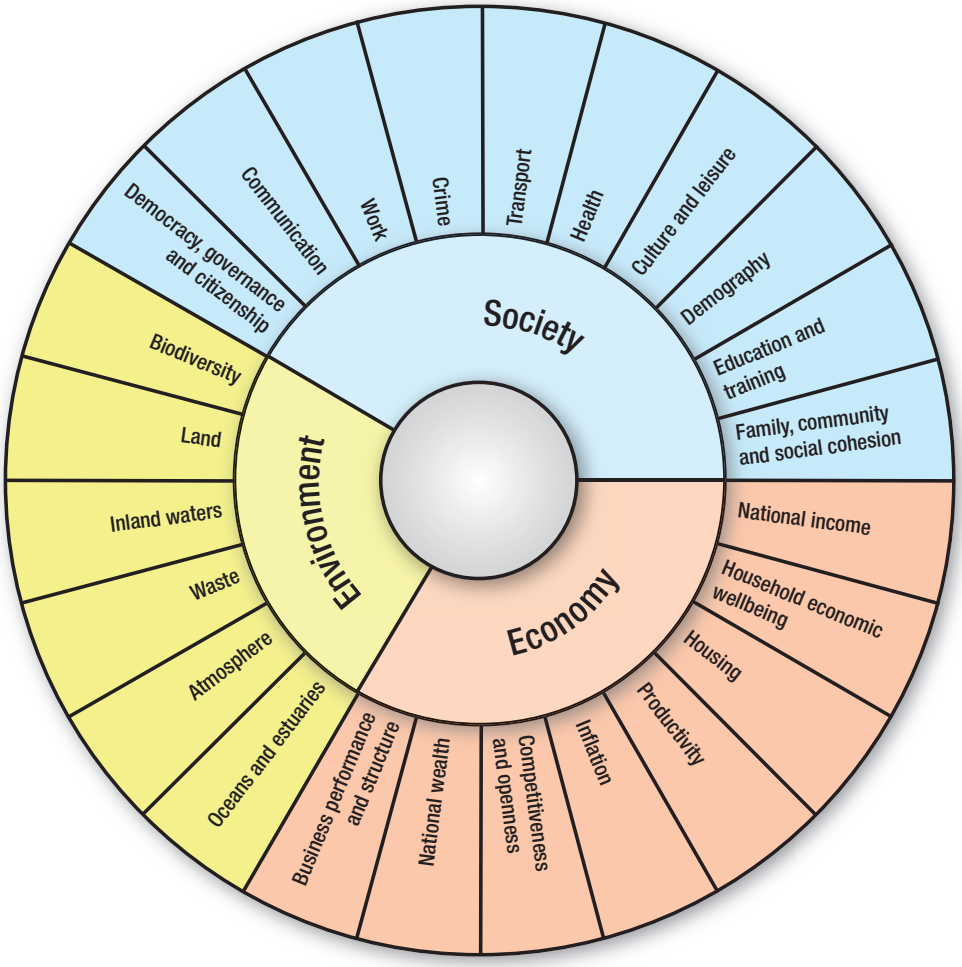
Furthermore, inclusion in the list does not impose a commitment on data custodians to continue collecting data, restrict changes being made to the dataset, or alter current practises for making information accessible. However, if agencies ceased the collection of data that was viewed as critical, and/or reduced their content and accessibility, this would result in additional data gaps if alternative sources of information were not available.

ESA for Australia organising framework

The 2013 list of ESA for Australia has been organised around three pillars: Economy, Environment and Society. Within each pillar, a number of dimensions have been identified that focus on a particular topic. The breakdown by pillar (and then dimensions) is for presentation purposes only and is not a factor in determining whether a statistic was included on the list.

As such, the dimensions are not considered mutually exclusive, and it is possible that statistics may be used to inform multiple pillars and dimensions, reflecting the ability of statistics to inform a range of policy domains and decision-making purposes.

Figure 3. ESA for Australia organising framework



THE 2013 LIST OF ESA FOR AUSTRALIA

Summary of the 2013 list of ESA for Australia

The final list consists of 74 statistics, 9 of which were identified as informing multiple pillars, and 11 statistics informing multiple dimensions within the one pillar. Table 1 provides a summary of the 2013 list of ESA for Australia, and how they inform each dimension and pillar of the organising framework.

Within the 74 essential statistics, the list highlights a total of 178 distinct datasets. These are made up from different sources, across all levels of government. Of the 178 datasets included in the list, 76 (43%) are held by the ABS, whilst 84 (47%) are held by other Australian Government agency custodians. Eighteen datasets are the combination of state and territory datasets, and whilst no datasets are currently the custody of local government agencies, some result from local government collected data.

The ABS datasets have a slightly stronger focus on the economic pillar, whilst the environmental pillar has a larger representation from other Australian Government agencies. The state and territory datasets are more heavily focused on the social pillar, with the majority of them informing social statistics.

The complete version of the 2013 list of ESA for Australia is included in Appendix 1. It also includes additional information to assist in understanding the headings of the list. The list is sorted alphabetically within each pillar. Where statistics inform multiple pillars, the predominant pillar was identified first to assist in sorting the list to avoid duplication.

A Microsoft Excel version of the 2013 list of ESA for Australia, to support more detailed analysis and sorting, is available on the ABS website, with direct links available from the NSS website (www.nss.gov.au/esaforaustralia).

Table 1. Summary of the 2013 list of ESA for Australia, against each dimension and pillar

ECONOMY PILLAR			
Business performance and structure	**Competitiveness and openness**	**Household economic wellbeing**	**Housing**
• Business demography • Business performance indicators • Energy supply and use • Freight movement statistics* • IT use and innovation by businesses* • Job vacancies*	• Balance of payments and international investment position* • Exports and imports of goods and services* • International trade inflation and terms of trade • Productivity statistics*	• Employee earnings and hours worked • Employment arrangements, superannuation and retirement incomes* • Household income, wealth and expenditure statistics* • Housing affordability* • Income, labour and family dynamics* • Labour market statistics*	• Access to suitable and safe housing* • Household income, wealth and expenditure statistics* • Housing activity indicators • Housing affordability* • Housing utilisation

* Denotes statistics which inform multiple dimensions and/or pillars

ECONOMY PILLAR cont'd			
Inflation	**National income**	**National wealth**	**Productivity**
• Consumer inflation • Housing affordability* • Household income, wealth and expenditure statistics* • International trade inflation and terms of trade • Producer inflation • Wage inflation	• Agricultural, forestry and fisheries statistics* • Balance of payments and international investment position* • Capital formation indicators • Exports and imports of goods and services* • Financial flow statistics • Financial price indicators • Gross domestic product and component statistics • Gross state product and component statistics • Input - output tables • Motor vehicle statistics* • Retail trade statistics • Taxation revenue and transfers	• Central bank financial information • Government sector financial information • Land statistics * • National balance sheet • Petroleum and mineral resources statistics* • Water supply and use*	• Expenditure on research and development • IT use and innovation by businesses* • Labour market statistics* • Productivity statistics*

ENVIRONMENT PILLAR			
Atmosphere	**Biodiversity**	**Inland waters**	**Land**
• Ambient air quality • Climate statistics • Greenhouse gas emissions	• Biodiversity and ecosystem health	• Agricultural, forestry and fisheries statistics* • Water quality of natural systems • Water supply and use*	• Agricultural, forestry and fisheries statistics* • Land statistics * • Petroleum and mineral resources statistics* • Size of protected terrestrial and marine parks
Oceans and estuaries	**Waste**		
• Agricultural, forestry and fisheries statistics* • Water quality of natural systems • Water supply and use*	• Pollution, and accumulation of waste		

SOCIETY PILLAR			
Communication	**Crime**	**Culture and leisure**	**Democracy, governance and citizenship**
• Personal internet access and usage	• Crime incidence rates • Personal experiences of violence • Recorded criminal offender rates	• Cultural and sport participation and attendance	*There are currently no statistics informing this dimension on the list.*
Demography	**Education and training**	**Family, community and social cohesion**	**Health**
• Birth statistics • Migrant statistics • Mortality and life expectancy statistics* • Population counts • Population structure and household composition	• Early childhood development* • Education outcomes and the transition to work • Enrolment and attainment in tertiary and vocational education and training • Literacy and numeracy • Participation and attainment in schooling (primary and secondary)	• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social statistics • Access to essential social services • Access to suitable and safe housing* • Disability related statistics • Early childhood development* • Employment arrangements, superannuation and retirement incomes* • Income, labour and family dynamics* • Multidimensional social disadvantage • Volunteering data	• Ageing and aged care statistics • Disease prevalence • Early childhood development* • Health risk factor statistics • Hospital services statistics • Mortality and life expectancy statistics* • Preventative health statistics • Primary health care services and performance
Transport	**Work**		
• Freight movement statistics* • Household travel (time, distance and mode) • Motor vehicle statistics* • Transport related crashes and fatalities	• Employment arrangements, superannuation and retirement incomes* • Income, labour and family dynamics* • Job vacancies* • Labour market statistics*		

Changes from the preliminary list

The 2013 list of ESA for Australia reflects the feedback received through the extensive consultation process conducted. As a result of this process, fourteen statistics were added to the list and eight statistics were created as a result of grouping together or expanding the scope of existing statistics to improve the granularity presented across the list. Five statistics present on the preliminary list were removed. Whilst other statistics have experienced minor name changes, they essentially have remained as suggested in the preliminary list.

One of the areas which received significant focus during the consultation process involved the process of grouping related indicators and specific statistics within a broader statistical label. As can be seen by the full list in Appendix 1, the 74 statistics in the 2013 list of ESA for Australia do not represent 74 individual indicators. Rather, each of the statistics represents a cohesive set of related statistical information that could be represented by a single statistical label. The 2013 list improved the consistency in applying this principle, which was originally attempted in the preliminary list.

The Economy pillar

The Economy pillar was updated with the inclusion of four additional statistics: Gross state product and component statistics, Input - output tables, Retail trade statistics, and Taxation revenue and transfers. Three other statistics in this pillar were either grouped or re-scoped to improve granularity: Capital formation indicators, Employee earnings and hours worked, Household income, wealth and expenditure statistics (also in Society pillar). No statistics were removed from this pillar.

The Environment pillar

The Environment pillar experienced the greatest change from the preliminary to the 2013 list, with six statistics added to the list (Ambient air quality, Biodiversity and ecosystem health, Climate statistics, Extractive and mineral resources statistics (also in Economy pillar), Pollution and accumulation of waste, and Water quality of natural systems). Three statistics were grouped into one, with Agricultural, forestry and fisheries statistics previously being presented individually. On the other hand, Household recycling and Number of threatened species and ecological communities did not make it onto the 2013 list of ESA for Australia following the consultation process.

The Society pillar

In the 2013 list of ESA for Australia, the Society pillar gained four additional statistics: Ageing and aged care statistics, Birth statistics, Household travel (time, distance and mode), and Volunteering data. Based on the outcomes of the consultation process, three statistics present in the preliminary list did not make it onto the 2013 list of ESA for Australia: Perceptions of safety, Subjective wellbeing, and Pharmaceutical and health supplement statistics. Four statistics were also grouped or re-scoped as part of the process of refining the list: Disease prevalence, Early childhood development, Enrolment and attainment in tertiary and vocational education and training, and Participation and attainment in schooling (primary and secondary).

Other changes to the list

A number of additional statistics suggested through the consultation phase were already considered by the ABS to be embedded within existing statistics on the preliminary list. As a result, a "descriptor" column was added to clearly articulate the statistics contained within the broader statistical labels.

The justifications supporting the inclusion of each statistic have been further refined as a result of feedback received, which particularly focused on the policy relevance of certain statistics (criterion 1), as well as their relevance for assessing progress (criterion 2). Whilst a narrative approach to the justifications has been retained, they have been written to enable the relationship of each statistic to the criteria to be clearly identified.

The 2013 list of ESA for Australia was also updated to ensure that the datasets linked to each essential statistic are more comprehensive. This was achieved thanks to the feedback collected through the consultation process. Likewise, feedback was received on which disaggregation variables are deemed essential, which is reflected in the updated critical frequency, spatial and other disaggregation variables contained in the list.

Consultation process

Overview of the consultation process

In May 2012, the ABS, through the NSS website, released a consultation paper seeking public comment and feedback on the ESA for Australia initiative and preliminary list. In the six months following the release, there was a significant program of engagement and consultation led by ABS senior executives who targeted stakeholders across the public service at the Australian Government and state/territory levels, data custodians and key users, statistical governance forums and user groups, and members of the public.

The ABS received 97 submissions varying in nature from formal written submissions through to feedback obtained through meetings with stakeholders. A list of those who the ABS received feedback from is available in Appendix 2.

Table 2. Number of submissions broken down by type and sector

Sector	Formal	Informal*	Total
Government – Australian Government	17	9	26
Government – state/ territory	22	26	48
Government – other	3	2	5
NGO/industry/individual	17	1	18
Total	59	38	97

*Includes meeting summaries and responses from individuals within government departments. Some departments have provided more than one submission.

Feedback received during the consultation process

Overall, the submissions and feedback highlighted broad in-principle support for the ESA for Australia initiative and recognition that high quality social, economic and environmental official statistics are fundamental to government and the community. There is also recognition that the demand for statistics is growing rapidly and putting increasing pressure on existing resources.

Stakeholders' comments focused on the inclusion/exclusion of statistics, as well as taking the opportunity to raise a number of other issues, the most common of which include:

- the impact for statistics not on the list,
- the governance of the list in prioritising and protecting investment in statistics,
- the criteria used to determining essentiality,
- the relative importance of each criterion,
- the need for future statistical requirements to be identified,
- alignment and collaboration with other initiatives, and
- ambiguity over statistical labels.

Other comments included the name of the initiative, placing a larger focus on progress aspirations (criterion 2) and possible alternative approaches for developing the list, including the use of an independent board.

This focus on conceptual and implementation issues is understandable given that it is a new initiative; however, it has resulted in some aspects of the preliminary list, such as the disaggregations and spatial requirements receiving less attention. As the initiative evolves in the future, and stakeholders can observe how all aspects of the list and each phase contribute to outcomes, it is expected that these aspects will receive greater attention. They will also be explored further in the quality assessment phase.

In particular, there were some concerns that applying a national approach to the list may mask those statistics that are important at a local or regional level. It is important to reinforce that the focus of the initiative is at the Australia level. Further work will be undertaken in relation to the spatial requirements which will assist in this aspect, in addition to the work for complementary initiatives at a sub-national level.

The consultation process also provided a platform for the ABS to discuss other important statistical issues with stakeholders, such as the public release of information and data access, data integration and confidentiality principles, statistical infrastructure and statistical capability. These are also important priorities for the advancement of the NSS, and the ABS is keen to continue pursuing these priorities with willing partner agencies in addition to the ESA for Australia initiative.

NEXT PHASES OF THE ESA FOR AUSTRALIA INITIATIVE

Phase 2 – Quality Assessment

Why undertake a quality assessment process?

The quality assessment process will provide for a more in-depth consideration of Australia's essential statistical assets in order to understand how well the currently produced information meets the critical needs of users, highlighting gaps within existing statistics.

How the assessment will be undertaken

The quality assessment will consider each essential statistical asset, including the datasets used in its production. This collective list of required datasets will facilitate the identification of duplication of statistical production across government as well as potential areas of underutilisation. Part of the process will involve reviewing the ability of the existing datasets against the critical spatial, frequency and other disaggregations identified in the 2013 list of ESA for Australia that each statistic is to be reported against.

The quality assessment phase of the ESA for Australia initiative will first undergo a pilot program, where a small number of essential statistical assets will be reviewed. The statistics chosen for the pilot will include ABS and non-ABS datasets at both the Australian Government, and state and territory level. The pilot will also be used to ensure that the process maximises the use of existing information where possible, and does not impose significant burden on data custodians.

A quality assessment tool leveraging off the existing ABS Data Quality Framework is being developed to assess each essential statistical asset against each of the seven dimensions of quality: institutional environment, relevance, timeliness, accuracy, coherence, interpretability and accessibility. The data quality framework is already used by a number of government agencies in the preparation of data quality statements to inform users on the quality of their statistics. Where possible, existing data quality statements will be used to support the quality assessment process in order to reduce the effort required for this phase.

This tool will use a series of questions designed to be easily answered with limited imposition on data custodians, with support from the ABS. The questions are developed to test how the available datasets match the needs highlighted through the ESA for Australia consultation process.

Where relevant, it will also gather information on what standards or classifications are being used, in order to test the comparability and coherence across the data sources. Based on the availability or otherwise of the critical information, the data source will be given a numerical score for each of the quality dimensions.

Who will be undertaking the assessment?

In its capacity as the national statistics office, the ABS will lead the quality assessment process. When a statistical asset involves a producer and/or data custodian other than the ABS, the quality assessment will be conducted in collaboration between the data custodian and the ABS to produce an agreed quality assessment.

How will the results be presented?

The purpose of generating a numerical score against each of the quality dimensions is to enable the results to be presented in a graphical format. The graphical interface will distribute the quality dimensions across separate axes and provide a benchmark across time.

This approach to quantifying data quality is consistent with current emerging trends internationally, such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation within the United Nations.[4] Another purpose of the pilot approach to this phase will be to test the approach to quantifying quality, including the application of weightings to specific questions and quality dimensions, and different approaches to presenting the results.

A quantifiable approach will also allow groups of statistics to be compared easily in a visual format across similar axes. This will help observe which quality dimensions the current statistics score highly on, and which ones can be improved. This ability to visualise quality will assist decision makers in assessing which elements of quality require improvement.

Given that the purpose of the exercise is primarily to identify areas for improvement across the range of essential statistical assets, it is not intended that detailed results for individual datasets will be made publicly available as a matter of course. The information will be shared with data custodians, and not circulated more widely without custodians' consent. However, summary quality information for each statistic will be provided publicly.

Recognising high quality individual statistics and datasets

Once the quality assessment phase has been completed, in addition to the information being used for the purposes of the ESA for Australia initiative, there may be merit in seeking to publicly recognise statistics that meet the quality standards to a certain level.

One potential future approach to be discussed with data custodians is the consideration of an accreditation process, similar to the National Statistics Accreditation currently employed in the UK. This will not be the focus of phase 2 but will be discussed with stakeholders as a potential future direction to gauge the level of support in future iterations of the ESA for Australia initiative.

Making the quality assessment tool widely available

After the quality assessment tool has been thoroughly tested and validated through the ESA for Australia process, it is possible that the ABS will seek to make the tool available for users and data custodians to undertake their own quality assessments for broader application to statistics not contained on the list of ESA for Australia, including non-official statistics.

This would be as a complementary tool to the currently available Data Quality Online Tool, available on the NSS website (www.nss.gov.au/dataquality) which is designed to assist users in generating data quality statements. In the event that an accreditation process is eventually established, there is also the potential for accreditation to be extended beyond the statistics identified on the list of ESA for Australia.

Phase 3 – Essential Statistical Infrastructure

Why identify a list of Essential Statistical Infrastructure?

During the development of the preliminary list of ESA for Australia and the subsequent consultation process, a number of supporting elements of statistical infrastructure were identified as essential for the creation of the statistics on the list of ESA for Australia.

As they did not fit into the scope of the ESA for Australia initiative (which focuses on statistics and datasets), the need for a list of supporting Essential Statistical Infrastructure (ESI) was identified and endorsed by ASAC at its November 2012 meeting.

The value of undertaking this process is that improvements in the quality of statistics are also possible through investment in improvements to the underlying infrastructure used to generate statistics. It would also assist with the quality assessment phase and furthermore, highlight the significant investment required to maintain these infrastructure assets, which is often unrecognised.

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[4] FAO Statistical Data Quality Framework: A multi-layered approach to monitoring and assessment, available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub/2004docs-CDQIO/1-FAO.pdf

What is statistical infrastructure?

Statistical infrastructure refers to tools which support the operation of a statistical system. These tools can help to organise the statistical system, improve efficiency, add value, create new outputs or simply perform tasks within the system.

The scope of statistical infrastructure for ESI potentially includes the following:

- principles, policies and legislation (e.g. United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics),
- frames and registers (e.g. the Geocoded National Address File, Australian Business Register),
- frameworks (e.g. System of National Accounts, Balance of Payments Manual, System of Environmental and Economic Accounts, Generic Statistical Business Process Model),
- standards and classifications (e.g. ANZSIC, ANZSCO, Age, Sex), and
- analytical tools and systems that are critical to the collection and dissemination of statistical information (e.g. Survey TableBuilder).

The scope is not intended to extend to other enablers required to produce statistics, such as physical buildings, computer hardware, and capable staff with sufficient statistical skills.

There is currently no existing framework that supports the identification of such infrastructure. The ABS is in the early stages of developing such a framework to support other internal initiatives and the intention is to leverage this work to support the development of a list of ESI.

What is Essential Statistical Infrastructure?

Essential Statistical Infrastructure is defined as a sub-set of official statistical infrastructure that is fundamental to the creation of high quality statistics. At a minimum, it is expected that the critical statistical infrastructure employed in the creation of statistics featured on the list of ESA for Australia would be included within the list of ESI.

It may be possible that there are other statistical infrastructure assets that deserve to be recognised due to their broad application and usage in official statistics and/or enduring nature.

Process for developing the list of Essential Statistical Infrastructure

Once the current work within the ABS is sufficiently advanced, the ABS will seek to engage with key stakeholders including custodians of official datasets to obtain broader agreement on the conceptual framework and criteria for identification of ESI assets.

When the foundation work is agreed to, work will commence on a targeted consultation process to identify the list of ESI. It is possible that this work will be undertaken concurrently with the Phase 2 work with data custodians during the remainder of 2013.

Phase 4 – Determining priorities for investment

There was a range of feedback querying how the list would be used to reach real investment outcomes and who would be involved in the decision making processes. More clarification about how the process would be reviewed in the future was also sought to ensure relevance to the changing policy questions and providing essential statistics to inform public debate.

Given the cross-sectoral composition of ASAC, and in the absence of an alternative governance body with the authority to bind government agencies at the Australian Government and state and territory levels to investment decisions, the ABS believes that ASAC is the most appropriate forum to endorse the list of ESA for Australia, and also consider the priorities for investment in the statistical system.

ASAC has a mandated role to advise the Minister responsible for the ABS on the priorities for the NSS more broadly. Given the critical role that statistics play in influencing government policy development and evaluation, as well as informing the broader Australian community, ultimately it is hoped that the ESA for Australia initiative is also used to guide government decision making on further priority investments in Australia's statistical system so that the maximum benefits from the system overall can be realised.

It is anticipated that the views of ASAC will contribute to the ongoing review of the ABS forward work program as currently occurs, which is also influenced by feedback that emanates from the plethora of ABS statistical stakeholder groups that are consulted. In turn, the outcomes from the ESA for Australia initiative will also benefit these stakeholder groups in the future by focusing efforts on the essential statistics contained on the list.

In addition to the work undertaken directly by the ABS, the identification of priorities for investment will also provide direction for areas where the ABS can support agencies at both the Australian Government and state and territory government levels in investing in the official statistical evidence base. There are a range of mechanisms by which this can occur, including collaborative initiatives and the establishment of an ABS outposting at a host agency.

The allocation of resources to support investments in response to the identification of priorities remains with the respective data custodian agencies. Given the limited resources generally available, the ability of an agency to invest in the priorities identified will rely on the respective agency's prioritising of investment in statistical assets and infrastructure against that agencies other obligations, and against the investment priorities of government more broadly.

APPENDIX 1 – THE REVISED 2013 LIST OF ESA FOR AUSTRALIA

Column descriptions for the 2013 list of ESA for Australia

ID Number	Each statistic has a random ID number allocated to support identification and discussion of specific statistics.
Pillar	Forms part of the ESA for Australia organising framework and includes the following: economy, environment and society. Any pillar coloured purple indicates that it contains statistics that are relevant to multiple dimensions and pillars.
Dimension	Forms part of the ESA for Australia organising framework and divides the pillars into further subjects (see figure 2 in the main body of the paper for the full list of dimensions). Dimensions are not considered mutually exclusive, and it is possible that statistics may be used to inform multiple pillars and/or multiple dimensions.
Essential statistics	The label for a defined essential statistic or set of interrelated statistics.
Description	Additional information to clarify the scope of each statistic identified.
Datasets and Data custodians	The key currently existing datasets that inform each statistic (if applicable), and the data custodian(s) responsible for maintaining each existing dataset.
Justification	The justification provides a short, concise statement that sets out how each statistic relates to the four criteria.
Critical frequency	The minimum required frequency for the statistic(s) to be reported. Note that it is not a requirement that all aspects of the statistics identified in the list are required at this frequency – a more detailed assessment will be undertaken during phase 2 of the initiative.
Critical spatial	The level of spatial disaggregations required for the statistic(s). Note that is not a requirement that all aspects of the statistics identified in the list are required to be reported at this level of disaggregation – a more detailed assessment will be undertaken during phase 2 of the initiative.
Critical disaggregation	The minimum disaggregations required to maximise the utility of the statistic(s) and meet reporting obligations. Note that is not a requirement that all aspects of the statistics identified in the list are required to be reported at this level of disaggregation – a more detailed assessment will be undertaken during phase 2 of the initiative.

The Revised 2013 list of ESA for Australia

ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-088	Economy; Society	Housing; Family, Community and Social Cohesion	Access to Suitable and Safe Housing	Includes indicators of access to housing for all Australians. It includes a specific focus on the demand and supply for housing assistance, facilities to support disadvantaged sub-population groups and indicators relating to the population of homeless Australians.	• Australian Government Housing Dataset (DSS)[1] • Census of Population and Housing (ABS) • Indigenous Community Housing (AIHW)[2] • Mainstream Community Housing (AIHW)[2] • Public Housing and State Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing (AIHW)[2] • Specialist Homeless Services Collection (AIHW) • Survey of Income and Housing (ABS)	These statistics are critical for supporting public policy and service delivery models that aim to help disadvantaged people secure a place of residence, be it providing low cost social housing, assisting first home buyers to purchase a dwelling, assisting households with rent payments, or providing funding to support groups involved in providing long term community housing or crisis accommodation for people at risk of homelessness. They provide important measures of societal progress. They are used in Measures of Australia's Progress and in National Agreement / Partnerships on Housing Affordability and Homelessness, as well as in the Social Inclusion Board's "How Australia is Faring" and in the Report on Government Services. Monitoring progress in tackling homelessness is critical because of the impact of homelessness on a range of outcomes—including health, education and employment.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, SA4, SA2	Household Composition, Program Type, Disability Status, Income Source, Indigenous Status, Accommodation Type
ESA-985	Economy; Environment	National Income; Inland Waters; Land; Oceans and Estuaries	Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics	Includes both physical and value-based estimates for bio-physical assets within Australian territorial borders. This encompasses production and stock estimates of naturally occurring and man-managed resources.	• Agricultural Census (ABS)[3] • Agricultural Land and Water Ownership Survey (ABS) • Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ABS) • Australian Farm Surveys (ABARES) • Australian Fisheries Statistics Database (ABARES) • Australian Fisheries Survey (ABARES) • Australian Forest and Wood Products Statistics (ABARES) • Fishery Status Reports (ABARES) • National Forest Inventory (ABARES)[4] • National Plantation Inventory (ABARES)[4] • Rural Environment and Agriculture Commodity Survey (ABS)[3] • Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced Collection (ABS)[1]	Agricultural commodity, land and water management statistics inform decision-making by government, industry bodies and agricultural businesses regarding agriculture production and associated environmental and social issues. They are critical in understanding and monitoring the sustainability of fishing stocks, in policy development for fishing restrictions and are required for international reporting purposes. They are also used in measuring development and performance of key national strategies such as the National Forests policy Statement and National Plantations Strategy – Vision 2020, and to support monitoring, reporting and compliance under legislation currently going through Parliament such as the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 to assess whether the legislation is meeting its policy objectives. They support national reporting criteria under the agreed national forest monitoring reporting framework that is used to provide sustainability reporting on Australia's forests. They underpin state/territory and Australian Government bilateral agreements and legislation, including the Regional Forests Agreements Act. They are reported to international bodies including the UNFAO; and are published in accordance with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and national environmental accounts and SEEA reporting.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, Regional (NRM), Fishery, Agricultural Region, FMA, LGA	Industry, Commodity, Species, Gear Type, Plantation Type

[1] Data custodian revised
[2] Datasets replaced single listing of 'National Housing Assistance Data Repository (AIHW)' which was separated into three distinct datasets
[3] Dataset name revised
[4] Datasets replaced single listing of 'National Forest Inventory, including the National Plantation Inventory (ABARES)' which was separated into two distinct datasets

Please refer to Page 25 for a description of each column.

The Revised 2013 list of ESA for Australia

ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-730	Economy	National Income; Competitiveness and Openness	Balance of Payments and International Investment Position	Includes statistics such as the current account balance, balance on goods and services trade, net overseas income flows and international investment flows in and out of Australia.	• Balance of Payments and International Investment Position (ABS)	These statistics are a key input for the formation of fiscal and monetary policy, as a measure of the global integration and exposure of the Australian economy to the world. They are an integral input into Australia's national accounts. Understanding a country's financial obligations to other countries is essential to its financial viability, and also provides an indication of the openness of the Australian economy to the rest of the world. They are reported to international bodies including the UN, OECD and World Bank; and are published in accordance with IMF's SDDS.	Quarterly	National	Industry, Institutional Sector, Assets/ Liabilities, Instrument, Maturity, Domicility, Partner Country
ESA-457	Economy	Business Performance and Structure	Business Demography	Includes indicators on the size and location of businesses, as well as exit, entry and survival rates.	• Australian Business Register (ABR)[5] • Business Characteristics Survey (ABS)	These statistics are used to inform analysis on barriers to competition, industries, and sizes of businesses. A number of government support programs target small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and therefore, it is essential to have up to date information on the size distribution of firms in various industries. The statistics are also used for regional and local planning and governance.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, SA4	Industry, Business Size
ESA-235	Economy	Business Performance and Structure	Business Performance Indicators	Includes indicators for profits, inventories, sales, investment expenditure and wages and salaries.	• Business Activity Statement Data (ATO) • Business Income Tax Data (ATO) • Quarterly Business Indicators Survey (ABS)	These statistics are used to benchmark and assess the performance of various economic policies and supporting forecasting of future economic conditions. They provide an insight into the competitiveness of Australian businesses, which is important from an economic sustainability perspective. They are reported to international bodies including the OECD and UN, and are published in accordance with IMF's SDDS. They are also an essential input into the quarterly national accounts.	Quarterly	National, State/ Territory	Industry
ESA-940	Economy	National Income	Capital Formation Indicators	Includes statistical information on private sector investment and medium-term investment intentions, including petroleum and mineral exploration.	• Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Dataset (ABS) • Private New Capital Expenditure Survey (ABS) • [6]	The capital expenditure expectations are a key forward looking indicator for business investment and have been particularly useful for monitoring mining investment intentions during the resources boom. They are also indicative of the future productive capacity of the economy. They are particularly valuable at present, when business investment is responsible for a larger than average part of Australia's growth.	Quarterly	National, State/ Territory	Industry, Institutional Sector, Assets/ Liabilities
ESA-057	Economy	National Wealth	Central Bank Financial Information	Includes the financial assets and liabilities of the Reserve Bank of Australia held with counter-party financial institutions.	• Assets, Liabilities and Reserves of Reserve Bank (RBA)	These statistics support the supervision of the financial system and are used in the formulation of fiscal and monetary policy. They are also reported to international bodies including the OECD, UN, Bank of International Settlements and the World Bank; and are published in accordance with IMF's SDDS.	Monthly	National	Institutional Sector, Assets/ Liabilities

[5] Data custodian revised
[6] 'Capital Expenditure Survey (ABS)' removed as does not exist as distinct dataset

Please refer to Page 25 for a description of each column.

The Revised 2013 list of ESA for Australia

ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-976	Economy	Inflation	Consumer Inflation	Includes the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and sub-aggregates and Living Cost Indexes (LCI's).	• Consumer Price Index Dataset (ABS)	These statistics are critical to the management of price inflation in Australia, which is a key monetary and fiscal economic policy objective. They are also extensively used in contractual agreements. Inflation is an important aspect of progress as it affects economic stability. Large or unanticipated changes in prices can distort the behaviour of consumers and businesses, which may find it more difficult to predict the effects of their saving and investment decisions. The CPI and related indexes are required for the purposes of indexation of government payments and charges and are referenced in numerous Australian Government and state/territory legislation. They are required for understanding purchasing power parities internationally. They are also reported to international bodies including the ILO; and are published in accordance with the IMF SDDS.	Monthly	National, State/ Territory, Met/Ex-Met	Household Expenditure Category, Household Type
ESA-802	Economy	Household Economic Wellbeing	Employee Earnings and Hours Worked	Includes statistics and distribution of individual hours worked, and hourly and weekly earnings.	• Average Weekly Earnings Survey (ABS) • LFSS - Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership (ABS) • Personal Income Tax Data (ATO) • Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours (ABS)	These statistics support policy formulation and associated legislative responses, including supporting annual minimum wage case, wages and labour market policies. They are used as the community standard adjustment benchmark for pensions in Australia, as well as to measure the gender wage gap.	Biannually	National, State/ Territory, LGA, SA2	Age, Sex, Industry, Institutional Sector, Occupation
ESA-174	Economy	Business Performance and Structure	Energy Supply and Use	Includes statistics on the monetary and physical supply, use, efficiency and intensity of energy in Australia.	• Australian Energy Projections (BREE) • Australian Energy Statistics (BREE) • Energy Accounts (ABS)[7] • Energy, Water and Environment Survey (ABS) • Household Energy Consumption Survey (ABS) • MPS - Energy Use and Conservation (ABS) • National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System (CER)[8] • Taxation Statistics (ATO)[9]	These statistics are vital importance to policy makers for environmental, economic and planning purposes. They are important to the measurement of environmental outcomes. Climate change, energy use and energy production are likely to remain key environmental and economic issues for many decades to come. They are also reported to international bodies including UNFCCC; and published in accordance with the United Nations System for Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA).	Annually	National, State/ Territory	Industry, Renewable/ Non-Renewable, Energy Source[10]

[7] Dataset replaced 'Business Survey of Residential Energy Distribution (ABS)' which was only intended as a one-off collection
[8] Data custodian revised
[9] Dataset name revised
[10] Critical disaggregations refined, 'Institutional Sector' removed to better reflect critical information for the statistic

Please refer to Page 25 for a description of each column.

The Revised 2013 list of ESA for Australia

ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-325	Economy	Productivity	Expenditure on Research and Development	Includes statistical estimates of the value of expenditure on research and development activities by a range of sectors.	• Survey of Research and Experimental Development - Businesses (ABS) • Survey of Research and Experimental Development - Government and Private Non-Profit (ABS) • Survey of Research and Experimental Development - Higher Education (ABS)	These statistics enable the nature and distribution of research and development (R&D) activity to be monitored and analysed for policy formulation, allocation of government funding and determination of research priorities. Measuring and understanding innovation (and its enabler, R&D) are considered important for understanding Australia's future productivity and wellbeing. They are also reported to international bodies including the OECD and UN.	Annually	National, State/ Territory	Industry, Institutional Sector, Field of Research, Type of Activity
ESA-905	Economy	National Income; Competitiveness and Openness	Exports and Imports of Goods and Services	Includes detailed statistical information on the international trade of goods and services between Australia and the rest of the world.	• Customs Data (ACBPS) • Merchandise Trade Statistics (ABS)	These statistics are used for the monitoring of a range of government policies such as, industry assistance, border protection, agriculture, and anti-dumping. They are essential for the development of trade agreements. They are reported to international bodies including the UN and are published in accordance with IMF's SDDS. Various international obligations also require specific commodities to be monitored.	Monthly	National, State/ Territory[11]	Partner Country, Commodity, Industry, Institutional Sector
ESA-373	Economy	National income	Financial Flow Statistics	Includes statistics measuring the net flow of financial transactions through the Australian economy between sectors.	• APRA Collections - ADI 320 Series (APRA)[12] • APRA Collections - ADI 330 Series (APRA)[12] • APRA Collections - General Insurance (APRA)[12] • APRA Collections - Life Insurance and Friendly Societies (APRA)[12] • APRA Collections - RFC 320 Series (APRA)[12] • APRA Collections - Superannuation (APRA)[12] • Financial Accounts (ABS)	These statistics are used to monitor the flow of financial assets and liabilities through the Australian economy, including the state of funding for the banking system, the nature of super fund activities and stability and efficiency of the financial system. They are important for monetary policy formulation and monitoring the stability of the financial system. They are published in accordance with the IMF's SDDS.	Quarterly	National	Institutional Sector, Assets/ Liabilities
ESA-012	Economy	National Income	Financial Price Indicators	Includes official financial indicators include exchange rates, short and long-term bond rates and the statistics on changes in the size and value of financial debt and equity markets.	• Official Record of Financial Markets Information - Domestic (RBA)[13] • Official Record of Financial Markets Information - International (RBA)[13]	These statistics provide critical indicators for monetary policy. They are also reported to international bodies including the OECD, UN, Bank of International Settlements and the World Bank; and are published in accordance with IMF's SDDS.	Daily	National	International Currencies, Institutional Sector, Assets/ Liabilities
ESA-563	Economy	National Wealth	Government Sector Financial Information	Includes statistics on the fiscal position (actual and forecasted) by Australian governments and government participation in debt markets.	• Central Government Debt (AOFM) • Government Finance Statistics (ABS)[14]	These statistics are a key input to the formation of fiscal policy, and distribution of GST to the states. They are required to fulfil a number of legislative requirements including the Charter of Budget Honesty Act. They are reported to international bodies including the World Bank, and OECD; and are published in accordance with IMF's SDDS.	Quarterly	National, State/ Territory	Institutional Sector, Assets/ Liabilities, Level of Government

[11] Critical spatial levels refined, 'Port' removed to better reflect critical information for the statistic
[12] Datasets replaced single 'APRA Collections (APRA)' listing which was separated into six distinct datasets
[13] Datasets replaced single 'Official Record of Financial Markets Information (RBA)' listing which was separated into two distinct datasets
[14] Data custodian revised

Please refer to Page 25 for a description of each column.

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-625	Economy	National Income	Gross Domestic Product and Component Statistics	Includes statistics such as GDP as well as its components such as sources and uses of income, expenditure on consumption, capital and imports, gross value added and national savings.	• Balance of Payments and International Investment Position (ABS) • Economic Activity Survey (ABS)[15] • Government Finance Statistics (ABS)[16] • National Accounts (ABS) • Private New Capital Expenditure Survey (ABS) • Quarterly Business Indicators Survey (ABS)	These statistics are critical for macroeconomic policy formulation. They are a major input to budget formulation, industry policy decisions and for understanding productivity. They are important measures of economic well-being. They are required to fulfil a number of legislative requirements including the Charter of Budget Honesty Act. They are reported to international bodies including the UN and OECD; and are published in accordance with IMF's SDDS.	Quarterly	National	Industry, Institutional Sector, Expenditure Category
ESA-044	Economy	National Income	Gross State Product and Component Statistics	Includes statistics such as GSP as well as its components such as sources and uses of income, expenditure on consumption, capital and imports, gross value added, and state savings.	• State Accounts (ABS)	These statistics are a critical input to state and territory economic policy and budget formulation. They are a major input to state and territory industry policy decisions and for understanding productivity.	Annually	State/ Territory	Industry, Institutional Sector
ESA-891	Economy	Household Economic Wellbeing; Housing; Inflation	Household Income, Wealth and Expenditure Statistics	Includes comprehensive information on the levels, distribution and sources of income and wealth for households as well as levels, distribution and patters of expenditure for households.	• Census of Population and Housing (ABS) • Household Expenditure Survey (ABS) • Pensions Data (DSS)[16] • Personal Income Tax Data (ATO) • Survey of Income and Housing (ABS)	These statistics are important in modelling participation policy, and critical to COAG performance reporting. These statistics support the analysis and monitoring of the social and economic welfare of Australians. The major uses for these data are for planning and evaluating income support and taxation policies, labour market analysis, and comparing the economic well-being of individuals and groups of individuals, including poverty studies. They also provide essential information on the tax and transfer system, including how it changes over time. These statistics are important measures of progress as they measure the acquisition of goods and services used for the direct satisfaction of individual or collective wants and needs. They are included in Social Inclusion Board's "How Australia is Faring". They are critical to COAG performance reporting. They are also reported to international bodies including the OECD and UN and are critical for making international comparisons to understand the effect of different policy and institutional environments on economic wellbeing.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness, LGA, SA2	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Labour Force Status, Household Expenditure Category, Household Composition, Tenure Type, Income Source, Wealth Distribution, Income Distribution, Assets/ Liabilities, Lifecycle Group
ESA-381	Economy	Housing	Housing Activity Indicators	Includes approvals, financing, (commencements and completions), housing stock, and building demolitions.	• Building Activity Survey (ABS) • Building Approvals Collection (ABS) • Housing Finance Dataset ADIs (APRA)[17] • Housing Finance Dataset RFCs (APRA)[17]	These statistics support housing policy formulation and in particular are a major input into housing supply forecasts and land release policy work undertaken by the National Housing Supply Council and COAG's National Affordable Housing Agreement. They provide information on the accessibility of appropriate housing for Australians, which is important in determining whether life in Australia is getting better.	Monthly	National, State/ Territory, LGA	Industry, Institutional Sector, Dwelling Structure, Investment Type, Purchaser Characteristics

[15] Dataset replaced 'Annual Integrated Collection (ABS)' which was separated into three distinct datasets; one of these datasets contributes to the statistic
[16] Data custodian revised
[17] Dataset replaced single 'Housing Finance Dataset (APRA)' listing which was separated into two distinct datasets

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-357	Economy	Household Economic Wellbeing; Housing; Inflation	Housing Affordability	Includes statistics on value of residential properties for purchase and rent, and ability of householders to meet these costs.	• Residential Property Sales Dataset/Valuers General Datasets (ABS and State/Territory Valuers General Depts.)[18] • Survey of Income and Housing (ABS)	These statistics provide information on affordable housing, which is a focus for all levels of government. Access to appropriate and affordable accommodation is a fundamental requirement for the community. Inadequate housing can have significant implications, including poor health outcomes and, as such, housing is a key element of social well-being. These data are also used to report under COAG' National Affordable Housing Agreement.	Quarterly	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness, LGA	Age, Sex, Income, Income Source, Household Composition, Lifecycle Group, Tenure Type, Dwelling Structure, Number Of Bedrooms
ESA-126	Economy	Housing	Housing Utilisation	Includes statistics on housing supply and use, including density and location.	• Census of Population and Housing (ABS) • Survey of Income and Housing (ABS)	These statistics are required to understand trends and develop policy responses in how the housing stock is utilised within Australia; understand population and housing density; planning for future population change; and delivery of government services. Housing utilisation provides a measure of progress with regard to overcrowding, and ability to house the community. They are used in government performance reporting in the Report on Government Services and the National Affordable Housing Agreement and are required for international comparability reporting.	5 yearly	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness, LGA, SA2	Income, Tenure Type, Household Composition, Dwelling Structure
ESA-438	Economy; Society	Household Economic Wellbeing; Family, Community and Social Cohesion; Work	Income, Labour and Family Dynamics	Includes integrated statistics linking factors such as changes in family dynamics and structure with access to income sources, including employment.	• Child Support Data (DSS)[19] • Family Tax Benefit Data (DSS)[19] • Household Expenditure Survey (ABS) • Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey (DSS)[19] • Survey of Income and Housing (ABS)	These statistics are required to help understand how households respond to policy changes aimed at improving financial incentives. It is also essential that the changes to family formation, wellbeing and separation, along with post-separation arrangements for children and links between income support and family formation and dissolution are understood in order to develop policy responses. They are also used for making international comparisons on different transitions and pathways arising in different policy and institutional environments.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness, LGA, SA2	Household Composition, Labour Force Status, Sex, Age

[18] Dataset combined from ABS and Valuers General Datasets into one listing
[19] Data custodian revised

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-642	Economy	National Income	Input - Output Tables	Includes information about the supply and use of products in the Australian economy, and the structure of and inter–relationships between Australian industries.	• Input - Output Tables (ABS)	Input-Output Tables are fundamental for economic policy formulation and evaluation. They are essential for reporting on the impact of COAG reforms and other economic changes of national significance requiring quantification of national economic, employment and income effects and, as required, the fiscal, regional and distributional effects of change. They were an essential input in developing the GST and the Carbon Tax / Emissions Trading Scheme. They have also been a key element for informing international carbon emission negotiations e.g. the Kyoto and UNFCCC protocols. Input-Output tables allow for the examination of the human, natural and produced resource requirements of an economy. This includes the analysis of international demand induced effects such as footprint analysis, as well as other consumption based measures. Input-Output tables feed into various international reporting obligations including OECD and UNSD data requests and to meet the data requirements of the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) consortium.	Annually	National	Industry, Commodity
ESA-948	Economy	Inflation; Competitiveness and Openness	International Trade Inflation and Terms of Trade	Includes statistical price indexes measuring the value of imports and exports in the Australian economy.	• Producer Price Indexes Dataset (ABS)[20]	These statistics are used in multiple macroeconomic policy domains. Changes in the relative prices of our exports and imports (the terms of trade) influence the capacity of Australia and Australians to buy goods and services and, as such, these statistics provide important indicators of economic well-being and our international competitiveness. They are reported to international bodies including UN and OECD; and are published in accordance with IMF's SDDS. They are also an essential input into the quarterly national accounts.	Quarterly	National	Standard International Trade Classification
ESA-195	Economy	Productivity; Business Performance and Structure	IT Use and Innovation By Businesses	Includes statistics on the application of information technology by businesses and the effectiveness of its role in changing business operations through innovation.	• Business Characteristics Survey (ABS)	These statistics are used for evaluating impacts of industry policy in the areas of innovation and competitiveness. Innovation in policy development and program design is enhanced by these data identifying the impact of interventions on firms and their growth. These statistics are used to analyse online innovation by businesses with the growth of e-commerce. With rapid structural change taking place in some sectors (particularly retail), it is anticipated that these statistics will become increasingly useful to assess how retail businesses are adapting to change and increased competition.	Annually	National, State/ Territory	Industry, Business Demographics[21]
ESA-307	Economy; Society	Business Performance and Structure; Work	Job Vacancies	Indicators of labour demand and actual vacant job positions.	• Job Vacancies Survey (ABS)	Job vacancies statistics provide a leading indicator of employment growth, used when forecasting labour market conditions and detecting potential turning points. They are critical for understanding labour demand dynamics and in the development of policy to support employment outcomes for specific industries and the economy in general.	Quarterly	National, State/ Territory	Industry, Occupation[22]

[20] Dataset name revised
[21] Critical disaggregations refined, 'Institutional Sector' removed to better reflect critical information for the statistic
[22] Critical disaggregations refined, 'Age', 'Sex' and 'Labour Force Status' removed for the statistic

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-602	Economy	National Wealth	National Balance Sheet	Includes estimates of the value of Australia's produced, non-produced and financial assets; its liabilities to the rest of the world; and the net worth of the total economy.	• National Accounts (ABS)	These statistics are critical for the development of policy and analysis of wealth. A nation's wealth has a major effect on its capacity to generate income. Produced assets (such as machinery and equipment) are used in income-generating economic activity and as such are critical aspects of economic well-being. They are also reported to international bodies including the UN, Bank of International Settlements, OECD, and World Bank; and are published in accordance with IMF's SDDS.	Annually	National	Industry, Institutional Sector, Assets/ Liabilities
ESA-112	Economy; Environment	National Wealth; Land	Petroleum and Mineral Resources Statistics	Includes economic demonstrated resources, sub-economic demonstrated resources, extraction rates, and discoveries.	• Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Dataset (ABS) • Minerals Resources Database (GA) • Petroleum Reserves and Resources (GA) • [23]	Given the current and future national and international reliance on resources as energy sources, these statistics are relied upon to support enduring government policies and service delivery. Used in national economic and national environmental accounts. Resources generate income at the time of their extraction or harvest, increasing the nation's wealth, and its ability to increase income, which are critical aspects of economic well-being. Uranium resources are reported at an international level to the OECD NEA-IAEA.	Annually	State/ Territory	Resource
ESA-840	Economy	Inflation	Producer Inflation	Includes statistical indexes measuring the change in prices faced during the production process in the Australian economy.	• Producer Price Indexes Dataset (ABS)[24]	These statistics are used in multiple macroeconomic policy domains, particularly with regard to understanding price inflation. They are also reported to international bodies including the UN and OECD; and are published in accordance with IMF's SDDS. They are an essential input into the quarterly national accounts.	Quarterly	National, State/ Territory	Industry
ESA-848	Economy	Productivity; Competitiveness and Openness	Productivity Statistics	Includes productivity statistics including multifactor productivity and its sub-aggregate measures (labour and capital productivity).	• National Accounts (ABS)	These statistics are used by policy makers to assess Australia's economic performance, including in an international context, and formulate economic policies accordingly. When a nation achieves productivity growth, it is able to produce more goods and services from the same quantity of labour, capital, land, energy and other resources. In turn, improved production efficiency can generate higher real incomes and lead to long-term improvements in Australia's living standards.	Annually	National, State/ Territory	Industry
ESA-811	Economy	National Income	Retail Trade Statistics	Includes household sector's purchases of products and services.	• Retail Trade (ABS)	These statistics are important indicators of the health of the economy for fiscal and monetary policy formulation and for the retail and service industries. Consumption expenditure is directly relevant to an assessment of progress as it provides an aggregate measure of societal living standards.	Monthly	State/ Territory	Industry, Commodity, Mode of Transaction

[23] Dataset 'Petroleum and Mineral Resources (GA)' removed as does not exist as distinct dataset
[24] Dataset name revised

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-458	Economy	National Income	Taxation Revenue and Transfers	Includes taxation (including income tax, GST and fringe benefits tax); excise and fuel schemes; superannuation; the Higher Education Loan Program; and payments and transfers through the Australian taxation system.	• Taxation Statistics (ATO)	These statistics describe key information extracted from tax returns and other documents provided to the ATO. They are used in wide range of academic and policy settings, from estimating the revenue impacts of proposed changes to tax laws to informing discussions about income distribution across Australia. They provide information on how Australia funds a range of programs and community services.	Annually	National, State/ Territory	Age, Sex, Income
ESA-330	Economy	Inflation	Wage Inflation	Includes statistics measuring the change in the value of labour over time through the Wage Price Index.	• Wage Price Index Dataset (ABS)	These statistics provide an indicator of wage cost pressures on inflation and for many areas of policy including managing inflation and understanding labour markets. They are also reported to international bodies including the OECD, UN, and ILO; and are published in accordance with IMF's SDDS.	Quarterly	National, State/ Territory	Industry, Institutional Sector
ESA-774	Environment	Atmosphere	Ambient Air Quality	Includes information on the quality of air in key locations in urban environments.	• National Air Quality Database (BoM)	These statistics support air quality policy. Ambient air quality is an important input for ecosystem health as it impacts on the health and sustainability of humans, flora and fauna. Measuring the state of the atmosphere is required under the Meteorology Act 1955. These statistics are also required under the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure Act.	Annually	Air Sheds	Pollutant Type
ESA-135	Environment	Biodiversity	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health	Includes integrated information regarding individual ecosystem regions, and their health.	• Data Gap (-)	These statistics are used to measure the impact of the Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010–2030. Biodiversity is essential to the wellbeing of Australia and Australians. Native plants, animals and other organisms contribute to a healthy environment through the maintenance of clean air and water, and healthy soils. They also provide significant economic benefits, for example through tourism, agriculture and a range of cultural and recreational services.	Annually	National, Ecosystem Region	Ecosystem Type
ESA-820	Environment	Atmosphere	Climate Statistics	Includes information on temperature (ambient air and sea surface), rainfall, sea levels, including extremes.	• Australian Climate Observation Reference Network (BoM) • Australian Water Availability Analyses (BoM) • Regional Sea Surface Temperature Analyses (BoM)	Climate statistics and historical weather data inform decision-making by government, industry bodies and agricultural businesses regarding agricultural production and associated environmental and social issues. Change in average ambient temperature has been identified as a key issue for measuring sustainability. They are a critical measure of the change in the Australian climate, and particularly the prevalence of extreme climatic conditions, likely to be exacerbated by global warming. They support international reporting to the World Meteorological Organization.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, Key Regions (E.G. MDB), Individual Locations as Necessary	

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-584	Environment	Atmosphere	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Includes information on the sources of emissions and sinks.	• National Greenhouse Accounts (Dept of the Environment)[25]	These statistics support climate change policies and programs designed to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions are an important indicator of sustainability, reducing the loss of heat from the earth's atmosphere and thus contributing to global warming and climate change, which affect the temperatures necessary to support life. These statistics are required under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007. They are reported to international bodies including: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).	Annually	National, State/ Territory	Industry, Source
ESA-180	Environment; Economy	Land; National Wealth	Land Statistics	Includes statistical information regarding land use, and management practices, as well as land accounting. Land quality indicators are also included.	• Agricultural Census (ABS)[26] • Agricultural Land and Water Ownership Survey (ABS) • Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ABS) • Annual Land Cover Maps (GA) • Australian Collaborative Land Use and Management Program (ABARES) • Land Accounts (ABS) • Land Management Practices Survey (ABS)[27] • NRM and Irrigation/Water Use Collections (ABARES) • Valuers General Administrative Files (State/Territory Valuers General Depts.)	These statistics support policy around sustainable development, including the environmental and economic management of land. They are used to analyse sustainable land use, with land providing the foundation for animals and plants to flourish and deliver essential ecosystem services such as clean air and water; production of healthy, nutritious food and natural fibre; and support for Australia's unique biodiversity. As agricultural activity accounts for more than half the total land use in Australia, statistics on the land management practices of Australian farms are vital to understanding their impact on the wider economy, environment and society.	Annually	National, Regional (NRM)	Industry[28]
ESA-102	Environment	Waste	Pollution and Accumulation of Waste	Includes information on the supply and use of waste and recycled products in the economy.	• National Pollutant Inventory (Dept of the Environment)[29] • Waste Account (ABS) •[30]	These statistics are used to help inform and assess the National Waste Policy. They are critical measures of sustainability and environmental well-being. They support the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989. They also support reporting obligations according to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.	Annually	National	Industry, Products
ESA-511	Environment	Land	Size and Location of Protected Terrestrial and Marine Parks[31]	Includes statistical information on the size and location of protected land and marine areas managed for biodiversity conservation.	• Collaborative Australia Protected Area Database (Dept of the Environment)[29]	These statistics are used as an indicator for the State of the Environment report and as an outcome measure for the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Protected areas help preserve habitat and natural population levels for the species that live in these environments and, as such, are an important measure of environmental sustainability. The statistics are required to meet international obligations from the United Nations Environment Programme on the status of protected areas.	Annually	National, Regional (NRM)	Protected Areas

[25] Dataset and data custodian name revised
[26] Dataset name revised
[27] Dataset name and data custodian revised
[28] Critical disaggregations refined, 'Institutional Sector' removed to better reflect critical information for the statistic
[29] Data custodian revised
[30] Dataset 'Annual Integrated Collection (ABS)' removed to better reflect the statistic
[31] ESA title refined to include 'location' to better reflect the statistic

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-391	Environment	Inland Waters; Oceans and Estuaries	Water Quality of Natural Systems	Includes use of water in the environment (i.e. not used for human consumption and production).	• Data Gap (-)	These statistics are an important input for river and wetland policy, as well as the National Water Quality Management Strategy. Water quality has been identified as a key issue for measuring sustainability, and is highlighted within SEWPaC's Sustainability Indicators. Managing water quality including sediment and nutrient loads and applying water quality standards is a key aspect of environmental progress indicators. The statistics are required for the National Environment Protection Council Act 1994.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, Regional (NRM)	
ESA-387	Environment; Economy	Inland Waters; Oceans and Estuaries; National Wealth	Water Supply and Use	Includes statistics on water resource ownership; supply (including flows of streams and rivers); use between the economy, population (people) and the environment in Australia; and indicators on the efficiency of usage.	• Agricultural Census (ABS)[32] • Agricultural Land and Water Ownership Survey (ABS) • Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ABS) • Australian Water Resource Information System (BOM) • Energy, Water and Environment Survey (ABS) • Environmental Indicators Survey (ABS)[33] • National Performance Report (NWC)[34] • NRM and Irrigation/Water Use Collections (ABARES) • State/Territory Water Corporations Reports (State/Territory Water Depts.) • Water Accounts, Australia (ABS) • Water Supply and Sewerage Services Survey (ABS)[33]	These statistics are required to inform public debate and government decision making and to understand how water is shared between the economy, people and the environment. In addition, data on land and water resource ownership inform decision making by policy-makers in this arena. The condition of Australia's water systems is an important indicator of whether life in Australia is getting better. Water is fundamental to the survival of people, other organisms and the economy (e.g. agriculture, industry). The Water Act 2007 has requirements for an annual National water account by BoM. The statistics support international reporting in line with the United Nations System for Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA).	Annually	National, State/ Territory, Regional (NRM)	Industry, Reuse/Non-Reuse Water[35]
ESA-587	Society	Family, Community and Social Cohesion	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Statistics	Includes integrated statistics examining factors affecting Indigenous social and economic wellbeing such as income; employment; access to housing; education; health; and mobility.	• Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ABS)[36] • Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander National Health Measures Survey (ABS)[36] • Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander National Nutrition & Physical Activity Survey (ABS)[36] • National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (ABS)	These statistics provide rich data sets which enable analysis of the relationships between factors affecting social and economic wellbeing of Indigenous persons. Linkages between income, employment, education, health and mobility make cross-cutting policy analysis possible. They are for the National Education Agreement, National Indigenous Reform Agreement (2009 - 2010), Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework.	6 yearly	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status

[32] Dataset name revised
[33] Dataset replaced 'Annual Integrated Collection (ABS)' which was separated into three distinct datasets; two of these datasets contribute to the statistic
[34] The National Water Commission closed in October 2014; a replacement data custodian was yet to be determined at the time of publishing
[35] Critical disaggregations refined, 'Institutional Sector' removed to better reflect critical information for the statistic
[36] Dataset 'National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health survey (ABS)' was separated into three distinct datasets

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-789	Society	Family, Community and Social Cohesion	Access to Essential Social Services	Includes statistics on population coverage of, or proximity/access to emergency services providers, shelters and other public services deemed essential (e.g. hospitals, schools, public transport, communication services).	• Data Gap (-)	Statistics on access to essential social services are critical to the development and delivery of services, urban planning and infrastructure planning and delivery. Robust statistics on access to essential social services are relevant to Australians' aspirations for a fair society that enables everyone to meet their needs; to have an equal opportunity to establish, improve and maintain their wellbeing; and access to the services and opportunities that support this. Statistics on access to essential social services may grow in international importance as countries, such as Australia, contribute to the developing post-2015 Human Development and Rio+20 Sustainable Development agendas.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, LGA, SA2	Service Type, Socioeconomic Status
ESA-627	Society	Health	Ageing and Aged Care Statistics	Includes statistics on the health and wellbeing of the ageing population, as well as caring and utilisation of aged care services.	• Australian Health Survey (ABS)[37] • National Health Measures Survey (ABS)[37] • National Nutrition & Physical Activity Survey (ABS)[37] • Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ABS)[37] • Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander National Health Measures Survey (ABS)[37] • Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander National Nutrition & Physical Activity Survey (ABS)[37] • Aged Care Payments System (DSS)[38] • Census of Population and Housing (ABS) • National Hospital Morbidity Database (AIHW)[38] • Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (ABS)	These statistics inform policy addressing the provision of a range of services to support Australia's population as they age. The provision of services to Ageing Australians can become more complex over time involving a range of service providers. The availability of these statistics forms a critical component to the key themes emerging from the Inter-generational report. They are reported to international bodies including the WHO, ILO, OECD and UN.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, LGA	Age, Sex, Socioeconomic Status, Service Type
ESA-207	Society	Demography	Birth Statistics	Includes statistics such as the number and sex of live births registered; total fertility rates; replacement and completed fertility; nuptiality; plurality; age of parents; and Indigenous status.	• Births (ABS and State/Territory RBDMs)[39] • Deaths (ABS and State/Territory RBDMs)[39] • National Perinatal Data Collection (AIHW) • [40]	Birth statistics are critical to the formation of government policy related to maternal health, health policy planning and service delivery. These statistics are relevant to measuring the well-being, progress and sustainability of the past, current and projected Australian population. Birth statistics are a vital component of population statistics. They are also reported to international bodies (e.g. UN Demographic Yearbook, UN World Population Prospects).	Quarterly	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness, GCCSA, LGA, SA4, SA3, SA2	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status

[37] Dataset 'Australian Health Survey (ABS)' was separated into six distinct datasets
[38] Data custodian revised
[39] Dataset replaced 'Births and Deaths Registrations (RBDMs/ABS)' which was separated into three distinct datasets; two of these datasets contribute to the statistic
[40] Dataset 'Midwives Collections (State/Territory Health Depts.) removed as does not exist as a distinct dataset

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-232	Society	Crime	Crime Incidence Rates	Includes indicators of prevalence of crime not reported to the criminal justice system.	• MPHS - Crime Victimisation (ABS) • National Recorded Crime Victims Collection (ABS)[41] • Personal Safety Survey (ABS) • Personal Fraud Survey (ABS)	These statistics are required to compare recorded crime data held by policing agencies with prevalence rates and reporting rates for key offences. They are essential for developing crime policy. Crime can have a major impact on the wellbeing of victims, their families and friends, and the wider community. The statistics provide an insight into levels of crime not otherwise known to the criminal justice system which is integral to understanding the effectiveness of the system. They contribute to the annual UN Survey of Crime Trends run by UNODC.	Annually	State/ Territory	Age, Sex, Offence Type, Indigenous Status, Relationship of Victim to Offender
ESA-306	Society	Culture and Leisure	Cultural and Sport Participation and Attendance	Includes statistics on how the Australian population engages in the range of activities, both cultural and sporting, as participants, volunteers, and attendees and the time commitments involved.	• General Social Survey (ABS) • MPHS - Attendance at Selected Cultural/Leisure Venues and Activities (ABS) • MPHS - Participation in Cultural Activities (ABS) • MPHS - Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation (ABS)	Cultural participation and attendance data are critical in developing the National Cultural Policy, which sets a framework for Australian Government support of arts, cultural and creativity. Sports participation data is a fundamental building block to inform governments and sporting organisations about policy and program directions and for strengthening the capability of Australia's high performance sporting system. Sport participation data is also critical to the National Physical Activity Guidelines which underpin moving toward a 'healthy Australia' as well as informing the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework, which has been agreed to by all governments at Australian Government and state/ territory level. Cultural and sport participation and attendance are important elements of societal well-being. Cultural activities are seen as a means of fostering the creativity, innovation, and dialogue necessary for economic development. Participation in sport and physical activities provides opportunities for social interaction and opportunities for improving health and physical fitness. These statistics are reported to international bodies including the UNESCO Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.	2 yearly	National, State/ Territory, Met/Ex-Met, LGA	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Cultural Activity Type, Sporting Activity Type,[42] Frequency

[41] Data custodian revised
[42] The critical disaggregation 'Activity Type' was separated into 'Cultural Activity Type' and 'Sporting Activity Type'

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-843	Society	Family, Community and Social Cohesion	Disability Related Statistics	Includes statistics on the prevalence of disability; information about long-term health conditions; need for and receipt of assistance; use of aids and equipment; participation in community activities; income support and disability support services used; and people who care for persons with a disability and older people.	• Disability and Carers Payments (DSS)[43] • Disability Services National Minimum Dataset (AIHW) • National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (ABS) • Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (ABS) • [44]	The statistics are used to inform disability policy formulation and service delivery, including major national investments in disability support (NDIS and National Disability Strategy). They are used to report on COAG's National Disability Agreement. They are also reported to international bodies, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness, SA4	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Disability Status, Carer Status, Labour Force Status
ESA-343	Society	Health	Disease Prevalence and Incidence[45]	Includes statistics focusing on disease prevalence and incidence; severity; impact and outcomes; as well as treatment and services used to support people with these diseases[46].	• Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry (ANZDATA) • Australian Cancer Database (AIHW) • Australian Health Survey (ABS)[47] • National Health Measures Survey (ABS)[47] • Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ABS)[47] • Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander National Health Measures Survey (ABS)[47] • Clinical Cancer Databases (State/Territory Cancer Registries and Health Depts.) • National Mortality Database (AIHW)[48] • National (Insulin-Treated) Diabetes Register (AIHW)[48] • National Hospital Morbidity Database (AIHW)[48] • Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing (ABS) • [49]	These statistics are essential for health performance reporting, service planning and evaluation. They are included in various national reporting obligations (e.g. COAG, NHPA-PAF, Closing the Gap, NHPF). Data informing health status are an important component of societal well-being.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness, Medicare Local	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Socioeconomic Status, Disease

[43] Data custodian revised
[44] Dataset 'Disability Services Data (State/Territory Disability Services)' removed as does not exist as a distinct dataset
[45] ESA title refined to include 'incidence', to better reflect the statistic
[46] Description revised to better reflect the statistic
[47] Dataset 'Australian Health Survey (ABS)' was separated into six distinct datasets; four of these datasets contribute to the statistic
[48] Dataset name revised
[49] Dataset 'National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing (DOHA)' removed as does not exist as a distinct dataset

Please refer to Page 25 for a description of each column.

ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-133	Society	Education and Training; Family, Community and Social Cohesion; Health	Early Childhood Development	Includes statistics on childhood wellbeing development indicators, including childcare and pre-school enrolment and attendance.	• Australian Early Development Census (Dept of Education)[50] • Child Care Management System (Dept of Education) [51] • Childhood Education and Care Survey (ABS) • National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (ABS)[51] • National Perinatal Data Collection (AIHW) • The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (DSS)[50] •[52]	These statistics are critical for identifying policy opportunities to improve support for children and their families and for early intervention prevention strategies. Research demonstrates the importance of early childhood development for individual efficacy and social functioning in later life. Developments in utero, as well as in the early childhood years, are critical for brain development.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, LGA, SA4	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Socioeconomic Status, School Characteristics
ESA-124	Society	Education and Training	Education Outcomes and the Transition to Work	Includes statistics on the relationship between the attainment of educational outcomes and participation in the labour market.	• Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth (Dept of Education)[51] • MPHS - Learning and Work History (ABS) • Survey of Education and Work (ABS)	These statistics measure education outcomes and demand for skills to support policy development. They are embedded in COAG National Agreements and in legislation governing the provision of education and training funding such as the Higher Education Support Act 2003.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Socioeconomic Status, Labour Force Status, Occupation
ESA-889	Society; Economy	Family, Community and Social Cohesion; Household Economic Wellbeing; Work	Employment Arrangements, Superannuation and Retirement Incomes	Includes statistics on retirement income; superannuation account balances of households; employment arrangements within households; and time use.	• LFSS - Forms of Employment (ABS) • LFSS - Labour Force Experience (ABS) • LFSS - Persons Not in the Labour Force (ABS) • LFSS - Underemployed Workers (ABS) • MPHS - Retirement and Retirement Intentions (ABS) • Survey of Income and Housing (ABS) • Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation (ABS)[53] • Time Use Survey (ABS) [53]	These statistics inform the access to and distribution of employment arrangements. They enable analysis of work/life balance; workforce participation policies; changes in demand for labour and skills; changes in participation rates; transition to retirement; and trends in carer roles in an ageing Australian population.	5 yearly	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness	Age, Sex, Educational Attainment, Labour Force Status, Income, Industry, Occupation, Assets/ Liabilities, Household Type, Household Income
ESA-561	Society	Education and Training	Enrolment and Attainment In Tertiary and Vocational Education and Training	Includes participation in further education and attainment of post-school qualifications by individuals.	• Higher Education Information Management System (Dept of Education)[51] • VET Provider Collection (NCVER)	This group of statistics assists in the development of policy, service delivery and evaluation of the higher education sector. They are important for understanding how the supply of vocational training participants will meet future labour market demands and the need for policy responses. They are used to report on COAG's National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development. They also assist in monitoring policy objective that by 2020, 20% of higher education undergraduate enrolments are from low SES backgrounds.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, LGA, SA4	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Socioeconomic Status, Institution, Mode of Delivery

[50] Data set name and data custodian revised
[51] Data custodian revised
[52] Dataset 'Preschool Enrolments and Attendance Data (State/Territory Education Depts.)' removed as does not exist as a distinct dataset
[53] Dataset replaced 'Work, Life and Family Survey (ABS)' which has not been collected as anticipated

Please refer to Page 25 for a description of each column.

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-132	Society; Economy	Transport; Business Performance and Structure	Freight Movement Statistics	Includes an integrated set of statistics informing how freight is transported into and across Australia.	• Australian International and Domestic Airline Activity (BITRE) • Australian Sea Freight (BITRE) • Forecasted/Modelled Data on Road Freight (State/Territory Transport Bureaus) • Rail Freight Performance (BITRE/ARA)	These statistics are required to support infrastructure investment decisions across transport, land planning and urban design.	3 yearly	National, State/ Territory, Port, SA4	Transport Mode, Commodity
ESA-814	Society	Health	Health Risk Factor Statistics	Includes statistics that measure a range of health related risk factors, including those that are related to personal actions and those that are environmental. These include substance use (alcohol, drugs); birth-related indicators; self-assessed condition; and bio-physical risk indicators.	• Australian Health Survey (ABS)[54] • National Health Measures Survey (ABS)[54] • National Nutrition & Physical Activity Survey (ABS)[54] • Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ABS)[54] • Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander National Health Measures Survey (ABS)[54] • Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander National Nutrition & Physical Activity Survey (ABS)[54] • National Drug Strategy Household Survey (AIHW) • National Perinatal Data Collection (AIHW) • State/Territory CATI Health Surveys (State/Territory Health Depts.) • [55]	These statistics are essential for health performance reporting, service planning and evaluation. They are included in various national reporting (COAG, NHPA-PAF, Closing the Gap). They are critical for understanding the health of the population, which is an important aspect of societal well-being.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Socioeconomic Status, Disability Status, Labour Force Status
ESA-360	Society	Health	Hospital Services Statistics	Includes statistics on all aspects of hospital related activity (admitted and non-admitted patients), hospital finance and infrastructure, safety and quality and patient experience.	• National Hospital Morbidity Database (AIHW)[56] • Patient Experience Survey (ABS) • Private Hospitals Collection (ABS)	These statistics inform hospital planning and performance management, including eHealth infrastructure. They also assist in developing disaster relief arrangements. They are used in various national reporting obligations (e.g. COAG, NHPF).	Annually[57]	National, State/ Territory, LGA, Remoteness, Hospital Network	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Hospital Type[58]

[54] Dataset 'Australian Health Survey (ABS)' was separated into six distinct datasets
[55] Dataset 'Midwives Collections (State/Territory Health Depts.)' removed as does not exist as a distinct dataset
[56] Data custodian revised
[57] Critical frequency revised to annually to better reflect critical information for the statistic
[58] Critical disaggregation 'Hospital' clarified as 'Hospital Type'

Please refer to Page 25 for a description of each column.

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-980	Society	Transport	Domestic Household Travel (Time, Distance and Mode)[59]	Includes broad household travel patterns and trends for specific metropolitan areas.	• Australian International and Domestic Airline Activity (BITRE) • Census of Population and Housing (ABS) • Household Travel Surveys (State/Territory Transport Bureaus/Departments)[60] • State Transport Bureaus' Administrative Information (State/Territory Transport Bureaus)	These statistics are used to monitor the peak demand for transport by location and mode; to inform city shaping transport and land use decision making; assisting urban planning policy development; and investment in infrastructure. Public transport use and access have been identified as key issues for environmental sustainability. Transport statistics also inform childhood health, safety and obesity measures.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, LGA, SA4, SA2	Age, Sex, Labour Force Status, Socioeconomic Status, Transport Mode
ESA-799	Society; Economy	Work; Household Economic Wellbeing; Productivity	Labour Market Statistics	Includes statistics encompassing labour force status; hours worked; and indicators of underemployment; labour mobility; and characteristics of employment.	• Labour Force Survey (ABS) • Unemployment Benefits Data (DSS)[60]	These statistics provide insight into the economy and the effects of labour market policy settings, through measures of labour market supply (unemployment, underemployment, labour force participation). They are used in the formulation of monetary policy. Having paid work contributes to a person's sense of identity and self-esteem, while people's involvement in paid work also contributes to economic growth and development. As such, these statistics provide important indicators of both economic and societal well-being. They are reported to international bodies including the ILO; and are published in accordance with IMF's SDDS.	Monthly	National, State/ Territory, LGA, SA4	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Labour Force Status, Industry, Educational Status
ESA-645	Society	Education and Training	Literacy and Numeracy	Includes statistics on the attainment of literacy and numeracy skills by various sub-groups of the population (including children and adults).	• National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (ACARA) • Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (ABS) • Programme for International Student Assessment (ACER)	These statistics enable education and labour market policy development in an increasingly knowledge-based economy. They are used to report on COAG's National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development agreements. They support the COAG mission for all Australian school students to acquire the knowledge and skills to participate effectively in society and employment in a globalised economy. They provide critical information on disadvantaged groups, such as Indigenous persons.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, LGA, SA4	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, School Characteristics, School Year Level, Socioeconomic Status
ESA-404	Society	Demography	Migrant Statistics	Includes statistics on the temporary and permanent relocation of people across international borders and the transition of migrants into the Australian population through a range of social and economic indicators including employment, education, housing and household income.	• Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants (DIBP)[60] • Migrant Settlement Database (DSS)[60] • MPS - Characteristics of Recent Migrants (ABS) • Overseas Arrivals and Departures (ABS)[60] •[61] [62]	These statistics are required for making policy about migration numbers, migrant skills, workforce experiences, and education. They are also used for population and immigration policy, and reported on 'Economic impact of Migration and Population growth', as well as Access and Equity reports by DIAC.	Quarterly	National, State/ Territory, LGA	Age, Sex, Visa Groups, Country of Birth, Year of Arrival, English Language Proficiency[63]

[59] ESA title refined to include 'domestic' to better reflect the statistic
[60] Data custodian revised
[61] Datasets 'Commonwealth Electoral Roll (AEC)' and 'Medicare Benefits Scheme (Dept of Health)' removed to better reflect the statistic
[62] Dataset 'Travel and Immigration Processing System (DIBP)'removed as instead considered infrastructure
[63] Critical disaggregations refined, 'Indigenous Status' removed to better reflect critical information for the statistic

Please refer to Page 25 for a description of each column.

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-890	Society	Demography; Health	Mortality and Life Expectancy Statistics	Includes statistics such as perinatal and infant mortality, causes of death information, coronial information, death rates and derived life expectancy estimates.	• Births (ABS and State/Territory RBDMs)[64] • Causes of Deaths (ABS and State/Territory RBDMs)[64] • Deaths (ABS and State/Territory RBDMs)[64] • National Coronial Information System (Vic DoJ)[65] • National Mortality Database (AIHW) • [66]	Mortality and life expectancy statistics are critical for government policy related to health policy planning and service delivery. They also underpin chronic disease monitoring and assist research. They support national and state/territory health performance reporting, including COAG, NHPF, NHPA-PAF, and Closing the Gap. Life expectancy at birth is one of the most widely used and internationally recognised indicators of population health. It focuses on the length of life rather than its quality, and provides a useful summary of the general health of the population. They are also reported to international bodies including the UN, OECD and IMF.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, GCCSA, LGA, SA4, SA3, SA2	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Country of Birth
ESA-927	Society; Economy	Transport; National Income	Motor Vehicle Statistics	Includes statistics encompassing the number of vehicle sales; vehicles registered and available for us; and statistical information detailing usage.	• Motor Vehicle Census (ABS) • New Motor Vehicle Sales (ABS) • Survey of Motor Vehicle Use (ABS)	These statistics are used for transport planning and to allocate Australian Government road grants. Motor vehicles are Australians' primary means of transportation, with car ownership being an important indicator of peoples' mobility. As such, these statistics provide important measures of societal well-being. The National Transport Commission (NTC) uses results from the SMVU required under legislation to produce heavy vehicle charging on an annual basis (Model Heavy Vehicle Charges Act 2008).	Annually	National, State/ Territory, SA4	Vehicle Type
ESA-676	Society	Family, Community and Social Cohesion	Multidimensional Social Disadvantage	Includes integrated statistics on social issues such as experiences of homelessness, social deprivation, access to services and social capital.	• Census of Population and Housing (ABS) • Disability and Carers Payments (DSS)[67] • Family Tax Benefit Data (DSS)[67] • General Social Survey (ABS) • Pensions Data (DSS)[67] • Unemployment Benefits Data (DSS)[67]	These statistics enable analysis of the interrelationships in social circumstances and outcomes, including the exploration of multi-dimensional advantage/disadvantage experienced by that individual. They support cross-cutting policy and service responses and are critical for the Social Inclusion Board's indicator report on "How Australia is Faring". They are also used in the National Education Agreement reporting.	3 yearly	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness, SA4, SA2	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Educational Attainment, Labour Force Status, Disability Status, Pension Type, Household Income, Tenure Type, Assets/ Liabilities

[64] Datasets replaced 'Births and Deaths Registrations (RBDMs/ABS)' which was separated into three distinct datasets for this statistic
[65] Dataset name and data custodian revised
[66] Dataset 'National Death Index (AIHW)' removed as instead considered infrastructure
[67] Data custodian revised

Please refer to Page 25 for a description of each column.

ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-567	Society	Education and Training	Participation and Attainment In Schooling[68]	Includes statistics covering a range of aspects relating to student participation as they progress through the primary and secondary school education system; and attainment of senior secondary certification.[69]	• National Schools Statistics Collection (ABS)[70] • State and Territory Year 12 Attainment Administrative Records (State/Territory Boards of Studies)[71] • [72]	These statistics profile and describe participation in the school education system across the government and non-government sectors and for various student groups such as Indigenous students. They are used to monitor key school education outcomes and targets agreed to under COAG's National Education Agreement - for example, lifting the Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates to 90 per cent by 2020.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness, LGA, SA2	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Socioeconomic Status, School Year Level, School Characteristics
ESA-739	Society	Crime	Personal Experiences of Violence	Includes indicators on the prevalence, characteristics and experiences of people exposed specifically to violence.	• Personal Safety Survey (ABS)	These statistics are critical for domestic violence and sexual assault monitoring and policy formulation. Crimes committed against individuals impact both directly and indirectly on the wellbeing of the victim, as well as the people around them and, as such, these statistics are important measures of societal well-being. They are also used to measure COAG's National Plan to reduce violence against women and children 2011-2021.	5 yearly	National, State/ Territory, LGA, Indigenous Region	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Offence Type, Relationship of Victim to Offender

[68] ESA title refined to remove '(primary and secondary)' to better reflect the statistic
[69] Description revised to better reflect the statistic
[70] Data custodian revised
[71] Dataset name revised
[72] Dataset 'Year 12 Completion Data (DEEWR)' removed as does not exist as a distinct dataset

Please refer to Page 25 for a description of each column.

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ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-866	Society	Communication	Personal Internet Access and Usage	Includes indicators on individual and household access to internet services and usage of the internet for different purposes.	• Census of Population and Housing (ABS) • Internet Activity Survey (ABS) • MPHS - Household Use of Information Technology (ABS)	These statistics measure the progress and impacts of the National Digital Economy Strategy underpinned by the infrastructure from the NBN roll-out. Access to the Internet at home improves the ability of individuals to stay in contact with family and friends, to belong to and communicate with like-minded groups, irrespective of their physical location. It allows access to a vast variety of up-to-date news, information, education, entertainment and government and business services that might not be available in another format. As such indicators of internet access are an important measure of societal well-being. These statistics are reported to international bodies including the OECD and UN ITU.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, LGA, SA1, SA2	Age, Sex, Household Income
ESA-572	Society	Demography	Population Estimates[73]	Includes official population estimates, by location and other variables. Also includes changes to the population resulting from births, deaths, interstate and international migration.	• Births (ABS and State/Territory RBDMs)[74] • Deaths (ABS and State/Territory RBDMs)[74] • Census of Population and Housing (ABS) • Commonwealth Electoral Roll (AEC)[75] • Medicare Benefits Scheme (Dept of Health)[76] • Overseas Arrivals and Departures (ABS)[76] • Post Enumeration Survey (ABS) • Travellers' Characteristics Database (ABS)[76] • [77]	Official population statistics are used in the formation of most policies that are developed to support the effective delivery of services, and in effective evaluation of outcomes - at Australian Government, state/territory and local levels. They are essential for electoral apportionment and GST distribution. Official population statistics are critical for a range of national progress measurements, most importantly as the denominator for many of the key indicators. The ABS is required by legislation to produce quarterly official population statistics, given their critically important role in the framework of social and economic statistics. They are also reported to international bodies including the UN and OECD; and are published in accordance with IMF's SDDS.	Quarterly	National, State/ Territory, GCCSA, LGA, SA4, SA3, SA2	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Country of Birth
ESA-879	Society	Demography	Population Structure and Household Composition	Includes detailed statistics on population demographics by location, population density, and household and family structures.	• Census of Population and Housing (ABS)	Statistics on the structure and composition of households are used in policy development; delivery of services; and evaluation at Australian Government, state/territory and local levels. Compositional population information is critical for a range of national progress measurements (e.g. Indigenous population indicators). They are reported to international bodies including the UN and OECD.	5 yearly	National, State/ Territory, GCCSA, LGA, SA4, SA3, SA2	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Country of Birth

[73] ESA title refined to replace 'counts' with 'estimates', to better reflect the statistic
[74] Dataset replaced 'Births and Deaths Registrations (RBDMs/ABS)' which was separated into three distinct datasets; two of these datasets contribute to the statistic
[75] Dataset name revised
[76] Data custodian revised
[77] Dataset 'Travel and Immigration Processing System (DIBP)'removed as instead considered infrastructure

Please refer to Page 25 for a description of each column.

ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-888	Society	Health	Preventative Health Statistics	Includes key information relating to programs and personal activities that seek to minimise health risks and health impacts for the population.	• Australian Health Survey (ABS)[78] • National Health Measures Survey (ABS)[78] • National Nutrition & Physical Activity Survey (ABS)[78] • Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ABS)[78] • Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander National Health Measures Survey (ABS)[788] • Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander National Nutrition & Physical Activity Survey (ABS)[78] • Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (Dept of Health)[79] • Medicare Benefits Scheme (Dept of Health)[80] • Breastscreen Australia (AIHW)[81] • National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (AIHW)[81] • National Cervical Screening Program (AIHW)[81] • [82]	These statistics are essential for health performance reporting; service planning and evaluation; and informing policy makers about the prevalence of disease resulting from preventable health conditions. They are included in various national reporting (COAG, NHPA-PAF, Closing the Gap).	Annually	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Socioeconomic Status, Disease
ESA-078	Society	Health	Primary Health Care Services and Performance	Includes indicators encompassing access and utilisation of primary care services, as well as barriers and unmet need.	• Medicare Benefits Scheme (Dept of Health)[80] • Patient Experience Survey (ABS) • Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (Dept of Health)[80]	These statistics define the access to primary care services, barriers and unmet need and are also used for performance reporting and service planning/evaluation. The statistics are used for national reporting (COAG, NHPA-PAF, Closing the Gap).	Annually	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness, Medicare Local	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Socioeconomic Status, Disability Status, Labour Force Status, Facility, Hospital Type[83], Mode of Delivery
ESA-384	Society	Crime	Recorded Criminal Offender Rates	Includes indicators on criminal offenders and their characteristics identified by police.	• National Recorded Crime – Offenders Collection (ABS)[80]	These statistics are a critical input into criminal policy and delivery of services in the crime and justice sector. They are reported to international bodies including UNODC.	Annually	National, State/ Territory, LGA, Indigenous Region	Age, Sex, Indigenous Status, Offence Type, Recidivism

[78] Dataset 'Australian Health Survey (ABS)' was separated into six distinct datasets
[79] Data set name and data custodian revised
[80] Data custodian revised
[81] Datasets replaced single listing of 'Breast, Cervical and Bowel Screening Databases (AIHW)' which was separated into three distinct datasets
[82] Dataset 'State/Territory Preventative Health Checks Data (State/Territory Health Depts.)' was removed as does not exist as a distinct dataset
[83] Critical disaggregations refined, 'Institutional Sector' removed and replaced with 'Hospital Type' to better reflect critical information for the statistic

Please refer to Page 25 for a description of each column.

ID #	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical frequency	Critical spatial	Critical disaggregation
ESA-378	Society	Transport	Transport Related Crashes and Fatalities	Includes statistics on the number and location of transport related crashes and their impacts on individuals involved.	• Australian Road Deaths Database (BITRE) • Transport Safety Occurrence Data (ATSB)	These statistics are required to monitor the effectiveness of transport safety policy and support infrastructure investment decisions to improve transport safety. Road safety is an important indicator of societal well-being.	Monthly	National, State/ Territory	Transport Mode, Road User Type, Crash Type, Vehicle Type
ESA-755	Society	Family, Community and Social Cohesion	Volunteering Data	Includes measures of support and involvement with community activities, personal time contribution without payment and measures of social engagement.	• Census of Population and Housing (ABS) • General Social Survey (ABS)	These statistics inform the potential supply of 'labour' to meet social service delivery obligations that would otherwise be required to be supplied by other sectors. Willingly giving time to do work for an organisation or community group on an unpaid basis can be rewarding for individuals, and it can extend and enhance their social networks. As such, these statistics provide important indicators of societal well-being. They also provide insight to social cohesion and social inclusion and are included in the Social Inclusion Board's indicator report on "How Australia is Faring".	4 yearly	National, State/ Territory, Remoteness	Age, Sex, Labour Force Status

Please refer to Page 25 for a description of each column.

APPENDIX 2 – LIST OF SUBMISSION PROVIDERS

Where a department has been listed more than once, they have provided multiple submissions (e.g. one departmental submission and one individual response).

	Sector	Organisation
1	Government – Aust. Gov.	Australian Customs and Border Protection Service
2	Government – Aust. Gov.	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
3	Government – Aust. Gov.	Australian Securities and Investments Commission
4	Government – Aust. Gov.	Australian Statistics Advisory Council
5	Government – Aust. Gov.	Australian Taxation Office (including Australian Business Register)
6	Government – Aust. Gov.	Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
7	Government – Aust. Gov.	Bureau of Meteorology
8	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
9	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry –Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
10	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
11	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
12	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
13	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
14	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
15	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Health and Ageing
16	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Immigration and Citizenship
17	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education
18	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport
19	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism – Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics
20	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism – Tourism Research Australia
21	Government – Aust. Gov.	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
22	Government – Aust. Gov.	Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency
23	Government – Aust. Gov.	Geosciences Australia
24	Government – Aust. Gov.	Productivity Commission
25	Government – Aust. Gov.	Reserve Bank of Australia
26	Government – Aust. Gov.	Treasury
27	Government – state/territory	ACT – Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate
28	Government – state/territory	NSW – Bureau of Transport Statistics

29	Government – state/territory	NSW – Clinical Cancer Registry
30	Government – state/territory	NSW – Department of Family and Community Services
31	Government – state/territory	NSW – Department of Planning and Infrastructure
32	Government – state/territory	NSW – Department of Premier and Cabinet
33	Government – state/territory	NSW – New South Wales Police Force
34	Government – state/territory	NSW – Office of Education
35	Government – state/territory	NSW – Trade and Investment
36	Government – state/territory	NSW – Treasury
37	Government – state/territory	NT – Department of Treasury and Finance (with input from Northern Territory's Statistical Liaison Network)
38	Government – state/territory	QLD – Department of Education, Training and Employment
39	Government – state/territory	QLD – Department of Energy and Water Supply
40	Government – state/territory	QLD – Department of Natural Resources and Mines
41	Government – state/territory	QLD – Queensland Health
42	Government – state/territory	QLD – Queensland Studies Authority
43	Government – state/territory	QLD – Treasury and Trade
44	Government – state/territory	SA – Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure
45	Government – state/territory	SA – Department of the Premier and Cabinet
46	Government – state/territory	SA – SA Health
47	Government – state/territory	SA – SA Water
48	Government – state/territory	SA – SACE Board of South Australia
49	Government – state/territory	TAS – Department of Education
50	Government – state/territory	TAS – Department of Health and Human Services
51	Government – state/territory	TAS – Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources
52	Government – state/territory	TAS – Department of Justice
53	Government – state/territory	TAS – Department of Premier and Cabinet
54	Government – state/territory	TAS – Department of Treasury and Finance
55	Government – state/territory	TAS – Public Health Unit
56	Government – state/territory	TAS – Tasmania Police and Road Safety
57	Government – state/territory	VIC – Department of Planning and Community Development
58	Government – state/territory	VIC – Department of Premier and Cabinet
59	Government – state/territory	VIC – Department of Sustainability and Environment
60	Government – state/territory	VIC – Department of Transport
61	Government – state/territory	VIC – Department of Treasury and Finance
62	Government – state/territory	VIC – VicRoads
63	Government – state/territory	VIC – VicRoads
64	Government – state/territory	WA – Department of Agriculture and Food
65	Government – state/territory	WA – Department of Commerce
66	Government – state/territory	WA – Department of Culture and the Arts
67	Government – state/territory	WA – Department of Education
68	Government – state/territory	WA – Department of Housing

69	Government – state/territory	WA – Department of Regional Development and Lands
70	Government – state/territory	WA – Department of State Development
71	Government – state/territory	WA – Department of Training and Workforce Development
72	Government – state/territory	WA – Department of Treasury and Finance
73	Government – state/territory	WA – Department of Treasury and Finance
74	Government – state/territory	WA – Treasury and the Department of Premier and Cabinet
75	Government – other	COAG Reform Council
76	Government – other	Council of Australasian Registrars
77	Government – other	Joint Boards of Management for the Crime, Criminal Courts and Corrective Services Statistical Units
78	Government – other	National Crime Statistics Advisory Group
79	Government – other	Tourism Research Committee
80	NGO/industry	Adam Pekol Consulting + The Centre for Transport, Energy and the Environment
81	NGO/industry	Australian Information Industry Association
82	NGO/industry	Australian Land Conservation Alliance
83	NGO/industry	Australian Library and Information Association
84	NGO/industry	Australian Local Government Association
85	NGO/industry	Australian United Retailers Ltd.
86	NGO/industry	Conus Business Consultancy Services
87	NGO/industry	CQU – Centre for Environmental Management
88	NGO/industry	FoodWorks Support Office
89	NGO/industry	Housing Industry Association
90	NGO/industry	Krose International – Business Consultants
91	NGO/industry	Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers
92	NGO/industry	Surfing Australia and Australasian Surf Business Pty Ltd
93	NGO/industry	Volunteering Australia
94	Public individual	Name withheld
95	Public individual	Name withheld
96	Public individual	Name withheld
97	Public individual	Name withheld

APPENDIX 3 – ACRONYMS

ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics and Sciences
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACARA	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority
ACBPS	Australian Customs and Border Protection Service
ACER	Australian Council for Educational Research
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AEC	Australian Electoral Commission
AIFS	Australian Institute of Family Studies
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANZDATA	Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry
AOFM	Australian Office of Financial Management
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
ARA	Australasian Railway Association
ASAC	Australian Statistics Advisory Council
ASIC	Australian Securities and Investments Commission
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
ATSB	Australian Transport Safety Bureau
Aust.	Australia
BITRE	Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
BREE	Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DCCEE	Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
DEEWR	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DHS	Department of Human Services
DIAC	Department of Immigration and Citizenship
DIISRTE	Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education
DoFD	Department of Finance and Deregulation

DoHA	Department of Health and Ageing
FaHCSIA	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
FMA	Fisheries Management Area
GA	Geoscience Australia
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSP	Gross State Product
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LFSS	Labour Force Supplementary Surveys
LGA	Local Government Area
MAP	Measures of Australia's Progress
MPHS	Monthly Population Household Survey
NCVER	National Centre for Vocational Education Research
NRM	Natural resource management
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
Qld	Queensland
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
RBDM	Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages
SA	South Australia
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
SEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
Tas.	Tasmania
UN	United Nations
Vic.	Victoria
VIFM	Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine
WA	Western Australia

APPENDIX 4 – GLOSSARY

Concept	Description
ABS Act	Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975
Accommodation type	The type of supported accommodation that is provided to a client, based on length of stay and level of service, as represented by a code.
Air sheds	An air shed is a part of the atmosphere that behaves in a coherent way with respect to the dispersion of emissions. It typically forms an analytical or management unit. Also: A geographic boundary for air quality standards.
ASAC	The Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) was established by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975 to be the key advisory body to the Minister and the ABS on statistical services. It provides valuable input to the directions and priorities of the ABS work program and reports annually to Parliament. All state and territory governments are represented on ASAC.
Data Custodian	The government body/bodies responsible for maintaining each existing dataset identified in the ESA for Australia list.
Datasets	Data from which statistics are generated (Note – In the ESA for Australia list, these do not include source information that is used to produce collated datasets from which statistics are generated).
Dimension	Forms part of the ESA for Australia organising framework and divides the pillars into further subjects (see figure 2 in the main body of the paper for the full list of dimensions). Dimensions are not considered mutually exclusive, and it is possible that statistics may be used to inform multiple pillars and/or multiple dimensions.
Domicility	A place where one maintains one's primary residence for tax purposes.
Dwelling structure	Describes the structure of private dwellings, including: separate house; semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse; flat, unit or apartment; caravan, cabin, houseboat; improvised home, tent, sleepers-out; house or flat attached to a shop, office, etc.
Ecosystem region	A region of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.
Educational attainment	The highest level of education achieved by a person in relation to completed education.

Educational status	Describes a person's participation status in a course of study at an educational institution including schools, higher education establishments, colleges of technical and further education, public and private colleges. Excluded are institutions whose primary role is not education, for example, hospitals.
Essential statistical assets	Essential statistical assets are defined as a set of official statistical assets that, due to their application and importance, should be given priority in order to provide a high quality and trusted statistical service. Recognising those statistics (and their datasets) considered to be most critical to Australia will help ensure their level of quality is maintained and enhanced over time.
GCCSA	Greater Capital City Statistical Area - The GCCSAs represent the socioeconomic extent of each of the eight state and territory capital cities. This provides a stable and relevant geographic definition for the release of socioeconomic survey data collected only within capital cities as well as other survey data requiring large population output regions. Within each state and territory, the area not defined as being part of the greater capital city is represented by a rest of state region.
Hospital network	The boundaries for 137 Local Hospital Networks have been agreed to date across all states and territories. There are 124 geographically based networks and 13 state-wide networks which will deliver specialised hospital services across some jurisdictions. The networks will help Australians by improving access to better coordinated health care and promoting more efficient use of resources and navigation between service providers and health services. Boundaries were decided through consultation with the Prime Minister and state and territory Premiers and Chief Ministers, as agreed under the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement.
Household composition	Describes the type of household within a dwelling. Household composition indicates how many families are in a dwelling and their relationship status.
Household type	A categorisation of households based on the principal source of household income, used primarily in the construction of analytical living cost indexes.
ID number	Each statistic has a random ID number allocated to support identification and discussion of specific statistics.
Indigenous region	Indigenous Regions (IREGs) are large geographical units loosely based on the former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission boundaries. They are created by aggregating one or more Indigenous Areas (IAREs). The greater population of IREGs enables the highest level of granularity of attribute data through greater cross classification of variables compared with IAREs and Indigenous Locations (ILOCs). For the 2011 Census 57 IREGs are defined to cover the whole of geographic Australia. IREGs do not cross state/territory borders.

Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia	The Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) is a biogeographic regionalisation of Australia developed by the Australian Government's Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. It was developed for use as a planning tool, for example for the establishment of a National Reserve System.
Justification	A short, concise statement that sets out how each statistic relates to the criteria.
Labour force status	Refers to whether a person is employed, unemployed or not in the labour force. The labour force consists of persons who contribute or are available to contribute to the production of goods and services falling within the System of National Accounts production boundary.
Lifecycle group	Refers to the period of life in which the primary residents of the household find themselves.
Maturity	The date on which the principal amount of a note, draft, acceptance bond or other debt instrument becomes due and is repaid to the investor and interest payments stop. It is also the termination or due date on which an instalment loan must be paid in full.
Medicare local	There are 61 Medicare Local areas across Australia, which contain primary health care organisations established to coordinate primary health care delivery and identify local health care needs and service gaps.
Met/ex-met	Geographical division between capital city and the rest of state.
Mode of delivery	The manner in which a service is delivered. This includes physical "in person" or online.
Mode of transaction	Describes the mode by which a transaction takes place, including whether it was transacted in person, or via the internet.
National Statistical Service (NSS)	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. It aims to develop and improve a statistical system that ensures providers and users of statistics have the confidence to trust the statistics produced within it.
Pillar	Forms part of the ESA for Australia organising framework and includes the following: economy, environment and society. Any pillar coloured purple indicates that it contains statistics that are relevant to multiple dimensions and pillars.
Recidivism	Measurement of repeated contact with the criminal justice system (e.g. Police as an offender)

Regional (NRM)	Natural Resource Management (NRM) is the long-term care and use of our soil, water and vegetation and the ecosystems they make up. This has to be done in a way that also supports the economic and social needs of the community.
Remoteness	The ASGC Remoteness Structure is one of the seven structures that compose the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC). it is measured according to the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+), which is widely used within the Australian community and has become a recognised as a nationally consistent measure of geographic remoteness. ARIA+ is published as a 1 kilometre grid or matrix that covers the whole of Australia.
SA1, SA2, SA3, SA4	These correspond to the different Statistical Areal Levels, as contained within the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). SA1 - Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) - 54,805 regions with populations in the range 200 - 800 SA2 - Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) - 2,214 regions with populations in the range 3,000 - 25,000 SA3 - Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3) - 351 regions with populations in the range 30,000 - 130,000 SA4 - Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) - 106 regions with populations in the range 100,000 - 500,000
Statistical assets	Statistical assets are the statistics, as well as the datasets that they are drawn from (where they exist).

INVESTING IN THE INFORMATION THAT COUNTS MOST