



# Annual Report

2011 – 12





**Australian Statistician**

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The Hon. Bernie Ripoll MP  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

In accordance with the provisions of subsection 24(1) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, I hereby submit to you, for presentation to the Parliament, this report on the operations of the Australian bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2012.

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

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

Brian Pink

5 September 2012

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

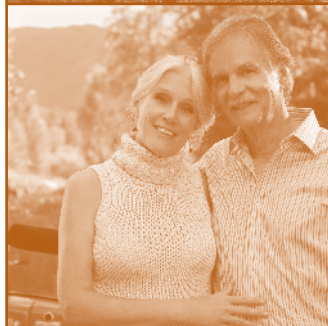
The 2011–12 ABS Annual Report can be found at: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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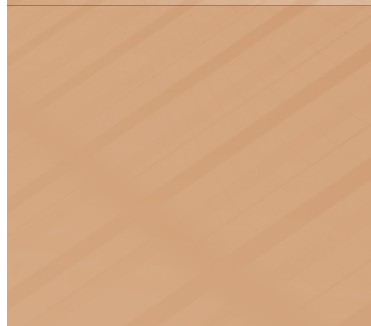
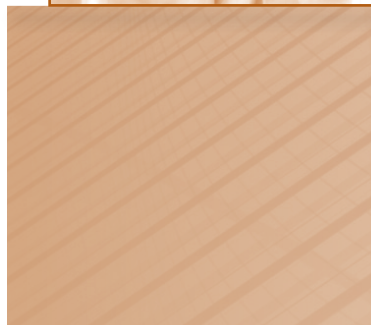
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# Section 1

## INTRODUCTION



## Chapter 1

# Australian Statistician's review of 2011-12



### Introduction

The ongoing success of the ABS is a result of the positive partnerships between the ABS and the Australian community of businesses, households, and governments. This is always most visible in a Census year. In 2011–12, this partnership upheld Australia's reputation as an international leader in Census taking, demonstrated by the outstanding success of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

Census years have always represented significant milestones for the ABS. In 2011–12, the ABS celebrated by enumerating and disseminating the largest Census in Australia's history. During this period, we also continued our journey to transform our business to ensure that the 2016 Census is delivered with increased ease and flexibility – investing in solutions that will continue to resonate in 2021 and beyond.

This business transformation journey responds to the increasingly complex global information environment we operate in. More than ever before, the ABS is faced with significant challenges to our traditional business model, challenges that in turn present opportunities to develop solutions to secure the future of objective, high quality information for public good.

Acknowledging this context, the ABS must continue to provide the high quality information products that Australia expects from us. In 2011–12, we have maintained this trusted service, while also working to ensure the security of Australia's statistical future by investing in secure data integration; developing sustainable statistical infrastructure; and building statistical capability across Australia and the Asia-Pacific Region.

### Key achievements

#### Successful conduct of the 2011 Census and first release of data

The five-yearly Census of Population and Housing is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the ABS. Since August 2011, the ABS has collected approximately 6.1 million Census forms and 2.8 million eCensus submissions, and we have converted these responses into Australia's most important dataset, providing information on our population, where we live, and our key characteristics.

The Census represents a significant investment. With a strong commitment to demonstrating the value of Australia's investment and respecting our community partnership, we undertook the 2011 Census with four simple goals in mind: to improve the accuracy and coverage of the Census, to ensure its relevance to the Australian community, to use the available resources effectively and efficiently, and to protect the privacy of Australians. The ABS achieved these goals by successfully engaging the Australian audience of respondents and data users, and by establishing and implementing secure and efficient systems and processes.


The 2011 Census communication and enumeration strategies successfully garnered public support. These strategies ensured that we understood the needs of the Australian community, the challenges we faced in particular localities and with particular segments of the community, and how to work in the most effective way for the best possible count

on Census night. The public awareness campaign also highlighted the need for Census collectors in every region of Australia.

Even in difficult labour markets, the ABS was able to attract almost 29,000 Census collectors to ensure the full enumeration of Australia, from mainstream urban populations to remote areas. We also partnered with specialised engagement officers to assist in the effective enumeration of people sleeping rough and other difficult to reach groups.

The overall success of the public awareness campaign is reflected in the participation rate of approximately 98.3 per cent of the Australian population. This figure cements Australia's position as a world leader in Census taking. The ABS is also taking advantage of the increased use of technology with over 30 per cent of returns received electronically via eCensus following the strong promotion of the fast, secure and easy online option.

The communication and enumeration strategies successfully reached groups demonstrating low-response rates in previous Censuses, such as young people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; and groups requiring special enumeration strategies such as non-English speakers and Australians experiencing homelessness. Social media was used for the first time, generating a strong interest with young, online audiences and also extending to mainstream Australia.



The 2011 Census online engagement tool, Spotlight, used 2006 Census data to explore what Census data tells Australians about themselves and the nation. Spotlight has won a number of awards in Australia and around the world for its innovative approach, including the Best in Show award at the Interactive Advertising Bureau (IAB) Australia Awards.

The Census post-enumeration survey that immediately follows each Census was another key component our success. The survey obtains information that is used to underpin estimates of how many Australians were missed in the Census and how many were counted more than once. This year a number of improvements to the processing of the Census and the post-enumeration survey were implemented, resulting in the most accurate, comprehensive and timely release of Census data to date. In particular, this included the expansion of the sample to incorporate an increased focus on the accurate enumeration of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in remote communities, and in regional and metropolitan Australia.

A quality review of the Geocoded National Address file was also undertaken using the results of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The results from this study will be used to improve the development of the address register and will inform our planning for the 2016 Census.

In June 2012, the ABS released the first results of the 2011 Census, using a number of new online products to enable better access to, and understanding of Census data. The Census counted 21,727,158 people in Australia on Census night, including 219,440 overseas visitors. Australia's resident count is 21,507,719, an increase of 8.3 per cent since 2006.

The success of the 2011 Census represents the culmination of many years of work by a large number of ABS staff. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts made by staff to achieve this great result and ensure the timely and smooth release of the highest quality suite of population statistics.

## Securing Australia's statistical future – transforming statistical information management

To continue to meet our commitment to relevance, we are under more pressure than ever to develop new and improved products and services that are understood and useful in the contemporary environment. This requires better processes and methods that can better deliver the statistical information that users need, at minimal cost and with greater flexibility and comparability. In other words, it requires the transformation of statistical information management, and this is not only a benefit, it is critical to the sustainability of official statistics.

To achieve the improvements required, we need to refine the ways we acquire data, modernise the ways we communicate statistical information, and enhance our capability to assist other government agencies to manage their own information when it has statistical potential.

In order to design the best possible solutions that will help Australia thrive in the global context, we are starting out by mapping our business and our processes against agreed international standards. This will provide a foundation for Australia to leverage international developments, and enable us to interact effectively and efficiently in the global environment.

To demonstrate our commitment to the changes we need to make, the ABS has undertaken a significant organisational restructure to position us for change. The formation of the ABS 2017 Group is an investment in statistical infrastructure and capability to re-engineer business processes to achieve the following three key goals:

1. To reduce the cost of doing business by streamlining operations to reduce the time it takes for information to move through each stage of the statistical production process. By significantly reducing the cost of collection and processing, resources can be reinvested in higher value customer products and services.
2. To grow the business through new statistical products and services. For example, an enhanced capability to quickly bring together data from a range of sources (e.g. admin, transactional, survey) will help to better shed light on complex economic, social and environmental problems.
3. To deliver the first large scale digital Census (2016 Census) on time, budget and to quality. This represents the most significant change in a Census in 100 years.

Named to represent the future beyond our next critical milestone Census year, the ABS 2017 Group provides a strategic environment for the necessary developments required to deliver the 2016 Census. During 2011–12, the ABS finalised the strategic directions for the 2016 Census to ensure it is a more sustainable, cost-effective and relevant Census model into the future. The key directions are to re-engineer the collection model for the Census to adopt an internet-focused, multi-model design reflecting the opportunities from technology as well as to expand the statistical and technical infrastructure for use across all statistical areas.

The co-location of the 2016 Census with the electronic data collection development team further reflects our investment in the future. The ABS has been moving toward a goal of increased electronic data collection for some time and we are buoyed by the success of the 2011 eCensus, and the 11 per cent Agricultural Census online participation rate. The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children and the Household Energy Consumption Survey also successfully deployed web-based survey components in 2011–12.

## Essential Statistical Assets for Australia

Statistical assets are datasets and statistics that can be used to illustrate our understanding of the state of the nation, and to support decision making. Essential Statistical Assets are those assets which, due to their roles and importance, should be given priority for investment to ensure and protect their quality. The ABS holds many of these assets; however some significant assets are held by other agencies.

In 2011–12, as part of our legislated role to coordinate the provision of official statistics across the National Statistical Service, the ABS developed a framework to identify the Essential Statistical Assets for Australia, regardless of which organisations produce them.

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

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

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 OECD countries, including New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and international bodies including the IMF. The United Nations and the 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.

On 29 May 2012, with support from the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, we released a consultation paper seeking the opinions of users and producers of official statistics. The purpose of the consultation is to identify the core set of essential statistical assets that are critical for decision-making for the nation.

## Measures of Australia's Progress

After approximately ten years of measuring progress, this challenging task remains one of most important priorities we undertake as a national statistical agency. The ABS continues to lead the international efforts in measuring progress, a position we hold with pride. To ensure that our Measures of Australia's Progress remain relevant, in 2011–12 we have continued to review and develop our framework for measuring what really matters to Australia. Previously measuring progress across the topic dimensions of society, economy and environment, a major advance in the framework is the introduction of a fourth high-level topic dimension of governance. As a result of this feedback, governance will be the fourth pillar through which ABS will present Measures of Australia's Progress when it is re-launched in 2013. The ABS has been invited to present these findings to the 4th OECD World Forum on 'Statistics, Knowledge and Policy', which will take place in New Delhi, India in October 2012.

## Data integration

Data integration continues to be a major priority for the ABS and wider National Statistical System as the demand for, and activities associated with, linking datasets for statistical and research purposes increase across Australian Governments.

There is a strong need for consistent governance, methods, policies and protocols around data integration to:

- maximise benefits from the use of data, in a controlled and secure manner, from portfolios such as taxation, health, education, migration and family support
- minimise risks associated with poorly managed data linkage activities on datasets of national significance such as the Census of Population and Housing
- maintain the trust of the broader community in the collection and use of an individual's data.

A Cross Portfolio Statistical Data Integration Oversight Board was established in late 2010 to oversee the application of high level principles for the integration of Commonwealth data. We are also continuing to implement an agreed set of governance and institutional arrangements including best practice guidelines and a public register and complaints mechanism for data integration projects involving Commonwealth data.

## Environmental – economic accounting

Environmental-economic accounting is an emerging field of statistics that seeks to explain relationships between the environment and the economy, and by extension, with society. It is built on the premise that economic and social activities have environmental impacts, and that environmental issues have economic and social consequences, and to develop effective environmental policy these linkages need to be understood. For these reasons, the development of environmental-economic accounts for Australia is a key priority for the ABS.

We have been working internationally with the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA), which is currently chaired by Peter Harper, Deputy Australian Statistician.

Following the work of the UNCEEA, the United Nations Statistical Committee recently adopted the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework as an international standard. This is a significant achievement for environmental economic accounting. The status of and international standard for environmental economic accounting places it on par with other important statistics such as national accounts, prices and industry statistics.

## Australian Health Survey

In 2011–12, the ABS completed the collection phase of the general population wave of the Australian Health Survey. This is the largest and most comprehensive health survey ever undertaken by the ABS. For the first time, respondents have been invited to provide measurements and biomedical samples to complete the picture of Australia's health by providing more objective measures to complement self-reported health information. Following extensive community consultation, planning for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wave of the Australian Health Survey was also completed in 2011–12, with the collection phase scheduled for 2012–13.

The Australian Health Survey will provide an important benchmark to help determine future health strategies and will mirror similar surveys being carried out in the US, Canada, the UK and New Zealand. In addition to traditional health survey products, dissemination of the Australian Health Survey will include new methods to access aggregate and micro data, as well as new analytical products to tell the health 'story' and highlight key findings for a general audience. Further information on the Australian Health Survey is provided in the special article featured in Chapter Four of this report.

## Other significant statistical achievements

### Estimated resident population

The process of updating Australia's population estimates following each Census is referred to as 'population rebasing'. This year, an enhanced program of quality assurance investigations and analysis was adopted in the processing and evaluation of Census results and in the compilation of population estimates based on these results. These activities aimed to identify anomalies in the data and implement remediation treatments earlier in the compilation process than has previously been achieved. The results are higher quality estimates of the elderly population of Australia, the population by Indigenous status, and the resolution of rare but inevitable geographic clusters of Census undercount which were unable to be specifically remediated by the Census post-enumeration survey.

Among other uses, these population estimates underpin electoral boundaries, the distribution of the Goods and Services Tax revenue to states and territories, and provide the foundations for official population-based statistics such as the monthly Labour Force Survey. The commitment to quality from the teams working on this important component of our work program is evident in the results and a credit to their innovation and hard work.

### Homelessness

Following extensive consultation with community groups, the Homelessness Statistics Reference Group and other stakeholders, our Social Conditions team has been working to develop a statistical definition for homelessness – one that is valid, transparent, consistent and repeatable. This body of work is an exemplar of our commitment to objective and trusted statistical information that is relevant to our stakeholders.

The ABS will publish the statistical definition of homelessness and methodology for estimating the number of people who were homeless on Census Night, in *Census of Population and Housing: Estimating Homelessness, 2006* (cat. no. 2049.0) on 11 September 2012. The publication will also include a recompilation of consistent estimates from both the 2001 and 2006 Censuses. This will be followed on 12 November with official estimates of homelessness from the 2011 Census.

### 50th anniversary of the Labour Force and Supplementary Survey Program

Information on the labour market highlights changes in both our economy and society – and the interactions between them. For fifty years, the ABS Labour Force Survey, our longest running household survey, has been providing key measures of our economic health and reflecting the changes in our working culture. A lot has changed since the Labour Force Survey first started, so we celebrated this golden anniversary with feature articles to highlight the changing role of women in the labour market, trends in part-time hours, and employment changes in our leading and emerging industries. I also had the pleasure of marking this occasion with a seminar featuring Professor Bob Gregory from the Research School of Economics at ANU, and Mr Richard Denniss from the Australia Institute – exploring the past fifty years of the Australian Labour Market and its measurement.

## Enhanced coherence of economic statistics

To support improved understanding and analysis of the Australian Economy, the ABS has developed a number of improved systems and processes to present a coherent picture of statistics. Some of the key improvements during 2011–12 include:

- establishment of an expanded Service Industry Producer Price Index program
- reengineering of the monthly Lending Finance Surveys
- public review of the Producer and International Trade Price Index program, considering principal purpose, quality, coherence, weighting reference periods and other issues
- establishment of a single Unit Repository System
- introduction of quality adjusted measures of labour input
- assessments of systematic under coverage in respect of the Non-Observed Economy: deliberate understatement of income and overstatement of expenses in tax reporting, illegal production, and statistical issues such as cut-offs in administrative data or surveys
- commenced a collaborative project to ensure coherence between Energy Accounts and Input-Output tables to serve as a model of improved internal coherence.

## Release of the 16th Series Consumer Price Index

In October 2011, the ABS released the September quarter 2011 Consumer Price Index (CPI), incorporating updated household expenditure spending patterns, a new CPI commodity classification with improved alignment to the international United Nations classification, and additional analytical measures of inflation using ABS seasonal adjustment.

This is the 16th update to the CPI since the series was first produced in 1948 and ensures the measure remains relevant and representative of Australian household inflation.

## Improvements to the House Price Index

The ABS has undertaken a number of improvements to the collection and processing of house sales data to support the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Affordable Housing Agreement. One of these was a measure of housing affordability and this work has resulted in an extension of the collection and processing of house sales data from State and Territory Valuers-General (VGs) to cover all dwellings in the whole of each state.

During 2011–12, a price index was developed for other dwelling types in capital cities to augment the existing price index for established homes in the eight capital cities. This will provide richer and more detailed data for decision makers and will be released as an experimental other dwellings price index in August 2012.

## Improvements to dissemination

The ABS has a commitment to describing Australia's economy, society, population and environment. Improving the way we use statistics to inform issues in these fields is key to our success. Australian Social Trends is a key publication used to draw information from a variety of statistical sources to present a picture of Australian society. In 2011–12, a number of initiatives were made to make the information in Australian Social Trends more accessible with the inclusion of audio podcasts for selected articles. Search engine optimisation has also been utilised to ensure this quality publication reaches the widest audience possible.

Our largest business collection, the Agricultural Census was run in July 2011, referencing the 2010–11 financial year. This year, we invested considerable effort into presenting the findings in innovative and interactive ways to better engage with our target audiences. This includes interactive maps of the distribution of agricultural commodities and water use across Australia.

Innovative data visualisation techniques have also been important to the redevelopment of State and Territory Statistical Indicators publication. Data visualisation allows the statistics to become accessible to a broader audience, and reflects our commitment to supporting the information needs state and territory governments and communities.

## International statistical capability development

The growing importance of comparable regional data in the global economy is driving increasing demand for statistical capability development in less developed countries and for collaboration between national statistics offices around the world. As a global leader in statistics, Australia has an obligation to contribute to international statistical capability development, particularly within our own backyard. In partnership with AusAID, we have designed and delivered a number of statistical development programs for Indonesia and the Pacific region, including leadership and technical capability programs. In 2011, a team led by the ABS supported the Timor-Leste National Directorate of Statistics to establish the first-ever business activity survey. The survey measures economic performance in an objective and reliable way, and provides necessary information for decision making to support Timor-Leste's economic development.

We have also continued our high-level participation with key organisations to share and develop our knowledge and expertise, and contributing to the development of statistical frameworks and methods. Our strong relationships with the United Nations Statistical Commission, the OECD Committee on Statistics and the ECE Conference of European Statisticians continue to benefit the both the global statistical system, and our ability to deliver the best possible information for Australia's own needs.



## Operational environment

### New Corporate Plan

Over the past year, in the context of organisational change and the need for a refreshed strategic direction, the ABS worked as a team to produce a new Corporate Plan.

The Corporate Plan has been designed to serve as our guide for the next few years, as we continue to adapt to the changing environment in which we operate. Building on our enduring statistical values and our legislative framework, the Corporate Plan provides a clear set of goals to lead the development of our work program: the informed and better use of Australia's statistical assets, continued trust and support of providers, long-term organisational sustainability, respected leader in the national and international statistical communities.

### ABS Future Organisational Sustainability

As part of our strategy to ensure the ABS remains a thriving organisation, we have looked not only at how we prioritise and focus our work program, but also how we share our efforts and utilise resources across Australia. With an existing commitment to working closely with state and territory governments, we also considered the need for capability and career pathways in each of our capital city offices, and the benefits of tapping into various labour markets. The result is the decision to more evenly distribute our work program across Australia, with each capital city office (apart from ACT) holding key corporate and statistical program functions. The ACT office will continue to work closely with the ACT government, however the co-location with our central office in Canberra addresses career and capability development options for all staff located in Canberra.

This decision has resulted in many staff taking up the opportunity for lifestyle changes, taking their capability and expertise to new locations. While the consultation phase of the ABS Future Organisational Sustainability (AFOS) program indicated broad support for this component of our restructure, we have been pleased by the willingness of staff to share knowledge in new cities, or to take up new work in their existing location. In particular, this willingness to embrace change is a good sign that we have the adaptable cohort to drive and deliver the business transformation we need.

### Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my thanks to all the Australian households and businesses that participate in our Censuses and surveys over the year. Your contributions help governments design more informed policies, and promote better informed research, decision-making and debate occurring across Australia and at every level.

The contribution of the members of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) and its Chair, Mr Geoff Allen, should also be recognised. Their insight and counsel is imperative in designing and advancing our work program and promoting official statistics to the government and wider community.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the support of the Hon Bernie Ripoll MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer. With his support, the ABS continues to be an independent producer of relevant and high-quality statistics for the Australian public, and to lead the nation's statistical service.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank the office staff, interviewers and Census teams who are the innovators, backbone and engine of Australia's official statistics.

## Chapter 2

### Overview of the ABS

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

### The role of the ABS

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

### The ABS mission

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

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

### Authority and legislation

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

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

- (a) to constitute the central statistical authority for the Australian Government and, by arrangements with the governments of the states, provide statistical services for those governments;
- (b) to collect, compile, analyse and disseminate statistics and related information;
- (c) to ensure coordination of the operations of official bodies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and related information, with particular regard to:
  - (i) the avoidance of duplication in the collection by official bodies of information for statistical purposes;
  - (ii) the attainment of compatibility between, and the integration of, statistics compiled by official bodies; and
  - (iii) the maximum possible utilisation, for statistical purposes, of information, and means of collection of information, available to official bodies;
- (d) to formulate, and ensure compliance with, standards for the carrying out by official bodies of operations for statistical purposes;
- (e) to provide advice and assistance to official bodies in relation to statistics; and
- (f) to provide liaison between Australia, on the one hand, and other countries and international organisations, on the other hand, in relation to statistical matters.

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

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

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

There were no amendments made to the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* or the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* during 2011–12.

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

## Organisational structure

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

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

Economic and Environment Statistics

Population, Labour and Social Statistics.

These areas of statistics involve extensive data collection through censuses and surveys and from administrative data sources.

The statistical programs are supported by service, which deliver assistance and advice on statistical methods, data, and metadata arrangements, information technology, data acquisition and collection, client management, dissemination, human resources and other corporate services.

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

The ABS has a central office in Canberra and regional offices located in the eight state and territory capitals. Apart from the ACT office, each regional office has some national statistical responsibilities.

Regional offices are also primarily responsible for the delivery of statistical services to their state or territory. These offices have ongoing engagement with state and territory governments on statistical services and priorities, generally through state and territory committees set up for that purpose. In Western Australia and Tasmania, the Regional Director administering the ABS Regional Office is also the State Government Statistician.

All Regional Directors have a direct reporting line to a Deputy Australian Statistician (see organisational chart in this chapter for more details).

## Australian Statistics Advisory Council

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

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

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

The Chairperson of the Council is Mr Geoff Allen, Director, The Allen Consulting Group. ASAC members include nominees from each of the State Premiers and the Territory Chief Ministers. The other members are appointed by the Minister responsible for the ABS, and are chosen to represent a broad cross-section of perspectives, including business, government, academic and community interests.

### The Australian Statistics Advisory Council's mission

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

Further information on the Australian Statistics Advisory Council can be found at [www.asac.gov.au](http://www.asac.gov.au) or by contacting the Secretariat by mail to: ABS, Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616 or by phone on 02 6252 7647. The Council's annual report can also be found on its website.

### Australian Statistics Advisory Council members

Left to right: Greg Ward, Matt Cowgill, David Gruen, Graeme Hugo, Glenys Beauchamp, Brian Pink, Bruce Michael, Louise Sylvan, David Johnson, Michael Taylor, Clem Doherty, Geoff Allen, Saul Eslake, Pam Davoren, Chris McGowen, David Christmas



### Responsible Minister

The ABS is an agency under the Treasury portfolio.

Since 5 March 2012, the Hon Bernie Ripoll MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer has held responsibility for the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The Hon Bill Shorten MP held responsibility for the ABS immediately prior to Mr Ripoll's appointment.

*Hon Bernie Ripoll MP,  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer*

### Outcome and program structure

#### ABS outcomes

In the Portfolio Budget Statements 2011–12, the ABS has one outcome: Informed decisions, research and discussion within governments and the community by leading the collection, analysis and provision of high quality, objective and relevant statistical information.

#### ABS program

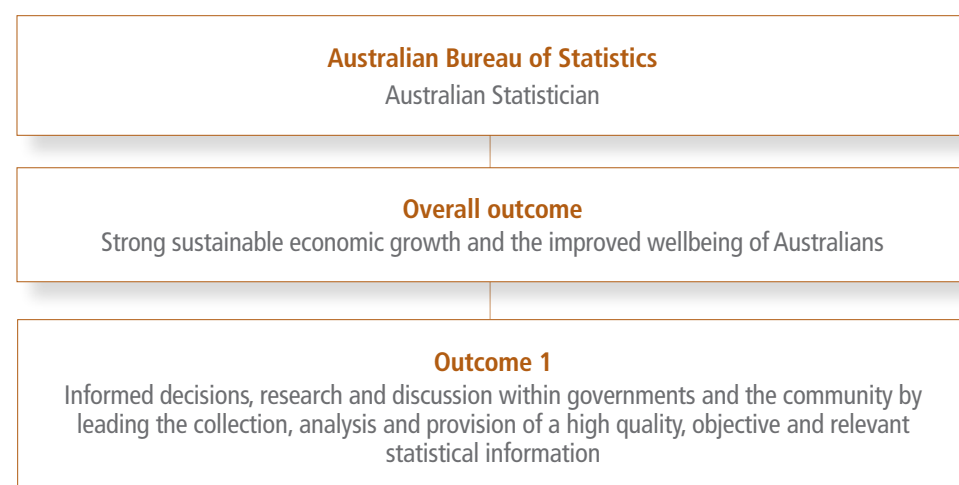
Within the context of the Portfolio Budget Statements, Program 1.1 Australian Bureau of Statistics, the ABS produces and disseminates statistics to meet this outcome. Economic statistics are produced predominantly from the ABS business survey program. They include an extensive range of statistical outputs relating to the structure and performance of the Australian economy.

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

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

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

## Financial position Outcome



## Financial summary

As noted above, the ABS has one outcome. Table 2.1 provides, for 2011–12, a financial summary of the ABS outcome and the price of the outcome. The full financial statements are provided in Section 5.

Table 2.1: Summary of financial resources

	2011–12 \$m	2010–11 \$m
Price of Departmental Outcomes		
Outcome 1	628.6	426.0
<b>Total Outcome</b>	<b>628.6</b>	<b>426.0</b>
Revenue from Government appropriations	548.6	354.9
Revenue from other sources (a)	44.1	32.6
<b>Total for Outcome 1</b>	<b>592.7</b>	<b>387.5</b>

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

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Table 2.2: Summary of financial performance

	2011–12 \$m	2010–11 \$m	Change \$m
Appropriation revenue	548.6	354.9	193.7
Other revenue and gains	44.1	32.6	11.5
<b>Total income</b>	<b>592.7</b>	<b>387.5</b>	<b>205.2</b>
Employee expenses	433.2	283.1	150.1
Supplier expenses	160.0	109.5	50.5
Other expenses	35.4	33.4	2.0
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>628.6</b>	<b>426.0</b>	<b>202.6</b>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>(35.9)</b>	<b>(38.5)</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Changes in asset revaluation reserve	5.5	0.9	4.6
<b>Comprehensive income (loss)</b>	<b>(30.4)</b>	<b>(37.6)</b>	<b>7.2</b>

In 2011–12, comprehensive income loss of \$30.4 million represents a technical accounting loss resulting from the change to the appropriation funding arrangements as a result of Operation Sunlight.

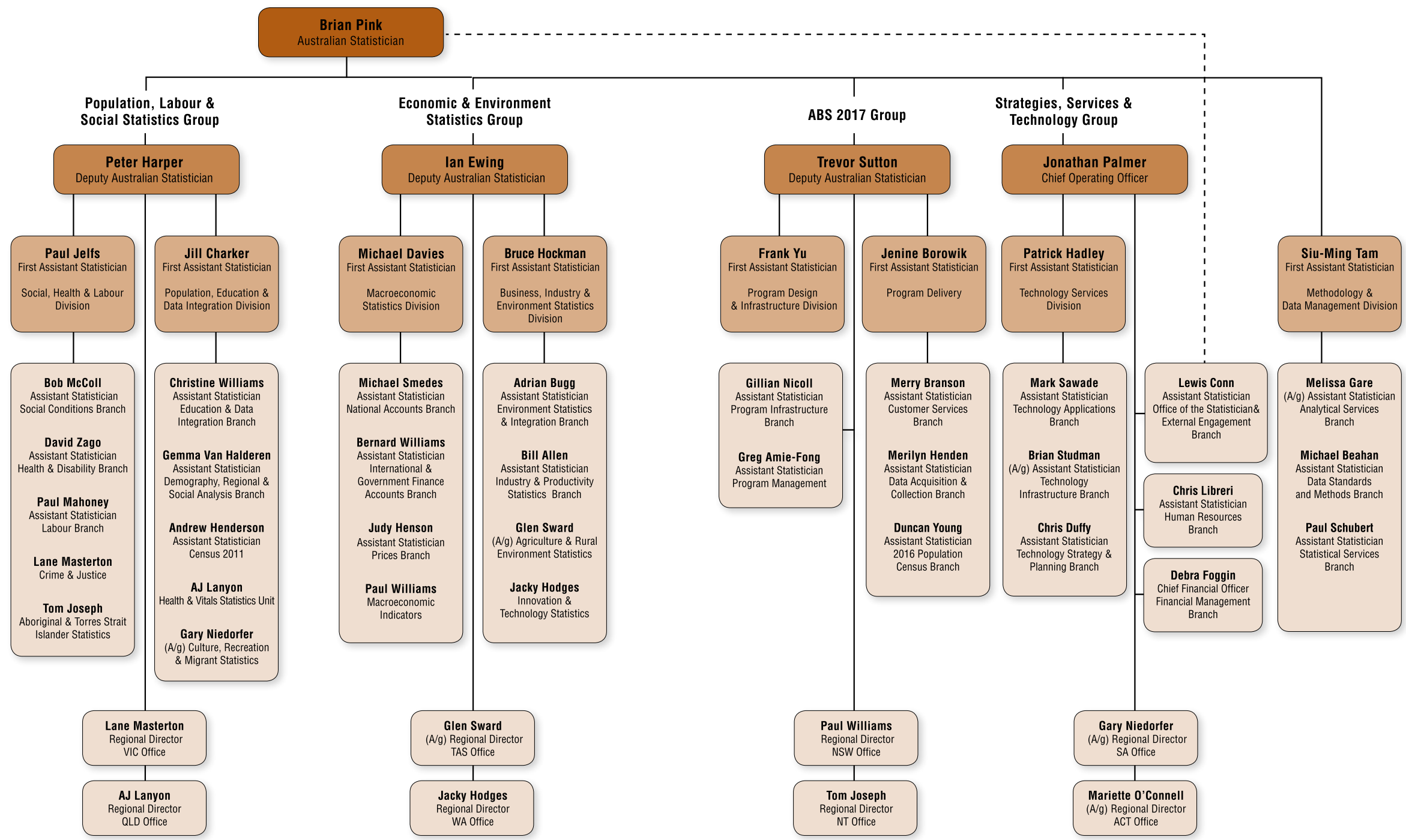
Total income available in 2011–12 increased by \$205.2 million, due mainly to the increase in appropriation for the cyclical Census of Population and Housing.

Table 2.3: Summary of financial position

	2011–12 \$m	2010–11 \$m	Change \$m
Financial assets (a)	76.1	70.4	5.7
Non-financial assets (b)	140.2	139.3	0.9
Liabilities (c)	165.7	147.8	17.9
<b>Net assets (a+b-c)</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>61.9</b>	<b>(11.3)</b>

The net asset decrease is due to changes to the appropriation funding arrangements as a result of Operation Sunlight, including an equity injection, offset by an asset revaluation.

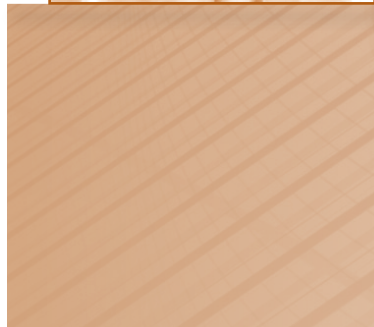
The ABS's commitment to financial management is reflected through its unqualified financial statements. The ABS has continued its focus on compliance with the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, and is implementing systems and procedures to enhance its financial management and accountability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





## Section 2

SPECIAL ARTICLES



## Chapter 3

# Measures of Australia's Progress: measuring what is important to Australians



### Introduction

Measuring a nation's progress – providing information about whether life is getting better – is one of the most important tasks that a national statistical agency can undertake. For over one hundred years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has been measuring Australia's progress through the multitude of statistics we publish relating to Australia's economy, society and environment. However, recent years have seen growing public and policy interest in the interrelationships between economic, social and environmental aspects of life – debates about the sustainability of economic growth for example, and a recognition that the environment is neither an inexhaustible source of raw materials nor capable of absorbing an unlimited amount of waste.

Ten years ago, the Australian Bureau of Statistics made a major contribution to measuring whether life is getting better in Australia with the release of the first issue of Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP). At that time, The Bulletin referred to MAP as a revolutionary set of indicators, which provided great insights on how life is improving and at what rate.

Ten years on, the Australian Bureau of Statistics is leading a national conversation to ensure that MAP remains relevant to today's society – that we are measuring those aspects of progress that matter to Australian society. Aspirations of Australians will be articulated and will form the basis for the release of a refreshed Measures of Australia's Progress in 2013.

### What is MAP?

#### Setting the scene

There is a long history of the idea of progress as societal improvement, reaching back as far as Aristotle, and developing through the Reformation, and the Industrial Revolution, to modern times. It is an important idea, especially in a modern democracy, but it is also a contestable idea, and its meaning can vary over time and for different interested parties. Measuring societal improvement has been a responsibility of the Australian Bureau of Statistics and its predecessors since colonial times. Then, the idea of progress and the measures required were somewhat simpler – cattle exports, for instance. Over time, more complex measures were introduced, such as labour force measures and economic accounting. In more recent decades, there has been a growing view that understanding progress involves bringing together measures from across the areas of social, economic and environmental activity.

In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission) called for the development of new ways to measure and assess progress towards sustainable development. The 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro was a further catalyst for discussion, as were calls from organisations, such as the United Nations, for better measures of social concerns to supplement the System of National Accounts. More recent global conversations about defining and measuring progress came to a head in 2009. During that year, the G20 Summit encouraged work on

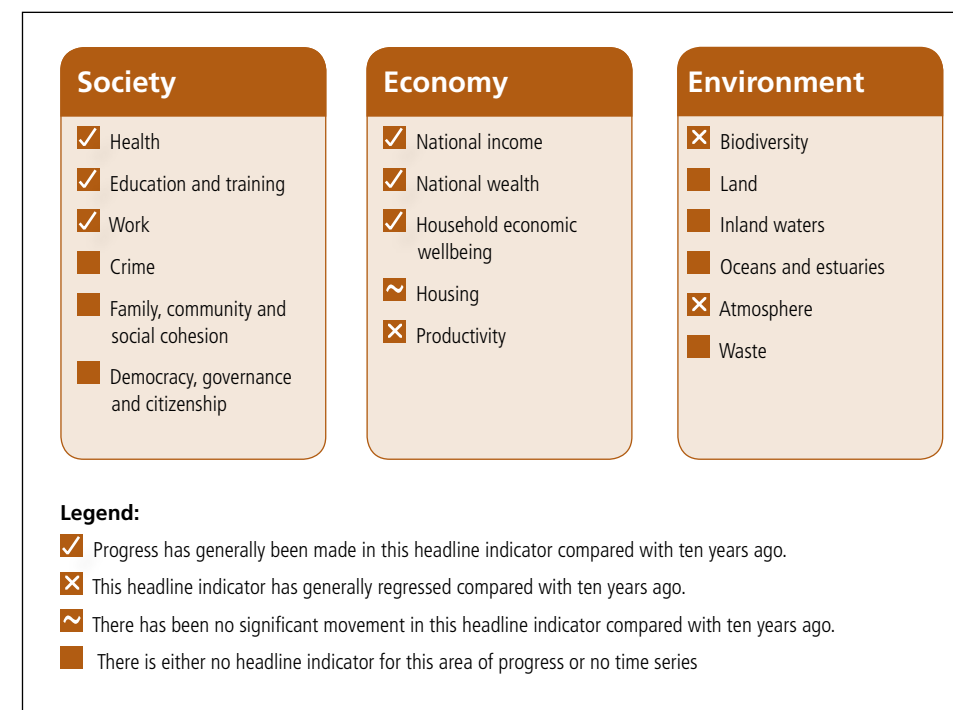
measures that better take into account the social and environmental dimensions of economic development. As well, two notable reports were released: the report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (the Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi report) and the European Union's 'Beyond GDP' report (the Costanza, Hart, Posner and Talberth report). Both recommended a rethink of measurement systems and encouraged dialogue on what societies care about, and whether these concerns are adequately addressed by official statistics.

### MAP in a nutshell

Measures of Australia's Progress is designed to help Australians address the question, 'Is life in Australia getting better?' It provides a digestible selection of statistical evidence in answer to this question. Australians are presented with evidence to form their own view of how the country is progressing.

The statistical measures presented by MAP demonstrate change. They are currently grouped under three broad domains: the society, the economy and the environment. Within these broad domains several dimensions are addressed, such as health and work within the social domain, national income within the economic domain, and biodiversity within the environmental domain. Each dimension has various indicators for key areas of interest, to allow the public to assess whether life in Australia is getting better. This approach is based on providing an informative 'dashboard' of information for those wishing to assess national progress, and MAP is internationally acknowledged as a best practice model in this area.

Figure 3.1: Measures of Australia's Progress, 2011 Dashboard



## Progress and statistical frameworks

How does the ABS understand progress? The word 'progress' has many connotations. It has been associated with industrial development and economic growth, but also with 'progressive' social movements. In current discussions, it is often connected with newer concepts such as sustainability.

While many scholarly discussions are to be found about the meaning of societal progress, two basic and commonly discussed components of the concept are: one, that progress is the movement of society in a positive direction – an improvement; and second, that this improvement implies there are one or more goals, standards or endpoints in mind – which must be defined in order to know whether progress is occurring.

While it is challenging to collect data about multifaceted ideas such as progress, the conceptual breakdown provided by a framework brings order to such initiatives, making them easier to tackle.

Because they lay out all the important ideas and areas of interest, frameworks can also be used to assess how well a statistical program covers a topic, and gaps in information may be more readily identified. In this way, frameworks can assist in determining priorities for new work.

Specifically, the MAP framework should include a set of aspirations and related elements to provide structure for progress data. It should reflect the views of Australians: that is, the aspects of national progress that matter most to Australians. In this sense, the framework will not necessarily be comprehensive, but will pick out important areas. However, the framework will need to be precise enough to guide indicator development.

## MAP 2.0: the next generation

Since the first release of MAP, national and international interest in the topic of measuring progress has accelerated. In 2009, the Australia 2020 Summit discussed the need for improved indicators of progress and the G20 Summit encouraged work on measurement that better takes into account the social and environmental dimensions of economic development. The 2009 Report from the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress recommended a rethink of statistical measures and encouraged a global dialogue to ensure national statistical organisations are measuring what societies care about.

With this confluence of events and the ten year anniversary of the MAP inaugural publication, the ABS announced that it would undertake a large consultation exercise – a national dialogue – with the Australian public. Here the key aim was identified as gaining the public's input about the next iteration of MAP and what the idea of progress means to them.

The ABS sought input from people across the nation to hear the views of Australians and to allow them to let us know what they think is important for life in this country. Indeed, as the Australian Statistician said, in MAP 2010:

Defining a statistical framework that aims to measure a country's progress is one of the most important and challenging new tasks a national statistical agency faces...The ABS has presented measures of progress since 2002; however, the question remains as to whether these measures adequately represent what matters to most Australians...

Five primary channels were used for the consultation process: an Expert Reference Group; four Topic Advisory Panels; regional workshops; a MAP Forum; and lastly, innovative use of social media.

## MAP Expert Reference Group

Oversight, advice and broad direction has been provided by a MAP Expert Reference Group (ERG). The group comprises experts who are independent and representative of government, community, business and research sectors at a national level. The group is chaired by the Australian Statistician and meets four times a year.

The group has been a useful mechanism for broadly overseeing and adding value to: the consultation process that was undertaken in 2011–12 and content of the new MAP framework (MAP 2.0); and the ongoing indicator development work (for example, subjective measures of wellbeing, enhanced environmental measures and quarterly progress indicators).

## Topic Advisory Panels

In addition to the governance structure put in place by the establishment of the MAP Expert Reference Group, four panels of three or four external experts – one each for Social, Economic, Governance, Environment – were established during 2011. Each Topic Advisory Panel (TAP) met three times during the consultation period and were chaired by a Deputy Australian Statistician.

The aim of the TAPs was to provide representations on current activity in the respective expert areas and a diverse range of views from across Australian areas of endeavour. The panels have been able to provide advice on the content of aspirations, outcomes and measures for each topic stream.

## Regional workshops

Workshops in all state and territory capitals were held in the early stages of the consultation process. The purpose of the workshops was to introduce state and territory participants to the MAP 2.0 consultation and gain their views on the aspirations they considered important to national progress in the areas of society, economy, environment and governance. These workshops, and the views of Australians based in the states and territories, provided a solid foundation for subsequent consultation processes.

## MAP 2.0 Forum

The Measures of Australia's Progress 2.0 Forum was conducted, over one day, at the ABS premises in Canberra in late 2011. The Forum was an integral part of the MAP 2.0 consultation process. It allowed the ABS to bring together a diverse range of commentators and experts as a single representative consortium, enabling sharing of opinions and mutual discussion. To enhance the value of this discussion, effort was made to balance the representation of business, academic, government and community sectors and viewpoints at the Forum.



Figure 3.2: MAP 2.0 Forum Brochure

**Welcome**

I would like to welcome you to the MAP Forum. This is an important milestone in our 2011 consultation process. After a round of visits to our State Capitals, the first meetings of four Topic Advisory Panels (TAPs), and a successful social media campaign, we hope to both consolidate findings and move into new territory.

In the morning, we will present some broad aspirations for national progress that have been identified. We will ask you to refine these statements and review their proposed component areas: areas that would need to be progressing well for those aspirations to be approached.

In the afternoon we will open a new discussion with the aim of highlighting important linkages between areas of interest, as well as possible tensions. We hope to ensure our consultation and resulting framework are fully cognisant of these cross-over areas, and, in the longer term, that the MAP product encourages a full, integrated understanding of progress – moving beyond a focus on isolated aspects.

Following this Forum the ABS will undertake a further round of regional consultation as we work towards a refreshed measurement framework.

I encourage you to share your expertise and ideas with your fellow delegates during the day as we continue this exciting work. It is only through active and vibrant dialogue that a clear and balanced understanding of what matters most to Australians will emerge. I thank you for your valuable input and trust you find it an inspiring and thought provoking day.

Brian Pink  
Australian Statistician

Measures of Australia's Progress  
**CONSULTATION FORUM**  
18 NOVEMBER 2011  
ABS House Canberra

The Forum was specifically planned to be held towards the latter parts of the consultation process, as it provided an opportunity to consolidate the outcomes from preceding consultation events, such as the regional workshops, social media campaign and the expert panel meetings. The Forum took, as its starting point, material compiled from these activities, so that delegates could build on valuable work already done and more easily take the thinking forward. This approach allowed both participants and the ABS to gain the greatest benefit possible, given the concentrated discussion time available and the breadth of the subject matter covered.

One major aim of the Forum was to reach general agreement that aspirations for national progress compiled from preceding consultation events were a faithful and balanced reflection of the views of Australians. In this way, the Forum aimed to bring delegates' expertise and knowledge to bear on the question of 'What is important for Australia's progress?'. Participating delegates were asked to make this assessment in terms of their particular field of expertise. In other words, delegates were asked to consider national progress from an objective, broad and inclusive point of view, rather than a narrow or agenda-related perspective. Forum sessions allowed time for delegates to refine the aspirations presented in draft form and, for example, to identify gaps and address issues as part of gaining the groups' general endorsement of the prepared material.

A second aim of the Forum was to begin to identify and examine the relationships and linkages between the four MAP domains of society, economy, environment and governance. Delegates considered the important interrelationships among these domains and how these might have an impact on national progress and its measurement.

## Social media – blogging for progress

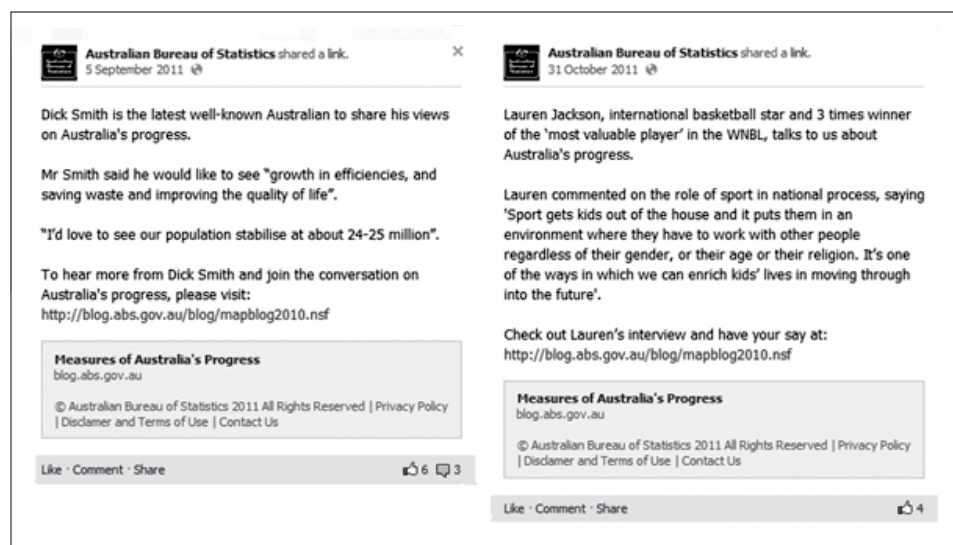
Social media was an integral part of the MAP 2.0 conversation. The aim of the social media campaign was to better engage with younger people and those who do not regularly use statistics. This was a relatively new approach for the ABS. Consultations often focus on the quite specific statistical needs of those who regularly use national statistics. In the case of MAP 2.0, however, we were asking all Australians to let us know what aspects of life they thought were most important for national progress. Through our social media campaign we were able to access a broader range of views.

There were several strands to the social media campaign, each aimed at engaging with the public and hearing what they had to say about what matters to them. For example, we approached a range of well-known Australians to participate in the campaign to attract and encourage people who might not otherwise be interested to join in.

Figure 3.3: A snapshot of the MAP 2.0 Blog

A MAP 2.0 blog was the main social media platform used in the campaign. Other platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, were used to direct people to the blog, where we could gather comments and directly interact with the public. The blog allowed people to provide relatively detailed feedback if they wished. It was promoted publicly with regular media releases, and followers of the ABS Facebook page and Twitter account were updated on new MAP blog activity. Media and other promotional activity often focused on the contributions received from prominent Australians, as these views were seen to be of the broadest interest.

Figure 3.4: Some MAP 2.0 Facebook posts



ABS regularly posted content on the blog from the launch date of 29 August 2011, until 8 November 2011. This period of intensive activity was aimed at generating interest, informing the public, and encouraging participation. The length of blog promotion was relatively short in order to concentrate efforts and maintain a high level of media attention and public interest.

In order to attract the attention of the public and generate interest for the MAP 2.0 blog and consultation, ABS invited several prominent Australians to write or talk about Australia's progress. Individuals who contributed (in alphabetical order) were:

- Richard Aedy (then host of Life Matters – ABC Radio National)
- Eva Cox (social commentator)
- Mark Donaldson, VC (Australian soldier)
- Richard Eckersley (researcher on population wellbeing)
- Lauren Jackson (professional basketball player)
- Dick Smith (entrepreneur)
- Michael Stutchbury (Editor, Australian Financial Review).

These well-known Australians not only contributed by generating interest for the consultation, but also through the quality comments they have made about Australia's progress.

The MAP blog was relatively successful. From the launch to the end of December 2011, it received around 13,500 visitors, who made around 34,000 page visits and left around 116 quality comments.

The MAP 2.0 consultation also generated media coverage, especially on radio and within the print media. Most of the media attention was concentrated around the launch of the blog on 29 August 2011. Comments generated from MAP presence in the media have also been incorporated as feedback for the consultation process.

## Where to next?

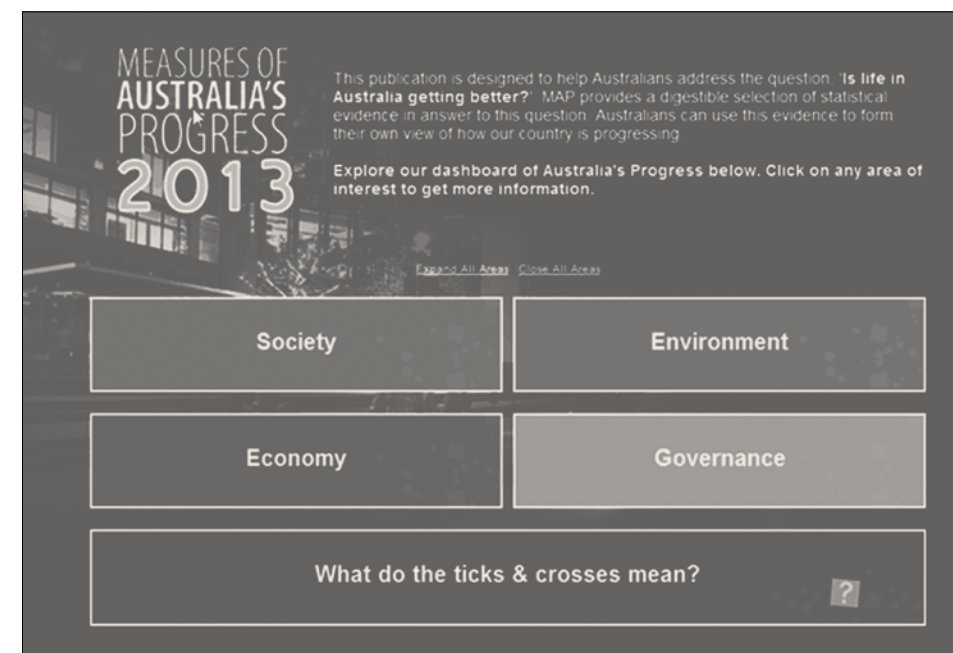
Overall, the consultation process has been extremely valuable. It has allowed the ABS to hear, listen and reflect accurately on the aspirations of Australians. A report outlining these aspirations is currently being finalised and will be made publically available in the second half of 2012.

In October 2012, the 4th OECD World Forum on 'Statistics, Knowledge and Policy' will take place in New Delhi, India. It is the fourth in a series of world fora organised by the OECD to deepen reflections and advance statistical work on improved metrics of well-being and progress. The focus of the World Forum will be 'Measuring Well-Being for Development and Policy Making'. The ABS has been invited to take a lead role at the World Forum and will be presenting the aspirations of Australian's for societal progress.

The process of incorporating our consultation feedback into the next phase of the project has started the work to turn Australians' aspirations into a statistical framework that helps address the question, 'Is life in Australia getting better?'. A major advance over the course of the consultation has been the strength of support for a fourth topic dimension, governance, in the MAP framework. As a result of this feedback, governance will be the fourth pillar through which ABS will present Measures of Australia's Progress when it is re-launched in 2013.

The ABS will retain a dashboard approach for presenting key progress indicators, however innovative approaches to communicating those indicators will be adopted. Users will be able to more readily compare and contrast progress across dimensions, access statistics for populations of interest such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and address equity through distributional analysis tools. The consultation process has highlighted the importance of being able to understand inter-relationships, trade-offs, and inequality, and the ABS will approach these issues through its web interface and communication tools.

Figure 3.5: New MAP interface



The aim of ABS's Measures of Australia's Progress is, as it was ten years ago, to be a tool with which Australians can generate their own progress stories. This tool is intended to assist Australians to decide whether, in their view, life in Australia is getting better and at what rate.

Measures of Australia's Progress will present, side by side, measures of societal progress in four areas: social wellbeing, environmental sustainability, economic development and good governance. Readers will be able to assess, at a glance, whether life in Australia is getting better.

Through Measures of Australia's Progress, ABS will fulfil an important role of National Statistical Institutes: to provide information about our nation's progress. This task is challenging yet through it, Australians will be better informed and better able to discuss and debate key aspirations for our nation.

## Chapter 4

### Australian Health Survey

#### Introduction

Of all the factors associated with an individual's wellbeing, their experience of physical and mental health is arguably the most critical. While Australians generally continue to enjoy improvements in their quality and length of life, recent decades have seen an increased focus on the prevention and treatment of lifestyle-related health problems. Rises in risk factors such as obesity and high blood pressure contribute to increases in conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. When coupled with the well documented ageing of the Australian population, growth in these chronic diseases represents a major challenge for health providers, policy makers and the community.

High quality information is critical in meeting our current and future health challenges. Better understanding of the relationship between our lifestyles, risk factors and health outcomes is a key goal for researchers. Doing so will allow clinicians, governments and community organisations to more effectively develop and plan the next generation of health policies, programs and treatments.

While information relating to the health of Australians is available from a wide range of sources, understanding the interplay between, for example, a person's diet, physical activity, current health problems and future health risks, required a fresh approach. In 2009, ABS, with additional supporting funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) and the National Heart Foundation of Australia, embarked on the development of a new collection, the Australian Health Survey (AHS), to meet this need.

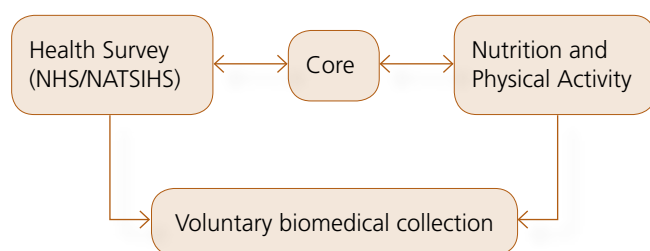
#### The Australian Health Survey: a fresh approach

ABS has a long track record in conducting successful health surveys, having conducted a regular National Health Survey (NHS) since 1977. With a focus on long-term conditions and health service usage, these surveys have provided an important benchmark in tracking changes in the health of the nation. In 1995, the first National Nutrition Survey filled a key gap in health information by reporting on the food we ate and allowing researchers to measure the nutrients we consumed. And from 2004–5, ABS also began conducting surveys specifically designed to provide information about the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (i.e. the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey – NATSIHS). While separately these collections provided pieces of the health information puzzle, they did not provide a complete picture.

The AHS represents a new approach to meeting a wide range of interrelated information needs, through a single multi-component collection with a total sample of almost 50,000 Australians. By conducting the 2011–13 NHS and NATSIHS in conjunction with an updated nutrition and physical activity survey, as well as the first ever national biomedical survey (the voluntary National Health Measures Survey – NHMS), this ambitious project will provide the most complete picture ever taken of the health of Australians.

Figure 4.1 provides a summary of the AHS design. While component collections are conducted with separate samples to minimise burden on individual respondents, shared 'core' content across collections will support the investigation of cross-topic health issues.

Figure 4.1. Summary of AHS design



## Consultation

ABS commenced extensive consultation on the priority information requirements and design objectives for the new collection in early 2010. In doing so, ABS worked closely with DoHA and the Heart Foundation to ensure that the project maintained relevance to key national health policy and research agendas.

This consultation revealed strong support for the new collection across a broad range of government, research and clinical data users, and confirmed the core objective of the AHS to expand on previously available health statistics by:

- providing new measures of chronic diseases and health problems
- filling gaps in information relating to physical activity participation and sedentary behaviour
- updating information relating to the dietary intakes and habits of Australians
- providing the first nationally representative objective measures of selected chronic diseases, nutrition status and other risk factors
- supporting investigation of the relationship between lifestyle, risk factors and health outcomes
- supporting comparisons of health risks factors and outcomes for different population groups of interest, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people living in remote and non-remote areas.

## Privacy and ethical considerations

The conduct of a biomedical collection, albeit on a clearly voluntary basis, presented the ABS and the Australian public with a range of new privacy and ethical issues. In working through these issues, ABS consulted with the Australian Privacy Commissioner, releasing an AHS Privacy Impact Assessment (available on the ABS website) that outlines processes for protecting private information and clarifies the protections of both the *Privacy Act 1998* and the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

ABS also consulted with a wide range of expert stakeholders about ethical and safety issues related to the collection, including the AHS biomedical expert group, and considered international best practice in the conduct of such collections. In addition, advice about appropriate processes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was sought through:

- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equality Council (NATSIHEC)
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
- National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data (NAGATSIHID)
- Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (within DoHA) (OATSIH) and the survey's own Indigenous Technical Panel.

Finally, the ABS confirmed the appropriateness of its processes through applications to DoHA's Departmental Ethics Committee and a range of jurisdictional and regional Aboriginal Ethics Committees.

## An overview of the AHS approach

As with other ABS household surveys, the AHS collection process begins with an approach to selected households to conduct a computer-assisted interview. While respondents are selected for one of the survey components shown in Figure 4.1, the content of the interview will vary slightly depending on an individual's circumstances. All surveys collect 'core' information, comprising household and individual demographics and other key health characteristics. Voluntary physical measures, including height, weight, waist circumference and blood pressure are also collected in all households, while a pedometer (step measuring device) is assigned to selected respondents participating in the nutrition and physical activity collection to obtain an objective measure of walking undertaken in the week following interview.

At the conclusion of a respondent's personal interview, interviewers explain the biomedical collection, provide detailed information about the process, benefits and risks, and seek voluntary agreement to participate from in-scope respondents (see Table 4.1). In most cases, participants are asked to attend a local accredited pathology collection centre to provide their blood and/or urine samples, though home visits and other arrangements are also available. Where a visit to a pathology centre is selected, participants can claim a small reimbursement (\$50) to assist with travel and similar out-of-pocket expenses.

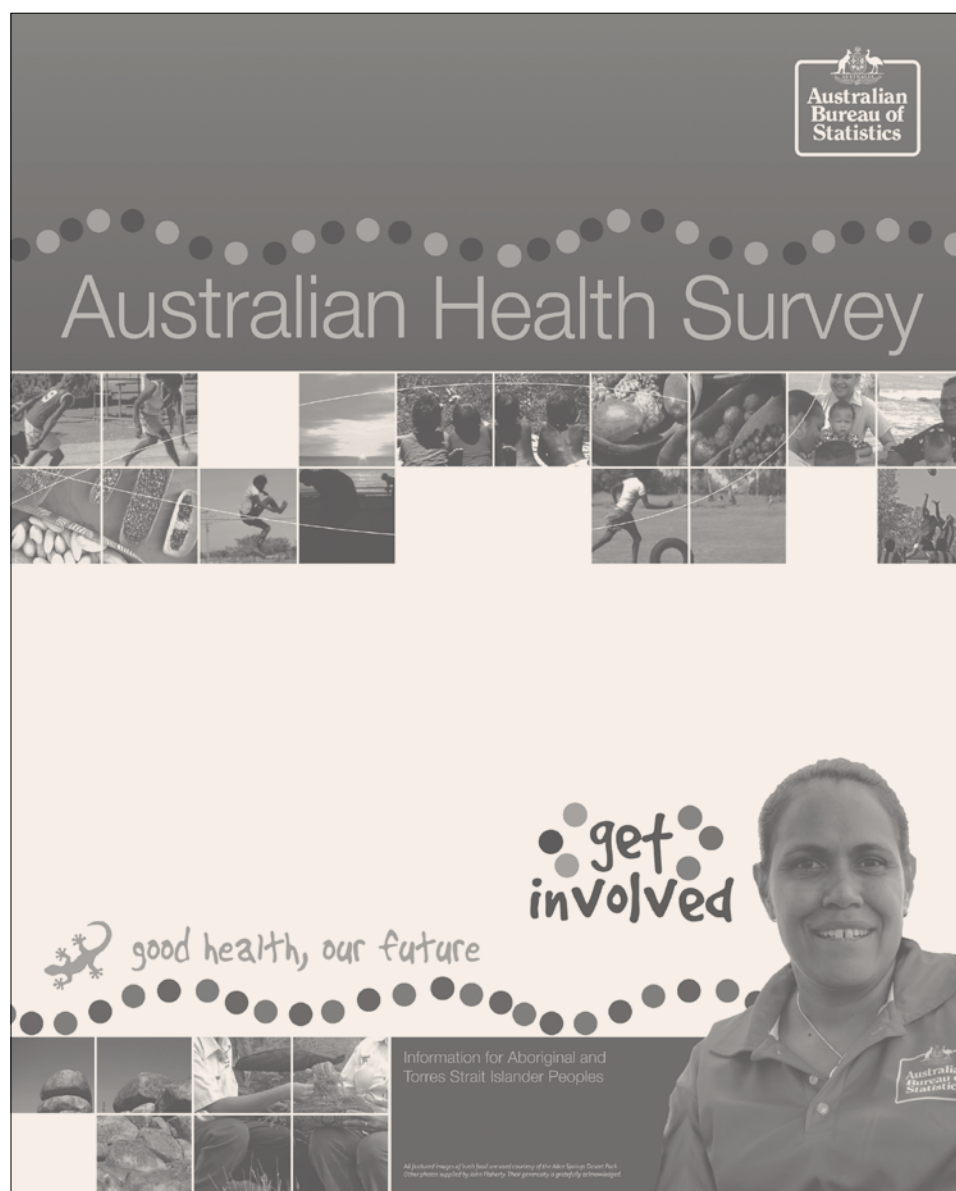
Table 4.1. In-scope population for voluntary biomedical collection

	General population collection	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collection
Urine only	5-11 years	—
Blood and urine	12 years and over	18 years and over

Following centralised pathology testing of samples, respondents and their nominated health professional are provided with a copy of test results. Results are also transferred to the ABS for combination with household survey interview data.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collection

As with the general population survey, the ABS has received significant stakeholder support from peak health sector bodies, community groups and the academic community for a collection specifically addressing the health challenges facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Importantly, localised engagement with communities and health service providers has also confirmed an appreciation of the importance of, and readiness for, a collection of this type.



*The Australian Health Survey engaged Cathy Freeman to help promote the message and benefits to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

With a focus on health risk factors and chronic disease, the AHS offers a platform for a range of new research into health determinants and patterns and will support new opportunities for targeted policy and program initiatives. With a number of common chronic diseases being collectively responsible for shortening the lives of so many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the AHS will also support critical assessment of progress in Closing the Gap in health outcomes.

While similar interviews to those for the general population will be conducted across remote and non-remote areas, survey instruments have been modified, in some cases, to ensure the practical and cultural relevance of questions and methods. For example, illustrative prompt cards have been developed for use in remote areas to support the identification and collection of the consumption of 'bush tucker', which in some areas is an important contributor to dietary intake. Similarly, biomedical collection methods have been adapted in remote areas to encourage the support of trusted local health providers. While regional Aboriginal Medical Services will also be engaged in non-remote areas, collection of biomedical samples is expected to be undertaken largely in accredited collection centres. Field testing has shown that with appropriate local engagement, supported by ABS Indigenous Engagement Managers and building on relationships established during the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, good levels of participation in the biomedical collection component will be achieved.

### Output planning

With the collection of the general population survey almost complete and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections underway, planning for a comprehensive suite of output products is underway. This planning has been informed by broader ABS initiatives and guided by the AHS Survey Reference Group and Data Users Advisory Group. In addition to traditional health survey products, the AHS Output Strategy includes new methods to access aggregate data and micro data, as well as new analytical products to tell the health 'story' and highlight key findings for a general audience. Results from the AHS general population survey will start to be released from late 2012.

### Looking forward

The importance of high quality information to guide researchers and policy makers in improving the wellbeing of all Australians is clear. While the 2011–13 AHS is a significant achievement in Australian health statistics, new challenges await the ABS and the statistical community.

Firstly, while the value of a comprehensive 'snapshot' is indisputable, institutionalising such a collection in the Australian statistical landscape would support much more effective monitoring of trends, progress and emerging health priorities. While the ABS will continue to conduct regular health surveys, a project of the scope of the 2011–13 collection would require the identification of significant additional funding.

Secondly, consultation for the current collection identified strong demand for various expansions to the current design. Finding appropriate methods to extend the scope of biomedical collection to younger age groups was a high priority for many stakeholders, as was exploring options for integrating other sources of health information to further enrich the AHS data, possibly adding a longitudinal dimension.

Finally, while the biomedical tests undertaken in 2011–13 are expected to provide new insights, a number of researchers advocated the benefits of maintaining a bank of stored biomedical samples to support future research into emerging health issues.

ABS will continue to consult with researchers, policy makers and the Australian public in considering the future of this important national collection.



### Section 3

## REPORT ON PERFORMANCE



## Chapter 5

### Program area reports



#### Introduction

The ABS Forward Work Program (FWP) 2011–12 to 2014–15 sets out the strategic directions that the ABS is pursuing. These statistics assist governments and communities to make better-informed decisions.

the ABS has continued to reassess its structure and work program against the challenges that lie ahead to ensure effective and efficient delivery of products and services.

The work done in ABS program areas enables balance between the achievement of shorter term goals, while also laying foundations for the ABS to continue playing a strong, active and leading role at home and internationally.

#### Strategic directions 2011–12 to 2014–15

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

The planned developments for individual program areas to meet the strategic directions are also set out in the Forward Work Program. Details of the key achievements and performance of each program during 2011–12 is presented in more detail in this chapter.

## Statistical programs

### National Accounts

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

National accounts information is used to formulate and assess government macro-economic policies, both fiscal and monetary; assist in allocating Australian government funds to state governments; formulate industry development policies; measure productivity; undertake financial and business planning; and facilitate international economic comparisons. The main clients of the program are Australian federal and state governments, the Reserve Bank of Australia, international organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, private sector analysts, the media and academics.

#### Key achievements

- National Accounts actively engaged with National Accounts users and data providers to improve data relating to the mining industry, which resulted in ABS publishing additional detail on industry production and improving the alignment of statistics for capital imports and formation in 2011–12.
- Research and analysis was undertaken into a number of topics, which will lead to new outputs and improvements in 2013–14. These include quarterly household balance sheets, additive points contribution for volume estimates, and improvements to benchmarking practices.
- Meetings of user groups for State accounts and input-output tables were held. Contact was increased with key users in Commonwealth and state treasuries, the Reserve Bank and economic analysts, which provided information that was used to assess the coherence of data inputs with real world developments.

#### Statistical publications and products

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

## International Accounts

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

The statistics are used to analyse Australia's external performance; formulate and evaluate macro-economic policy (including trade policy, trade treaties and foreign investment policy); analyse trends in income, capital flows and patterns of investment into and out of the economy; and undertake international comparisons. The International Accounts are inputs to the Australian National Accounts, providing the external transactions accounts and the external asset and liabilities components of the national balance sheet.

### Key achievements

- A review and update of the international standards for International Merchandise Trade commenced during 2012. A revised Concepts, Sources and Methods publication is expected to be released in mid-2013.
- An updated international Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) and associated ABS review of statistical codes was implemented from January 2012.
- The Balance of Payments incorporates additional data from the *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure* (ABS cat. no. 5625.0) in respect of large mining projects. This methodology improves the quality of the International Accounts and increases coherence with other macroeconomic statistics.
- Country detail underlying the International Investment Position dataset was released in May 2012. This is two months earlier than in previous years and is expected to be continued for future releases.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 5302.0)	A comprehensive set of quarterly international accounts statistics including chain volume measures for trade in goods and services and seasonally adjusted data for the current account.
<b>International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 5368.0)	Monthly information on exports and imports of goods and services on a balance of payments basis. Includes a selection of tables showing merchandise exports and imports on a recorded trade basis.
<b>International Merchandise Imports, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 5439.0)	Monthly summary information on Australia's merchandise imports on a recorded trade basis.
<b>Foreign Currency Exposure, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 5308.0)	Information on the value of foreign currency exposure, the value of hedging to mitigate the exposure and qualitative information on hedging policies and practices. Collected every four years, work is underway for the March 2013 reference period.
<b>International Investment Position, Australia: Supplementary Statistics</b> (ABS cat. no. 5352.0)	Calendar year international investment position, financial account and investment income data by partner country. International investment position and financial account by industry for direct investment.
<b>International Trade in Services by Country, by State and by Detailed Services Category</b> (ABS cat. no. 5368.0.55.003 – Financial Year) (ABS cat. no. 5368.0.55.004 – Calendar Year)	International trade in services data by partner country and by state on a financial year basis and on a calendar year basis.
<b>Characteristics of Australian Exporters</b> (ABS cat. no. 5368.0.55.006)	An annual analysis of the number and characteristics of Australia's exporters.
<b>Information Paper: Proposed Changes to Statistical Codes in the AHECC</b> (ABS cat. no. 5368.0.55.015)	Presents detailed information regarding the Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) and Customs Tariff statistical codes updated on 1 January 2012 resulting from an update to the international Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

## Financial Statistics

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

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



## Key achievements

- Working with the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), the Financial Statistics program improved the quality assurance of statistical data collected from financial institutions. These statistical data are primarily used in compiling the financial accounts.
- A unit was established to coordinate the survey frames used to collect international investment, international trade in services, and financial statistics.
- End-to-end systems redevelopment for the monthly lending finance collections was completed.
- Production of a Concepts, Sources and Methods (CSM) publication for *Managed Funds, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 5655.0) was commenced.

## Statistical publications and products

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

## Prices

The Prices program compiles a number of main economic indicators – the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the House Price Index (HPI), the Wage Price Index (WPI), and a range of Producer Price Indexes (PPIs) and International Trade Price Indexes (ITPIs). The program also produces a Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI), and Analytical Living Cost Indexes for Selected Australian Household Types (ALCIs).

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

## Key achievements

- The 16th series CPI was introduced with the release of the September quarter 2011 CPI in October 2011. This series incorporated an updated weighting pattern derived from the ABS 2009–10 Household Expenditure Survey and a revised commodity classification. Additional analytical series introduced at that time included seasonally adjusted estimates. Updated weighting patterns were also introduced to the PBLCI and the ALCIs.
- The ABS has provided assistance to the 2011 International Comparison Program (ICP) through involvement on the ICP Executive Board and the Asia–Pacific Regional Advisory Board. The ABS is the Regional Coordinator for the Pacific ICP.
- In response to user demand, a price index for other dwellings in capital cities has been developed. A time series of this experimental index and an aggregate all dwellings measure are scheduled to be published in August 2012, in a feature article in the June quarter 2012 issue of *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (ABS cat. no. 6416.0).
- In March 2012, the ABS completed a review of the Australian PPIs and ITPIs. Key outcomes from the review included: determining that the principal purpose of the PPIs and ITPIs, and delaying the publication releases by improve price measurement of the reference period. The updated indexes will be implemented in respect of the September quarter 2012 in November 2012.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Consumer Price Index, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6401.0)	The CPI provides a general measure of changes in prices of consumer goods and services purchased by Australian households; for production of volume estimates of components of the Australian National Accounts; as a basis for indexing pensions, superannuation payments and government taxes and charges; as an input into salary and wage negotiations, and for indexation of government bonds and business contracts.
<b>House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities</b> (ABS cat. no. 6416.0)	Mainly used as a measure of price changes for established houses and for project homes and for analysis of trends in the housing market
<b>Wage Price Index, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6345.0)	(Known as the Labour Price Index before the September quarter 2012). Mainly used as a measure of wage inflation; to inform wage setting negotiations; for production of volume estimates of components of the Australian National Accounts, and for the indexation of business contracts.
<b>Producer Price Indexes, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6427.0)	Principal purpose of the PPIs is to measure inflation by industry to support the compilation of the National Accounts and Balance of Payments; as a guide to future inflationary trends, and for the indexation of business contracts. Stage of production indexes are used to assess industry inflation impacts as products move through the economy.
<b>International Trade Price Indexes, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6457.0)	Principal purpose of the ITPIs is to measure inflation by industry to support the compilation of the National Accounts and Balance of Payments; as a guide to 'rest of the world' inflationary impacts for Australia, and for the indexation of business contracts.
<b>Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index</b> (ABS cat. no. 6467.0)	Mainly used for measuring the impact of changes in prices on the out-of-pocket living costs experienced by pensioners and other government transfer recipient households, and as a basis for indexing pensions and other payments to government benefit recipients.
<b>Analytical Living Costs Index for Selected Australian Household types</b> (ABS cat. no. 6463.0)	Supplementary analytical series to the CPI. They are mainly used as a measure of the impact of changes in prices on the out-of-pocket living costs experienced by employee households, age pensioner households, other government transfer recipient households and self-funded retiree households.

## Public Sector Accounts

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

GFS are used to monitor the financial performance of governments; to inform on the economic impact of government activities; and as an important input to Australia's national accounts. They are also used to assist in the distribution of Australian government grants to state governments.

## Key achievements

- Quarterly electronic GFS reporting was achieved for the last remaining state government.
- ABS participated in the International Monetary Fund Review of the Government Finance Statistics 2001 (GFSM). It is expected that the IMF will release the revised GFSM in 2012.
- A conference for GFS stakeholders is to be held in November 2012.
- Further improvements to state level annual data were made, leading to higher quality estimates.
- Continued work with government agencies will ensure that the GFS framework is the primary framework used for the analysis of government finances.

## Statistical publications and products

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

## Business Indicators

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

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

## Key achievements

- A feature article 'Mining Investment in ABS publications' was included in the March quarter 2012 release of *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure* (ABS cat. no. 5625.0).
- Improving the quality and coherence of macroeconomic statistics remains a key focus for the ABS, investing in Australia's leading economic indicators to ensure that they keep pace with the rapidly evolving economy. The ABS continues to review and consolidate its macroeconomic statistics suite, ensuring quality and coherence across a variety of data sources.
- The ABS continued to influence and respond to international directions in economic measurement.
- Direct measurement of mining output and inventories was investigated.
- Preliminary measures of internet sales captured by the existing Retail Trade Survey were assessed.

## Statistical publications and products

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

## Innovation and Technology

The Innovation and Technology Program provides data to assist understanding of the impact of research and experimental development, innovation and new technologies on economic and social outcomes. It provides:

- measures of the penetration and use of selected new technologies, particularly information and communication technology (ICT), within Australia, for both businesses and households
- measures of research and experimental development undertaken by businesses, governments, higher education institutions and private not for profit organisations
- measures of innovation for Australian businesses
- the Business Longitudinal Database, which is a tool for understanding business activity and links to business performance and productivity.

The statistics on research and experimental development expenditure produced by the program are important inputs to Australia's national accounts. The program also contributes to the work of national and international agencies, through input into the review and development of statistical standards and frameworks in relevant fields of statistics.

## Key achievements

- The strategy and collection vehicles for the Research and Experimental Development Statistics program were reviewed with the recommended changes to be implemented during the 2012–13 financial year.
- Outputs for broadband usage were expanded to include the uptake of mobile broadband including where smartphones or tablets are used to access the internet.
- As a member of two Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) working group – the Working Party for Indicators of the Information Society (WPIIS) and the Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators (NESTI) – the Innovation and Technology program has been actively involved in the development of international statistical standards and measurement frameworks. For example as part of WPIIS, the ABS has contributed to a draft Broadband Metrics Framework; and, as part of NESTI, the ABS has contributed to the review of the Frascati Manual (Guidelines for measuring research and experimental development) and Oslo Manual (Guidelines for measuring innovation in business).
- In collaboration with the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) and the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC), the ABS has contributed to the development of a pilot survey designed to measure innovation in the Australian public sector. The pilot survey will be conducted during 2012–13.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Research and Experimental Development, Businesses</b> (ABS cat. no. 8104.0)	This annual release presents measures of expenditure and human resources devoted to research and experimental development (R&D) carried out by businesses in Australia. The estimates are classified by: industry; type of expenditure; source of funds; type of employee; enterprise employment size; type of activity, research field and socioeconomic objective; and, location of expenditure.
<b>Research and Experimental Development, Government and Private Non-Profit Organisations</b> (ABS cat. no. 8109.0)	This biennial release presents statistics on R&D undertaken by government and non-profit organisations.
<b>Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education Organisations</b> (ABS cat. no. 8111.0)	This biennial release presents statistics on R&D undertaken by Australian higher education institutions.
<b>Summary of IT Use and Innovation in Australian Business</b> (ABS cat. no. 8166.0)	This annual release presents key indicators on the incidence of use of information technology and innovation in Australian business, as collected by the Business Characteristics Survey.

<b>Business Use of Information Technology</b> (ABS cat. no. 8158.0))	This biennial release presents information about the use of information technology, particularly the internet and web by Australian business, as collected by the Business Characteristics Survey.
<b>Innovation in Australian Business</b> (ABS cat. no. 8158.0)	This biennial release presents information about the incidence of innovation in Australian business and related practices or influences, as collected by the Business Characteristics Survey.
<b>Selected Characteristics of Australian Business</b> (ABS cat. no. 8167.0)	This annual release presents business characteristics data for a selection of topics including the nature of business ownership; collaborative arrangements; franchising agreements; performance measures; barriers; government financial assistance; finance sought; innovation; business use of information technology; skills; markets; and competition.
<b>Internet Activity, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 8153.0)	This biannual release contains details of internet activity supplied by Internet Service Providers in Australia. It includes number of internet subscribers by: type of connection; type of user (business/household); and speed of the internet connection, as well information about location of the subscribers by state or territory and the volume of data downloaded.
<b>Business Longitudinal Database Confidentialised Unit Record File</b> (ABS cat. no. 8168.0.55.001)	The Business Longitudinal Database (BLD) facilitates micro level analysis for a panel (cohort) of small and medium businesses over five years). It includes both characteristics and financial data. The BLD can be accessed through a Confidentialised unit record file (CURF) which is released at the completion of each panel. The CURF is available through the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and is accessible by authorised users via the ABS web site.

## Business Demography

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

### Key achievements

- An improved confidentiality methodology in the dissemination of detailed business counts data was implemented.
- The new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) was implemented in the dissemination of regional level business counts data.
- A consultancy service for business operator/business counts was provided.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits</b> (ABS cat. no. 8165.0)	This annual release presents business counts data for a selection of topics including industry, geographic location, institutional sector, type of legal organisation and business size.  The annual publication, released in January 2012, presented data from June 2007 to 2011 and replaced previously released data. More detailed data cubes were released over March and April 2012.  The next publication is expected to be released in early 2013.
<b>Counts of Australian Business Operators</b> (ABS cat. no. 8175.0)	This five-yearly release presents selected counts of Australian business operators as sourced from the 2007 Forms of Employment Survey and the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.  The latest publication was released in October 2008.  The next publication is expected to be released late 2013.

## Economic Analysis and Reporting

The Economic Analysis and Reporting program encompasses macro-economic statistics research, economic analysis and reporting and economic integration functions. This consolidated set of functions is designed to improve the ABS's capability to produce high quality macro-economic statistics in the longer term, while addressing emerging priorities in the short term. Analytical activities in the program range from research projects to improve the accuracy and coherence of existing economic statistics and develop new statistical products, through to operational efforts to increase the efficiency of statistical operations.

The program compiles and publishes aggregate market sector and industry level multifactor productivity statistics and conducts research into the measurement and interpretation of these statistics.

### Key achievements

- A review of mining industry statistics within the System of National Accounts (SNA) was completed, leading to an improved understanding of the economic impacts of the mining boom.
- Measures of quality adjusted labour input were developed. A research paper is being progressed.
- A study into industry sources of Australia's productivity slowdown was completed. A research paper is being finalised and will be presented at the Second World KLEMS Conference in 2012.
- A study into measurement issues of capital services for the mining industry was completed. A research paper will be presented at the 2012 Australian Conference of Economists.
- Progress was made towards the use of ABS micro-business data for analysing factors contributing to firm level innovation and productivity. A research paper will be presented at the 2012 Australian Conference of Economists.
- Refined output measures have been implemented in the market sector multifactor productivity statistics released in the *Australian System of National Accounts, 2010–11* (ABS cat. no. 5204.0).

- Discussion papers were presented at the 2011 Ottawa Group meeting on: 'The Outcome of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Review'; and 'Approaches to Measuring Telecommunications Services for the CPI'.
- International engagement on the measurement of financial intermediation services indirectly measured was undertaken. A paper was presented at the United Nations – OECD Meeting of the Task Force on Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured.
- Assistance was provided to the Malaysian Treasury on developing an Information and Communications Technology satellite account.
- The review of the Australian Producer Price Indexes and International Trade Price Indexes. Key outcomes included determining that the principal purpose of the Indexes, and delaying the publication releases to improve price measurement of the reference period. The updated indexes will be implemented in respect of the September quarter 2012 in November 2012.
- Consultation was undertaken with selected countries on the impediments to implementing the 1993 SNA and 2008 SNA. Findings were reported to the United Nations Statistical Division on behalf of the Friends of the Chair. The report was well received.
- A strategy that enables involvement of more Pacific countries in the ICP was developed and implemented. The ABS is the regional Coordinator for the Pacific ICP and is on the ICP Executive Board and the Asia–Pacific Regional Advisory Board.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Australian System of National Accounts, 2010–11</b> (ABS cat. no. 5204.0)	Annual productivity measures including labour productivity, capital productivity and multifactor productivity, as well as growth accounting measures on both an hours worked and quality adjusted hours worked basis are presented in this publication.
<b>Experimental Estimates of Industry Multifactor Productivity, 2010–11</b> (ABS cat. no. 5260.0.55.002)	Annual release of experimental industry level estimates of multifactor productivity along with aggregate measures.
<b>Review of the Producer and International Trade Price Indexes, 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 6427.0.55.003)	A release outlining the issues considered in the review of the Australian Producer Price Indexes (PPIs) and International Trade Price Indexes (ITPIs).
<b>Outcome of the Review of the Producer and International Trade Price Indexes</b> (ABS cat. no. 6427.0.55.004)	A release announcing the outcome from a comprehensive review of the Australian PPIs and ITPIs.

## Industry Statistics

The Industry Statistics program provides information about the structure, financial operations, performance and production of Australian industries and construction activity. The information is an input to the Australian National Accounts and Environmental-Economic accounts, and therefore supports economic monitoring and forecasting.

The program consists of an annual economy-wide financial statistics collection, a rolling collection program that covers specific industries in more detail, and modelling and analytical work covering specific industries or activities, as well as sub-annual construction statistics on levels of residential building, non-residential building and engineering works.

Construction statistics are used for construction industry, finance and investment sector analysis; and in understanding population change, an essential input to regional planning.

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

## Key achievements

- An established Industry statistics program was continued, providing long range certainty for industry and governments.
- As recommended in the Annual Integrated Collections review, a method for adjusting data reported on an 'off June year' basis was developed and an experimental series for the 2008–09 and 2009–10 reference years was released in November 2011 (ABS cat. no. 8169.0).
- Case studies continue to be a supplementary means for providing product information required for compiling the National Accounts input-output tables. During 2010–11, case studies were completed for a number of industries, including health care services and publishing.
- Stratification and imputation systems for the engineering construction survey were redesigned.
- The new ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) was implemented in the building approvals collection.
- Investigations for a pilot project to produce quarterly dwelling stock estimates for small geographic areas using ABS construction data were commenced.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Australian Industry</b> (ABS cat. no. 8155.0)	Presents annual estimates for most industry divisions and subdivisions at a national level for: income; expenses; industry value added; operating profit before tax; capital expenditure; and selected components of these estimates. State/territory estimates of income, employment, and wages and salaries, at division level included.  The 2010–11 issue released in June 2012 included revisions to the 2007–08, 2008–09 and 2009–10 reference years as a result of updated information from providers and improved estimation methodology.
<b>Experimental Estimates for the Manufacturing Industry, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 8159.0)	Presents annual experimental estimates derived by applying modelling techniques to data directly collected in ABS surveys and data sourced from the Australian Taxation Office. The experimental estimates are provided at the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) class level for the data items wages and salaries, sales and service income, industry value added and employment.</li> <li>• State ANZSIC subdivision level for wages and salaries, sales and services income and employment.</li> </ul>
<b>Health Care Services, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 8159.0)	Quarterly release on actual and expected expenditure by private organisations exploring for minerals and petroleum (classified by state and commodity) and data provided on metres drilled.  Petroleum exploration expenditure classified by onshore/offshore and from the September 1994 quarter, by region.

<b>Experimental Estimates for Australian Industry adjusted for Off-June Year Reporting, 2008-9 and 2009-10</b> (ABS cat. no. 8159.0)	Presents annual experimental estimates derived by applying modelling techniques to data directly collected in ABS surveys and data sourced from the Australian Taxation Office. The experimental estimates are provided at the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) class level for the data items wages and salaries, sales and service income, industry value added and employment.</li> <li>State ANZSIC subdivision level for wages and salaries, sales and services income and employment.</li> </ul>
<b>Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 8412.0)	Quarterly release presents actual and expected expenditure by private organisations exploring for minerals and petroleum (classified by state and commodity) and data on metres drilled.  Petroleum exploration expenditure is classified by onshore/offshore and by region.
<b>Building Approvals, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 8731.0)	Monthly release presents the number and value of dwelling units approved by sector and state, number and value of new other residential dwelling units approved by building type, and the number and value of non-residential building jobs.
<b>Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary</b> (ABS cat. no. 8755.0)	Quarterly release presents preliminary statistics for the value of building work done and engineering work done, for private and public sectors.
<b>Engineering Construction Activity, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 8762.0)	Quarterly release presents value of engineering construction work done, commenced and yet to be done, classified by state or territory, commodity (roads, bridges, pipelines etc.), sector (public/private) undertaking the work and sector for whom the work is being done.
<b>Dwelling Unit Commencements, Australia, Preliminary</b> (ABS cat. no. 8750.0)	Quarterly release presents preliminary estimates of the number of dwelling units (new houses, new other residential and conversions, etc.) commenced for private sector and public sector, by state. Total number of dwelling units commenced by state, are provided in seasonally adjusted and trend terms.
<b>Construction Activity: Chain Volume Measures, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 8782.0.65.001)	Quarterly release presents general measures of activity within the building and construction sector, and Implicit Price Deflators. The figures are broken into private and public sector construction; residential and non-residential building; and total building, engineering construction, and non-residential construction. Data are provided on an original and seasonally adjusted basis.

## Agriculture

The Agriculture program provides agricultural policy makers and other key users of agricultural statistics with reliable, relevant and timely information on the social, economic and environmental characteristics of agriculture, including: commodity production; economic performance; farm management; land use and land management practices; natural resource management practices including water management; and foreign ownership of agricultural land, businesses and water entitlements. The main collections include an annual survey of agricultural commodities and land management practices, a five-yearly Agricultural Census, and a range of other surveys covering specific aspects of agriculture and related activity.

## Key achievements

- The 2010–11 Agricultural Census was successfully completed with final data released in June 2012, six months earlier than the last Agricultural Census in 2005-06. The data release featured visualisation tools including interactive graphs and maps to assist users to interpret and explore the data.
- For the first time respondents to the Agricultural Census were able to provide data via a web form, and 11% of respondents took up this option for 2010–11 collection.
- Results from the Agricultural Land and Water Ownership Survey (ALWOS) – a new survey designed to address the lack of information on foreign ownership of agricultural businesses, agricultural land ownership and ownership of water entitlements for agricultural purposes – were released in September 2011. The ABS has received funding from the Australian Government to undertake further collections on this topic in 2013, 2016, 2018, and 2021.
- A biennial Land Management Practices Survey (LaMPS) was developed to support evidence-based policy and decision-making with regard to the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative. The 2011–12 survey will be despatched in August 2012 with results due to be released in June 2013.

## Statistical Publications and Products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Australian Wine and Grape Industry</b> (ABS cat. no. 1329.0)	Presents a summary of annual statistics, collected by the ABS and other sources, on grape and wine production and related activities.
<b>Vineyards Estimates</b> (ABS cat. no. 1329.0.55.002)	Presents annual estimates on the area and production of wine grapes in Australia.
<b>Water Use on Australian Farms</b> (ABS cat. no. 4618.0)	Presents annual estimates of agricultural water use (including pastures and crops irrigated), irrigation water sources, irrigation methods, irrigation water management and irrigation expenditure and assets.
<b>Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary</b> (ABS cat. no. 7111.0)	Presents preliminary estimates of principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers collected via the program of annual commodity surveys and five-yearly Agricultural Census.
<b>Agricultural Commodities, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 7121.0)	Presents final estimates for the main commodities collected via the program of annual commodity surveys and five-yearly Agricultural Census. Includes land use; industry activity; crop and horticultural area and production; and livestock numbers.
<b>Stocks of Grain Held by Bulk Handling Companies and Grain Traders</b> (ABS cat. no. 7122.0.55.001)	Presents monthly estimates of stocks of wheat held by bulk grain handlers.
<b>Wheat Stocks and Exports, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 7307.0)	Presents monthly data on stocks, exports and commitments of wheat grain in Australia.
<b>Livestock Products, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 7215.0)	Presents quarterly statistics on livestock slaughtering (including chickens), meat production, receipt of wool by brokers and dealers, exports of live sheep and cattle, and exports of meat.
<b>Livestock and Meat, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 7218.0.55.001)	Presents monthly statistics on livestock slaughtering and meat production collected from abattoirs and other major slaughtering establishments.

<b>Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, Preliminary</b> (ABS cat. no. 7501.0)	Presents preliminary annual estimates of gross value of production of major agricultural commodities for all states, territories and Australia.
<b>Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 7503.0)	Presents final annual estimates of gross and local values of production of major agricultural commodities.
<b>Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production</b> (ABS cat. no. 4610.0.55.008)	Presents annual estimates of gross value of agricultural commodities that are produced with the assistance of irrigation.
<b>Historical Selected Agricultural Commodities by State</b> (ABS cat. no. 7124.0)	Presents estimates of agricultural production from 1861 to the present day.
<b>Australian Farming in Brief</b> (ABS cat. no. 7106.0)	Presents summary information about agriculture and related statistics. It is updated annually and is available in brochure format.
<b>Agricultural Land and Water Ownership</b> (ABS cat. no. 7127.0)	Presents information on the foreign ownership of agricultural businesses, land and water entitlements as at 31 December 2010.
<b>Ag Mag</b> (ABS cat. no. 7101.0)	This newsletter provides information about the ABS's agricultural statistics program, including latest outputs and current projects.

## Transport Statistics

The Transport Statistics program provides statistics on transport, and transport related activities; supports improvements in the relevance, availability and quality of national transport data; and undertakes a coordination and liaison role between producers and users of transport data.

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

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

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

### Key achievements

- The 2011–12 Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, the first on a financial year basis, was successfully conducted. Results for this reference period will be published in April 2013.
- Work commenced with the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport, and Regional Economics on a project to collect nationally consistent freight data on an ongoing basis, utilising administrative data. The first phase of the project, an initial feasibility assessment, is due in September 2012.

- Research was undertaken and released in *Information Paper: A Future Australian Transport Satellite Account: ABS Views, 2011*.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 9208.0)	This biennial publication presents statistics on passenger vehicle, motor cycle, truck and bus use including distance travelled, tonne-kilometres and fuel use.
<b>Motor Vehicle Census, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 9309.0)	This annual publication presents statistics relating to vehicles registered at 31 March 2012 with a motor vehicle registration authority. Motor vehicle registration statistics are compiled from data made available by various state and territory motor vehicle registration authorities and reflect the information in registration documents.
<b>Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 9314.0))	This monthly publication contains seasonally adjusted and trend data on sales of new motor vehicles in Australia. This data are based on the Vehicle Facts series produced by the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries.
<b>Information Paper: A Future Australian Transport Satellite Account: ABS Views, 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 5269.0.55.001)	The paper outlines ABS views on what a future Australian Transport Satellite Account might look like if the ABS received additional funding for this program.

## Tourism Statistics

The Tourism Statistics program provides regular, timely and coherent data on tourism activities. It provides strategic advice to users of tourism statistics, and undertakes a coordination and liaison role between tourism statistics users and other areas of the ABS that produce tourism-related statistics.

The program conducts the Survey of Tourist Accommodation (STA) and compiles the Australian Tourism Satellite Account (TSA). Tourism-related data produced by other areas of the ABS includes Overseas Arrivals and Departures data, tourism-related exports and imports indicators, and data collected under the Industry Statistics program.

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

The STA data are an input to the policy and planning activities of government and industry, particularly in relation to tourism activity in regional areas. The TSA shows the contribution of tourism to major economic aggregates such as gross domestic product. In order to maintain the relevance and effectiveness of the TSA, the ABS has been working closely with Tourism Research Australia to continue to provide, and expand on, statistics that assist in measuring progress on the tourism industry's 2020 stretch goals.

The main clients of the program are: the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism; state and territory tourism departments; regional tourism organisations; tourism industry associations; academic and research groups; and marketing and consultancy bodies.

## Key achievements

- Additional data on tourism employment status was collected, including estimates of full-time and part-time employed persons by industry in the 2010–11 TSA.
- Analysis of the results was expanded and user functionality improved on the website for the 2010–11 TSA.
- Web forms were implemented for respondents to the STA.
- The first set of Tourism Regions on the new ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) were developed.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Australian National Accounts: Tourism Satellite Account</b> (ABS cat. no. 5249.0)	Presents annual estimates of the direct contribution of the tourism industry to the Australian economy, as well as details by type of visitor, the products purchased by tourists and the industries supplying these products.
<b>Tourist Accommodation, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 8635.0)	Presents quarterly estimates on the supply of, and demand for, tourist accommodation facilities on a quarterly basis. Data includes number of establishments, capacity, occupancy rates and takings from accommodation for each month.

## Environment Statistics

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

The program actively engages with partners to understand information needs and coordinate the development of statistics from the wide range of data available in this field.

Clients of the program include:

- Australian Government Departments of: Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities; Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Resources, Energy and Tourism; Climate Change and Energy Efficiency; Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education; and the Treasury
- Australian government agencies such as Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences; the Murray–Darling Basin Authority; the Bureau of Meteorology; the Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics; and Geoscience Australia
- state and territory government departments with environment and/or energy responsibilities
- academic and research organisations, environmental groups, businesses and individuals.

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

## Key achievements

- The ABS continued its strong relationship with the international statistical community in the development of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). In February 2012 the SEEA was adopted as an international standard by the United Nations Statistical Commission. This was a significant milestone in the development of environmental information to support the needs of government, industry and the community.
- The ABS hosted a two-day environmental accounts conference in May 2012, 'Completing the Picture – Environmental Accounting in Practice', to inform government decision-makers, policy analysts, scientists, industry and other groups on how environmental accounts could be used and further developed in Australia.
- In conjunction with the conference and the adoption of the SEEA as an international statistical standard, the ABS released *Completing the Picture – Environmental Accounting in Practice* (ABS cat. no. 4628.0.55.001). This publication provided an introduction to the SEEA and its potential uses around environmental issues such as sustainability, green growth, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and management of the Murray–Darling Basin and the Great Barrier Reef.
- Research continued into the expansion of the ABS environmental accounting program to encompass waste, land, environmental protection expenditure and environmental asset accounts. Part of this development work has included seeking input from clients through a series of research/information papers.
- For the first time, *Environmental Issues: Energy Use and Conservation* (ABS cat. no. 4602.0.55.001) included information about households residing in very remote parts of Australia.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Environmental Issues: Energy Use and Conservation</b> (ABS cat. no. 4602.0.55.001)	This publication presents information about energy usage and conservation practices of Australian households. It covers a range of topics including energy sources, use of energy for activities (e.g. water heating, cooking), insulation, types of heating and cooling systems, and information about selected appliances.
<b>Energy Account, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 4604.0)	This annual publication provides statistics on the physical and monetary supply and use of energy in the Australian Economy. Compiled in accordance with the SEEA, Energy Account, Australia identifies volumes by industry and energy product.
<b>Water Account, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 4610.0)	This annual publication provides statistics on the physical and monetary supply and use of water in the Australian economy. Compiled in accordance with the SEEA, Water Account, Australia also provides information on the water use and consumptive practices of key industries and households. Estimates were produced for national, state/territory and the Murray–Darling Basin region.
<b>Completing the Picture – Environmental Accounting in Practice</b> (ABS cat. no. 4628.0.55.001)	This publication provides an introduction to the SEEA as well as examples of how the accounts can be applied to a selection of public policy issues in Australia that cut across environmental and economic domains.



## Demography Statistics

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

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

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

### Key achievements

- The program conducted, analysed, published results and reported on improvements to methods from the 2011 Post Enumeration Survey following the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.
- Updated population estimates for Australia, states and territories based on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing were compiled and published and estimates prepared for sub-state geographies.
- An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Demographic Statistics Expert Advisory Group was established to consult and provide advice to the ABS on key initiatives to improve the relevance and use of key ABS demographic statistics.

### Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Australian Demographic Statistics</b> (ABS cat. no. 3101.0)	Quarterly releases of population estimates and components of growth for Australia, states and territories.
<b>Births, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 3301.0)	Annual statistics on live births and fertility for Australia, states and territories, and sub-state regions, based on calendar year of registration data.
<b>Deaths, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 3302.0)	Annual statistics on deaths and mortality for Australia, states and territories, and sub-state regions, based on calendar year of registration data.
<b>Migration, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 3412.0)	Annual statistics on international migration into and out of Australia, interstate migration within Australia and information on overseas-born residents of Australia.
<b>Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 3401.0)	Monthly summary statistics on overseas arrivals and departures by category of movement.
<b>Census of Population and Housing – Details of Undercount, 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 2940.0)	Presents estimates of net undercount by a range of demographic characteristics for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, resulting from the Census Post Enumeration Survey (PES).

## Labour Statistics

The Labour program provides information about the structure and performance of the labour market, including statistics on labour supply (such as labour force participation, employment, hours worked, unemployment and labour underutilisation); labour demand (jobs and job vacancies); employment conditions and working arrangements; employee earnings and labour costs; and workplace relations.

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

Key statistics on labour supply, including labour force participation, employment, unemployment, underutilisation and hours worked are released either monthly or quarterly. Statistics on particular aspects of labour supply, such as labour mobility, underemployment, job search experience, retirement and retirement intentions, barriers and incentives to labour force participation, and marginal attachment to the labour force, are published periodically.

Statistics on job vacancies, i.e. unmet demand for labour, are released quarterly.

Statistics on characteristics of employees working arrangements, working time arrangements, forms of employment, independent contracting, and labour hire are also published periodically.

Statistics on average weekly earnings of employees are released quarterly. However, the frequency of the average weekly earnings series will change from quarterly to biannual in 2012. Employee earnings data are available annually together with individual's employment characteristics. Earnings and employment for the public sector are available annually. Distributional data on employee earnings and hours, and occupational earnings are available every two years. Data on major labour costs are produced on an infrequent basis.

Data available on industrial relations include trade union membership annually, industrial disputes released quarterly, and statistics on award and agreement coverage are available every two years.

### Key achievements

- An extensive review of the content of the labour household survey program was completed during the year, including gathering feedback about the standard Labour Force Survey products. The review recommended a number of changes to the program including enhancing the core Labour Force Survey and consolidating the labour supplementary surveys into two surveys to be conducted in August and February. A detailed implementation plan has been developed, with changes to be implemented from July 2013. An Information Paper outlining the outcomes of the review is due for release in the middle of 2012.
- Changes arising from the review of the Labour Employer Surveys, conducted in 2010–11, are being implemented. These include improving processes for the biennial Employee Earnings and Hours Survey, and developing and successfully implementing an electronic survey form.
- This review also resulted in a frequency change for the Average Weekly Earnings series, from quarterly to biannual. This change will be implemented from 2012–13. A comprehensive user engagement strategy has been put in place to ensure that users are aware of this upcoming change and can plan for it.
- The new analytical Average Weekly Earnings 'Cash' series, inclusive of salary sacrifice, was released with the May 2011 issue of *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 6302.0).

- Work has progressed to produce a longitudinal labour force survey confidentialised unit record file. This file is nearing the final stages of approval, and is anticipated to be available via the remote access data laboratory late in 2012.
- There have been enhancements to the analytical content in a number of publications from the Labour Statistics program through more articles to enable users to better understand ABS labour statistics and to tell stories about the Australian labour market, supported by recent data.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Labour Force, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6202.0)	These publications provide results from the Labour Force Survey, including monthly statistics on labour force participation, employment, unemployment and hours worked. Key summary data are presented in ABS cat. no. 6202.0, with detailed data presented in cat. no. 6291.0.55.001 on a monthly basis, and in cat. no. 6291.0.55.003, quarterly.
<b>Labour Force, Australia, Detailed – Electronic Delivery</b> (ABS cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)	
<b>Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly</b> (ABS cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)	
<b>Average Weekly Earnings, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6302.0)	This publication provides quarterly estimates of average weekly earnings classified by sector, state and territory, and by industry for males, females and persons. Note the frequency of this publication is changing in 2012–13 to biannual.
<b>Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6306.0)	This publication contains distributional data on employee earnings and hours, occupational earnings, and data on pay setting instruments. The survey from which the information is produced is run every two years with the latest data relating to May 2010.
<b>Job Vacancies, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6354.0)	This publication provides quarterly estimates of the number of job vacancies classified by sector, state and territory, and industry.
<b>Industrial Disputes, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6321.0.55.001)	This publication provides quarterly estimates on industrial disputes including working days lost, working days lost per thousand employees, number of employees involved, cause of dispute and reason work resumed.
<b>Underemployed Workers, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6265.0)	This annual publication presents information about the characteristics of underemployed workers, i.e. part-time workers who want to, and are available to, work more hours, and those who usually work full-time but worked part-time for economic reasons.
<b>Labour Costs, Australia, 2010–11</b> (ABS cat. no. 6348.0)	This publication provides estimates of labour costs for the private and public sectors including employee earnings, employer-funded contributions to superannuation, workers' compensation, payroll tax and fringe benefits tax.
<b>Job Search Experience, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6222.0)	This annual publication presents information about the experiences of people who have sought work in the previous 12 months. It includes unemployed people, people who have started a job in the previous 12 months, owner managers who started their business in the previous 12 months, and employed people who have also looked for work. It collects a range of information including steps taken to find work and difficulties encountered.
<b>Persons not in the Labour Force Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6220.0)	This annual publication provides data on people who are not in the labour force: that is, neither employed nor unemployed. The data measure the potential supply of labour not reflected in employment and unemployment statistics, and measure the characteristics of that potential supply.

<b>Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6310.0)	This annual publication provides data on earnings of employees cross-classified by a wide range of socio-demographic characteristics. It also provides information on the number of trade union members and other information on union membership history.
<b>Labour Mobility, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6209.0)	This two-yearly publication provides data on changes in work including information on people changing employers as well as people having some change in work while remaining with their current employer.
<b>Forms of Employment, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6359.0)	This annual publication provides data about the nature of employment arrangements in the Australian workforce. It provides information on a range of characteristics including fixed-term contracts, casual work, job flexibility and security and independent contracting.
<b>Australian Labour Market Statistics</b> (ABS cat. no. 6105.0)	The quarterly publication brings together key indicators of the labour market. It includes feature articles on current labour market issues and also provides information on news and developments in ABS labour statistics. Note the frequency of this publication is changing to irregular from July 2012.

## Regional Statistics

The Regional Statistics program aims to improve the availability of high quality regional statistics, including regions of major cities, other urban centres, or rural or remote areas. A particular focus of this program has been on improving access to regional data from a wide range of different data sources.

Across the ABS, efforts to utilise administrative data sources have been increasing, with emerging potential for important new regional statistics in future years. In doing this work ABS undertakes quality studies to ensure regional statistics are of a high standard and relevant to users.

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

## Key achievements

- The centre has been preparing for the transition to the new ABS standard geography (Australian Statistical Geography Standard – ASGS), which will support many improvements for users of regional data (such as better ability for time series analysis and more flexibility in compiling customised regions). The National Regional Profile was released on the old geography for the last time in November 2011.
- The centre has fostered new relationships with key users of regional data in order to evaluate ABS regional data products and services, and to support ongoing development of regional statistics in collaboration with other agencies. The ABS established an MoU with the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport with an ABS outposted officer working in the Department. This has resulted in productive collaboration around data access and analysis relevant to the Department's needs. The centre has also increased its level of engagement with local government and Regional Development Australia Committees.

- Several data quality studies were undertaken as part of a wider program of work to develop improved regional statistics from the Personal Income Tax data set. This work focused on the impact of income tax lodgement periods (late lodgement) on statistical estimates, and impacts of changes in taxation policy.
- In early 2012, the centre established a small regional analysis team, with a program of work that includes production of relevant articles to guide users in analysis of regional data. Article topics include analysis of regional population flows; regional economic analysis and income in regions. An article was produced showing how the new geography can be applied using Building Approvals data.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>National Regional Profile 2005–2009</b> (ABS cat. no. 1379.0.55.001)	This annual release provides a statistical profile for over 2,000 regions across Australia, including all Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Statistical Local Areas (SLAs). The profiles contain approximately 300 data items covering key social, economic and environment data. Data in the profiles are from ABS and non-ABS sources. Where possible, a five-year time series has been presented for each region.
<b>Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2003–04 to 2007–08</b> (ABS cat. no. 6524.0.55.002)	This annual release provides data on the number of individuals and the amount of income received from wage and salary, own unincorporated business, investment, superannuation and annuities, and other income (excluding government pensions and allowances). An estimate of total income (excluding government pensions and allowances) is also provided. The estimates have been compiled using aggregated individual income tax data from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).
<b>Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, 2003–04 to 2007–08</b> (ABS cat. no. 5673.0.55.003)	Released annually, this data shows the detailed characteristics of wage and salary earners in cross-tabulations by age, sex, and occupation. Most of this data is presented for each SLA and LGA in Australia. The estimates have been compiled using aggregated individual income tax data from the ATO.
<b>Perspectives on Regions</b> (ABS cat. no. 1380.0.55.005)	This product provides articles pertinent to regional issues, using a range of regional statistics from differing sources. The articles are intended to provide a guide to users to demonstrate how data can be analysed for a region.

## Census of Population and Housing

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

The Census also provides the characteristics of the Australian population and its housing within small geographic areas, and for small population groups. Census data is used to support the planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities of governments, business, research and a host of other users.

Censuses are conducted in Australia every five years and the last Census was held on Tuesday, 9 August 2011.

## Key achievements

- The 2011 Census was conducted successfully with a very high level of community support, and with a participation rate of 98.3%. The eCensus form was successfully integrated, with a take-up rate of 30% of households electing to complete their census online.
- Processing for all of the first release topics of the 2011 Census was successfully completed by the Census Data Processing Centre in Melbourne.
- First release of Census data was delivered on 21 June 2012. Between 21 and 27 June, there were 92,000 individual visits to the Census section of the ABS website, and approximately 600,000 page views. The release also generated significant and positive media coverage.
- Innovative new products released included new geospatial components, an advanced navigation page which allows data visualisation across a range of geographies and online release of DataPacks.
- The high level strategic directions for 2016 Census were finalised to ensure more sustainable, cost-effective and relevant Censuses in the future.
- The ABS received multiple awards in the Asia-Pacific region for its interactive Census promotional product, Spotlight. Spotlight won awards for its creativity, innovation and effectiveness in communicating Census data to the general population.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>QuickStats</b>	The 2011 Census results presented in a simple at-a-glance summary form for small areas up to all of Australia.
<b>Community Profile Series</b>	The Community Profile Series provides a comprehensive statistical picture of an area in Excel format, providing characteristics relating to people, families and dwellings. They cover most topics on the Census form.
<b>Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing – Products and Services, 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 2011.0.55.001)	This publication describes the changes to 2011 Census data concepts and classifications. It also describes the data products and gives details on release dates for data from the 2011 Census
<b>Reflecting a Nation: Stories from the 2011 Census, July 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 2071.0)	Presents commentary and statistical analysis using data from the 2011 Census. Features several historical articles, focusing on the 100 years of Census, from 1911 to 2011. Analysis of the following broad areas of interest: population; cultural diversity; living arrangements; community; education; work; and housing. Articles have been released progressively. Commentary will include a focus on the strengths of the population Census, in relation to providing information on small population groups and small geographic areas

## Health and Disability Statistics

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

- Causes of Death collection
- Australian Health Survey and the former National Health Surveys
- Patient Experience Survey

- Survey of Mental Health and Well-being
- Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
- Private Health Establishments Collection.

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

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

### Key achievements

- The 2011–12 Australian Health Survey including new nutrition, biomedical and physical activity components was completed.
- The 2012–13 Australian Health Survey – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey was designed and commenced.
- The 2012–13 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers was designed.
- The 2011–12 Patient Experience Survey was designed and commenced.
- Short reports on key aspects of health drawn from the 2007–08 National Health Survey were released.
- A summary of findings publication from the 2010–11 Patient Experience Survey was released.
- The 2010 Causes of Death publication was released.
- The program worked with the Australian Coordinating Registry to successfully complete a pilot release of Causes of Death microdata.
- Council of Australian Governments (COAG) indicators for the National Healthcare Agreement and the National Disability Agreement were produced.
- Advice was provided to Commonwealth, state and territory agencies in regards to COAG indicator reporting across health and disability areas.

### Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Causes of Death, Australia, 2009</b> (ABS cat. no. 3303.0)	Presents national data collected and coded by the ABS on leading causes of death, underlying causes of death, and selected area of mortality interest including suicide, Indigenous and perinatal deaths.
<b>Apparent Consumption of alcohol, 2010-11</b> (ABS cat. no. 4307.0.55.001)	Provides estimates of apparent consumption of alcohol based on the availability of alcoholic beverages in Australia
<b>Arthritis and Osteoporosis in Australia, A snapshot 2007-08</b> (ABS cat. no. 4843.0.55.001)	Provides an overview of the prevalence, risk factors and characteristics of persons with arthritis and osteoporosis in Australia.
<b>Diabetes in Australia, a Snapshot 2007-08</b> (ABS cat. no. 4820.0.55.001)	Provides an overview of the prevalence and selected characteristics of people with diabetes mellitus in Australia.

<b>Alcohol consumption in Australia, A snapshot 2007-08</b> (ABS cat. no. 4832.0.55.001)	Discusses how the National Health Survey can be used to provide information on alcohol consumption in Australia with regard to both the 2001 and 2009 National Health and Medical Research Council alcohol guidelines. Includes estimates of the number of persons who exceeded the guidelines in 2001, 2004–05 and 2007–08.
<b>Health Services: Patient Experiences in Australia, a Summary of findings 2010-11</b> (ABS cat. no. 4839.0.55.001)	Describes the experience of patients using health services such as general practitioners (GPs) and hospitals, and identifies barriers and issues in that interaction.
<b>Physical Activity in Australia, A snapshot 2007-08</b> (ABS cat. no. 4835.0.55.001)	Provides a brief overview of the physical activity levels of people aged 18 years and over in Australia
<b>Overweight and Obesity in Adults in Australia, A snapshot 2007-08</b> (ABS cat. no. 4842.0.55.001)	This article discusses overweight and obesity of people aged 18 years and over in Australia in 2007–08, examining a range of factors that may influence a person's weight and some of the health consequences associated with excess weight.

### Education and Training Statistics

The Education and Training Statistics program provides statistics on early childhood education and care, schooling and further education. The information is used by Commonwealth and state and territory governments for performance assessment and policymaking and by organisations involved in educational research and analysis.

Key elements of the program include management of the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection and the National Schools Statistics Collection; and the regular conduct of a number of surveys related to education, training and work. The program provides national leadership towards the potential development of an Australian Longitudinal Learning Database, which is envisaged as a student-centred research base of education and training information across the life course built from the integration of administration and population data.

### Key achievements

- Results from the second cycle of the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection, which supports assessment of the Australian Government's commitment to universal access to early childhood education for all children in the year before formal schooling, were published.
- Results from the annual National Schools Statistics Collection were published with ongoing enhancements to facilitate better electronic data access.
- Data was provided for the fourth cycle of COAG reporting under the National Education Agreement and National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development.
- Data from the latest cycles of the Childhood Education and Care Survey, Survey of Education and Work, and Learning and Work Survey were released.
- Data integration studies using school enrolment data tested the feasibility of the concept of an Australian Longitudinal Learning Database.
- Technical papers on data pooling and the use of Census data for calculating COAG performance measures were published.
- Secretariat services were provided for the Strategic Cross-sectoral Data Committee for Early Childhood, Education and Training. This committee operates within the framework of the Ministerial Standing Committees in the education and training sectors to facilitate data standards, data sharing and integration.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Education and Work, Australia, May 2010</b> (ABS cat. no. 6227.0)	An annual publication that supports the ongoing assessment of the educational experiences of persons aged 15–74 years and the transition from education to work. It is published together with a series of detailed data cubes that present key national, state and territory performance information.
<b>Schools, Australia 2010</b> (ABS cat. no. 4221.0)	A detailed annual presentation of information on Australian schools, students and staff.
<b>Experimental Estimates of Preschool Education, Australia 2010</b> (ABS cat. no. 4240.0)	An annual publication on enrolment and attendance at preschool that supports monitoring of the COAG early childhood reform agenda.
<b>Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 4402.0)	This three-yearly survey provides information on the type, amount and cost of childcare, including care in formal settings such as Long Day Care centres and informal arrangements such as care by grandparents and neighbours.
<b>National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Source and Methods 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 4240.0.55.001)	Contains information for data providers on recommended data collection methods and procedures, as well as detailed information on data elements in relation to the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection.
<b>National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Data Collection Guide, 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 4240.0.55.002)	Contains information for data providers on recommended data collection methods and procedures, as well as detailed information on data elements in relation to the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection.

## Crime and Justice Statistics

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

The ABS also oversees a survey program in the field of crime and justice statistics. This includes both special purpose surveys aimed at producing rates of victimisation for personal and household crimes, and information on the experience and consequences of crime, as well as more general surveys aimed at understanding the experience of crime within a broader social context.

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

## Key achievements

- *Measuring Victims of Crime: A guide to using administrative and survey data* (ABS cat. no. 4500.0.55.001) was published in June 2011. This information paper aimed to increase community understanding of how the experiences of victims of crime in Australia are measured and to explore why the findings from different data sources, such as administrative data sources and survey data sources, may differ.
- *Directory of Family and Domestic Violence Statistics* (ABS cat. no. 4533.0), comprising an inventory of government (state, territory and Commonwealth) statistical data sources relating to family and domestic violence, was published in November 2011.
- The *In Focus: Crime and Justice Statistics, 2011* (ABS cat. no. 4524.0) analytical series was launched in September 2011. Two analytical articles were produced in 2011–12, and the first, 'Youth victimisation and offending: a statistical snapshot', was released on 22 September 2011. This article highlighted data from a number of ABS sources relating to juvenile victims and offenders, and is aimed at improving the evidence base available to inform policy development and research into the impact of violence and crime on young Australians. A second analytical article, 'In the eye of the beholder: perceptions of social disorder in Australia', was released 1 December 2011. This paper builds on the data published in *Crime Victimisation 2009–10* (ABS cat. no. 4530.0) to explore perceptions of social disorder across different demographic groups. The paper also looked at the impact of previous experiences of victimisation on their perceptions of social disorder in their local area.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Recorded Crime – Offenders, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 4519.0)	Annual publication that presents characteristics of alleged offenders proceeded against by police during the twelve month reference period.
<b>Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 4510.0)	Provides annual indicators of the level and nature of recorded crime victimisation in Australia.
<b>Crime Victimisation, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 4530.0)	Presents annual survey data on feelings of personal safety, and victimisation information for selected personal and household offences.
<b>Criminal Courts, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 4513.0)	Annual publication that presents characteristics of defendants, including information on their offences and sentence outcomes.
<b>Federal Defendants, Selected States and Territories</b> (ABS cat. no. 4515.0)	Annual publication that presents characteristics of federal defendants, including information on their offences and sentence outcomes.
<b>Prisoners in Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 4517.0)	Includes annual information from the National Prisoner Census on persons held in adult prisons, including their characteristics, sentence lengths and offences for which they are imprisoned.
<b>Corrective Services, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 4512.0)	Presents quarterly information on numbers and rates of persons in custody and those serving community-based corrections orders.
<b>Personal Fraud</b> (ABS cat. no. 4528.0)	Presents information about victims of personal fraud offences, including credit, debit or bank card fraud and identity theft, and a selected range of scams.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

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

In broad terms, the program provides information to:

- assist government, business and the community to monitor the social and economic circumstances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians
- support the development, implementation and evaluation of relevant policies and programs of Australian governments
- support research related to better understanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perceptions, expectations and experiences of 'wellbeing'
- enhance the quality and utility of relevant data sets across Australia's national statistical system.

Australian governments, researchers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations are key users of the information produced by the program.

### Key achievements

- Newly available data on school retention rates and fertility and births was released in the *Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2010* (ABS cat. no. 4704.0).
- Technical support was provided for key external reports including the COAG Reform Council's performance report on the National Indigenous Reform Agreement, the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report of the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, and the Department of Health and Ageing's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework.
- COAG-funded work continued to assess the quality of Indigenous status information in key administrative data sets, as described in Schedule F of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement.
- The ABS's Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy to facilitate the return of information to Indigenous communities and organisations and maintain dialogue on data collection and use continued, with an emphasis on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing and the 2012–13 Australian Health Survey – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Census of Population and Housing – Counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 42075.0)	This publication and accompanying spreadsheets present counts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. In addition to national and state/territory counts, it provides 2011 Census counts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at geographies below state and territory level.
<b>The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2010</b> (ABS cat. no. 4704.0)	This publication provides a comprehensive statistical overview, at the national level, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and welfare. Analysis is released on a topic by topic basis as it is available. The 2012 release provides newly available information on school retention rates and fertility and births, and follows the latest releases of <i>Schools, Australia, 2011</i> (ABS cat. no. 4221.0) and <i>Births Australia, 2010</i> (ABS cat.no. 3301.0).
<b>Information Paper: Defining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned Businesses, Australia, 2012</b> (ABS cat. no. 4732.0)	This publication presents the definitions to be used by the ABS for the purpose of collecting and disseminating statistics on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned businesses (limited to small-to medium sized, privately owned businesses). The definitions are intended to be used in the context of measuring economic participation and development in Australia. It is recognised that there are other definitions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned businesses used for various purposes. The definitions presented by the ABS are not intended to replace these definitions.

## Social Conditions Statistics

The Social Conditions program provides statistical leadership, standards development and information for a broad picture of the economic and social wellbeing of the Australian population. It provides statistics covering a range of topics including but not limited to income, expenditure, wealth, economic hardship, financial stress, housing, superannuation, families, time use, work and family balance, volunteering, personal safety, homelessness and social capital.

The program also provides a design, development, data collection and processing service to support the Growing up in Australia Study (Longitudinal Study of Australian Children), in partnership with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

The program's statistics are used to support policy development, program delivery and program evaluation of key government agencies involved in social security, taxation, housing, homelessness, community and family services, and issues related to older people, carers, children, youth, men and women. They are also used by academics and other analysts for analysing a range of social and economic characteristics that have an impact on the wellbeing of Australian society, including through international comparisons that show Australia's progress relative to other nations.

## Key achievements

- The new Household Energy Consumption Survey was developed from initial approach to ABS in June 2011 to deployment in the field in January 2012, incorporating computer-assisted personal interviewing, self-complete paper forms, and a longitudinal component using both self-complete web forms and computer-assisted telephone interviewing.
- A web form for the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children was deployed.
- The second edition of the international statistical standard Canberra Group Handbook on Household Income Statistics was published in December 2011, the Australian Bureau of Statistics having led and contributed to the project.
- Progress was achieved in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) expert group on micro household income consumption and wealth statistics. ABS chairs the group, provides institutional input into the Group's work program and provides in-kind support to the OECD for the development of a new statistical framework and guidelines for household level income, consumption and wealth, and new standards for household level wealth statistics, which are on track for completion by the end of 2012.
- The program provided statistical leadership in both delivering indicators for the National Affordable Housing Agreement and in actively participating in the review of that agreement.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Position paper – Methodological Review of Counting the Homeless, 2006</b> (ABS cat. no. 2050.0.55.002)	This ABS Position Paper summarised the wide range of key issues identified in consultation on a methodology for using Census data to estimate homelessness. The Position Paper addressed those issues, as far as was possible at that time, reiterated and further articulated the concerns expressed in the earlier ABS Discussion Paper about underestimation of key groups of homeless people, noted the establishment of a Homelessness Statistics Reference Group to further advise ABS on these issues, and described future developments in homelessness estimation in a variety of ABS measurement contexts.
<b>General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2010</b> (ABS cat. no. 4159.0) and <b>States and Territories, 2010</b> (ABS cat. no. 4159.0.55.003)	Presents results from the 2010 General Social Survey, which brings together a wide range of information linked across areas of social concern. The focus is on the relationships between characteristics from different areas, rather than in depth information about a particular field. Topics include health, housing, education, work, income, financial stress and resilience, broad assets and liabilities, transport, social capital, voluntary work, family and community, and crime. The 2010 results included the first official estimates published by ABS of people's experiences of homelessness.
<b>Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2009–10</b> (ABS cat. no. 6523.0) and associated detailed publications	Presents aggregate and distributional results, from the Survey of Income and Housing, of income received by households, classified by various characteristics of the households and their residents (e.g. income quintile, principal source of household income, family composition, tenure type, age, employment status).
<b>Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution, Australia, 2009–10</b> (ABS cat. no. 6554.0)	Presents results, from the Survey of Income and Housing, on household net worth, or wealth, classified by various characteristics, and summary measures of the distribution of household net worth. Results are presented by net worth quintile, income quintile, principal source of household income, family composition, tenure type, and geographic location. For each category of household, estimates of the various assets and liabilities comprising net worth are provided, along with estimates of household income, household size, and other characteristics.

<b>Household Expenditure Survey, Summary Results, Australia, 2009–10</b> (ABS cat. no. 6530.0) and associated detailed publications	Presents results, from the Household Expenditure Survey, on the expenditure, income, net worth and other characteristics of households, highlighting the different weekly expenditure patterns of households with various characteristics (e.g. income levels and sources, geographic location and family composition of the household). Detailed Expenditure Items are included as a datacube.
<b>Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2009–10</b> (ABS cat. no. 4130.0)	Presents results, from the Survey of Income and Housing, on housing occupancy and costs. It includes characteristics such as tenure, family composition of household, dwelling structure, income, principal source of income, dwelling value and information on recent homebuyers.
<b>Gender Indicators, Australia, July 2011 and January 2012</b> (ABS cat. no. 4130.0)	The first release of Gender Indicators, Australia presented an initial national set of gender indicators (49 key indicators, 42 related series and 48 detailed information series grouped into six broad domains of social concern). This product supports analysis, and monitors the outcomes, of women and men in Australia to inform government policy and decision makers in the development, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs aimed at achieving gender equality. The second release included updates to the key indicators and related and detailed series, four new commentaries for the updated indicator series, interactive data visualisations, and new series on hours worked.
<b>Caring in the Community, Australia, 2009</b> (ABS cat. no. 4436.0)	Presents results, from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, on carers who provide ongoing informal assistance to older people and/or people with a disability. It includes characteristic data on carers and non-carers, with a particular focus on primary carers and the people to whom they provide assistance, as well as information on the impact of caring on primary carers.
<b>Voluntary Work, Australia, 2010</b> (ABS cat. no. 4444.0)	Presents results, from the General Social Survey, about participation in unpaid voluntary work through an organisation or group. It includes information on volunteering rates, characteristic data on volunteers (in some cases comparing to non-volunteers), as well as information relating to aspects of the voluntary work undertaken.

## Culture and Recreation Statistics

The Culture and Recreation Statistics program is responsible for the leadership and coordination of national statistical activity in the fields of culture, sport and leisure. This responsibility includes understanding current and emerging policy issues and debates, and determining which statistics are most appropriate to inform decision making in these areas. Expertise is also provided within the ABS regarding the collection of relevant data as well as informing governments and the community about culture, sport and leisure statistics, relevant classifications and standards, and appropriate data analysis.

The main clients of the program are:

- the Cultural Ministers Statistics Working Group
- the Committee of Australian Sport and Recreation Officials Research Group
- Australian Government agencies, including the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport; the Australia Council; Screen Australia and the Australian Sports Commission
- state and territory government departments, in both the culture and sport sectors and industry bodies.

## Key achievements

- *Sport and social capital, Australia, 2010* (ABS cat. no. 4917.0) was released in March 2012. This report examines the relationship between indicators of social wellbeing and participation in sport and physical recreation using data from the 2010 General Social Survey.
- *Volunteers in sport, Australia, 2010* (ABS cat. no. 4440.55.001) was released in March 2012. This report contains information about people who volunteer for sport and physical recreation organisations using data from the 2010 General Social Survey.
- The 2011–12 Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation survey was conducted with support from the Australian Sports Commission and the Committee of Australian Sport and Recreation Officials.
- The data needs for sport and physical recreation data were reviewed in the context of the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework (agreed by all Australian governments on 10 June 2011).
- *Participation in Selected Cultural Activities, Australia, 2010–11* (ABS cat. no. 4921.0) was released in February 2012. This publication contains information on the participation of people in selected cultural activities. Information was also collected about the characteristics of participants, the number of activities participated in, whether payment was received, reasons for involvement and barriers to participation.
- Topics @ a Glance pages have been released to the ABS website for both Culture and Sport and Physical Recreation, improving the dissemination of related information to the public.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview</b> (ABS cat. no. 4172.0)	Contains information on a range of topics including employment in culture, time spent on cultural activities, attendances at cultural venues and events, expenditure on culture, and imports and exports of cultural goods and services. It also provides profiles of the cultural sectors, grouped according to the <i>Australian Culture and Leisure Industry Classification</i> .
<b>Sports and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 4177.0)	Topics covered in this report include output of the sports and physical recreation sector, employment in sports and physical recreation, government outlays on recreation, international trade in sports and physical recreation goods, attendances at sporting events and participation in sports and physical recreation activities.
<b>Perspectives on Sport</b> (ABS cat. no. 4156.0.55.001)	The latest release examines people's participation in popular and versatile activities, the characteristics of those who do not participate in sport or physical recreation, and how sport and physical recreation participation interacts with attendance at cultural venues and sporting events.
<b>Cultural Funding by Government, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 4183.0)	The latest release from this annual collection contains estimates of funding for arts and cultural activities by the three levels of government in Australia.

## Social and Progress Reporting

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

## Key achievements

- The program expanded the reach and value of ABS's statistics through the release of four editions of Australian Social Trends. Since the March quarter 2012, podcasts based on the articles have also been produced and are available via the ABS website and on iTunes. Improvements have also been made to increase the likelihood of articles being found when search engines are used.
- Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) aims to answer the question 'Is life in Australia getting better?' An update of MAP was released in late 2011 and provided an update of the key headline measures and commentary. MAP draws together a wide range of data to present a national summary of economic, social and environmental progress through headline indicators and descriptive text. The electronic format also allows the interactive interrogation of data using web technology.
- During 2011–2012, the ABS has been undertaking extensive community consultation for the Measures of Australia's Progress product. A broad and inclusive consultation process has been undertaken to help ensure the ABS continues to measure the areas that are important to Australia and Australians. Community comment was encouraged through social media, including a blog. The results of the consultation are being used to help articulate a conceptual framework to underpin the question of whether life in Australia is getting better. This framework will be used as the basis for future editions of Measures of Australia's Progress publication from late 2013.
- As A Matter Of Fact is a new product which uses infographics and short, sharp commentary to present 'the facts' about certain social issues. It is promoted through social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, with a view to connecting with audiences which may not engage with traditional ABS methods of dissemination.
- An Information Paper investigating the nature of the differences in the voluntary work rates from the 2006 Census and the 2006 General Social Survey (GSS) was released in June 2012. It uses Census and GSS data to identify characteristics associated with being more likely to volunteer.
- The program fosters relationships with key international, national and local users and producers of wellbeing and progress measures and supports ongoing developments relating to social, economic, and environmental indicators. The ABS established an MoU with the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, with an ABS outposted officer working in the Department. This has resulted in productive collaboration around concepts, data access and analysis relevant to the Department's leadership role for the Australian Government's Measuring Sustainability Program. The program has also increased its level of engagement with the increasing interest in measures of subjective wellbeing from users and producers, locally, nationally and internationally.



## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Australian Social Trends</b> (ABS cat. no. 4102.0)	This quarterly publication contains articles on contemporary social issues in an easily digestible format to meet the needs of a wide range of users. Articles produced over the last year included a focus on international students, government and non-government schools, long-term unemployment, disability and work, community service workers, marriage and divorce, life after homelessness, household wealth, low economic resource households and housing assistance for renters. Podcasts relating to articles have recently been developed and are available on the ABS website and on iTunes.
<b>Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators</b> (ABS cat. no. 1370.0.55.001)	Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) was first produced in 2002 as a ground-breaking and innovative product. It draws together a wide range of data to present a national summary of economic, social and environmental progress through headline indicators and descriptive text. The Summary Indicators released in late 2011 included updated headline indicators and commentary.
<b>As A Matter Of Fact</b> (ABS cat. no. 1393.0)	The 'As A Matter of Fact' product aims to engage with audiences about topical social issues using infographics and short, sharp commentary (both written and as sound bytes) to present the facts. The information may be presented in one or more graphics to illustrate the story. It is promoted through social media with a view to connecting with audiences who may not engage with traditional ABS methods of dissemination. The first topic released answered the question 'Are Australians working longer hours?'
<b>A Comparison of Volunteering Rates from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and the 2006 General Social Survey, June 2012</b> (ABS cat. no. 4441.0.55.002)	An Information Paper investigating the nature of the differences in the voluntary work rates from the 2006 Census and the 2006 General Social Survey (GSS) has been released. It also uses Census and GSS data to identify characteristics associated with being more likely to volunteer.

## Migrant Statistics

The Migrant Statistics program aims to address a broad range of statistical needs with respect to the settlement outcomes of temporary and permanent migrants to Australia. The program provides data relevant to migrant populations, and involves the development and compilation of a range of survey and administrative data relevant to migrants. There is a focus on understanding current and emerging policy issues and debates, and determining which statistics might be appropriate to inform decision making relevant to migrants. The program also provides leadership regarding the collection of relevant data, as well as informing governments and the community about migrant and ethnicity statistics, relevant classifications and standards and appropriate data analysis. A key recent development in this program is its increased focus on data integration activities to support richer statistics about migrants' settlement outcomes.

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

## Key achievements

- Substantial progress has been made with the ABS 2011 Census Data Enhancement project, which will link 2011 Census data with DIAC's Settlement Database.
- A feasibility study is being undertaken to determine if it is possible to link DIAC's Settlement Database with the Australian Taxation Office's Personal Income Tax data.
- The Topics @ a Glance page for Migrant and Ethnicity has been redesigned on the ABS website to improve the dissemination of information to the community.
- Contribution has been made to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Task Force on Measurement of Socio-economic Conditions of Migrants.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Guide to Migrant Statistical Sources, 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 3414.0)	This guide provides users with a ready reference to sources of statistical information either directly related to migrants and ethnicity or which collect migrant- or ethnicity-related data items.
<b>Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia</b> (ABS cat. no. 6250.0)	This publication presents data on migration category, country of birth, proficiency in spoken English, educational attainment on arrival and since arrival, employment prior to arrival and since arrival, and sources of household income.
<b>Migrant Data Matrices</b> (ABS cat. no. 3415.0)	This product provides a range of summary data on migrants from a variety of ABS collections that include a broad selection of demographic, geographic, socio-economic and collection specific data items.
<b>Perspectives on Migrants</b> (ABS cat. no. 3416.0)	This series provides analyses of data from ABS and other sources to provide a comprehensive picture of migrants.

## State and Territory Statistical Services

The State and Territory Statistical Services (STSS) program operates within each state and territory office of the ABS. The program aims to contribute to the development of well-informed policy and decisions within states and territories. STSS seeks to improve the National Statistical Service (NSS) through increased availability of high quality state and territory data as well as regional data from ABS and non-ABS sources. STSS works closely with state and territory governments, local government and non-government clients to develop strategies to best meet state and territory statistical requirements.

## Key achievements

- In progressing state and territory statistical priorities, STSS has worked closely with the State Statistical Forum (SSF) to identify and progress statistical priorities common to all states and territories. The identified priorities and achievements in 2011-12 include:
  - development of a range of programs within the states and territories to assist them with spatially enabling data, including assistance with name and address validation strategies, and adoption of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) for statistical outputs
  - working within the states and territories to improve understanding of and capability in statistical data integration through participation in cross-departmental working groups, the promotion of the Commonwealth principles for statistical data integration, and contribution to the NSS information series on confidentiality
  - successful evaluation of the utility of administrative data to supplement ABS data sources to improve the stock of local level economic data suitable for state and territory

- government use, and development of a program to expand the use of this data
- facilitation of discussion amongst the states and territories on the challenges they face progressing effective performance reporting and identification of ways in which the ABS can assist in addressing key issues.
- Within states and territories, STSS has assisted in improving statistical governance through activities including:
  - development of joint whole-of-government information development plans, such as in the ACT
  - working with government to establish whole-of-government statistical councils to provide oversight for the implementation of jurisdictional wide statistical frameworks, such as the NSW Statistical Council
  - providing assistance to state government in progressing strategic objectives, such as the Public Sector Information Release Framework (PSIRF) in Victoria, support for South Australia's Strategic Plan, and partnerships to enhance statistical governance capability in Tasmania
  - re-organisation of existing statistical liaison networks to focus on whole-of-government priorities and to establish working groups aligned with SSF themes as in WA and NT
  - co-chairing cross agency working groups such the Indigenous Data Quality Improvement Working Group in QLD to support a whole-of-government approach to data improvement and the sharing of learnings.
- STSS seeks to improve statistical capability within the states and territories to help ensure that they are able to develop well-informed policy, evaluate program outcomes and contribute to the NSS. In 2011–12 this included initiatives such as:
  - co-facilitation of the NSS Rethinking Statistics workshops to help build statistical capability in State and Territory governments
  - working directly with agencies to improve specific statistical capabilities through highly targeted activities
  - supporting activities to introduce significant change to statistical standards such as the introduction of ASGS or facilitate consultation with the local statistical community, as with the consultation for Measuring Australia's Progress (MAP)
  - delivery of information sessions for the local statistical community to address needs identified within jurisdictions as well as delivery of National Statistical Training Institute (NSTI).
- STSS contributed to the success of the 2011 Census through the provision of support during enumeration, providing field support and surge capacity, and through assistance with special enumeration strategies such as for indigenous communities. STSS is now working closely with organisations to release Census data back to communities, raising awareness of Census 2011 products and services.
- ABS officers are outposted to state and territory government departments and agencies as a key strategy adopted to meet the STSS program's objectives. An outpost can be a combination of both technical and strategic roles. In 2011–12, successful outposts occurred in all states and territories. These include:
  - strategic outposts assisting jurisdictions understand, prioritise and progress whole-of-government statistical issues, as in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania
  - outposts helping jurisdictions progress SSF themes such as the development of a roadmap to spatially enable key government datasets, as in the ACT
  - outposts providing technical advice and leadership for agencies such as advising on data management/data quality issues, and frameworks and the development of metadata frameworks, as in Queensland, SA, Victoria and WA.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Western Australia at a Glance</b> (ABS cat. No. 1306.5)	Contains a wide range of statistics on Western Australia, including physical data, population, vital statistics, employment and wages, price indexes, mineral production, manufacturing, building, foreign trade and tourism.
<b>Queensland at a Glance</b> (ABS cat. No. 1312.3)	A brochure which contains a wide range of statistics for Queensland, including population, vital statistics, employment and wages, price indexes, mineral production, manufacturing, building, foreign trade and tourism. (Final edition published in January 2012).
<b>Qld Interstate Trade</b> (ABS cat. No. 8502.3)	A quarterly survey, which collects information about the interstate movement of goods into and out of Queensland from other parts of Australia.
<b>State and Territory Statistical Indicators</b> (ABS cat. No. 1367.0)	Provides an overview of the population, economy and environment for each of the Australian states and territories. (Final edition published June 2012)
<b>Community Preparedness for Emergencies, Western Australia</b> (ABS cat. No. 4818.5)	Presents statistics from the State Supplementary Survey, Community Preparedness for Emergencies, Western Australia, 2011

## Infrastructure Programs

The ABS 2017 Group was established in February 2012 as a strategic initiative to centralise large scale transformation of ABS business and information management, including the transformation of the 2016 Census of Population and Housing. This new Group provides a strong platform to drive change and better positions the ABS to integrate a wide range of cross-cutting improvement projects for the future. The ABS 2017 Group builds on the work of the ABS Information Management Transformation Program (IMTP), which was formally endorsed in May 2011 to transform the way the ABS collects, collates, manages, uses, reuses and disseminates statistical information in order to improve the usability, value and timeliness of statistics for government and the community.

The outcomes from the ABS 2017 Program will reduce the costs of compiling and releasing statistics, and will make it quicker and easier for the ABS to develop new statistical products and services.

The program will be undertaken in a number of phases. The first phase will focus on industrialising and re-engineering ABS business processes; re-engineering internal statistical infrastructure; delivering the first fully digital Census in 2016; enhancing our capability to assist other government agencies manage their own information; and improving the management of statistical information which ABS currently delivers. In later phases, the program will position the ABS to provide specialist statistical and information management expertise backed by supporting infrastructure to assist other government agencies.

The key Statistical Infrastructure Projects include:

- development of a consistent Information Framework for describing, managing and using statistical data, metadata and paradata throughout the statistical production process, as well as the governance and standards to enable that framework to be successfully implemented across ABS business areas
- incorporation of an internationally agreed conceptual Information Model that shapes common terminology and definitions used in the Information Framework

- development of a Metadata Registry Repository which will register and store statistical information in a standard, discoverable and reusable format
- development of Statistical Workflow Management System which will use automated reusable business processes to ensure data and metadata flow easily between processes.

The Business Processing Engineering Projects of the program include:

- Census 2016 – delivering the first fully digital Census of Population and Housing in order to improve data value and provide future savings
- Enterprise Data Warehouse – providing a centralised managed repository for data storage and integrated with workflow management and metadata management
- Acquire@ABS – with emphasis on digital collection of data from businesses and households, including web and hand held devices. Facilitates the use of existing data, acquiring existing data from others and conducting more targeted collections, with reduced emphasis on direct data collection through surveys
- Administrative Data Requirements – establishes requirements needed to source, store and process large administrative data sets and ultimately develop capacity to link data across various sources
- the development of enterprise architecture to guide the ABS of the future.

To ensure the successful delivery of the Program, a Program Management Office (PMO) has been established to provide centralised and coordinated support to the Group.

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

### Key achievements

- ABS funding is available for strategic investments, to ensure delivery of the first phase of the Program.
- Project management capability has improved across the ABS.
- A Business Analysis and Process Re-engineering Centre of Excellence has been established.
- The international community has committed to, and agreed on, the latest version (V0.4) of the international Information Model and a plan for future versions.
- Conceptual approaches for metadata-driven processes that identify how these processes would work in the ABS environment have been developed. These processes are to support the 'plug-and-play' components of systems processes that are key to achieving ABS 2017 goals.
- High-level corporate-wide business requirements for administrative data capabilities to support current and new business needs have been identified and developed.
- The first version of an ABS Enterprise Architecture has been developed; it underpins the future vision for ABS infrastructure at a broad level.
- The high level strategic directions for 2016 Census have been finalised, to ensure more sustainable, cost effective and relevant Censuses into the future.
- A strategy for developing a register of household addresses to support future Census and Household survey programs was created.
- A strategy has been developed for a corporate data acquisition and collection environment, Acquire@ABS, which will deliver more efficient processes, reduced data handling and better data quality. Business areas and data providers will benefit through increased automation, improved timeliness and reduced load. These initiatives will also assist ABS to keep pace with society's expectations for a relevant and responsive ABS as well as to meet whole-of-government requirements for electronic reporting.

- Progress has been made in evaluation of the potential application of the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) in data collection.
- ABS.Stat, an output data warehouse, was released. ABS.Stat aims to improve the usability of ABS data by presenting statistics in a more searchable, flexible and dynamic manner.

### Data Acquisition and Collection

The Data Acquisition and Collection program provides professional data collection services for ABS across business, household and administrative data collections. In doing so, it supports the ABS corporate mission and objectives by providing a high quality, timely, and cost effective service while maintaining the trust and cooperation of providers through:

- improving and integrating ABS data collection business and systems processes
- providing support for data collection cost modelling and workforce capacity planning
- continually developing the processes and instruments to improve the interaction with providers
- developing and maintaining a skilled and committed field and office-based interviewer workforce
- developing and adopting the world's best practice in data collection
- upholding the confidentiality of information provided to the ABS.

### Key achievements

- Data Acquisition and Collection provided collection services for a range of surveys over 2011–12 with a high response rate achieved across all surveys. Approximately 400,000 household survey interviews were conducted and approximately 350,000 returns were received from business providers in 2011–12.
- This year saw the largest ever yearly household survey program, including key household surveys such as the Monthly Population Survey (incorporating the Labour Force Survey), Growing up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, National Health Survey, National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey, Survey of Income and Housing, Census Post Enumeration Survey, Household Energy Consumption Survey, Personal Safety Survey and the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competence.
- Key business surveys conducted which fed into Main Economic and Other Leading Indicators included the Retail Business Survey, Quarterly Business Indicators Survey, Survey of New Capital Expenditure, Survey of International Investment, Job Vacancies Survey, Survey of Average Weekly Earnings, Survey of International Trade in Services, Survey of Financial Information, Engineering Construction Survey, Building and Construction Survey and Producer Prices Index.
- A major revision was completed of the ABS Field Interviewers Employment Conditions Manual to supplement the new ABS Field Interviewers Enterprise agreement that came into operation in September 2011. A new internet communication option was implemented for householder survey respondents. The redevelopment of a new Interviewer effort and pay system to synchronise with the new corporate HR system is nearing completion.
- A web reporting system developed for the 2011 Agricultural Census was successfully deployed. The Agricultural Census is ABS's second largest collection after the Census of Population and Housing.
- A strategy for a corporate acquisition and collection environment, Acquire@ABS, which will deliver more efficient processes, reduced data handling and better data quality, was developed. Business areas and data providers will benefit through increased automation, improved timeliness and reduced load. These initiatives will also assist ABS to keep pace

with society's expectations for a relevant and responsive ABS as well as to meet whole-of-government requirements for electronic reporting.

- Progress has been made in evaluation of the potential application of the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) in data collection.

## Survey Design and Methods

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

The program has specific responsibilities in providing methods that maximise the quality of statistical outputs given an imposed budget (or conversely, minimise the resources required to achieve a stated quality level). It provides advice and assistance on statistical collection design and methods, efficiency and statistical impact of data collection operations, and management of data quality, through the various stages of the survey cycle. It has a role in alerting the organisation to areas of risk to quality of statistical outputs, promoting tools and methods for managing and assessing quality. The program undertakes research on statistical and operation research methods to improve the cost efficiency and quality of ABS work.

The program also manages the Australian Government Statistical Clearing House, to minimise the load on businesses and to improve the quality of business survey outputs.

### Key achievements

- A range of new or updated form design for use across the ABS has been completed, leading to higher quality data and enhanced provider experience, and developed sample and estimation methods for new and existing household and business surveys including:
  - redesign of the Monthly Population Survey sample
  - design of the new Land Management Practices Survey sample, as part of the Carbon Farming Initiative
  - design of the Work, Life and Family Survey sample.
- A review of the editing, sample allocation and sample representation of the Consumer Price Index was completed. As part of this, an allocation methodology was developed to assess representativeness and efficiency of the current CPI sample size.
- Workshops were facilitated on developing and implementing quality gates in business surveys to manage the risk of statistical errors in data collections.
- Research was conducted into representativeness indicators as a measure of potential bias from survey non-response.
- The population estimates from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing and associated Post-Enumeration Survey were analysed and quality-assured.
- Models were developed to improve the stability of estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Empirical Models for Survey Cost, Response Rate and Bias Using Paradata</b> (BS cat. No. 1352.0.55.113)	This paper presents modelling work for some ABS household and business surveys on response rates, survey cost structures, and potential bias resulting from changes to data collection inputs and efforts.
<b>Statistical Quality Incident Response Plans</b> (ABS cat. No. 1542.0)	This information paper discusses how to develop contingency plans to address problems with quality that might arise in the production of statistical products.
<b>Methodological News</b> (ABS cat. no. 1504.0)	<i>Methodological News</i> is a quarterly information bulletin from the Methodology and Data Management Division. The newsletter features articles and developments in relation to work done within the division.

## Data Management and Classifications

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

Data Standards and Methods researches, sets and reviews ABS policies, principles and best practice for key statistical standards, classifications and data/metadata management.

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

### Key achievements

- Support was provided for the ABS 2017 Program and associated projects, particularly in relation to practical understanding of the existing data management environment, accessing data from the ABS Information Warehouse, and the application of new data and metadata exchange formats.
- Substantive research and development was undertaken into the utilisation of the DDI standard for metadata driven processes.
- Significant further development of ABS multi-modal data capture was achieved, including content and usability testing support of the Household Energy Consumption Survey, the first (non-Census) ABS household survey to use web data collection. This longitudinal collection effectively combines personal interviewing, web data collection, paper forms and telephone interviewing.
- Autocoders and related indexes for Occupation, Industry and Social classification topics in the 2011 Census of Population and Housing (Census) were successfully implemented.
- Support for 2011 Census coding operations was delivered, yielding productive outcomes.
- The 'NextGen' coding system for Occupation and Industry topics was developed and evaluated.
- A comprehensive five-year plan for the review of ABS social standards was developed and established.

- Improved business processes and collaboration were implemented in support of the Australian Business Register and ABS Business Register.
- The ABS Standards and Classifications web pages improvement project was implemented.
- New standards for the design and content of explanatory brochures given to survey respondents were completed and released.

## Statistical Data Integration

Linking datasets in the economic, social and environmental fields provides expanded information for governments to assess policies and their outcomes. A significant benefit of data linking is that it is a cost-effective way of obtaining longitudinal and small area data.

While the benefits are clear, data linking also has risks. Consistent governance, methods, policies and protocols around data integration are needed to ensure maximum use of available data, while protecting the privacy of the individuals and organisations providing the data.

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

There are several reasons as to why the ABS should take a leadership role in establishing a safe and effective environment for data integration. The ABS currently has a high level of trust from data providers (such as businesses and the Australian community), which enables it to continue the production of high quality statistics. The ABS is committed to ensuring that this trust is maintained and that data providers continue to have confidence in the organisation. Second, the ABS has statutory obligations to maximise the use of administrative data, as set out in the core obligations outlined in the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* (to avoid duplication and maximise use of information for statistical purposes). It is also important that ABS takes a hands-on role in data integration. Aside from the benefits offered by the ABS's statistical infrastructure, the strong secrecy provisions in its legislation, and the fact that a core activity for the ABS is the development of datasets to provide a picture of social, environmental and economic conditions, there is some integration that only ABS will be able to undertake as it will be the only agency with access to some datasets.

### Key achievements

- A series of information sheets on confidentiality was published on the National Statistical Service (NSS) website. The series is designed to explain, and provide advice on, a range of issues around confidentialising data.
- Eleven papers were released on the NSS website, outlining aspects of the governance and institutional arrangements for data integration involving Commonwealth data. These were developed in collaboration with other Australian Government Departments and are part of a set of best practice guidelines being released progressively.
- Various presentations were given at conferences and seminars across Australia, to communicate information about the governance arrangements for data integration involving Commonwealth data to a range of government and non-government stakeholders.
- ABS was granted accreditation, against interim arrangements, as an Integrating Authority with the capacity to undertake high-risk projects.

## Accredited Integrating Authorities

The Australian Government High Level Principles for Data Integration Involving Commonwealth Data for Statistical and Research Purposes require that an Integrating Authority (IA) be nominated for every data integration project. An IA is responsible for managing the data integration project, in line with the agreed requirements of the data custodians.

IAs undertaking high-risk data integration projects involving Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes must be accredited. The interim accreditation process for Integrating Authorities was released in August 2011 and will be reviewed in 2012–13.

There are eight criteria IAs must meet to gain accreditation:

1. ability to ensure secure data management
2. able to demonstrate that information that is likely to enable identification of individuals or organisation is not disclosed to external users
3. availability of appropriate skills
4. appropriate technical capability
5. lack of conflict of interest
6. culture and values that ensure protection of confidential information and support the use of data as a strategic resource
7. transparency of operation
8. appropriate governance and administrative framework.

The IA's claims against these criteria are independently audited and the final decision on accreditation is made by the Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board. The Board is chaired by the Australian Statistician and includes the Secretaries of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; the Department of Health and Ageing; and the Department of Human Services.

On 24 April 2012, the ABS became the first organisation to become accredited under the interim accreditation process for IAs. A copy of the ABS's application for accreditation is available on the NSS website.

## Geography

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

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

### Key achievements

- The ASGS was implemented and a series of publications was completed and released. An ASGS implementation plan for the ABS was also released, summarising subject matter areas' ASGS release program, including how they are addressing time series issues. Support material was published on the geography web portal [www.abs.gov.au/geography](http://www.abs.gov.au/geography), to assist external users with the transition.
- Planning, evaluation and testing has commenced for the 2016 Census. An evaluation of the quality of the Geocoded National Address File (G-NAF) is underway to inform the organisation on where addresses are of sufficient quality to be used as the basis for the 2016 Census.
- Additional geospatial capability has been introduced into the organisation with the implementation of software to undertake road network analysis, to optimise travelling times for ABS interviewers. This will also have application for the 2016 Census.
- Environmental datasets and valuation data have been integrated at the property level to progress the development of land accounts, as part of the environmental accounts produced by the ABS. These developments are also being leveraged to improve the quality of the Land Management Practices Survey being undertaken by ABS.

### Redefinition of Capital City Statistical Areas

In the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Capital Cities were defined by the Capital City Statistical Divisions (CCSDs). This definition has been replaced in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) by the new Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSAs).

The new GCCSAs consistently define each of the capital cities on the basis of their labour market. They therefore contain more of the surrounding regional area from which people commute. The impact of this change varies from capital to capital. Sydney and Darwin have barely changed. The largest change due to the new classification, in terms of population, is Perth which has been extended, particularly in the south, to include Mandurah. The largest percentage increase in area is Canberra, which has been extended to include the whole of the ACT, though the increase in its population is marginal. Similarly, Hobart has greatly increased in area with little increase in population. Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide have all seen significant changes in both population and area.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 – Non ABS Structures, July 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 1270.0.55.003)	Boundaries and supporting materials defining: Local Government Areas, Postal Areas, State Suburbs, Commonwealth Electoral Divisions, State Electoral Divisions, Australian Drainage Divisions, Natural Resource Management Regions and Tourism Regions.
<b>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Digital Boundaries, Australia, July 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 1259.0.30.001)	Final edition of the ASGC boundaries.
<b>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) – Electronic Structures, July 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 1216.0.15.001)	Final edition of the ASGC electronic structures.
<b>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Correspondences, July 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 1216.0.15.002)	Final edition of the ASGC series of correspondence.
<b>Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 2 – Indigenous Structure, July 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 1270.0.55.002)	Boundaries and supporting material defining the various regions used for the release of Indigenous Data.
<b>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), July 2011</b> (ABS cat. no. 1216.0)	Final edition of the ASGC.
<b>Information e Australian Statistical Geography Standard, February 2012</b> (ABS cat. no. 1216.0.55.004)	Information paper discussing ways to convert data collected on the ASGC and other regions on to the ASGS.

## Analytical Services

The Analytical Services Branch is a core analytical unit of ABS and a key contributor to ABS's research and development program. It has responsibility for building analytical capability and related infrastructure, exploring methodology and data sources to develop new analytical products and provide analysis services to producers and users of statistics. In 2011-12, its major areas of focus include development of new methodology for data access and confidentiality and time series analysis, techniques for data linkage, improvement of price index methodology, econometric and statistical modelling, and construction of socio-economic indexes.

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

## Key achievements

Analytical Services works closely with statistical program areas throughout the ABS to identify areas of methodological priority and improvement. Achievements for 2011–12:

- Methodology for temporally aggregating seasonally adjusted series (i.e. producing seasonally adjusted quarterly data from seasonally adjusted monthly data for collections where both frequencies exist) was developed.
- The branch supported the analysis of the statistical impact of booming mining activity on a number of collections. This included investigating the seasonal adjustment of coal export volumes for RBA and considering a number of other coal-related issues where data is still affected by Queensland flood port/mine closures.
- Improved methodology for the automated selection of ARIMA models during the seasonal adjustment process was developed.
- Time series sessions were presented in the Maths in Schools program.
- The branch investigated seasonal adjustment of coal export volumes and other coal related issues from the impact of the Queensland floods.
- A web-based application (Survey TableBuilder - STB) for producing confidentialised population estimates from ABS survey data was released.
- Confidentiality algorithms for key outputs from continuous social data items (totals, means, quartiles and ranges) were developed and integration with STB commenced.
- Automated confidentiality routines for outputs from key analytical models including Linear Robust, Logistic, Binomial, Multinomial, Probit and Poisson were developed. These will be released in the first test release of the Analysis Server in early 2012–13.
- Research was undertaken into the production of synthetic datasets.
- A symposium on the disclosure risk of linked and longitudinal data was hosted.
- Analytical consultancy services were provided to a number of key Australian Government organisations, including on the generation of small area estimates.
- Use of the Expectation–Maximisation (EM) algorithm in ABS data linking exercises was researched and implemented, in addition to providing ongoing support for ABS data linking projects.
- The branch undertook analysis of self-reported and measured Body Mass Index (BMI).
- The use of propensity score matching for causal modelling was investigated.
- Methodological assistance to construct non-dwelling House Price Index (HPI) and investigate other improvements to HPI was provided.
- The methodology for the compilation of the Retail Trade Margin Price Index was peer reviewed.
- The analytical and statistical uses of the Personal Income Tax data were explored.
- The feasibility of constructing spatial price indices using scanner data was explored.
- The branch assisted in the review of the compilation methodology of the Retail Trade Margins Price Index.
- The modelling of the energy consumption gap arising from the under-coverage of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System (NGERS) was completed.

## Enhancing user access to microdata in Australia

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

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

The first stage of REEM, TableBuilder for count estimates from Household survey collections, was released to external users in 2011–12. Currently available datasets include Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2009; Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Nov 2010; and Education and Work, 2011. Progressively through 2012–13, additional datasets will be made available in TableBuilder and additional functionality will be added including the ability to produce key estimates from magnitude data items (such as income) from household survey collections.

In parallel, the development of the first stage of the Analysis Service is underway with the initial version for user testing planned to be released in the first quarter 2012–13. This version will enable users to undertake exploratory data analysis and modelling including Logistic, Linear Robust, Binomial, Multinomial, Probit and Poisson.

## Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<b>'Research Paper: Investigating the Discrepancy between Measured and Self-Reported BMI in the National Health Survey', Methodology Research Papers.</b> (ABS cat. no. 1351.0.55.039)	This paper investigates the reporting errors in height, weight and BMI of Australian adults using the National Nutrition Survey (NNS) 1995 and National Health Survey (NHS) 2007–08. Linear and semi-parametric regressions are used to adjust self-reported BMI in NHS 2007–08, and the resulting BMI distributions are compared with the distributions of measured and self-reported BMI.
<b>'Research Paper: Small Area Estimation with Simulated Samples from the Population Census', Methodology Advisory Committee Papers.</b> (ABS cat. no. 1352.0.55.106)	This paper describes an investigation into the quality of Small Area Estimates (SAEs) of labour force status produced at the Local Government Area using their estimated relative root mean squared errors (RRMSEs) and bias, obtained from a parametric simulation using census labour force status.
<b>'Research Paper: Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas: Robustness, Diversity Within Larger Areas and the New Geography Standard', Methodology Research Papers.</b> (ABS cat. no. 1351.0.55.038)	This paper has three main purposes: to explore the robustness of the SEIFA indexes to the influence of specific variables and areas; to investigate ways of representing the diversity of socio-economic characteristics within larger areas; and to explore the impact of the new geography standard on the indexes.
<b>'Research Paper: Using the EM Algorithm to Estimate the Parameters of the Fellegi-Sunter Model for Data Linking', Methodology Advisory Committee Papers.</b> (ABS cat. no. 1352.0.55.120)	Data linking is the act of linking two or more data files to bring together records which belong to the same individual. This paper reviews and consolidates the existing ABS research into using the EM algorithm to estimate the parameters of the Fellegi–Sunter model used in linking Census data to administrative datasets.
<b>'Research Paper: Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas: Getting a Handle on Individual Diversity Within Areas', Methodology Research Papers.</b> (ABS cat. no. 1351.0.55.036)	This paper explores individual level diversity within areas by creating and analysing two person-based socio-economic indexes: one of relative disadvantage and the other of relative advantage and disadvantage.

## Customer Services

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

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

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

## Key achievements

- The *2012 Year Book Australia*, the 92nd edition, was released. The Year Book provides a valuable source of information on the state of Australia.
- The 'As a Matter of Fact' web page addresses topical social issues more responsively and succinctly. The page provides a quick summary with illustrative graphs.
- ABS.Stat, a new way of presenting statistics which are more searchable, flexible and dynamic, was released.



- Consumer Price Index (CPI) 16th series outputs were released on 26th October 2011. The release saw 40,000 hits per minute on the ABS website.
- An extension of the contract with Universities Australia was signed, with three new Australian universities joining. The contract now includes access to CURFs, Census TableBuilder, Survey TableBuilder, Luxembourg Income Study and New Zealand CURFs.
- There are now active international partnerships with the International Statistical Network – Innovation in Dissemination group. This group is collaborating to solve statistical information technology and dissemination challenges faced by NSOs.
- There has been development and sharing of a number of data visualisations with other government and statistical agencies. Data visualisation is the visual representation of data, presenting statistics in an easy to comprehend format.
- Website improvements such as improved search, new data visualisation templates and a 'print all' facility were implemented.
- The National Information Referral Service provided a high level of integrated support and assistance to Census field operations and has taken on the Census Technical Help Line and the ANZSCO Coder Help line enquiries.
- Strong ongoing business delivery was achieved, with over 800 statistical releases, 9 CURFs, 938 information consultancies (average consultancy = \$1,273), 552 trade data subscribers, numerous training courses and assistance provided to our business partners.





### ABS.Stat

The ABS is always looking to improve discovery, accessibility and relevance of Australia's statistical information. In addition to traditional pre-packaged tables of data in excel and pdf formats on our website, in June 2012, the ABS released a beta version of ABS.Stat, an interactive, free online tool that presents datasets in a searchable, flexible and dynamic way. This beta release allows users to try ABS.Stat and provide feedback, recognising there is still work to be done on enhancing the tool. ABS.Stat can be found at [www.abs.gov.au/abs.stat](http://www.abs.gov.au/abs.stat)

ABS.Stat uses software which has been jointly developed by a consortium of organisations including the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Statistics New Zealand and others.

The tool presents end users with two innovative options, a web browser to view, query and download data and a web service to facilitate machine to machine communication. The web service enables other organisations to interface with ABS.Stat and customise the data in their own environments.

ABS.Stat -

- provides users with efficient and intuitive tools for search and discovery of statistical information on their terms
- supports data and metadata sharing and exchange through the use of international SDMX standards
- facilitates new interactive and customisable web applications
- empowers data by allowing users to access the full range of data.

### 2012 Yearbook Australia

The *2012 Year Book Australia* was launched on 24 May 2012 at the National Library of Australia by award-winning Australian author Libby Gleeson.

The Year Book is the ABS' flagship publication. It contains a comprehensive overview of Australia's geography and climate, the environment, people, government, international relations, defence, education, industry, economy and the health and welfare systems.

The 2011–12 edition also includes feature articles on:

- the National Year of Reading
- the Australian Year of the Farmer
- the International Year of the Co-operatives.

This was the 92nd edition of the ABS Year Book Australia. It is full of interesting and relevant Australian statistical stories.

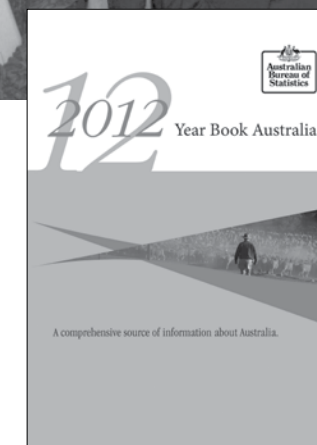
Did you know...?

In support of the National Year of Reading, the ABS found that almost half (46%) of Australians aged 15 and over did not meet the minimum literacy skills required to confidently read a newspaper, follow a recipe or understand the instructions on a medicine bottle.

The *2012 Year Book Australia* as well as previous issues are available on the ABS website or in hardcopy upon request.



Present at the launch of the 2012 Year Book presentation: Merry Branson, Gemma Van Halderen, Brian Pink, Libby Gleeson, Ian Ewing and Trevor Sutton.



## Technology Services

Information and communication technology (ICT) is fundamental to the ABS achieving its mission of leading a high quality and responsive national statistical service. Effective management of information technology allows the ABS to continually improve the access to statistical data and services, while maintaining security and integrity standards.

The Technology Services Division (TSD) supports all areas of the ABS in the delivery of business outcomes through the effective and innovative application of information technology solutions. In 2011–12, TSD continued to support existing ABS programs, while strategically supporting the ABS to meet its future direction and business requirements. TSD provides these services nationally, to staff in the ABS's central and regional offices, to ABS's interviewers who work from home and in the field, and to ABS data providers and clients.

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

### Key projects

Specific projects which TSD worked on during 2011–12 include:

- providing ICT services and systems for the 2011 Agricultural Census
- developing and implementing enabling systems for the Australian Health Survey
- updating the ABS Enterprise Architecture
- undertaking a program of security improvements to meet new business requirements and ICT services
- conducting detailed business analysis and requirements capture and in parallel developing the high level architecture for the prices system improvement project
- assistance with setting up the replacement Human Resource Management system
- providing ICT services and systems for the 2011 Population Census and continued development of dissemination products
- improving productivity of ABS staff through enhanced desktop, video conferencing and mobile capabilities
- conducting a review of ABS Technology Services
- developing a publicly available secure remote execution environment for microdata
- commencing work on the development of the Metadata Registry and Repository and Business Process Management system
- completing a metadata driven tool to support composite datasets for macro editing.

### Key achievements

- TSD delivered and implemented systems and infrastructure to support the Census 2011, resulting in highly successful field enumeration and Data Processing Centre operations. In addition, Census Output systems enabled the first release of 2011 Population Census data in mid-2012.
- TSD has worked with the People@ABS section to integrate, remediate or deactivate a suite of ABS systems to support the implementation of the Oracle Human Resources

(HR) payroll system. This has included the implementation of data migration and systems cutover plans.

- Building on successful execution of the 2011 Agricultural Census web data collection application and associated in-house infrastructure, TSD enhanced the application platform and processes to provide the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), Land Management Practices Survey (LaMPS) and the Household Energy Consumption Survey (HECS) with an accelerated platform for electronic collection.
- TSD led the procurement and implementation of a service management infrastructure that has allowed the creation of a central portal and central phone number of all internal staff services across Corporate Services (HR, Finance, Property), Integrated Collection and Dissemination (Publishing, Field Staff support) and Technology. The centralised service, known as Services@ABS, is based on tools from Computer Associates and was implemented in a little over four months, in December 2011.
- TSD has been instrumental in developing and leading the process to streamline the areas of ABS Capital Investment and ICT Finances. The ABS has moved to a top-down, enterprise approach for strategic investment decision making for its large development projects. The outcomes from this process have been a more efficient allocation of scarce funds to strategic projects, and increased capability for investment planning and decision making at the corporate level. TSD has also simplified the ICT cost models.
- The Security@ABS program was established to provide a coordinated focus on the improvement of ABS's security-in-depth strategy and to look for opportunities to utilise security enhancements as business enablers rather than barriers. The Security@ABS program has successfully achieved more regular IT access audits, new security architecture and the removal of some unsecured legacy protocols from ABS infrastructure

## Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides leadership and strategic support to assist the ABS and its employees to meet business objectives. They provide services direct to employees as well as those which involve a support and coordination role such as policy advice, framework development and internal consultancy. Within an environment of continuous improvement, Corporate Services:

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

## Key achievements

- The implementation of Services@ABS has created a central portal and phone number for all internal staff services across Corporate Services, Integrated Collection and Dissemination Services and Technology Services. This has led to a fundamental change in the way that staff access these services. Services@ABS was successfully implemented in a little over four months in December 2011.
- Three ABS Enterprise Agreements (Office Staff, Interviewers and DPC staff) were successfully negotiated and implemented, each for a term of three years. The organisation is well-placed in terms of contemporary practice.
- The ABS New Starter program was introduced, with a focus on a consistent approach regardless of work stream. This program provides an excellent understanding of the business of the ABS.
- The inaugural Graduate Leadership Program (GLP) was held this year. This program was attended by 20 graduates and focused on leadership with the aim of building the leadership cohort of the future.
- The Senior Executive Leadership Program was established to develop the skills of middle management in relation to thinking differently (strategically), acting differently (considering organisations' complexities) and acting differently.
- Successful relocation of the NSW Office involving fitout of new premises was achieved on time and under budget.

## Chapter 6 National Statistical Service

### Introduction

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

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

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

### The NSS pyramid

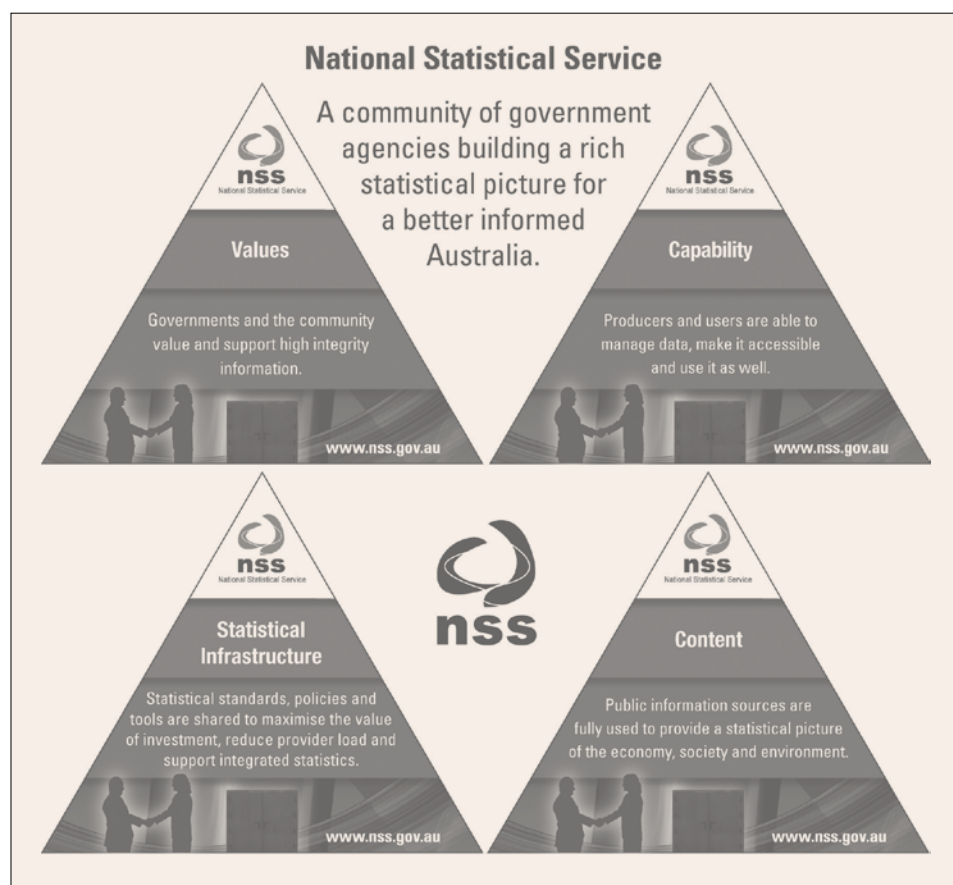
The ABS has identified four essential elements of a successful NSS: valuing statistics, statistical capability, statistical infrastructure and statistical content. The NSS outcomes for each element are:

**Valuing statistics** – Governments and the community value and support high-integrity information.

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

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

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



### National Statistical Service initiatives

Over the course of 2011–12, the ABS has undertaken a range of activities to expand and improve the NSS including preparing for NatStats 2013 and the Essential Statistical Assets (ESA) for Australia initiative.

### Valuing statistics

#### Council of Australian Governments

The ABS has been active in supporting the reporting requirements of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) for the National Agreements on Healthcare, Indigenous Reform, Affordable Housing, Skills and Workforce Development, Education and Disability. These agreements specify the performance outcomes and benchmarks that the Australian, state and territory governments have set.

The ABS is working in collaboration with other agencies across government to refine measures, improve datasets and address data gaps relating to key COAG performance indicators, and to assist with the review of indicator frameworks. Implementation of the new indicators sets will commence in late 2012.

### Strategic engagement with NSS stakeholders

Recognising that enduring partnerships are crucial to building a strong NSS, the ABS has continued on a program of strategic engagement and staff outposts with key stakeholders. Activities undertaken as part of this program include bilateral discussions with Commonwealth and state governments, as well as increasing the coordination and strategic focus of existing forums. In addition to developing strong relationships with NSS partners, the engagement has led to the identification of opportunities for increased collaboration and progression of NSS priorities across government.

### NatStats 2013 Conference

Building on the passion and enthusiasm generated throughout the previous NatStats conferences in 2010 and 2008, in 2011–12 the ABS has commenced preparations for hosting the third NatStats conference in 2013, coinciding with the 'International Year of Official Statistics'.

The overall theme for NatStats 2013 is 'A better informed Australia: the role of statistics in building the nation'. The conference will discuss what nation building means to Australia, and how statistics are critical in informing the decisions which shape our future. Senior staff from policy departments, academia, community organisations and the private sector as well as key international speakers will be invited to provide their perspectives on the role of statistics in building Australia through informed decision making.

The conference will focus on the opportunities and challenges of big data (administration/transactional, web 2.0, international and emerging datasets) to inform decision making in the social wellbeing, economic (from the perspective of productivity) and environment domains. The conference intends to address these challenges and devise strategies to overcome them.

During the conference, speakers will highlight innovative uses of big data to assist in decision making in community planning, infrastructure development, business and government policy.

### Developing statistical capability

#### Statistical governance

#### Australian Statistics Advisory Council

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) is the ABS's key advisory body and has a diverse membership covering government, business, academic and community interests. ASAC provides valuable input to the directions and priorities of the ABS work program including statistical capability and reports annually to Parliament. During 2011–12, ASAC were consulted on the strategic directions for the Census of Population and Housing program and the identification of the ESA for Australia initiative. Furthermore, ASAC also discussed data integration, the collection and coordination of firm level data, statistical confidentiality issues, environmental-economic accounting and the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey. Consistent with their legislated mandate, the Council was also briefed on a range of strategic directions of the ABS work program.

## State Statistical Forum

Each year the ABS hosts two meetings of the State Statistical Forum (SSF), with the state and territory government members of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council coming together to discuss their statistical priorities, with an emphasis on regional data issues. During 2011–12 the SSF continued to focus on previously agreed priority areas: improving statistics about Indigenous Australians; children and youth statistics; and demographic and economic development measures at the local level. In addition, the SSF identified and discussed emerging priority themes relating to geospatially enabling data, statistical data integration and government performance reporting. The forum also considered the strategies to support the increasing demand to build statistical capability across state and territory governments.

## Australian Government Statistical Forum

The Australian Government Statistical Forum (AGSF) brings together senior staff of Australian government agencies who are important partners in the NSS. The forum aims to: promote NSS initiatives among agencies; identify and promote partnerships and collaborations; and encourage best practice in data collection and management. The AGSF meets biannually to discuss key national and international statistical developments. During 2011–12, the meetings considered a number of issues and initiatives around the following themes: statistical developments and whole-of-government approach to enhancing the NSS; and whole-of-government approaches to unlocking the statistical potential of public data assets.

## Australian Community Indicators Network

In the past decade there has been strong and growing interest in community indicators across governments and communities at all levels. The Australian Community Indicators Network (ACIN) has been established by a group of professionals working in this field and aspires to build a national dialogue and knowledge base across community indicator policy, research and practice. With the support of ABS, the ACIN has held a number of seminar events to share information on community indicator development and applications. The seminar recordings can be found on the NSS website.

## Other initiatives to progress statistical capability

### Rethinking statistics

In 2011–12, the ABS developed and piloted a one-day master training workshop for executives. Called 'Rethinking Statistics', the workshop presents the changing role of statistics and the importance of developing relationships between data users and producers to improve evidence based policy decision making. The aim of the workshop is to put policy into statistics and statistics into policy. The workshop was developed based on an OECD program.

The pilot program involved eight workshops attended by over 200 participants for selected Australian, and state and territory clients. It was successful in progressing a number of NSS themes including: building statistical capability, and valuing the role of statistics across the policy cycle. The program also provided an excellent forum for ABS staff to understand the policy process and to engage directly with, and develop networks across Australian and state and territory agencies. Given the success of the pilot the Rethinking Statistics program will form part of the broader statistical capability and external engagement programs in 2013.

## ABS officer outposts

The ABS outposts statistical officers in selected Australian and state and territory government agencies to assist in ensuring a strong and effective working relationship between the ABS and other government agencies. One of the primary objectives of the outposts is to develop statistical capability in government agencies, and to improve understanding and use of statistics. During 2011–12, the outposted officers network was integrated into the NSS work program to improve strategic coordination. Outposted officers have also been actively involved in host agencies, undertaking activities including promotion of relevant training courses including 'Rethinking Statistics' and 'Meeting the statistical needs of policy', developing and conducting targeted training, and developing networks of data users and producers in host agencies.

For a full list of ABS outposted officers please refer to Table 8.10.

## Statistical training

Statistical training forms a key element of the ABS strategy to enhance the statistical capability of those who need to collect data, manage their own data holdings, or analyse and communicate data. During 2011–12, the National Statistical Training Institute within the ABS conducted 66 training sessions, which were attended by 630 participants, mostly from government.

Complementing the formal training program is a suite of web-based resources known as Understanding Statistics. During the year, these resources were expanded to include the new Statistical Language pages that contain animations and non-technical descriptions to help explain a range of important statistical concepts.

In 2011–12 there was an increased demand for customised statistical capability training solutions to align with agency needs. Two courses were developed and delivered to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

## Statistical infrastructure

### ABS 2017

In late 2011 the Australian Statistician announced the establishment of the new ABS 2017 Group. ABS 2017 seeks to transform Australia's official statistical system to provide a better evidence base for more complex decision making by Australian governments and the community, and to grow the ABS business.

ABS 2017 will position the ABS to continue the delivery of ongoing statistical services and work programs, while also providing the impetus to progress the business and information transformation to deliver the ABS of the future. This Group is leading a 'big step' transformation that will change the way ABS collects, collates, manages, uses, reuses and disseminates statistical information. This will provide the foundation for the establishment of an environment in which Australian governments and the community can more easily find, access, and combine statistical information.

The core of the initiative involves the introduction of a robust information management framework and supporting infrastructure in the ABS, primarily through transforming the 2016 Census to be primarily a digital census. In later phases, the program will also seek to position ABS to provide specialist statistical and information management expertise backed by supporting infrastructure to assist other government agencies.

## ABS statistical data integration

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

Data integration offers enormous potential for enriching Australia's statistical resources by making better use of data already collected as a by-product of the administrative processes of government. It will enable significant cost-effective improvements in evidence-based advice, while limiting the reporting burden placed on data providers. Well organised and integrated datasets, with supporting analytical capacity, have the potential to provide new insights for policy, highlighting key issues for government response. For example, key integrated datasets have the potential to provide information on the short and long-term impacts of policy across Australian businesses, population groups and geographic areas. They could inform initiatives such as the COAG performance indicators, matching government services with areas of need relevant to social inclusion policies, and identifying issues within the health system.

While the potential gains in terms of statistics and evidence-based policy making are substantial, there are considerable privacy and confidentiality implications, which need to be carefully managed. In 2010, Australian Government Portfolio Secretaries endorsed a set of high-level principles for data integration involving Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes, as well as a set of governance and institutional arrangements to support these principles. The implementation of these governance and institutional arrangements continues to be a key focus of the Australian Government and ABS data integration activities.

The ABS has continued to support these arrangements through direct input to the Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board. The Board was established to oversee the establishment of a safe and effective environment for data integration involving Australian Government data and is chaired by the Australian Statistician.

The ABS has also continued to release a range of resources and information sheets relating to statistical data integration and confidentiality, as part of the best practice guidelines. These and other resources to support a safe and effective environment for statistical data integration involving Australian Government data are available on the NSS website.

## Data Quality Online

The ABS has been assisting in developing the data framework for the quality statements of the Council of Australian Governments National Agreement performance indicators. An online assistant was first designed and launched in March 2010 to help data suppliers apply the framework when preparing data quality statements, and also contains a Data Quality Online (DQO) 'general stream' to facilitate broader use by government agencies for assessing data quality for decision making.

This free tool, to encourage data collectors and custodians to declare and publicise quality declarations statements relating to their data, is available on the National Statistical Service website ([www.nss.gov.au](http://www.nss.gov.au)). It is based on a series of prompting questions for each of the seven quality dimensions.

In 2011–12, a Statistical Quality Management portal was established on the ABS website to support a wider range of user groups within understanding ABS statistical quality practices. This complements the data quality resources (including DQO) that are available on the NSS website.

## Statistical Clearing House

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

The SCH pays particular attention to eliminating duplication and ensuring that business surveys conducted by Australian Government agencies follow sound statistical methodologies and practices. In 2011–12, there were 145 surveys submitted to the SCH for clearance. Of these, 88 were in scope for SCH review, 38 were 'Out of scope', 13 were classified as 'In scope – not to be reviewed' and 6 were cancelled by agencies after submission. Of the 88 surveys in scope, 60 were approved and 28 were in various stages of review at the end of June 2012. A total of 71 surveys were approved in 2011–12 including 11 surveys submitted in the previous financial year. Surveys categorised as 'In scope – not to be reviewed' are those where the respondent burden is minimal, and total time taken to complete the survey is considered low.

The SCH is a successful NSS initiative in improving statistical coordination and reducing provider burden. In 2010–11, the SCH undertook a review to seek feedback on improving the SCH approval process and awareness of its role. The recommendations of the review were endorsed by the SCH Advisory Forum in December 2010. Outcomes from the review, which have been implemented during 2011–12, include:

- implementation of electronic submission of survey approval requests and improved management reporting
- strengthening relationships across Commonwealth agencies
- seeking government support for future establishment of a Household Survey Clearing House.

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

## Statistical content

### Essential Statistical Assets for Australia

In November 2010, the ASAC endorsed the ABS, as part of its legislated role to coordinate the provision of official statistics across the National Statistical Service, to '... set out to identify, in a highly consultative way, the Essential Statistical Assets for Australia, regardless of which organisations produce them'. Over 2011–12, the ABS developed a preliminary list to provide a springboard for consultation with the community and stakeholders who produce and/or use official statistics, in order to identify those statistics considered essential for the nation.

The purpose of the list is to separate the core set of essential statistical assets from the number of other official statistics generated by governments and use it to prioritise investment in statistical assets. This broader set of statistics is still important and will continue to be produced, managed and subject to investment, but the ESA for Australia list will inform those essential for ongoing investment for yielding the greatest benefit.

In May 2012, the ABS released a consultation paper and the preliminary list for feedback. The ABS is consulting with stakeholders in 2012 through a combination of approaches including direct contact with stakeholders and via a range of existing discussion forums. The potential outcomes from undertaking such an initiative have been discussed as part of the Australian Statistician's regular engagement process with a range of heads of government agencies at the Australian, state and territory level, and has been met with a strong degree of support.

### Regional Australia – positioning Australia with geography and place

The demand for location information to inform policy and program delivery is rapidly increasing across governments. The emerging commitment to regional Australia has presented an important opportunity for governments to review how location information is created, managed, shared and used to establish clear priorities to guide future planning and decision-making.

The ABS has always made a significant contribution to positioning Australia with geography and place, including the Census, which is arguably the most widely used regional data source in the country. In 2011–12, the ABS released the 2011 Census data and a new geographic standard based on a common spatial unit, the mesh block. Demand for common spatial units and regional data has been increasing and ABS has been leading efforts to bring the spatial and statistical communities together, as well as support the ongoing development of relevant regional statistics. The ABS has also developed a new partnership with the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport to ensure that future statistical developments are relevant to regional policy needs.

The ABS drives regional statistics development nationally through its Rural and Regional Statistics program and Geography program, as well as through State and Territory Statistical Service areas. Many areas of ABS also contribute on particular areas of regional data interest (across environment, economic and social statistics).

In 2011 the Australian Government stated in the APS 200 Location Project report that 'there is a need for sound, accurate, location-based information to support strategic decision making and policy delivery' and that 'the full potential of the Australian Government's investment in information is not fully realised, as it cannot be consistently integrated and analysed through a location context'. The ABS is represented on the APS200 Location Project and fully supports the need to enhance the use of Australian Government data sets for regional analysis relevant to regional policy and service provision. The ABS is leading the development of a Statistical Spatial Framework, and has made a strong contribution to socio-economic standards for spatial analysis through the release of the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard.

Many of the data sets that the ABS has been identifying as sources of 'Essential Statistical Assets for Australia' are also important administrative data sets (held by Australian Government agencies) which have potential to provide regional data and some already do so. The ABS is working with these agencies to build coherent spatial geo-coding capability and to unlock the potential to use these administrative datasets to meet regional information needs.

## Chapter 7 International engagement

### Introduction

The ABS International Relations Strategy (2010) provides the strategic direction for international engagement and is mandated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975. One of the ABS's functions is to 'provide liaison between Australia, on the one hand, and other countries and international organisations, on the other hand, in relation to statistical matters' (section 6(f)). The ABS engages internationally for three distinct purposes:

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

During 2011–12, the ABS International Relations Strategy expanded, building on the progress of the previous year. ABS increased its focus on building capability in the Asia-Pacific region and continues to lead development work in statistical standards and methodology within the global statistical community. The strong contribution of the ABS to international engagement in 2011–12 can be summarised as follows:

ABS executive and senior personnel chaired and actively participated in key international committees and working groups, providing leadership, influencing global statistical standards and assisting regional outcomes.

- ABS executive and senior personnel chaired and actively participated in key international committees and working groups, providing leadership, influencing global statistical standards and assisting regional outcomes.
- ABS has continued the partnership with AusAID to deliver statistical development programs for Indonesia and the Pacific. In 2011–12, ABS delivered a number of leadership and technical capability programs both in country and through hosting development visits.
- ABS was successful in partnering with AusAID in a new program to support the National Directorate of Statistics (NDS) in Timor-Leste. The General Statistics Office of Vietnam is also seeking ABS partnership to support the implementation of their Statistical Development Strategy 2011–20
- The ABS hosted 17 International Development Study visits from a range of countries in the Asia-Pacific and African regions, an increase from 13 visits hosted by the ABS in the previous year.
- The ABS has developed an International Relations Engagement Framework to assist in bringing the ABS International Relations Strategy into operation, to capture a whole-of-ABS perspective, and to facilitate progress.

## Influencing the development of international statistical standards and setting the direction for the future

The growing importance of comparable regional data in the global economy is driving increasing demand to produce high quality, timely and consistent statistics. To meet these needs, ABS is co-ordinating an international collaboration initiative (the Statistical Network), with the vision of ‘... timelier, more trustworthy, and lower cost statistical information measuring new components of the society, economy, and environment, telling a richer story of our countries’ progress’.

The Network’s intention is to collaborate with other National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) to co-design and co-develop projects aligned with the vision. These projects aim to harmonise statistical methods, systems, and capabilities across international statistical institutions. Combining resources and effort to develop these projects will ensure that NSOs can benefit from the work done by the Network while incurring lower overall costs.

In 2011–12, the Statistical Network consisted of six ongoing members – Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden – as well as two new members, Italy and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). During the year the Network refined the program of activities to focus on the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM) and the dissemination (.stat) projects.



Australian Statistician with Simil Johnson, Government Statistician Vanuatu and Douglas Kimi, Government Statistician Solomon Islands included Dennis Farrell Pacific Mentor and Roksana Khan – Director International Relations ABS May 2012

## Development of GSIM

The GSIM is a cornerstone of the international collaborative effort to industrialise official statistics. In 2011–12, the ABS undertook a number of concentrated workshops to accelerate the development of the GSIM. This resulted in the production of a draft model which has extensive detail, is aligned to the relevant standards and has gained support from the wider official statistical community. An internationally agreed business plan was delivered, drawing on the outcomes of the Sprints, which sets out work plans and resourcing to have the production GSIM V1.0 delivered by December 2012.

## Leadership in Statistical Disclosure and Control

The ABS continues to play a leadership role in Statistical Disclosure and Control for Population Census internationally. ABS is currently providing leadership support and assistance to NSOs wishing to use this methodology to maintain data confidentiality for dynamic data access tools like TableBuilder.

In a meeting in Luxembourg from 16–20 April 2012, the ABS demonstrated a newly developed process of confidentialising ABS Census information to reduce the risk of identifying individual respondents (perturbation) and showed how this is used in the ABS TableBuilder product. There was significant international interest in the approach and a number of statistical organisations expressed strong interest in utilising this methodology. ABS will provide an information pack and provide assistance to NSOs wishing to trial the methodology.

## Human Development Index (HDI)

Peter Harper (Deputy Australian Statistician) is the Chair of the United Nations Statistics Commission (UNSC) Expert Group on the Human Development Index (HDI). He made a significant contribution during 2011 to improving transparency and rigour in the methodology and data sources used for the compilation of the HDI. As part of the consultation with NSOs, the ABS reviewed the proposed Australian data sources for the 2012 Human Development Report and provided feedback to the Human Development Report Office.

## Updated Handbook on household income standards and guidelines

The ABS played a leading role in the update of the Handbook, fulfilling both the Chair and Editor roles for the Task Force to provide a consolidated reference for those involved in producing, disseminating or analysing income distribution statistics. The ABS-led work culminated in the *Canberra Group Handbook on Household Income Statistics* 2nd edition, published in January 2012 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The Handbook is available on the UNECE website.

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

There has been significant achievement in various areas of the ABS International Relations Strategy. The ABS has continued high-level participation with key organisations to ensure better practice and continuous improvement, by investing in these processes and by championing collaboration. Our strong relationships with the UNSC, the OECD Committee on Statistics and the ECE Conference of European Statisticians continued this year along with participation in various working groups and taskforces.



### OECD Expert Group on Household Income, Consumption and Wealth Statistics

The ABS took the lead for an OECD Expert Group on Household Income, Consumption and Wealth Statistics, established by the OECD's Committee of Statistics (CSTAT) in early 2011. The ABS drove the planning for the key deliverables of the Expert Group, which will take the form of two publications:

- standards and guidelines for micro statistics on household wealth
- an integrated framework for household income, consumption and wealth statistics.

### United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

During 2011–12 the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) was chaired by the ABS. A key aspect of the work of UNCEEA has been to develop the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) as an international statistical standard. UNCEEA is responsible for oversight of international activities in the emerging statistical field of environmental-economic accounting and Australia plays a strategic role in UNCEEA-related activities. ABS experts have participated actively in the work of the Committee and its subgroups, including the SEEA Editorial Board. Australia is a world leader in the area of environmental-economic accounting frameworks and measurement.

### Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) acts as a forum to influence the development of international standards. Many developing countries face difficulties in implementing the major international statistical standards, to the detriment of economic and social development. To be more influential, the region must better understand the common problems and develop solutions for these problems. The Australian Statistician chaired the Committee on Statistics during 2011–12, leading a program of improvements. With support from member countries, the committee agreed on the following resolutions as a strategy for statistical capacity development in Asia and the Pacific:

- improving vital statistics and civil registration in Asia and the Pacific
- reaching agreement on a core set of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

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

The position that ABS holds internationally brings with it a responsibility to provide assistance and leadership, particularly to our neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region. Therefore technical assistance for statistical agencies in developing countries is an important part of the ABS's international relations activities. A goal of the ABS's international engagement program is to ensure that Australia's neighbours have sufficient and reliable statistical indicators for their governments to make sound decisions on the economy, society and the environment, and for their citizens to have sufficient information to participate in the democratic process.

The ABS provides a mix of intensive support to particular countries in the region, including hosting development visits from countries that are keen to learn about particular topics including methodological techniques, stakeholder management, statistical processes, international standards and leadership and governance models. The ABS development program aims to transfer both knowledge and practical skills.

### Indonesia Program

Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS), the Central Statistics Agency Indonesia, is developing its statistical capability through a major change program called Change and Reform for the Development of Statistics. The ABS program of technical assistance in key areas is designed to assist the Agency in key areas to help BPS achieve its change and development objectives. The program is designed and developed with the senior management of BPS and is a mix of building statistical capability and leadership and people development initiatives. It includes:

- Leadership and Institutional Strengthening – leadership, management and governance support from the ABS.
- Economic Statistics Integration – support to integrate the current separate registers into a central business register.
- Labour and Welfare Surveys – providing advice on the management and training of a professional interviewer workforce and methodological input on survey processing and weighting.
- Human Resources Capacity Building – sharing training materials for induction, people management and statistical courses.



*Dr Suryamin, Chief Statistician, Dr Supryanto, Head of National Accounts, Mr Eri Hastato, Chief Operating Officer – Central Statistics Agency – Indonesia and Mr Brian Pink, Australian Statistician, Mr Trevor Sutton, Deputy Australian Statistician, Mr Dennis Farrell, Senior Leadership Mentor, during a Leadership Session at the ABS May 2012.*

## Pacific Program

The ABS is supporting a program of capability and statistical development in partnership with a number of agencies in the Pacific. A workshop in 2011, Leading a National Statistical Office, was the foundation for ABS key statistical support for Pacific national statistics offices, support which was delivered during 2011–12 as part of a three-year program.

- International Comparison Program (ICP) Pacific-providing assistance to the 2011 ICP through involvement on the ICP Executive Board, and the Asia-Pacific Regional Advisory Board; developing a strategy that enables involvement of Pacific countries in the ICP for the first time
- Leadership and Institutional Strengthening – supporting Government Statisticians of Pacific NSOs in establishing organisational initiatives and promoting the principles of official statistics
- Statistical Capacity Building – building capacity of Pacific NSOs in key statistical areas including Vitals, Government Finance, Prices (CPI and ICP) and International Trade and Investment statistics
- Supporting Bilateral Partner Organisation – supporting the work of a sustainable national statistical service in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in providing reliable and timely statistical data
- Regional Statistical Service Support – ensuring Pacific Island countries have a Regional Statistical Service that is able to provide high quality advice and assistance to NSOs in conducting statistical work.



*Pacific Leadership and Mentoring Workshop Canberra November 2011*

## International development study visits

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

*Table 7.1: International development visits 2011–12*

Date	International Development Visits	Topic	Location
4-8 June 2012	General Statistics Office, Vietnam	Statistical Development Strategy - IT application and development, Enterprise and Trade Statistics, Methodology development	Canberra
17-20 April 2012	Cambodia National Institute of Statistics	Prices, Business Register Unit, Statistical Capability and Human Resources Development & Data Acquisition and Collection	Canberra
5-9 March 2012	Uganda Bureau of Statistics	Agricultural Statistics, National Accounts & Environmental Accounts	Canberra and Hobart
2-5 February 2012	Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia	Data Quality	Canberra
4-6 October 2011	Department of Statistics, Malaysia	Methodology and data quality of short term and annual statistics on the services sector	Sydney
11-12 October 2011	The State Administration of Foreign Exchange, China	Balance of Payments compilation and dissemination	Canberra
2-5 September 2011	The Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics, Taiwan	Statistical metadata management and Consumer Price Index	Canberra and Sydney
12-13 September 2011	Department of Statistics, Malaysia	Development of dissemination systems and microdata dissemination issues	Canberra
11-14 July 2011	Department of Statistics, Malaysia and Malaysian Industrial Development Authority	International Trade in Services Statistics	Canberra

## Timor-Leste Program

A scoping study undertaken by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in November 2010 recommended a review of the Consumer Price Index to reflect contemporary circumstances in the context of significant economic and social development in Timor-Leste since 2001. The ABS agreed in 2011–12 to assist the NDS in Timor-Leste in two statistical priority areas:

- reviewing and re-weighting of the Consumer Price Index
- technical assistance and mentoring for the Business Activity Survey.

In 2011 the ABS supported the NDS in establishing the first-ever business activity survey in Timor-Leste in respect of reference year 2010. This was assisted by some funding from the Asian Development Bank. The results of the survey have fed into the compilation of production-based estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) for Timor-Leste, and have also been used for some components of the expenditure-based estimates of GDP. The results were launched by the Timor-Leste Ministry of Finance in January 2012.

## International Positions held by ABS Officers

ABS executive staff participated in several multilateral committees in the Asia-Pacific region and chaired/co-chaired four of these, including the Australian Statistician chairing the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The ABS also participated in other regional activities in the Asia-Pacific region including the 4th Meeting of the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee and regular engagement with other National Statistical Offices in the region, for example BPS (Statistics Indonesia).

Table 7.2: International positions held by ABS officers 2011–12

Name	Position	Organisation
Brian Pink	Chair	United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC);
	Vice Chair	OECD Committee on Statistics (CSTAT);
	Chair	Statistics Committee, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP);
	Member	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Conference of European Statisticians (UNECE CES);
Ian Ewing	Member	International ICP Executive Board;
Trevor Sutton	Chair of Governing Board	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) Governing Council
	Member	Taskforce Committee on Improvement of Vital Statistics and Civil Registrations in Asia-Pacific
Peter Harper	Chair	United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting
	Member	Human Development Report, Statistical Advisory Panel
Siu-Ming Tam	Member	International Statistical Institute
	Editor	International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS)
Michael Davies	Member	The Bureau of the OECD Working Party on National Accounts
	Member	The Advisory Expert Group of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA)
	Member	The IMF Committee on Balance of Payments (BOPCOM)
	Member	The IMF Government Finance Statistics (GFS) Advisory Committee
	Member	Pacific Statistics Steering Committee
Bob McColl	Chair	OECD Expert Group on Micro Level Household Income, Consumption and Wealth
Jacky Hodges	Member	Steering Committee for Agricultural Statistics (SGAS) under the joint ESCAP (Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, FAO (Food & agricultural organisation) ADB (Asia Development Bank)
	Member	FAO (Food & agricultural organisation)
	Member	ADB (Asia Development Bank)
Bernard Williams	Chair	OECD Working Party of International Trade in Goods and Trade in Services Statistics (WPTGS)
Judy Henson	Secretariat	International Comparison Program for Asia and the Pacific
Michael Smedes	Chair	ESCAP – Committee on Building Capacity in Economic Statistics
Gemma Van Halderen	Chair/Co Chair	Technical Advisory Group (TAG-SS) Social Statistics, Statistics Committee, ESCAP

## Chapter 8

### Key performance indicators

The ABS is required to report against the outcome and key performance indicators specified in the 2011–12 Portfolio Budget Statements, presented to the Parliament in May 2011.

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

*Table 8.1: Outcome and key performance indicators for the ABS*

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

## 1. An objective statistical service as demonstrated by:

### 1.1 Release of reliable and accurate statistics

To ensure the continued high-level accuracy of our statistics, the ABS continues to conduct reviews and implement risk mitigation strategies to ensure that survey methodologies and processes are sound, and any weaknesses are addressed. During 2011–12, the ABS implemented a range of measures aimed at maintaining a low incidence of statistical errors.

Reviews in progress during 2011–12 include a review of the process of Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) production; review of the Economic Units Model; a review of the Producer and International Trade Price Index program; and a review of Government Finance Statistics coinciding with the implementation of new international standards.

Throughout 2011–12, the ABS continued a systematic process for assuring the quality of business surveys and household surveys. The strategy, which is known as 'quality gates', involves explicit assessment of the statistical risks at strategic points of the survey process. A program of introduction of quality gates across all business surveys was active in 2011–12, and will continue into 2012–13.

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

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

#### Measure Relative standard errors

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

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

Publication	Indicator	RSE (%)	RSE (%)	RSE (%)
		2011-12	2010-11	2009-10
<i>Retail Trade, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8501.0)	Total turnover for the retail industry, Australia	0.8	0.7	0.7
<i>Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5625.0)	Actual private new capital expenditure, Australia	1.1	2.5	2.4
<i>Business Indicators, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5676.0)	Company gross operating profit, Australia	1.1	1.1	1.9
<i>Building Activity, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8752.0)	Value of building work done, Australia	0.7	0.7	0.7
<i>Average Weekly Earnings, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6302.0)	Full-time adult ordinary time earnings, Australia	0.8	0.7	0.8
<i>Job Vacancies, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6354.0)	Job vacancies, Australia	5.2	4.7	5.3
<i>Labour Force Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6202.0)	Total number of persons employed (aged 15 and over), Australia	0.4	0.4	0.3

(a) RSEs are presented for surveys conducted in respect of the reference periods for 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12.

The reduction in RSEs in the Capital Expenditure and Business Indicators estimates over the past couple of years is largely a result of a change in the method behind sizing businesses, which leads to a more efficient sample design.

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

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

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

Publication	Indicator	RSE (%)	RSE (%) for comparable indicator in selected country	
		Australia	New Zealand	United States of America
<i>Retail Trade, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8501.0)	Total turnover for the retail industry, Australia	0.8	1.0	0.9
<i>Labour Force Survey</i> (ABS cat. no. 6202.0)	Total number of persons employed (aged 15 and over), Australia	0.6	1.1	0.1

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

(b) Source: Statistics New Zealand: Household Labour Force Survey: June 2012 quarter ([www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz))

(c) Source: US Bureau of Census Monthly Retail Trade Survey ([www.census.gov/mrts/www/data/text/nrelys.txt](http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/data/text/nrelys.txt))

(d) Source: Bureau of Labour Statistics Current Population Survey ([www.bls.gov/bls/empstquickguide.htm](http://www.bls.gov/bls/empstquickguide.htm))

## 1.2 Transparent statistical process

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

The key forum for peer expert review of methodological developments in the ABS is the Methodological Advisory Committee (MAC). MAC meets twice a year, and consists of professional statisticians, economic and social analysts external to the ABS, from universities and other research organisations. Most MAC papers are published on the ABS website, where they can be located from the Methods & Classifications page. Topics presented in the past year include constructing error bands for mortality rates using simulation; models for stable estimation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population; using the EM-algorithm to estimate the parameters of the Fellegi-Sunter model for data linking; and automated ARIMA model selection for aiding filter-based seasonal adjustment.

## 1.3 Trust and cooperation of providers

The ABS recognises its obligation to respondents in statistical collections. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires the ABS to publish and disseminate compilations and analysis of statistical information, and to maintain the confidentiality of information collected under the Act. The ABS meets the confidentiality requirements of the Act by ensuring that information provided is securely maintained, used only for statistical purposes, and used only in aggregated tables and unidentifiable micro data files to support research and analysis. In addition, the ABS ensures that identifying information provided by a household is not revealed.

### ABS Surveys Charter

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

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

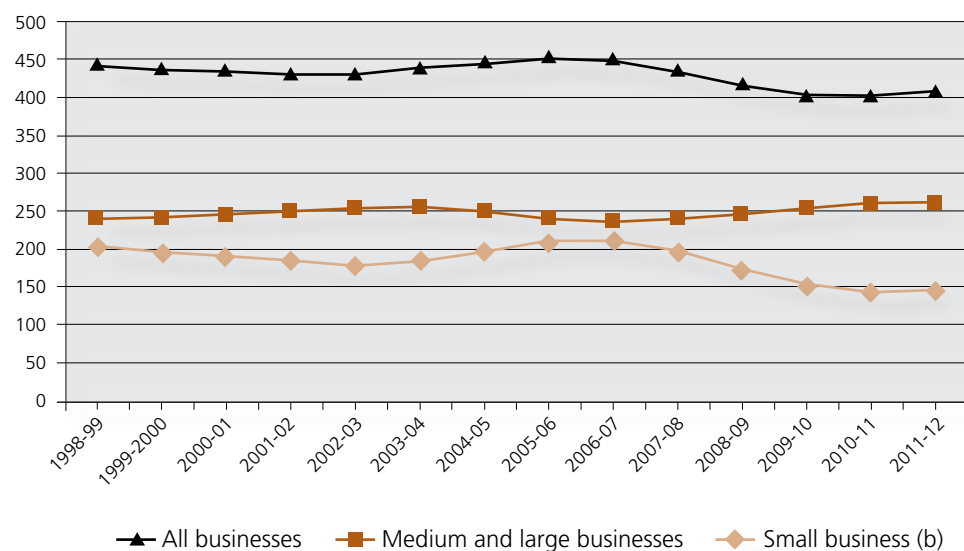
The ABS Surveys Charter is available on the ABS website at [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au). Translation services are also available.

#### Measure: Provider load in business surveys

In 2011-12, the total number of hours taken by all ABS providers to complete all ABS business survey forms was 471,000 hours, an increase of 94 hours since 2010-11. This increase was due to the five-yearly Agricultural Census which was conducted in 2011-12.

Provider load figures from 1997-98 to 2011-12 have been calculated using an 11-term Henderson moving average to reveal the underlying trend. This process smooths the effect of irregular and regular contributors to provider load, such as the five-yearly Agricultural Census last conducted in 2011-12. As shown in Figure 11.1, total provider load for all businesses increased only slightly in 2011-12.

Figure 11.2 Provider load (a)



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

(b) Businesses with less than 20 employees.

**Measure: Response rates for selected surveys**

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

The excellent response rates for most selected business collections can be attributed to the high regard the business community has for the ABS, and the follow-up procedures used by the ABS to help providers.

Every business selected for an ABS survey, whether large or small, plays an important role in contributing to ABS statistics at the national and state and territory level. Each one represents a number of other businesses with similar characteristics to their own, which is why every response is important.

Maintaining high response rates is also a major focus for the household survey program. This is becoming more and more difficult due to the increased tendency for all members of the household to be working away from home, and hence not available for interview.

Nevertheless, the ABS continues to achieve very high response rates for both household and business surveys, as shown in Table 8.4.

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

Table 8.4 Response rates for selected surveys (a)

	Target response rate (%) (b)	Final Response rate 2011-12 (%)	Final Response rate 2010-11 (%)	Final Response rate 2009-10 (%)
<b>Business Surveys</b>				
Retail Business Survey	95	95 (c)	95 (c)	96 (c)
Quarterly Business Indicators Survey	85	91 (c)	90 (c)	90 (c)
Capital Expenditure Survey	90	94 (c)	94 (c)	94 (c)
Economic Activity Survey	90	86	89	89
Survey of Tourist Accommodation	90	93 (c)	90 (c)	92 (c)
Business Characteristics Survey	95	95	95	93
Vineyards Survey	85	88	88	(d)
Survey of Average Weekly Earnings	98	98 (c)	97 (c)	97 (c)
Survey of International Trade in Services	90	95 (c)	95 (c)	96 (c)
<b>Household Surveys</b>				
Labour Force Survey	97	96	97	97
Multi-purpose Household Survey	83 (d)	80 (d)	87 (d)	87 (d)
Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children	89	(e)	86	88
General Social Survey	85	(f)	88	(f)
National Health Survey	90	85	(f)	(f)
National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey	90	76	(f)	(f)
Survey Income and Housing	85	81	(f)	88
Survey of Disability and Carers	89	(e)	(f)	90
Household Expenditure Survey	75	(f)	(f)	76
Pensioner Household Expenditure Survey	75	(f)	(f)	72

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

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

(c) Average response rate over the year.

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

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

(f) Survey not conducted during the year.

**Measure: Provider correspondence**

The majority of businesses and households selected in ABS surveys understand and support the need for high quality statistics. Only a very small percentage (less than 0.3%) of the 200,000 businesses and 150,000 households selected in ABS surveys each year write to the ABS to question or complain about their participation in an ABS survey.

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

For 2011-12, the ABS received a total of 670 queries or complaints from businesses. This is a decrease of 162 (19.5%) compared to the number reported for the previous year.

The majority of these approaches to the ABS were businesses seeking exemption from the requirement of ongoing participation in the ABS Business Survey Program. The ABS does at times provide general exemptions from surveys to certain small businesses in exceptional circumstances. Providers are also granted temporary exemptions on compassionate grounds.

The ABS received 609 requests for exemption during 2011–12, of which 169 compassionate and 68 general exemptions from surveys were granted. The remaining 372 requests were denied as they failed to meet the ABS exemption criteria.

Eighteen complaints about business surveys were submitted to the ABS Complaints Review Officer. The majority of complaints to the ABS Complaints Review Officer were a second request for exemption after the first had been denied. In responses to businesses, the ABS advises that the ABS Complaints Review Officer can be contacted if the business is not satisfied with the outcome.

**Table 8.5: Total number of business and household survey providers, and total direct written correspondence received, 2011–12**

	Number of businesses and households selected	Number of written correspondence direct to ABS	Percentage of businesses and households that queried or complained to the ABS
Business surveys and censuses	200,000	670	<0.4%
Household surveys	150,000	119	<0.1%

**Table 8.6: Written correspondence from businesses and households selected in ABS surveys, 2011–12**

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Correspondence directly to ABS – Total Numbers (a)</b>				
Business surveys and censuses	627	791 (b)	829	670 (a)
Requests for exemption (e)			779	609
Other complaints and queries (e)			50	61
Household surveys	14	49	73	119
Requests for exemption (e)			23	45
Other complaints and queries (e)			50	74

(a) Excludes correspondence to politicians (ministerial correspondence). These are detailed in table 8.7.

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

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

**Table 8.7: Correspondence to politicians (Ministerial correspondence), 2011–12**

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Letters to politicians				
Business surveys and censuses	5	12	3	3
Household surveys	14	31	23	34

#### Measure: Provider correspondence resolution

Every item of provider correspondence is responded to either in writing or by telephone contact as outlined in the ABS Surveys Charter. Performance against the standards for managing correspondence from businesses is summarised below in Table 8.8.

**Table 8.8: Performance against ABS Surveys Charter complaint resolution standards for 2011–12: targets and actual performance**

Performance standard – responding to correspondence from businesses	Target (weeks)	Actual performance (average weeks)	Actual performance (% of total where target achieved)
Sent written acknowledgement	1	Less than 1	98%
Sent written advice of outcome	4	3.3	77%

Note: 59% of all correspondence was responded to within 3 weeks of receipt for 2011-12.

#### Measure: Notices of Direction and prosecution actions

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

Under section 14 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, a person/business commits an offence if they fail to comply with a Notice of Direction. The penalty for this is set at one penalty unit (\$110 in 2011–12) in respect of each day after the Notice of Direction is served until the person/business complies with the direction. The application of this penalty is at the discretion of the Court.

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

The number of Notices of Direction issued and the number of prosecution actions approved in recent years are shown in Table 8.9. The number of Notices of Direction and prosecution actions approved is higher every five years, when the Census of Population and Housing is conducted (as shown for 2011–12).

**Table 8.9: Notices of Direction issued and prosecution actions approved**

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Notices of Direction (NoDs) issued</b>				
Census of Population and Housing	-	-	-	1,282
Household surveys	83	62	163	210 (a)
Business censuses and surveys	4	17	25	3
<b>Prosecution actions approved (b)</b>				
Census of Population and Housing	0	0	0	94
Household surveys	0	0	0	0
Business censuses and surveys	0	0	0	0

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

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

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

### 2.1 Support for decision making

The ABS continues to assist and encourage informed decision making, research and discussion by increasing relevance and accessibility to the outputs of statistical activities. In 2011–12, ABS statistics were used to support decision making and research by business, community and government.

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

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

ABS statistics are widely understood and used by policy makers and analysts in Australia and around the world. The strength of these statistics is their consistency and relevance across different periods and in comparison with other countries. The ABS has continued to support the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) during 2011–12 through a range of mechanisms to support the review of performance indicators for COAG National Agreements.

A key achievement over the past year was the first release of 2011 Census data with new geospatial components and an advanced navigation page which allows data visualisation of Australian Statistical Geographical Standard (ASGS) and non-ASGS geographies and the online release of data packs. Other data presentation developments include audio podcasts and search engine optimisation for Australian Social Trends (AST), the redevelopment of the State and Territory Statistical Indicators publication showcasing the data visualisation techniques, and innovative and interactive dissemination of Agricultural Census outputs. These developments demonstrate the ABS commitment to providing statistics in ways that provide a clearer picture for decision makers.

Another major achievement in the last 12 months was the implementation of the 16th Series Consumer Price Index including a new CPI commodity classification (CPICC) better aligned with the United Nations Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICAP) classification, and additional analytical measures of inflation using ABS seasonal adjustment.

More details on how the ABS supports informed decision making is available in Chapter 5, Program reports. This chapter focuses on the achievements, new developments, key products and user consultations of ABS statistical programs for 2011–12.

#### Measure: Outposted officers for key clients

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

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

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

The primary objectives of longer term outpostings are to:

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

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



Table 8.10: Government agencies with outposted officers, 2011–12

Level of government	Number 2010–11	Number 2011–12	List of agencies with outposted officers in 2011–12*
<b>Australian</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australian Crime Commission</li> <li>Australian Taxation Office (2 outpostings)</li> <li>Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations</li> <li>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</li> <li>Department of Health and Ageing</li> <li>Department of Immigration and Citizenship</li> <li>Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and Tertiary Education</li> <li>Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</li> <li>Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport</li> <li>Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities</li> <li>Productivity Commission</li> </ul>
<b>State and territory</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australian Capital Territory Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate</li> <li>New South Wales Department of Finance and Services</li> <li>New South Wales Department of Premier and Cabinet and New South Wales Department of Treasury (joint)</li> <li>New South Wales Department of Transport and Infrastructure</li> <li>New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage</li> <li>Northern Territory Department of Justice</li> <li>Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages</li> <li>South Australian Department for Education and Child Development</li> <li>Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet</li> <li>Victorian Department of Justice</li> <li>Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development</li> <li>Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet and Victorian Department of Treasury (joint)</li> <li>Victorian Department of Primary Industry</li> <li>Victorian Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board</li> <li>Western Australia Department of Health</li> </ul>

\* There is an additional co-funded outposting at University of Queensland to work on civil registration and vital statistics assessment projects in the Asia-Pacific region.

The ABS regularly consults with a range of user groups that include all levels of government, industry, researchers, policy makers and community organisations to guide our work program, and ensure our statistics inform decision making. A full list of user groups active in 2011–12 is available in Appendix 2 – User groups advising the ABS.

## 2.2 A high level of use

Government, business and the community for a range of decisions everyday use ABS data. Key users of ABS statistics include the Department of Treasury; the Reserve Bank of Australia; financial institutions; COAG; Department of Health and Ageing; Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; state and territory governments; employee organisations; the media and academia.

In supporting access and informed use of the data the ABS provides a range of free and paid consultancy services to support informed decision making.

### Measure Service Delivery

#### ABS website

The ABS website is the primary access point for the majority of users of ABS information, with website visits increasing by approximately 2.9 million on the previous year (2010–11) to 11.2 million visits in 2011–12. Table 8.11 details the number of pages viewed, pages published, and products downloaded in 2011–12.

#### National Information and Referral Service

The National Information and Referral Service (NIRS) provides a key single point of phone and email contact for users to ABS products and services including the 2011 Census products, ANZSCO Coder enquiries and the ABS switchboard.

The number of calls answered by NIRS as shown in Table 8.11 decreased by nearly 12 per cent between 2010–11 and 2011–12. Streaming of Census 2011 related calls to the Census Inquiry Service before reaching NIRS staff contributed to a reduction in volume in call activity. The number of emails received by NIRS in 2011–12 slightly increased from the previous period.

Table 8.11: Number of accesses by types of access, 2008–09 to 2011–12

Type of Access	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Website</b>				
Visits to website	-	7,451,497	8,352,307	11,271,540
Pages viewed (a)	50,907,654	54,983,668	52,646,145	70,295,257
Pages published	45,371 (c)	84,716 (b)	96,513	133,798(i)
Products downloaded (a)	1,479,636	1,823,852	1,767,282	2,171,665
<b>National Information and Referral Service</b>				
Emails #	16,293	18,388	18,230	19,300
Calls completed	50,716	55,893	51,039	45,053
<b>Information Consultancy Service</b>				
Consultancies dispatched	2,968 (d)	2,396	1,958	3098
<b>Secondary providers</b>				
Number	33	32	NA (h)	NA (h)

Remote Access Data Laboratory				
Organisations active on RADL™(e)	73	70	67	68
Individuals active on RADL™(f)	189	254	248	251
Statistical programs executed (g)	16,160	28,849	34,771	48,073

- (a) Data for pages viewed and products downloaded have been rebased. Rebasings refers to the process by which ABS uses the most recent results (in this case, 2009–10) to revise all prior estimates. Rebasings ensures that the time series are comparable with the latest estimates made using the latest available tools. The rebasing of page views embraces current web analytic methodologies in that it excludes the influence of internal staff web access, indexing/spidering and robots, and single-session page revisits. The rebasing of downloads was necessary due to the decommissioning of legacy infrastructure and implementation of a new web analytics tool.
- (b) Includes approximately 100,000 Census first release pages
- (c) The 2008–09 ABS Annual Report published this figure as 238,886. This was a cumulative total and has been corrected in 2010–11 Annual Report
- (d) The 2008–09 ABS annual report incorrectly listed this figure as 3,968.
- (e) Organisations active on RADL refers to organisations with users who executed statistical programs in RADL during the period shown.
- (f) Individuals active on RADL refers to registered RADL users who executed statistical programs in RADL during the period shown.
- (g) Statistical programs executed refers to jobs run in RADL during the period shown.
- (h) This figure is no longer available. ABS now releases the majority of its data with Creative Commons licensing which means that secondary providers no longer need to approach the ABS for permission to on-provide ABS data.
- (i) Includes 73,000 2011 Census first release pages

## ABS use of social media

The ABS actively embraces the Moran Review's prime aim of improved 'citizen-focussed service delivery'. ABS BetaWorks continues to be utilised to source ideas about information design and dissemination.

Throughout the last year, the ABS innovatively entered the popular graduate recruitment discussion forum on Whirlpool and launched a corporate Facebook page in its strategy to attract quality graduate employees. This year, after using these channels to provide timely information expected of an employer of choice, we achieved very high numbers of applicants and a record number of first round offer acceptances.

Facebook has also enabled the ABS to strengthen awareness and understanding of statistics within the wider community. It has been used to successfully support the release of flagship publications such as the *2012 Year Book Australia*, *Australian Social Trends* and *Measures of Australia's Progress*, as well as to promote the latest ABS releases and statistical literacy programs such as the Statistical Language Pages. Through all these activities, the ABS is getting a much better understanding of the needs and wants of our online customers. The Facebook account now has nearly 2,000 fans who regularly engage with us and the feedback to date has been overwhelmingly positive.

Along with Facebook, we have established and maintained a number of blogs and two Twitter accounts. These allow the community to engage and interact with our data, ideas and methodologies, and to participate in ABS events. The ABS Twitter account now has nearly 5,000 followers and provides a very popular service for journalists and other interested stakeholders interested in easily locating information about our daily releases.

## Customised and microdata products

The year has been very busy for the newly formed Customised and Microdata Delivery (CaMD) section.

In 2011–12, over 3000 information consultancies were completed supplying decision makers with key data to support their needs in a timely and secure manner. The majority of clients were government departments at state and federal level, but industry peak bodies, secondary data providers, small and medium enterprises, not-for-profit organisations and individuals also used this service. The subscription service for International Trade data supported over 550 clients during the year.

The demand for Confidential Unit Record Files (CURFs) for researchers continues to be strong, with many new releases and enhanced releases being made in throughout the year. Further information about CURFs is given below.

The ABS has used a variety of opportunities to increase the use of statistics. Webinars, debriefings, and information sessions have been delivered across Australia to raise statistical understanding and all have had good attendance, highlighting the fact that decision makers still turn to the ABS for quality data on a host of economic and social issues. Online engagement through social media, external training and interactive products such as the Census Spotlight has also increased the accessibility and use of statistics.

## Confidentialised unit record files

CURFs provide a valuable source of data for researchers in government, universities and organisations in the not-for-profit and private sectors.

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

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

The RADL™ enables approved users to submit statistical queries to be run on CURFs. Users do not access the data directly, and there are checks and controls in the system to maintain the security of the data. During 2011–12, 251 researchers from 68 organisations completed 48,073 jobs in RADL™, up from 34,771 jobs in 2010–11. Details are presented in Table 8.10.

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

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

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

Performance against these service standards for 2011–12 is presented in Table 8.12.

Table 8.12: Target and actual performance against service standards for 2011–12

Performance standard	Target (%)	2010-11 Actual Performance (%)	2011-12 Actual Performance (%)
<b>General enquiries</b>			
Answer 85% of calls to our telephone enquiry service within 30 seconds (between the hours of 8:30am and 5:00pm (EST), Monday to Friday)	85	85	86
Acknowledge the receipt of 99% of email enquiries within five working days	99	99	99
Respond to 90% of Enquiry Form correspondence within five working days	90	99	99
<b>Consultancy services</b>			
Provide 90% of quotes for information consultancy services within three working days of receiving the customer's final specifications	90	94	91
Provide 90% of information consultancy services within five working days, or to a timeframe negotiated between the customer and the consultant	90	77	79
<b>Complaints</b>			
Acknowledgment of a service delivery complaint within one working day of receipt	100	88	95
Response from the Director, Client Services in the relevant ABS office, within five working days	100	77	100
<b>Website</b>			
Commence publishing to website at 11:30am (EST) Monday to Friday	100	100	100
Ensure the website is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, subject to events out of our control	100	100	100
Advertise website unavailability for maintenance purposes one working day prior to the website being unavailable	100	100	100
Fix 99% of broken web page links within 3 working days of notification by a customer	99	100 (a)	99 (a)
Refer 99% of requests for translation of any web product which is not suitably accessible for visually impaired users to an appropriate translation service within three working days	99	n.a. (b)	n.a. (b)

CURF microdata			
Acknowledge the receipt of 99% of microdata enquiries within one working day	99	98	98
Provide a full response to 85% of microdata enquiries within five working days	85	95	96
Dispatch 90% of CURF microdata products within 15 working days of receipt of the completed application form	90	100	96
Provide 90% of new CURF users with access within five working days to a CURF already approved for use in that organisation	90	100	99

(a) Fixed or referred to content owner.

(b) No requests received.

### 3. Appropriate use of statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies

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

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

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

During 2011–12, the ABS developed a number of new standards, frameworks and methodologies as described below.

##### Social 'classification' reviews

The ABS completed the following minor reviews in 2011–12:

- Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) for use in classifying religion data. The revised classification was released in July 2011.
- Standard Australian Country Classification (SACC) for use in classifying country of birth data. The revised classification was released in August 2011.
- Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG) for use in classifying ancestral data. The revised classification was released in August 2011.
- Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) for use in classifying responses to language related questions. The revised classification was released in August 2011.

These revised classifications were used in collecting data in the August 2011 Census of Population and Housing

##### Social 'standard' reviews

###### *The Religious Affiliation Standard*

Religious Affiliation identifies the religious belief to which a person adheres or the religious group to which they belong. This variable is used to assess the composition of the Australian community in terms of religion. Data relating to this variable are useful to religious

organisations in planning their services to members, and in social research where it is one of the variables which can aid in indicating a person's cultural background. A minor review of this Standard was undertaken in 2011–12 and the updated standard is expected to be released in August 2012.

#### *The Country of Birth Standards (Person, Father and Mother)*

Migrants and their descendants have been identified by program developers and service providers as forming population groups that are likely to experience disadvantage when seeking to obtain equal access to government and community programs and services in Australia. Data relating to Country of Birth of Person can thus be used to determine, measure and monitor service needs (in terms of access and equity requirements), particularly when used with other variables such as Country of Birth of Father or Mother, language variables, Proficiency in Spoken English, Year of Arrival in Australia, and Religious Affiliation. Country of Birth when used with a range of other variables is able to measure cultural diversity in its broader sense. It may indicate the extent to which persons from certain backgrounds are associated with advantage, as well as measuring disadvantage in terms of access to services. A minor review of these standards was undertaken in 2011–12 and the updated standards are expected to be released in August 2012.

#### *The Language Standards: First Language Spoken, Languages Spoken at Home, Main Language Other Than English Spoken at Home, Main Language Spoken at Home, Proficiency in Spoken English.*

The development of Australia as a multicultural society and the subsequent wider interest in constructing statistical profiles of particular ethnic or cultural population groups has, over the years, increased the use of and need for quality language data. To meet these growing needs, the ABS has incorporated language questions in a range of social statistical collections and has developed standards for a number of language variables for use both within and outside the organisation. A minor review of all the Language Standards was undertaken in 2011–12 and the updated standards are expected to be released in August 2012.

### Labour Force Standards

The suite of Labour Force standard reviews commenced in 2011–12 is continuing into 2012–13.

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Framework

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

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

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

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Framework will be used to guide the development of ABS Indigenous statistics, by providing an organisational structure to aid the identification of data gaps and areas for statistical improvements. In 2011–12 it has been used to shape the content of the ABS series Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing: A focus on children and youth (cat. no. 4725.0) and in the first ever Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander chapter in the 2012 Year Book Australia (cat. no. 1301.0). The framework can also be used as a holistic guide for areas to consider when measuring Indigenous wellbeing and reviewing information priorities. The ABS encourages its use by other organisations as a concept map for the measurement of wellbeing.

### Upgrading classification coding infrastructure – Next Generation coders

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

The ABS is investing in a project to upgrade its existing classification coding infrastructure (which dates back to the mid 1990s) to increase the level of automatic coding, whilst maintaining or improving coding quality.

Evaluation of a Next Generation autocoder prototype is being undertaken for Census 2011 for occupation and industry, and for new registrations on the Australian Business Register. Preliminary results suggest automatic coding rates of up to 90% are achievable depending on the quality of the information collected.

A proof-of-concept Next Generation computer-assisted coder (CAC) has been developed to replace the existing ageing CAC needed to code responses which fail to code automatically.

### Data Quality Online

The Data Quality Online (DQO) tool is a free online assistant available on the NSS website ([www.nss.gov.au](http://www.nss.gov.au)), to assist data producers in applying the seven quality dimensions of the ABS Data Quality Framework when preparing data quality statements. The tool can be applied to assess the data quality of administrative datasets and survey collections as well as for COAG performance indicators. In 2011–2 the ABS worked in collaboration with the Productivity Commission to update the DQO to reflect changes to the COAG performance indicators in the National Partnership Agreements.

### Governance and institutional arrangements for statistical data integration

The ABS has a leadership role in providing a safe and effective environment for data integration. As part of this role, the ABS hosts the Secretariat for the Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board. This Board is chaired by the Australian Statistician and includes the Secretaries of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; the Department of Health and Ageing; and the Department of Human Services. The ABS, in collaboration with other Australian Government departments, has been progressively implementing the set of governance and institutional arrangements for statistical data

integration involving Commonwealth data endorsed by Commonwealth Portfolio Secretaries in October 2010.

Two key achievements in 2011–12 have been the establishment of an interim accreditation process to endorse Integrating Authorities with the capacity to undertake high risk data integration projects and the publication of a series of information sheets relating to confidentiality. These information sheets were released on the NSS website ([www.nss.gov.au](http://www.nss.gov.au)) as part of the best practice guidelines for data integration involving Commonwealth data. The best practice guidelines are being developed and released progressively. Various other papers, developed in consultation with other Australian Government departments, were also released on the NSS website to outline aspects of the governance and institutional arrangements.

The ABS has promoted the implementation of the commonwealth governance and institutional arrangements through attendance at conferences, presentation of seminars to various stakeholders and through meetings with stakeholders. During 2012–13 the ABS, in collaboration with other Australian Government departments, will be finalising a comprehensive best practice guidelines manual and developing an education and training strategy to support these guidelines.

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

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

In 2011–12, the ABS has focused efforts on developing collaborative networks internationally as well as key frameworks which are outlined below.

#### **International collaboration effort and information management transformation**

Australia is not alone in facing demands for better managed statistical information. The environment in which National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) around the world operate continues to change. The harmonisation of statistical production and information management approaches needed within Australia is also needed by many other NSOs.

The ABS has continued to work with strategic partners to enhance collaboration between NSOs on the development of the next generation of statistical infrastructure, tools and supporting statistical standards. The Statistical Network has gained momentum since its establishment in June 2010. The ABS has been instrumental in this development, providing secretariat function for the Network and successfully developing governance and operating guidance to facilitate and promote effective collaboration.

Network membership included NSOs from six countries (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden); two new members, Statistics Italy and the OECD have now formally joined the Network. The work program of the Network comprises three approved projects which are aimed at harmonising statistical methods, systems and capabilities across the statistical institutions in the network:

- bringing into operation a Common Metadata Information Management Framework (OCMIMF)
- web data capture and
- Innovation in Dissemination.

The key work in relation to OCMIMF (led by the ABS) has been to develop a Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM). In simple terms, GSIM is an internationally agreed definition of the information objects (such as questionnaires, classifications, etc.) needed to produce official statistics. GSIM allows, at an implementation level, reuse of statistical tools developed by NSOs through efficient and consistent application of metadata definitions.

In 2010, the High-Level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics (HLG-BAS) was set up under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians to oversee and coordinate international work relating to the development of enterprise architectures within statistical organisations. The Australian Statistician is one of nine heads of national and international statistical agencies who constitute HLG-BAS.

In November 2011, the HLG-BAS recognised the importance of the GSIM as a cornerstone to the achievement of its vision of industrialisation and standardisation. In 2012, HLG-BAS finalised the strategy for realising their vision. This strategy includes innovative approaches to international collaboration. A program to accelerate progress on GSIM provided the first trial of these innovative approaches during the first half of 2012. Two GSIM Sprint sessions were held which brought together a multidisciplinary team of experts from more than a dozen national and international statistical agencies to collaborate intensively for a period of one fortnight each time. The GSIM Sprint programs were designed and organised by Australia and were supported by expert facilitators from Australia.

HLG-BAS, as sponsors, evaluated the GSIM Sprint program as a noteworthy success both in terms of the specific outputs delivered and in terms of demonstrating a new approach to international collaboration that is now likely to be adapted for the purposes of other projects in future.

NSOs have continued to demonstrate commitment to the International Collaboration Effort (ICE) initiative and its longevity by incorporating the collaboration projects into their ongoing work programs. Project teams are working together to deliver tangible benefits to all participating NSOs. In the ABS, the ICE is a key stream of work under the ABS 2017 Program.

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

#### **Australia/New Zealand classifications**

The ABS and Statistics New Zealand are co-owners of two major statistical classifications, the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) and the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). The ABS meets with Statistics New Zealand regularly to ensure that the classifications remain relevant to the economies of both countries. Preparatory work for updates of these classifications during 2012–13 has been undertaken in 2011–12. In addition, best practice on the development and implementation of classifications and standards is also shared between the two organisations.

## Macroeconomic statistics

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

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

## Microeconomic household statistics

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

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

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

The OECD Expert Group is being chaired by the ABS and comprises experts from 18 national statistical offices, the Statistical Offices of the European Community and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the European Central Bank and the Luxembourg Income Study. A work program for calendar years 2011 and 2012 has been substantially progressed, with draft publications covering the two areas of work expected to be produced in late 2012, and published in the first half of 2013.

## International Standard Classification on Education

In 2009 the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) established a Technical Advisory Panel to make recommendations for the review of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) level of education classification to reflect changes in education since its last revision in 1997.

The revised ISCED level of education classification was adopted at the UNESCO General Conference in September 2011.

The UIS has recently established a review of the ISCED field of education classification which is anticipated to be presented for adoption at the UNESCO General Conference in late 2013. The ABS is engaging in the review of the field of education classification.

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

## System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting

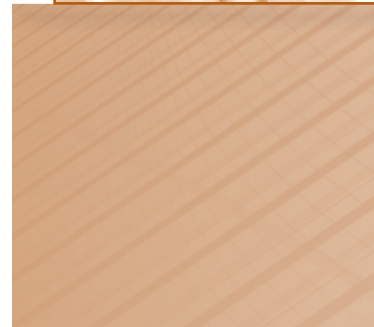
Environmental-economic accounting brings together economic and environmental information in a common framework to measure the contribution of the environment to the economy and the impact of the economy on the environment. The System of Integrated Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) is being developed in three parts: Part 1 Central Framework; Part 2 Experimental Ecosystem Accounts; and Part 3 Extensions and Applications. The SEEA Central Framework was adopted as an international statistical standard by the United Nations Statistical Commission in February 2012 and now sits at the same level as the System of National Accounts. The SEEA Central Framework provides an internationally agreed set of recommendations expressed in terms of concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and standard tables in order to obtain international comparability of environmental-economic accounts and related statistics. To highlight the adoption of the SEEA Central Framework and its potential uses in government, the ABS developed a publication and hosted a conference called *Completing the picture: environmental accounting in practice*.

Parts 2 and 3 of the SEEA remain in development and are scheduled to be complete by mid-2013. In 2011–12 the ABS continued its significant contribution to this work through major contributions in drafting and reviewing text for the SEEA Central Framework, chairing the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, participating in the SEEA Editorial Board as well as hosting an expert group meeting on ecosystem accounting.



## Section 4

HOW THE ABS OPERATES



## Chapter 9

### ABS corporate governance

#### Introduction

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

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

- a planning cycle to ensure that the ABS work program reflects current and emerging statistical priorities of users, and is consistent with the ABS mission and overall strategic directions
- senior management committees involved in developing policies and strategies, identifying priorities and monitoring the ABS's performance
- advisory bodies and user groups, which enable the ABS to consult widely with the user community about the ABS work program (see Appendix 2 – User groups advising the ABS)
- an audit and review program covering the different facets of ABS operations, overseen by the ABS Audit Committee
- a risk management framework to assist in identifying and managing risks at organisational, operational and project level
- instructions and manuals to ensure staff have access to ABS policies and practices.

#### ABS values

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

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

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

The ABS values are:

- Integrity
- Service
- Professionalism
- Relevance
- Trust of providers
- Access for all.

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

#### Senior management committees

An important feature of ABS corporate governance is the role played by senior management committees, which are active in developing policies and strategies, identifying ABS priorities, assessing and responding to risks and opportunities, and monitoring ABS performance.

The major senior management committees in place during 2011–12 are outlined in table 10.1.

Table 10.1: Senior management committees for 2011–12

<b>Executive Leadership Group meetings</b>	<p>The Executive Leadership Group (ELG) determines the strategic direction of the organisation.</p> <p>ELG meetings are held fortnightly to ensure that ongoing attention is given to strategic issues that affect the future of the organisation, including giving high-level focus to information transformation, the National Statistical Service and strategic client engagement.</p> <p>ELG membership consists of the Australian Statistician (chair) and the four Deputy Australian Statisticians.</p>
<b>Senior Management Group meetings</b>	<p>The Senior Management Group (SMG) provides tactical management oversight of ABS operations and advises the ELG on strategic and policy issues.</p> <p>SMG Meetings are held weekly to operationalise the strategic directions of the ABS and provide management oversight to ensure delivery of the ABS work program, within the framework of the ABS mission, SMG meetings also address other issues, including resource management, publishing and dissemination, human resources and accountability. The Chief Operating Officer chairs SMG meetings and the First Assistant Statisticians, two Regional Directors (on a rotating basis), the Chief Financial Officer and the Assistant Statisticians of the Office of the Statistician and External Engagement and Human Resources branches attend. Other senior officers attend as required for particular items. The ELG and the SMG also meet jointly at least quarterly to discuss relevant strategic and policy issues.</p>
<b>ABS Management Meetings</b>	<p>ABS Management Meetings play a major role in determining ABS strategic directions, priorities and resource allocations.</p> <p>Management Meetings are held twice a year, and make formal decisions on ABS strategic directions, consider planning and budgeting issues, and discuss issues of corporate importance.</p> <p>The Australian Statistician chairs these meetings and the Deputy and First Assistant Statisticians, Regional Directors, Chief Financial Officer and the Assistant Statisticians of the Office of the Statistician and External Engagement.</p>
<b>Strategic Finance and Investment Committee</b>	<p>The Strategic Finance and Investment Committee (SFIC) contributes to ABS planning and budgeting processes by ensuring ABS capital expenditure and major investments are aligned with strategic directions of the ABS. The SFIC is responsible for working with the Chief Financial Officer in developing the ABS Strategic Investment and Capital plan that is aligned with strategic directions and approved by the ABS Management Meeting.</p> <p>The SFIC ensures the ABS has robust internal mechanisms for planning and managing capital assets and technology applications funding over the medium to long term.</p> <p>The Chief Operating Officer chairs the SFIC meetings. Meetings are held quarterly, with additional meetings scheduled as required for the planning and budgeting cycle.</p>



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

## Planning

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Audit and risk management

The ABS has a robust Risk Management Framework, which provides the basis for identifying, assessing and mitigating risks at all levels within the organisation. The framework is set out in the ABS's Risk Management Strategy. The strategy and framework undergo continuous review, based on feedback from many sources including internal audits, external risk reviews, best practice guides, and the outcomes of the annual Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking exercise.

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

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

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

Each year, a program of internal audits is developed to address performance and compliance risks to the ABS. These internal audits are undertaken by an external audit provider and are developed by assessing all identified auditable areas, to take a risk-based assessment of topics.

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

## Fraud control

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

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

The ABS Fraud Control Plan will be reviewed and updated for release in 2012.

## Security of premises

The ABS relies on the trust and confidence of data providers to enable it to operate effectively and fulfil the ABS mission statement. The security of ABS premises, and of the information technology environment, is a key aspect of maintaining that trust and confidence, and essential to minimising risks in a number of areas, including fraud.

All ABS premises are physically secured against unauthorised access. Entry is through electronically controlled access systems, activated by individually coded access cards and monitored by closed circuit television. Areas of the ABS producing particularly sensitive data, such as main economic indicators, are subject to further physical security measures.

The ABS computer network has a secure gateway, which allows connection to some Internet services only. The secure gateway has been established in accordance with Australian Government guidelines and is subject to an annual compliance review, by an accredited independent assessor. Internal access to ABS computing systems is based on personal identifiers that are password protected. This will change shortly to a smartcard based system. Databases are accessible only by approved users. The computer systems are regularly monitored and usage audited. There were no unauthorised access incidents into the ABS computing systems during 2011–12.

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

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

## External scrutiny

There were no significant developments in external scrutiny in 2011–12, with no reports issued by the Attorney General, Parliament or the Commonwealth Ombudsman. There were also no individual or Administrative Review decisions of relevance to the ABS.

A range of Australian Government bodies examine the operations of the ABS. The ABS assisted in providing information to the Commonwealth Auditor General and the Commonwealth Ombudsman during 2011–12.

The ABS's obligations under Freedom of Information are examined in Appendix 5. Information on submissions made to Parliamentary Committees, and documents tabled in Parliament by the ABS are available in Appendix 7 and 8 respectively. There were no adverse comments relating to the ABS from the Commonwealth Auditor General, the Commonwealth Ombudsman, Parliamentary Committees, or courts or tribunals during 2011–12.

## Privacy

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

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

The ABS maintains a close relationship with the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, advising the Commissioner regularly of the ABS's forward work program, attending quarterly privacy officer network meetings and seeking advice on any new ABS initiatives about which privacy advocates may have concerns. Every year, the ABS contributes to the Privacy Commissioner's Personal Information Digest, which is published to inform the general public of the types of personal information that Australian Government departments hold.

## Chapter 10 Management of human resources



### Introduction

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

- understand Australia's evolving information needs, and can assist the ABS to meet these needs
- recognise the changes to the ABS operating environment, and can help the ABS to adapt to those changes
- possess professional competencies and a commitment to both APS and ABS values.

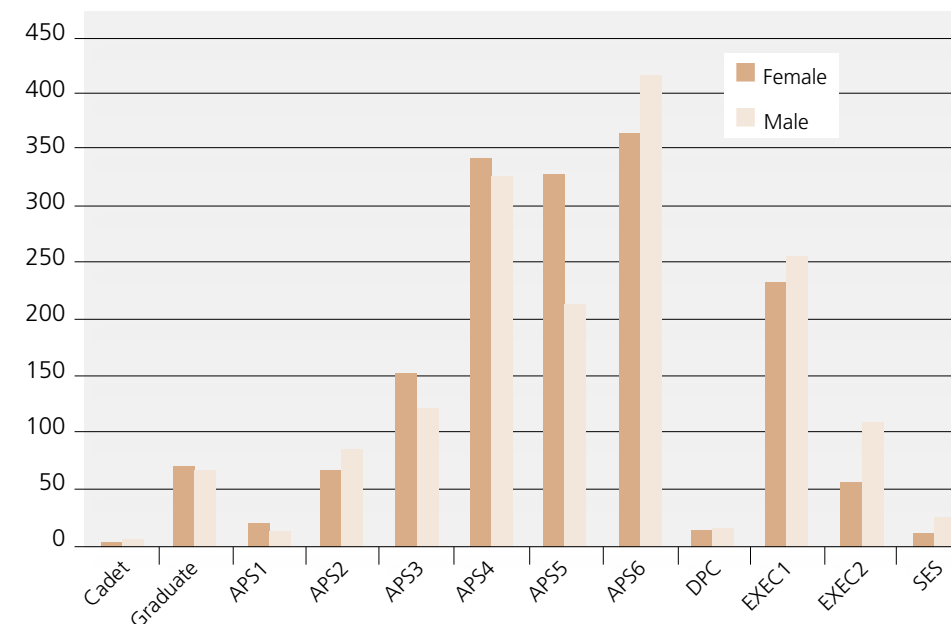
Proficient management of human resources is the key to ensuring the engagement and retention of a workforce that is skilled to deliver the ABS work program now and into the future.

At 30 June 2012 there were 3,417 staff employed at the ABS under the *Public Service Act 1999* – 1,670 males and 1,747 females. This includes operative, paid inoperative, unpaid inoperative staff and staff working at the Census Data Processing Centre (DPC). The ABS had 3,310 operative and paid inoperative staff, at 30 June 2012.

There were also 716 staff employed to assist with data collection under Regulation 3 of the Statistics Regulations, and appointed as authorised officers under Section 16 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. These staff were mostly household survey interviewers.

Figure 10.1 and Tables 10.1 and 10.2 present the profile of ABS staff by employment classification and sex, and by location and type of employment for operative and paid inoperative staff. Staff employed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* (interviewers), and 107 unpaid inoperative staff are excluded from the tables.

Figure 10.1: Employment classification by sex, 30 June 2012 (a),(b),(c)



(a) Operative and paid inoperative staff.  
 (b) Includes Australian Statistician (Statutory appointment).  
 (c) Includes Data Processing Centre.

Table 10.1: Number of ABS staff by location and status, at 30 June 2012 (a)

	Ongoing		Non-ongoing		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Central Office (ACT)	1435	230	83	152	1900
Data Processing Centre (Melbourne)	13		30	2	45
NSW	233	36	15	61	345
VIC	34	6	2		42
QLD	120	27	17	4	168
WA	153	48	11	5	217
SA	74	13	25	7	119
TAS	224	41	14	4	283
NT	119	19	39	9	186
ACT	5				5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2410</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>3310</b>

(a) Includes operative and paid inoperative staff.

At 30 June 2012 there were 10 women in the ABS Senior Executive Service (SES), representing 31.25% of the total number of SES officers in the ABS.

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

Year (at 30 June)	SES Level			Sex		Total
	1	2	3	Male	Female	
Year (at 30 June)	1	2	3	Male	Female	Total
2008	33	6	3	27	15	42
2009	26	7	3	26	10	36
2010	27	6	4	29	8	37
2011	26	7	4	26	11	37
2012	23	7	4	22	10	34

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

## Australian Public Service values in the ABS

APS values are widely promoted and strongly observed throughout the ABS. The ABS mission statement reflects the apolitical nature of the ABS, as well as its commitment to the provision of comprehensive, accurate and timely advice.

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

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

The importance of the APS values is acknowledged and integrated into the management and operations of the ABS. The obligations of all employees to uphold the APS and ABS values and abide by the APS Code of Conduct are:

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

## ABS People Plan

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

The key objective of the plan is to ensure that we can continue to meet our mission, through our people. The four high-level national strategies progressed through the 2011–2012 People Plan were:

1. Build core capability at all levels to improve organisational and individual performance
2. Strengthen leadership to help ensure organisational sustainability
3. Improve our ability to attract and retain people with the right skills, at the right place, at the right time
4. Understand and monitor our workforce and external environment.

These strategies reflect the people-related priorities articulated in ABS Strategic Framework documents (Corporate Plan and Strategic Direction Statements). They are also very closely aligned with the 'Key Focus Areas for Commonwealth Agencies' that were identified in the 2008–09 Australian Public Service Commission *State of the Service* report.

## Training and development

The ABS has a strong focus on building the capability of our people, across all levels of the organisation, to ensure we have a highly skilled workforce capable of achieving our business outcomes. There is also a focus on strengthening our leadership capability to help shape the future ABS, and to support ongoing organisational performance and sustainability.

The majority of development occurs on the job through experiential learning (70%). To supplement this National Training and Development Section (NTDS) has increased the available range of informal learning opportunities using a variety of channels, heading towards a goal of around 20% informal training. NTDS, in conjunction with various business areas, offered a range of formal programs (10%) covering four major streams of learning; Leadership and Management, Understanding the Business of the ABS, Professional Expertise (Statistical) and Information Technology Business Tools.

With the introduction of harmonised Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation in January 2012, the National Work Health and Safety Section undertook a comprehensive round of face-to-face training for all managers at the APS6 level and above. Due diligence training in Work Health and Safety was conducted for ABS Officers (all SES), and ELs and APS6s through the course 'Leadership for a Safe Workplace'. This program was designed to inform managers of the recent legislative changes and their WHS responsibilities.

Statistical training is a large component of the formal training curriculum. NTDS offered a range of foundation statistical skill programs to support this learning, and business areas offered further specialist training in more detailed or complex subject matter skills. To maintain relevance, the Population, Labour and Social Statistics Group piloted a more contemporary learning approach this year, with a four week intensive experiential program designed to fast track the development of Household Survey Centre staff.

Table 10.3: ABS employee training days (a)

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

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

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

(c) Figures revised down since first published.

(d) Increase due to Census Management Unit operations.

The ABS Leadership and Management Charter was released this year. It is an overarching strategy that states the commitment the ABS has to developing its people. The Charter also articulates the attributes expected of a leader in the ABS, and it provides the links for people to match development needs with appropriate learning options from the suite of leadership and management programs.

The ABS is keen to foster a high performance culture. A range of programs such as the Leadership Development Program for SES, the Senior Executive Program for EL2s, Future Leaders for EL1s and a Graduate Leadership Program were introduced this year to strengthen Executive leadership capabilities, and assist in moving our organisational culture to one which actively supports high performance.

To complement available formal training, short 'snapshot' sessions were also introduced into the training curriculum. The shorter time commitment and appealing content has allowed for greater staff participation and ongoing development of our managers and supervisors.

The Graduate Development Program was further enhanced this year to provide a challenging and comprehensive program designed to quickly build organisational capability and successfully transition graduates into the ABS and wider APS environments.

For those people who choose to undertake formal external training qualifications, the ABS continues to offer a Study Support Program with paid study leave and financial assistance to approved students.

The ABS is undergoing a major period of innovation and change. To manage this well, the Organisational Development Unit and NTDS have made available a range of change management programs. These were designed to support people through the impacts of change; including the ABS restructure and the corporate decision to move some work programs away from Canberra and relocate them to Regional Offices.

Two reviews were conducted this year: a Statistical Capability Review and an Information Technology Review. These reviews were designed to look at ways to provide a more relevant and contemporary curriculum, and to investigate how the ABS could deliver statistical training using a more robust and sustainable business model. The recommendations from this review will be implemented throughout 2012–13.

There was interest from other Asia-Pacific National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) in human resource management during 2011–12. NTDS staff undertook an international mission to the Central Statistics Agency of Indonesia to build capability in leadership and management skills. NTDS also presented sessions to visiting delegations from Cambodia and Vietnam to discuss the ABS People Plan, and strategies to develop capability in leadership and in our people.

## Work health and safety

### Overview

The ABS is committed to fostering a pro-active and collaborative approach to the management of health, safety and well-being in the workplace. There are two specialist teams that support the ABS to maintain a safe and healthy workplace; the National Work Health and Safety (WHS) team which focuses on prevention and wellbeing at work and the Rehabilitation Case Management team which focuses on the management of rehabilitation and return to work programs. The specialist teams are supported by a network of local Health and Safety Advisors, who are based in each ABS office.

With the introduction of the harmonised work health and safety laws in January 2012, significant effort was invested to ensure that all ABS staff were informed about the new laws. This included a series of regular newsletters highlighting the key changes, briefings to management teams and an all staff information session. As a result of the changes in the law, work commenced on the updating and review of the ABS WHS management system, including the development of an ABS Officer framework.

### Achievements for 2011–12 include

- A Quarterly WHS Indicator Report that includes both positive performance (PPIs) or lead indicators and lag indicators was developed.
- All SES level staff attended a half day workshop on 'Understanding Due Diligence: ABS Officers and the new Work Health & Safety Laws'.
- All APS6, EL1-2 Managers completed a one day workshop, 'Providing Leadership for a Safe Workplace'.
- A revised WHS e learning module was implemented within the Newstarter@ABS induction program.
- A review of the health and safety issues for home based work was completed. Recommendations focused on improving knowledge and awareness of the home based work policy by individuals and their managers is currently being implemented.
- A bi-annual national hazard inspection program with an increased focus on the manager role and responsibilities in the inspection teams and senior management oversight of the process has been introduced.
- The annual National Flu Vaccination program was conducted across all offices from March to May 2012, with 27% participating in the program, compared with 19% in the previous year. The program was fully funded by the ABS this year which accounted for the increased participation rate.
- 138 teams, totalling 1,287 participants, participated in the 2nd National 10,000 Steps Walking Challenge. The challenge is designed to increase awareness of daily physical activity levels through the logging of the number of daily steps and to encourage increased physical activity.
- A regular program of Health Seminars was offered to ABS staff on topics such as 'Adapting to Change', 'Healthy Eating Forever' and 'Workplace Conflict'. A combined total of 1,034 employees attended these seminars.
- Michael Milton, Australian Winter Paralympic skier and cyclist, was the keynote speaker for a nationally broadcast seminar to launch International Men's Health Week in the ABS. The week aimed to promote awareness of preventable health problems, and the early detection and treatment of diseases among men. The week was celebrated with a range of national and locally based activities. A combined total of 169 staff participated in Men's Health Week activities.

## Work health and safety performance 2011–12

### Consultation and communication

There were nine Regional Health and Safety Committees (RHSCs), an Interviewer HSR Forum as well as a National Health and Safety Committee (NHSC) in 2011–12. The committees are scheduled to meet on a quarterly basis. The ABS achieved 95% conformance with the planned meeting schedule.

### Training

Within the ABS, there are a number of specific WHS roles filled by staff. These roles include First Aid Officers, Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) and Wardens. A total of 180 employees received training over this period. Details are presented in Appendix 13, Table A13.1.

### Work health and safety audit

An external audit focusing on incident reporting and home-based work was completed. The final report was presented to the ABS in November 2011. The key findings were that the incident reporting system was operating effectively however there was limited knowledge and understanding about the home-based work policy, in particular the requirements of the home-based work agreement. There were some additional findings related to WHS competencies for all staff. The recommendations from the audit included a review of the implementation of the home-based work guidelines, the development of a WHS competency framework for all staff and increased training related to mental health in the workplace. We have made significant progress against all the recommendations outlined in the audit.

### Employee Assistance Program

For office based staff the average annual usage rate of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for 2011–12 was 2.3%. For ABS interviewers the average annual EAP usage rate for 2011–12 was 0.5%. Details are presented in Appendix 13 – Table A13.2.

### Attendance management

In 2011–12, ABS continued its proactive approach to the management of unscheduled leave in order to improve attendance management. Initiatives included management accountability for organisational performance through inclusion of regular reporting data. These reports provide detailed information on the amount and type of unscheduled leave taken within each resource centre, and help to identify high areas of incidence for further consideration and action. The unscheduled absence rate for 2010–11 was 11.3 days per full-time equivalent employee. This compares with the APS median rate of 12.0 days for large agencies for 2010–11, and 11.1 days APS-wide.

*Table 10.4: ABS Premium Group claims incidence (number)*

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
ABS	11.5	11.3	10.9
APS Median Rate	10.2	12.0	N/A(a)

(a) The 2012 APS figures were not available at the time of production of the 2011-12 ABS Annual Report.

### WHS Incident reporting

Approximately 3.6 WHS incidents per 100 full time employees (FTE) were reported. Details are presented in Appendix 13, Figure A13.1 which shows the distribution by ABS office for the year. The top three mechanisms of incident were body stressing; mental stress; and falls, trips and slips. Appendix 13, Figure A13.2 shows the number of incidents by mechanism of incident.

### Notifiable incidents and Comcare investigations

Thirty-one incidents were notified to Comcare. This includes 21 notifiable incidents associated with the 2011 Census. There were no requests for further information. No investigations were undertaken. Comcare issued no improvement notices to the ABS and there are no ongoing actions.

### Provisional Improvement Notices (PINs)

No Provisional Improvement Notices (PINs) were issued by HSRs.

### Workplace injuries and illnesses

The total number of workers' compensation claims for 2011–12 was 110. (Appendix 13, Figure A13.3).

*Table 10.5: ABS premium group claims incidence (number)*

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Number of accepted claims	42	28	47(a)	111(b)

(a) Includes 2 claims from 2011 Census.

(b) Includes 84 claims from 2011 Census.

The ABS's Comcare premium rate for 2011-12 was 1.40% of total salary (including GST).

*Table 10.6: Comcare workers' compensation premium rate*

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
ABS	1.42	1.37	1.39	1.40
All agencies combined average	1.36	1.25	1.20	1.41

### Rehabilitation and return to work

The ABS has created a centralised, specialist rehabilitation case management team to deliver strategically focused, holistic case management services. The rehabilitation case management team reviewed all the ABS compensation cases to ensure active intervention in longer-term cases and timely intervention in new cases to help deliver positive outcomes for injured staff and the ABS. This year the team also provided rehabilitation and case management assistance to Census field staff.

## Consultation in the ABS

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

The ABS consultative framework comprises:

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

A review of ABS consultative arrangements was completed in 2011 and the recommendations from this review were implemented during 2011–12. New initiatives that have been developed in response to the review include training packages and best practice guides, a revised change management framework to guide the effective management of major change, and improved arrangements for the operation of ABS consultative forums.

An extraordinary meeting of the National Forum was held in July 2011 to discuss the results of the 2011 National Employee Survey, and the corporate and local strategies that were being put in place in response to the results. Issues discussed at the National Forums held in October 2011 and March 2012 included:

- the Information Management Transformation Program
- shaping the organisational structure of the ABS for the future
- the ABS Corporate Plan Refresh
- the 2011–12 ABS People Plan
- the 2011 and 2012 National Employee Surveys
- the People@ABS project
- the Services@ABS project
- the Delegation Pulse Survey
- reports from National Health and Safety Committee
- development and performance agreements
- the NSW Office relocation.

## Agreement making

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

- the Australian Bureau of Statistics Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014 which covers office-based employees
- the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing, Data Processing Centre Enterprise Agreement 2010–2012 which covers non-ongoing Census Data Processing Centre employees
- individual Determinations under s.24(1) of the *Public Service Act 1999* which cover SES employees.

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

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

During 2011–12, two new Enterprise Agreements came into effect to cover the employment arrangements for home-based interviewers and office-based employees. The Australian Bureau of Statistics Interviewers Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014 came into effect in August 2011 and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014 came into effect in November 2011.

Details of the number of employees covered by an Enterprise Agreement, or a Determination under section 24(1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*, as at 30 June 2012 are as follows:

- ABS employees covered by a Section 24 (1) determination
- Senior Executive Service: 37
- Non-SES employees: 0
- ABS employees covered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014: 3,343 (office-based employees)
- ABS employees covered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014: 716 (home-based employees)
- ABS employees covered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Interviewers Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014: 32

## The ABS salary system

### Salary arrangements

The ABS Enterprise Agreement 2009–2011 outlined the salary arrangements for ABS employees for the period 1 July 2011 to 23 November 2011.

In 2011–12, salary increases for APS1 to EL2 employees were paid from 7 July 2011, with two components to the salary increases:

- a performance based increase equivalent to a one pay point movement (2.5% of the minimum of the relevant salary range) for all employees rated as Effective or better, subject to the maximum of the salary range not being exceeded
- a one-off lump sum bonus payment of 2% of the minimum of the relevant salary range after the general salary increase was applied for employees rated as Outstanding.

Employee salaries were transitioned to the new salary ranges by applying the salary advancement provisions outlined in clause 15 of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Enterprise Agreement 2009–2011, subject to the maximum of the salary range not being exceeded i.e. employee salaries were not forced to align with the new pay points.

From 24 November 2011, the Australian Bureau of Statistics Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014 outlined the salary arrangements for ABS employees.

Salary increases for APS1 to EL2 employees were paid from 24 November 2011, with two components to the salary increases:

- i. a general salary increase of 3% for all employees, where the minimum and maximum amounts of the salary ranges were increased by more than 3%. Table 10.7 shows the salary ranges for ABS employees with the general salary increase factored in
- ii. a one-off productivity payment of \$750 (pro rata for part time employees) on the pay day following the first full pay period after commencement of the Agreement.

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

Table 10.7: Salary ranges by classification from 7 July 2011 to 23 November 2011

Classification	Minimum (\$)	Maximum (\$)
<b>Australian Public Service (APS) Level (a)</b>		
APS1 (Adult)	37,691	41,460
APS2	42,658	46,924
APS3	48,584	53,442
APS4	54,693	60,162
APS5	61,004	67,104
APS6	69,389	76,328
<b>Executive Officer Level (EL) (a)</b>		
EL1	84,921	93,413
EL2	107,364	118,100
<b>Senior Executive Service (SES) Level (a)</b>		
SES Band 1	147,709	183,346
SES Band 2	183,346	212,916
SES Band 3	212,916	na (b)

(a) The APS1 to EL2 salary ranges took effect from 8 July 2010 and covered the period until 23 November 2011. SES Band 1 to SES Band 3 salary ranges took effect from 7 July 2011.

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

Table 10.8: Salary ranges by classification as at 30 June 2012

Classification	Minimum (\$)	Maximum (\$)
<b>Australian Public Service (APS) level (a)</b>		
APS1 (Adult)	39,210	44,112
APS2	44,837	50,442
APS3	51,079	57,464
APS4	57,529	64,720
APS5	64,723	72,814
APS6	72,821	81,924
<b>Executive Officer Level (EL) (a)</b>		
EL1	89,466	103,422
EL2	111,691	129,115
<b>Senior Executive Service (SES) Level (a)</b>		
SES Band 1	147,709	183,346
SES Band 2	183,346	212,916
SES Band 3	212,916	na (b)

(a) The APS1 to EL2 salary ranges took effect from 24 November 2011. SES Band 1 to SES Band 3 salary ranges took effect from 7 July 2011.

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

### Recognition and reward

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

An annual Statistician's Award was introduced in 2011–12 to identify and recognise extraordinary contributions made to the ABS by individual employees. The quantum of this award is not prescribed, but may take the form of a significant non-cash reward or development opportunity.

Organisational guidelines have been developed to ensure consistent conduct of recognition and reward in the ABS.

Total ABS expenditure for the scheme in 2011–12 was \$89,695.



## Performance management in the ABS

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

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

In the last year, the ABS launched the People Plan 2011–12 with a key strategy of 'building core capability at all levels to improve organisational and individual performance'. The DPF supports this focus on developing our people's capability and supporting their career development. Cascading ABS goals from the most senior levels of management, through line-managers and teams to individuals ensures that all employees are connected to the strategic direction of the ABS. Employees are encouraged to demonstrate insight and thinking beyond current practice. The innovation of its people is critical for the ABS to increase business performance and maintain organisational sustainability.

In support of delivery of the People Plan 2011–12, and the DPF the following key initiatives have been implemented:

- 'Managing Performance' workshops have been developed and rolled out nationally to middle managers. These sessions focus on enabling managers to identify underperformance, and on developing the capability of managers to remedy underperformance in the organisation.
- Skip-level feedback and interviews have been introduced into guidelines and best practice guides to equip staff and managers participating in multilevel communication in the areas of performance and capability development.
- Regular promotional activities to develop awareness and education regarding the DPF have been introduced.

All employees are expected to include key deliverables in their performance agreements, which also articulate the expectation that they will adhere to and promote the APS Values and Code of Conduct, and consistently behave in an ethical and professional way.

## Chapter 11 Management of Assets

The ABS's assets are integral to the effective conduct of its business, and are part of the combination of resources required to enable delivery of services. This chapter outlines the asset management principles, including the approach to purchasing, used by the ABS during 2011–2012.

The ABS directly manages its non-financial assets in accordance with Chief Executive Instructions and Australian Accounting Standards. The total value of assets are \$140.2 million. Most of the assets are intangible (internally generated software), and were valued at \$78.0 million in 2011–2012. Tangible assets (property, plant and equipment) formed the remainder, and were valued at \$53.0 million with other non-financial assets (prepayments and accrued revenue) valued at \$9.2 million. Tangible asset values are maintained with the assistance of an independent valuer.

### Asset management in the ABS

#### Principles

Overall, the ABS asset management principles are designed to ensure that asset management practices and decisions support the service delivery requirements and business demands of the organisation, and that capital expenditure decisions address the full life-cycle costs, benefits and risks of the assets.

The ABS's approach to asset management encompasses the following principles:

- Asset management activities are undertaken within an integrated government asset management framework
- Service delivery needs to guide asset management practices and decisions
- Asset planning and management are integrated with corporate and business plans, as well as budgetary and reporting processes
- Capital expenditure decisions are based on evaluations of alternatives that take into account full life-cycle costs, benefits and risks of assets
- Ownership, control, accountability and reporting requirements for assets are established, clearly communicated and implemented.

## Planning and managing information and technology assets

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

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

### Asset measurement

The ABS maintains an asset register to address management, statutory reporting and user requirements.

The ABS' assets are integral to the conduct of its business, and are part of the combination of resources required to enable cost effective service delivery.

The asset register underpins planning policies, analysis of financial programs, capitalisation, and reviews of performance against defined objectives.

For recognition as an asset, the ABS has an expenditure capitalisation threshold of \$2,000 for general assets and \$1,000 for information and technology assets, including software. Asset expenditure greater than, or equal to, these amounts is capitalised and recorded on the assets register.

## Purchasing

### Purchasing and competitive tendering and contracting

The ABS undertakes a wide variety of procurement and contracting activities, with the majority of purchases being classed as low value and low complexity.

The ABS conducts its procurement and contracting activities in accordance with the Commonwealth procurement policy framework, the Commonwealth Procurement Rules, and Chief Executive Instructions. The ABS advertises an annual procurement plan on AusTender, and the plan is reviewed and updated as required throughout the year. The ABS has a centralised area of expertise, which provides procurement and contracting support to operational areas, and provides direct support for more complex procurement projects. Information on procurement policy and practices is disseminated to staff through an internal procurement portal.

Through the use of efficient processes and effective application of the ABS and Australian Government policies and principles, the ABS is satisfied that its approach to market testing and contracting is highly effective, resulting in value-for-money outcomes for the ABS. The ABS continues to invest in developing procurement skills and reviewing processes to ensure that efficiency and value-for-money outcomes are achieved.

Information relating to expenditure on contracts and consultancies is available on the AusTender website: [www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au).

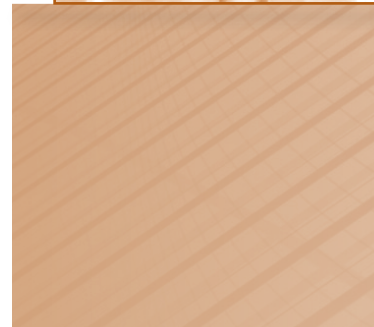
### Exempt contracts

During the 2011–2012 financial year, the ABS did not exempt any contracts from publication by AusTender, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.



## Section 5

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS





## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Assistant Treasurer

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2012, which comprise: a Statement by the Australian Statistician and Chief Financial Officer; Statement of Comprehensive Income; Balance Sheet; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Schedule of Contingencies; Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income; Administered Reconciliation Schedule; Administered Cash Flow Statement; and Notes to and forming part of the financial statements.

### *Australian Statistician's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

The Australian Statistician is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the the Australian Bureau of Statistics' preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion

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on the effectiveness of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Australian Statistician, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### *Independence*

In conducting my audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

### *Opinion*

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Bureau of Statistics:

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders including the Australian Bureau of Statistics' financial position as at 30 June 2012 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office

Michael J. Watson

Group Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

14 August 2012

**Australian Bureau of Statistics  
STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2012 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997, as amended.

Signed 

Brian Pink  
Australian Statistician

13 August 2012

Signed 

Debra Foggin  
Acting Chief Financial Officer

13 August 2012

**Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2012*

	Notes	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee benefits	3A	433,179	283,141
Supplier	3B	160,030	109,494
Depreciation and amortisation	3C	34,481	30,558
Finance costs	3D	-	66
Write-down and impairment of assets	3E	772	2,591
Losses from asset sales	3F	57	-
Other expenses		128	124
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>628,647</b>	<b>425,974</b>
<b>LESS:</b>			
<b>OWN-SOURCE INCOME</b>			
<b>Own-source revenue</b>			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	43,218	32,353
Other revenue		733	124
<b>Total own-source revenue</b>		<b>43,951</b>	<b>32,477</b>
<b>Gains</b>			
Sale of assets	4B	-	6
Other gains	4C	125	125
<b>Total gains</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Total own-source income</b>		<b>44,076</b>	<b>32,608</b>
<b>Net cost of services</b>		<b>584,571</b>	<b>393,366</b>
Revenue from Government	4D	548,632	354,851
<b>Deficit attributable to the Australian Government</b>		<b>(35,939)</b>	<b>(38,515)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	6A	5,530	887
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<b>5,530</b>	<b>887</b>
<b>Total comprehensive loss attributable to the Australian Government</b>		<b>(30,409)</b>	<b>(37,628)</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Balance Sheet  
as at 30 June 2012

	Notes	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Financial Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5A	4,845	4,037
Trade and other receivables	5B	71,226	66,354
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>76,071</b>	<b>70,391</b>
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>			
Leasehold improvements	6A, 6B	30,847	30,959
Property, plant and equipment	6A, 6B	22,112	22,385
Intangibles	6C, 6D	78,061	77,805
Other non-financial assets	6E	9,217	8,148
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>140,237</b>	<b>139,297</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>216,308</b>	<b>209,688</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Suppliers	7A	30,047	29,745
Unearned revenue	7B	27,180	18,434
Other payables	7C	15,125	9,812
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>72,352</b>	<b>57,991</b>
<b>Lease Incentives</b>			
Lease incentives	8A	4,931	6,146
<b>Total lease incentives</b>		<b>4,931</b>	<b>6,146</b>
<b>Provisions</b>			
Employee provisions	9A	81,987	77,843
Other provisions	9B	6,418	5,785
<b>Total provisions</b>		<b>88,405</b>	<b>83,628</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>165,688</b>	<b>147,765</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>50,620</b>	<b>61,923</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed equity		83,000	63,894
Reserves		23,605	18,075
Accumulated deficit		(55,985)	(20,046)
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>50,620</b>	<b>61,923</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Statement of Changes in Equity  
for the period ended 30 June 2012

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation surplus		Contributed equity/capital		Total equity	
	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
Opening balance	(20,046)	18,469	18,075	17,188	63,894	19,218	61,923	54,875
Balance carried forward from previous period	(20,046)	18,469	18,075	17,188	63,894	19,218	61,923	54,875
Adjusted opening balance								
<b>Comprehensive income</b>								
Other comprehensive income	-	-	5,530	887	-	-	5,530	887
Deficit for the period	(35,939)	(38,515)	-	-	-	-	(35,939)	(38,515)
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>(35,939)</b>	<b>(38,515)</b>	<b>5,530</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(30,409)</b>	<b>(37,628)</b>
<b>Transactions with owners</b>								
Contributions by owners	-	-	-	-	1,068	623	1,068	623
Equity injection - Appropriations	-	-	-	-	18,038	44,053	18,038	44,053
Departmental capital budget	-	-	-	-	19,106	44,676	19,106	44,676
<b>Sub-total transactions with owners</b>	<b>(55,985)</b>	<b>(20,046)</b>	<b>23,605</b>	<b>18,075</b>	<b>83,000</b>	<b>63,894</b>	<b>50,620</b>	<b>61,923</b>
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>								

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Cash Flow Statement  
for the period ended 30 June 2012

	Notes	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Appropriations		538,168	339,577
Sales of goods and rendering of services		55,673	51,277
Net GST received		9,379	7,951
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>603,220</b>	<b>398,805</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Employees		423,722	278,758
Suppliers		176,405	124,480
Borrowing costs		-	66
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>600,127</b>	<b>403,304</b>
<b>Net cash from (used by) operating activities</b>	10	<b>3,093</b>	<b>(4,499)</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		195	51
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>195</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Purchase of leasehold improvements		2,410	3,618
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		8,913	9,831
Purchase of intangibles – internally developed		8,781	8,747
Purchase of intangibles – purchased		9,079	4,521
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>29,183</b>	<b>26,717</b>
<b>Net cash used by investing activities</b>		<b>(28,988)</b>	<b>(26,666)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Contributed equity		26,703	33,340
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>26,703</b>	<b>33,340</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Repayment of borrowings		-	1,699
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>1,699</b>
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>		<b>26,703</b>	<b>31,641</b>
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>		<b>808</b>	<b>476</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		4,037	3,561
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	5A	<b>4,845</b>	<b>4,037</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Schedule of Commitments  
as at 30 June 2012

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>BY TYPE</b>		
<b>Commitments receivable</b>		
Net GST recoverable on commitments	(12,918)	(17,299)
<b>Total commitments receivable</b>	<b>(12,918)</b>	<b>(17,299)</b>
<b>Commitments payable</b>		
<b>Capital commitments</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	212	5,446
Intangibles	319	-
<b>Total capital commitments</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>5,446</b>
<b>Other commitments</b>		
Operating leases	137,790	172,164
Other	3,786	12,682
<b>Total other commitments</b>	<b>141,576</b>	<b>184,846</b>
<b>Total commitments payable</b>	<b>142,107</b>	<b>190,292</b>
<b>Net commitments by type</b>	<b>129,189</b>	<b>172,993</b>
<b>BY MATURITY</b>		
<b>Commitments receivable</b>		
<b>Net GST recoverable on commitments</b>		
One year or less	(3,112)	(4,288)
From one to five years	(8,992)	(11,943)
Over five years	(814)	(1,068)
<b>Total net GST recoverable on commitments</b>	<b>(12,918)</b>	<b>(17,299)</b>
<b>Total commitments receivable</b>	<b>(12,918)</b>	<b>(17,299)</b>
<b>Commitments payable</b>		
<b>Capital commitments</b>		
One year or less	531	5,446
<b>Total capital commitments</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>5,446</b>
<b>Operating lease commitments</b>		
One year or less	29,930	33,754
From one to five years	98,905	126,664
Over five years	8,955	11,746
<b>Total operating lease commitments</b>	<b>137,790</b>	<b>172,164</b>
<b>Other Commitments</b>		
One year or less	3,786	7,971
From one to five years	-	4,711
<b>Total other commitments</b>	<b>3,786</b>	<b>12,682</b>
<b>Total commitments payable</b>	<b>142,107</b>	<b>190,292</b>
<b>Net commitments by maturity</b>	<b>129,189</b>	<b>172,993</b>

Note: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

The nature of capital commitments relates to committed purchases of property, plant and equipment. The majority relates to computer hardware and purchased software.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Schedule of Commitments**  
*as at 30 June 2012*

The nature of other commitments relates to operating leases and general purchases committed to as at 30 June 2012.  
 The Australian Bureau of Statistics in its capacity as a lessee has entered into a number of operating leases. The operating leases are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

Nature of leases	General description of leasing arrangement
Leases for office accommodation	Lease payments are subject to annual increases which are either fixed as outlined in the rental agreement or in accordance with upwards movements in the Consumer Price Index. Office accommodation leases may be renewed for up to five years at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) option, following a one-off adjustment of rentals to current market levels.
Agreements for the provision of motor vehicles to senior executive officers	No contingent rentals exist. There are no renewal or purchase options available to the ABS.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Schedule of Contingencies**  
*as at 30 June 2012*

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Contingent assets</b>		
Indemnities	-	-
Claims for damages or costs	943	968
<b>Total contingent assets</b>	<u>943</u>	<u>968</u>
<b>Net contingent assets</b>	<u>943</u>	<u>968</u>

Details of each class of contingent liabilities and contingent assets listed above are disclosed in Note 11.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2012*

	Notes	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>OWN-SOURCE INCOME</b>			
Own-source revenue			
Non-taxation revenue			
Fines <sup>1</sup>	1	-	-
Other <sup>2</sup>		4	8
<b>Total non-taxation revenue</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total own-source revenue administered on behalf of Government</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Net contribution by services</b>		<b>(5)</b>	<b>(8)</b>
<b>Surplus</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total comprehensive Income</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>

<sup>1</sup>The Census and Statistics Act 1905 provides the Australian Statistician with the authority to conduct statistical collections and, when necessary, to direct a person or an organisation to provide statistical information. Where information is not provided, the ABS can impose a fine on the person or organisation. Such fines are reported in the Financial Statements as Administered Revenue.

<sup>2</sup>Unidentified receipts returned to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Administered Reconciliation Schedule**

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
Opening administered assets less administered liabilities 1 July	-	-
Surplus items:		
Plus: Administered income	5	8
Administered transfers to/from Australian Government:		
Transfers to OPA	(5)	(8)
<b>Closing administered assets less administered liabilities as at 30 June</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Administered Cash Flow Statement  
for the period ended 30 June 2012

	Notes	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Cash received			
Fines <sup>1</sup>		1	-
Other <sup>2</sup>		4	8
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Net increase in Cash Held</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Cash to the Official Public Account		5	8
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

<sup>1</sup>The Census and Statistics Act 1905 provides the Australian Statistician with the authority to conduct statistical collections and, when necessary, to direct a person or an organisation to provide statistical information. Where information is not provided, the ABS can impose a fine on the person or organisation. Such fines are reported in the Financial Statements as Administered Revenue.

<sup>2</sup>Unidentified receipts returned to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
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<b>Note 11:</b>	Contingent Assets and Liabilities
<b>Note 12:</b>	Senior Executive Remuneration
<b>Note 13:</b>	Remuneration of Auditors
<b>Note 14:</b>	Financial Instruments
<b>Note 15:</b>	Financial Assets Reconciliation
<b>Note 16:</b>	Appropriations
<b>Note 17:</b>	Special Accounts
<b>Note 18:</b>	Compensation and Debt Relief
<b>Note 19:</b>	Assets Held in Trust
<b>Note 20:</b>	Reporting of Outcomes
<b>Note 21:</b>	Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

### Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### 1.1 Objective of Australian Bureau Of Statistics

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is an Australian Government controlled entity. It is a not-for-profit entity. The mission and outcome of the ABS is to assist and encourage informed decision making, research and discussion within Governments and the community, by leading a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.

The ABS is structured to produce the aforementioned outcome through its economic and environment statistics group, and population, labour and social statistics group. Indirect costs for support services have been allocated to the economic and social statistical groups in Note 20 Reporting of Outcomes in the Financial Statements.

ABS activities contributing to this outcome are classified as either departmental or administered. Departmental activities involve the use of assets, liabilities, income and expenses controlled or incurred by the ABS in its own right. Administered activities involve the management or oversight by the ABS, on behalf of the Government, of items controlled or incurred by the Government.

Further information on ABS outcomes and outputs can be found in this Annual Report.

The continued existence of the ABS in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the ABS' programs and administration.

#### 1.2 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements and notes are required by section 49 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and are general purpose financial statements.

The financial statements and notes have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (or FMOs) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2011; and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values, and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard or the FMOs, assets and liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the ABS or a future sacrifice of economic benefits will be required and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under agreements are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the schedule of commitments or the schedule of contingencies.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, income and expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when and only when, the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

#### 1.3 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, ABS has made the following judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements:

##### Make good

The ABS currently holds ten leases for office space around Australia. All of the lease agreements include a make good clause.

It is considered that five make good arrangements would be more likely to be exercised as it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation and the amount can be reliably determined. The make good arrangements have been disclosed in Other Provisions. (Note 9B)

For the remaining five leases, it is not considered probable that the make good requirement would be exercised as it is the current intention for the ABS to leave the fittings with the premises intact for the landlord at lease end, therefore negating the requirement for a make good. These arrangements will be reviewed annually.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

### Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment non-IT assets have been revalued by an independent valuer as at 30 June 2012.

No other accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next accounting period.

### 1.4 New Australian Accounting Standards

#### Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard.

The following new standards, amending standards, and interpretations were issued prior to the signing of the statement by the Australian Statistician and Chief Financial Officer, and are applicable to the current reporting period but did not have a financial impact on the entity.

Standard	Nature of Change	Impact
AASB 7	Financial Instruments: Disclosures – November 2010 (Compilation)	No impact
AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements – May 2011 (Compilation)	No impact
AASB 107	Statement of Cash Flows – May 2011 (Compilation)	No impact
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors – May 2011 (Compilation)	No impact
AASB 110	Events after the Reporting Period – December 2009 (Compilation)	No impact
AASB 118	Revenue – October 2010 (Compilation)	No impact
AASB 119	Employee Benefits – October 2010 (Compilation)	No impact
AASB 132	Financial Instruments: Presentation – May 2011 (Compilation)	No impact
AASB 137	Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets – October 2010 (Compilation)	No impact
AASB 139	Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement – October 2010 (Compilation)	No impact
AASB 1031	Materiality – December 2009 (Compilation)	No impact
AASB 1054	Australian Additional Disclosures – May 2011 (Principal)	No impact
Interpretation 4	Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease – December 2009 (Compilation)	No impact
Interpretation 115	Operating leases – Incentives – October 2010 (Compilation)	No impact
Interpretation 127	Evaluating the Substance of Transactions Involving the Legal Form of a Lease – October 2010 (Compilation)	No impact

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Future Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

The following new standards, amending standards, and interpretations were issued prior to the signing of the statement by the Australian Statistician and Chief Financial Officer, and are applicable to the future reporting periods and are not expected to have a future financial impact on the entity.

Standard	Nature of Change	Impact
AASB 9	Financial Instruments – December 2010 (Principal)	No impact
AASB 13	Fair Value Measurement – September 2011 (Principal)	No impact
AASB 119	Employee Benefits – September 2011 (Principal)	No impact
AASB 127	Separate Financial Statements – August 2011 (Principal)	No impact
AASB 2010-2	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements	No impact
AASB 2010-7	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9	No impact
AASB 2011-3	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Orderly Adoption of Changes to the ABS GFS Manual and Related Amendments	No impact
AASB 2011-8	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13	No impact
AASB 2011-9	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income	No impact
AASB 2011-10	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 119 (September 2011)	No impact
AASB 2011-12	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Interpretation 20	No impact
AASB 2011-13	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Improvements to AASB 1049	No impact

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

**1.5 Revenue**

Revenue from Government

Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as Revenue from Government when ABS gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned. Revenue from Government received by the ABS is inclusive of the cyclical appropriation related to the five yearly Census of Population and Housing. The most recent Census was conducted on 9 August 2011.

Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts.

Other Types of Revenue

Sales of goods and services includes revenue from the sale of publications, other products, and the provision of statistical services. Revenue from the sales of goods is recognised when:

- the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- the agency retains no managerial involvement or effective control over the goods;
- the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- It is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- the probable economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion of work completed.

Other revenue includes all miscellaneous revenue such as officer contributions and Comcover recoveries.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at the end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

**1.6 Gains**

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as gains when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains, depending on their nature.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government entity as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements.

Sale of Assets

Gains from disposal of non-current assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

**1.7 Unearned Revenue**

Unearned revenue includes revenue from subscriptions to statistical publications, provision of statistical consultancies, and revenue from other agencies for statistical surveys. The unearned revenue is recognised on a stage of completion basis over the period of subscriptions or the provision of services as provided (Note 7B).

**1.8 Transactions with the Government as Owner**

Equity Injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) and Departmental Capital Budgets (DCBs) are recognised directly in contributed equity.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

### 1.9 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits due within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

#### Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the ABS is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including the ABS' employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the work of the Australian Government Actuary as at 30 June 2012. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

#### Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The ABS recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

#### Superannuation

The majority of staff of the ABS are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap).

The ABS also made employer contributions to commercial accumulation superannuation funds as directed by its employees.

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance and Deregulation's administered schedules and notes.

ABS makes employer contributions to the employees' superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. ABS accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions that have yet to be paid.

### 1.10 Provision for Make good

Provision for make good obligations are recognised when: the ABS has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event; it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount has been reliably estimated. The ABS makes an assessment as to whether a make good provision is required at the commencement of each new lease and at reporting date, in accordance with the aforementioned recognition criteria contained within AASB137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. Provisions are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate.

### 1.11 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of leased assets. An operating lease is a lease that is not a finance lease. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

The ABS has entered into a number of accommodation leases, which include lease incentives taking the form of 'free' leasehold improvements. Under interpretation 115 Operating Lease Incentives, all incentives in relation to operating leases are required to be classified as an integral part of the net consideration of the lease for the leased asset, irrespective of the incentives nature, form, or timing of payments.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Where an asset is acquired by means of an incentive under an operating lease, the asset is capitalised at the fair value of the lease incentive at the inception of the contract, and a liability is recognised at the same time, for the same amount.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis over the term of the lease which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets. The straight line basis takes into account fixed escalation clauses (with the exception of escalation in accordance with the CPI).

### 1.12 Borrowing Costs

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

### 1.13 Financial Assets

The ABS classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- cash and cash equivalents; and
- trade and other receivables.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date.'

#### Cash

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, cash held by outsiders, cash in special accounts and demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount.

#### Trade and Other Receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'trade and other receivables'. Trade and other receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

#### Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

*Financial assets held at amortised cost* – if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for trade and other receivables, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the assets's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

### 1.14 Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

The ABS classifies its financial liabilities in the following categories:

- supplier and other payables; and
- other financial liabilities.

#### Supplier and Other Payables

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

#### Other Financial Liabilities

Other financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

### 1.15 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the balance sheet but are reported in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset, or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain, and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

### 1.16 Acquisition of Assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

### 1.17 Property, Plant and Equipment

#### Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the balance sheet, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000 (\$1,000 for IT assets and purchased software, and all internally generated software assets), which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

#### Revaluations

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

Asset Class:	Fair Value Measured at:
Leasehold Improvements	Depreciated replacement cost
Property, plant and equipment	Market selling price

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment were carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations were conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets did not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depended upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments were made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment was credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets were recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reversed a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset is restated to the revalued amount.

#### Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the ABS using, in all cases, the straight line method of depreciation.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated on a straight line basis over the lesser of the estimated useful life of the improvements, or the unexpired period of the lease.

Depreciation rates (useful lives) are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable assets are based on the following useful lives:

	2012	2011
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Property, plant and equipment	5-10 years*	5-10 years*

\*Within this class, Artwork and Curios has a useful life between 10-100 years.

#### Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2012. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use for ABS assets is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost (where the ABS would replace the asset if it was deprived of it) as future economic benefit is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows.

#### Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

### 1.18 Intangibles

The ABS' intangibles comprise internally generated software and purchased software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life.

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2012.

#### Internally Generated Software

In its role as Australia's national statistical agency, the ABS builds and maintains a significant set of internally generated software (IGSW) assets. These assets are added to over time, in line with the increasing range of statistical information sought by Government, business and the general community, and the increasing use of technology, particularly in relation to collection, analysis and dissemination activities.

All software developed in-house since 1 July 1994 has been capitalised (Note 6C). The costing methodology capitalises direct salary and on costs for programmers. General administration, and overhead costs relating to software development have not been capitalised. The data capture systems in place to collect data for programmers are in line with the requirements of the FMOs.

In accordance with the requirements of AASB 138 Intangible Assets, IGSW is stated at cost. All IGSW assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2012. Impairment on intangibles is recognised in Note 3E.

#### Purchased Software

Purchased software assets are stated at cost where the asset costs more than \$1,000. Purchased software below this threshold is expensed at the time of purchase. The cost of purchased software includes the purchase price and any directly attributable costs.

#### Amortisation

The ABS has long term commitments to survey and data collection programs. These are supported by software packages that are required to be maintained for the same time period as the data collection and analysis programs, to ensure consistency in approach and of data treatment.

The estimated useful lives of the major asset classes are as follows:

	2012	2011
Computer software (proprietary)	Lease term	Lease term
Computer software (internally generated)	5-16 years*	5-15 years*

The above table outlines the range of life in years for computer software, however, the average life is currently 8 years (2011: 8 years).

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

The aggregate amount of amortisation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 3C.

### 1.19 Capital Work in Progress

Capital work in progress represents two main asset types: software assets under development, and office refurbishments. Work in progress is disclosed in the property, plant and equipment, and intangibles balances.

Software assets are not depreciated until the year in which the development phase is completed and the asset is operational. Where use of the asset commences after substantial completion of the development phase, but some improvements or enhancements to the system continue to be made, the date of substantial completion is treated as the date of completion and depreciation commences from that date.

### 1.20 Historical Statistical Data

Statistical data accumulated over many years is stored for reference purposes. This historical time series data plays an important part in the operations of the ABS as Australia's official statistical provider. The cost of storing and maintaining this data is treated as an operating expense.

### 1.21 Other Non-Financial Assets

The ABS classifies its non-financial assets in the following categories:

- prepayments; and
- accrued revenue.

#### Prepayments

Prepayments primarily relate to maintenance contracts, office rent and subscriptions.

#### Accrued Revenue

The ABS accrues revenue at the time when goods are provided and/or the services are performed.

### 1.22 Taxation

The ABS is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- for receivables and payables.

### 1.23 Compliance with Statutory Conditions for Payments from the Consolidated Revenue Fund

Section 83 of the Constitution provides that no amount may be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund except under an appropriation made by law. The Department of Finance and Deregulation provided information to all agencies in 2011 regarding the need for risk assessments in relation to compliance with the statutory conditions on payments from special appropriations, including special accounts.

The ABS undertook a risk assessment as at 30 June 2012, and confirmed there were no breaches of Section 83 during the 2011-12 financial year, and that the overall risk of a breach was considered low. During the 2010-11 financial year, there were also no breaches of Section 83, and the risk assessment was low.

Breaches of Section 83 will continue to be assessed as part of the Certificate of Compliance process each financial year.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

### 1.24 Reporting Of Administered Activities

Administered revenues, assets, and cash flows are disclosed in the administered schedules and related notes. There are no administered expenses, liabilities, contingencies or commitments in 2011-12, nor were there any in 2010-11.

Except where otherwise stated below, administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, including the application of Australian Accounting Standards.

#### Administered Cash Transfers to Official Public Account

Revenue collected by the ABS for use by the Government rather than the ABS is administered revenue. Collections are transferred to the Official Public Account (OPA) maintained by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. These transfers to the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by the ABS on behalf of the Government and reported as such in the schedule of administered cash flows, and in the administered reconciliation table.

#### Revenue

All administered revenues are revenues relating to ordinary activities performed by the ABS on behalf of the Australian Government.

Revenue is generated from fines applied by the courts, which is recognised upon payment. Court costs awarded against the ABS, as opposed to fines, are recorded as a departmental expense.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 3: Expenses

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 3A: Employee Benefits</b>		
Wages and salaries	260,652	217,298
Superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	18,465	12,685
Defined benefit plans	20,003	20,696
Leave and other entitlements	8,675	8,618
Interviewer wages	18,032	11,246
Interviewer superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	2,462	673
Defined benefit plans	820	1,306
Census field staff wages	92,887	13,322
Census field staff superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	7,994	1,135
Defined benefit plans	81	35
Separation and redundancies	8,713	3,103
Other employee expenses	3,176	1,771
<b>Total employee benefits*</b>	<b>441,960</b>	<b>291,888</b>
Less amounts capitalised for IGSW (Note 1.18)	(8,781)	(8,747)
<b>Employee benefits after amounts capitalised for IGSW</b>	<b>433,179</b>	<b>283,141</b>

\*Total employee benefits have increased in 2011-12 due to the impact of the Census of Population and Housing and the increase in sale of goods and rendering of services.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 2: Events After the Reporting Period

There have been no events occurring subsequent to balance date that would affect the ABS Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2012.



Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Note 3B: Supplier</b>		
<b>Goods and services</b>		
Consultants	1,429	2,509
Contractors	18,618	7,067
IT related	14,841	12,881
Printing and subscriptions	2,153	5,615
Property related	9,649	7,202
PSO interviewer related	8,039	4,668
Recruitment and employment related	17,396	5,001
Stationery and postage	8,465	7,075
Travel and training	24,140	17,758
Advertising, market research and public relations	14,488	1,697
Other	3,620	4,218
<b>Total goods and services</b>	<b>122,838</b>	<b>75,691</b>
<b>Goods and services are made up of:</b>		
Provision of goods – related entities	384	364
Provision of goods – external parties	33,925	21,757
Rendering of services – related entities	8,965	5,107
Rendering of services – external parties	79,564	48,463
<b>Total goods and services</b>	<b>122,838</b>	<b>75,691</b>
<b>Other supplier expenses</b>		
<b>Operating lease rentals – external parties:</b>		
Minimum lease payments	31,380	31,056
Workers compensation expenses	5,812	2,747
<b>Total other supplier expenses</b>	<b>37,192</b>	<b>33,803</b>
<b>Total supplier expenses*</b>	<b>160,030</b>	<b>109,494</b>
<b>Note 3C: Depreciation and Amortisation</b>		
<b>Depreciation:</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	17,528	14,837
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>17,528</b>	<b>14,837</b>
<b>Amortisation:</b>		
Intangibles	16,953	15,721
<b>Total amortisation</b>	<b>16,953</b>	<b>15,721</b>
<b>Total depreciation and amortisation</b>	<b>34,481</b>	<b>30,558</b>
<b>Note 3D: Finance Costs</b>		
Loan from Government	-	66
<b>Total finance costs</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66</b>

\* Total supplier expenses have increased in 2011-12 due to the impact of the Census of Population and Housing and the increase in sale of goods and rendering of services.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Note 3E: Write-Down and Impairment of Assets</b>		
<b>Asset write-downs and impairments from:</b>		
Impairment on intangible assets	-	870
Impairment on financial instruments	11	8
Asset write-offs	761	1,713
<b>Total write-down and impairment of assets</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>2,591</b>
<b>Note 3F: Losses from Asset Sales</b>		
<b>Property, plant and equipment:</b>		
Proceeds from sale	(195)	-
Carrying value of assets sold	233	-
Selling expense	19	-
<b>Total losses from asset sales</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>-</b>

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 4: Income

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000

OWN-SOURCE REVENUE

**Note 4A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services**

Provision of goods - related entities	861	1,430
Provision of goods - external parties	150	34
Rendering of services - related entities	35,948	26,789
Rendering of services - external parties	6,259	4,100
<b>Total sale of goods and rendering of services</b>	<b>43,218</b>	<b>32,353</b>

GAINS

**Note 4B: Sale of Assets**

Property, plant and equipment:

Proceeds from sale	-	51
Carrying value of assets sold	-	(26)
Selling expense	-	(19)
<b>Net gain from sale of assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>

**Note 4C: Other Gains**

Resources received free of charge - audit services	125	125
<b>Total other gains</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>

REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT

**Note 4D: Revenue from Government**

Appropriations:

Departmental appropriations	548,632	354,851
<b>Total revenue from Government*</b>	<b>548,632</b>	<b>354,851</b>

\* Total revenue from Government has increased in 2011-12 due to the Census of Population and Housing. (Note 1.5)

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 5: Financial Assets

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000

**Note 5A: Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash on hand or on deposit	4,845	4,037
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>4,845</b>	<b>4,037</b>

**Note 5B: Trade and Other Receivables**

Good and Services:

Goods and services - related entities	2,901	1,578
Goods and services - external parties	1,218	1,082
<b>Total receivables for goods and services</b>	<b>4,119</b>	<b>2,660</b>

Appropriations receivable:

For existing programs	66,338	63,471
<b>Total appropriations receivable</b>	<b>66,338</b>	<b>63,471</b>

Other receivables:

GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	757	106
Sundry receivables	12	117
<b>Total other receivables</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>223</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>	<b>71,226</b>	<b>66,354</b>

Receivables are expected to be recovered in:

No more than 12 months	71,226	66,354
<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>	<b>71,226</b>	<b>66,354</b>

Receivables are aged as follows:

Not overdue	70,580	65,921
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	203	184
31 to 60 days	367	156
61 to 90 days	11	28
More than 90 days	65	65
<b>Total receivables (gross)</b>	<b>71,226</b>	<b>66,354</b>

Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2011: 30 days).

The ABS has no provision for doubtful debts and all receivables are expected to be recovered.

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Note 6: Non-Financial Assets

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Note 6A: Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
<b>Leasehold improvements:</b>		
Fair value	34,066	39,731
Work in progress	-	1,251
Accumulated depreciation	(3,219)	(10,023)
<b>Total leasehold improvements</b>	<b>30,847</b>	<b>30,959</b>
<b>Other property, plant and equipment:</b>		
Fair value	33,116	27,086
Accumulated depreciation	(11,004)	(4,701)
<b>Total other property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>22,112</b>	<b>22,385</b>
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>52,959</b>	<b>53,344</b>

No indicators of impairment were found for property, plant and equipment.

Revaluations of non-financial assets

Following the independent valuation, the ABS reviewed the fair value of property, plant and equipment assets as at 30 June 2012, and found that the fair value of those assets was not materially different to the carrying value as reported.

All revaluations are independent and are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1.17. On 30 June 2012, the Australian Valuation Office conducted a revaluation on the office equipment, furniture and fittings, artwork, plant, lease incentives, make good and leasehold improvements classes of assets.

A revaluation increment of \$81,363 for office equipment (2011: nil), an increment of \$291,600 for furniture and fittings including artwork (2011: nil), an increment of \$170,585 for plant (2011: nil), an increment of \$1,047,835 for lease incentives (2011: nil), an increment of \$762,068 for make good (2011: nil), and an increment of \$3,193,112 for leasehold improvements (2011: nil) was credited to the asset revaluation reserve by asset class and included in the equity section of the balance sheet. No decrements were expensed (2011: Nil).

The revaluation reserve for make good was adjusted for the increase to the make good provision of \$16,900 due to the revaluation (Note: 9B).

The total change to the asset revaluation surplus was \$5,529,663.

The Australian Valuation Office reviewed the fair value of computer hardware assets as at 30 June 2011. A revaluation increment of \$886,767 was credited to the asset revaluation reserve and included in the equity section of the balance sheet for computer hardware in 2010-11. The Australian Valuation Office has subsequently issued a certificate of fair value for this asset class as at 30 June 2012.

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Note 6B: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment 2012

	Leasehold improvements \$'000	Other property, plant and equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2011</b>			
Gross book value	40,982	27,086	68,068
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(10,023)	(4,701)	(14,724)
<b>Net book value 1 July 2011</b>	<b>30,959</b>	<b>22,385</b>	<b>53,344</b>
<b>Additions:</b>			
By purchase	2,410	8,913	11,323
Make good	616	-	616
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	5,003	544	5,547
Reclassifications	(12)	(5)	(17)
Depreciation expense	(8,124)	(9,404)	(17,528)
Disposals:			
Other disposals	-	(233)	(233)
Write-offs	(5)	(86)	(91)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2012</b>	<b>30,847</b>	<b>22,112</b>	<b>52,959</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2012 represented by:</b>			
Gross book value	34,066	33,116	67,182
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(3,219)	(11,004)	(14,223)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2012</b>	<b>30,847</b>	<b>22,112</b>	<b>52,959</b>

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 6B (Cont'd): Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment 2011

	Leasehold improvements \$'000	Other property, plant & equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2010</b>			
Gross book value	31,579	33,962	65,541
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(4,142)	(13,110)	(17,252)
<b>Net book value 1 July 2010</b>	<b>27,437</b>	<b>20,852</b>	<b>48,289</b>
<b>Additions:</b>			
By purchase	3,618	9,831	13,449
Make good	5,785	-	5,785
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	887	887
Reclassification	-	(5)	(5)
Depreciation expense	(5,881)	(8,956)	(14,837)
Disposals:			
Other disposals	-	(26)	(26)
Write-offs	-	(198)	(198)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2011</b>	<b>30,959</b>	<b>22,385</b>	<b>53,344</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2011 represented by:</b>			
Gross book value	40,982	27,088	68,068
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(10,023)	(4,701)	(14,724)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2011</b>	<b>30,959</b>	<b>22,385</b>	<b>53,344</b>

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Note 6C: Intangibles</b>		
<b>Computer software:</b>		
Internally developed – in progress	8,365	6,473
Internally developed – in use	154,806	151,262
Purchased	28,399	20,452
Accumulated amortisation	(112,161)	(99,004)
Accumulated impairment losses	(1,348)	(1,378)
<b>Total computer software</b>	<b>78,061</b>	<b>77,805</b>
<b>Total intangibles</b>	<b>78,061</b>	<b>77,805</b>

No intangibles are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

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Note 6D: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles 2012

	Computer software internally developed \$'000	Computer software purchased \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2011</b>			
Gross book value	157,735	20,452	178,187
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(91,184)	(9,198)	(100,382)
<b>Net book value 1 July 2011</b>	66,551	11,254	77,805
Additions:			
By purchase	-	9,079	9,079
Internally developed	3,781	-	3,781
Reclassifications	-	17	17
Amortisation	(13,279)	(3,674)	(16,953)
Disposals:			
Write-offs	(631)	(137)	(668)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2012</b>	61,522	16,539	78,061
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2012 represented by:</b>			
Gross book value	163,171	28,399	191,570
Accumulated amortisation	(100,301)	(11,860)	(112,161)
Accumulated impairment	(1,348)	-	(1,348)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2012</b>	61,522	16,539	78,061

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 6D (Cont'd): Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles 2011

	Computer software internally developed \$'000	Computer software purchased \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2010</b>			
Gross book value	155,622	17,553	173,175
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(83,062)	(7,475)	(90,537)
<b>Net book value 1 July 2010</b>	72,560	10,078	82,638
Additions:			
By purchase	-	4,521	4,521
Internally developed	8,747	-	8,747
Impairments recognised in the operating result	(870)	-	(870)
Reclassifications	-	5	5
Amortisation	(12,522)	(3,199)	(15,721)
Disposals:			
Write-offs	(1,364)	(151)	(1,515)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2011</b>	66,551	11,254	77,805
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2011 represented by:</b>			
Gross book value	157,735	20,452	178,187
Accumulated amortisation	(89,806)	(9,198)	(99,004)
Accumulated impairment	(1,378)	-	(1,378)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2011</b>	66,551	11,254	77,805

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Note 6E: Other Non-Financial Assets</b>		
Accrued revenue	805	103
Prepayments	8,412	8,045
<b>Total other non-financial assets</b>	<b>9,217</b>	<b>8,148</b>
<b>Total other non-financial assets - are expected to be recovered in:</b>		
No more than 12 months	7,829	6,190
More than 12 months	1,388	1,958
<b>Total other non-financial assets</b>	<b>9,217</b>	<b>8,148</b>

No indicators of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Note 7: Payables</b>		
<b>Note 7A: Suppliers</b>		
Trade creditors and accruals	17,118	15,613
Sundry creditors	-	27
Operating lease rentals	12,929	14,105
<b>Total suppliers payables</b>	<b>30,047</b>	<b>29,745</b>
<b>Suppliers payables expected to be settled within 12 months:</b>		
Related entities	114	34
External parties	18,948	17,163
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,062</b>	<b>17,217</b>
<b>Suppliers payables expected to be settled in greater than 12 months:</b>		
Related entities	-	-
External parties	10,985	12,528
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,985</b>	<b>12,528</b>
<b>Total suppliers payables</b>	<b>30,047</b>	<b>29,745</b>
Settlement was usually made within 30 days.		
<b>Note 7B: Unearned Revenue</b>		
Unearned revenue	27,180	18,434
<b>Total unearned revenue</b>	<b>27,180</b>	<b>18,434</b>
<b>Total unearned revenue - expected to be settled in:</b>		
No more than 12 months	26,463	17,367
More than 12 months	717	1,067
<b>Total unearned revenue</b>	<b>27,180</b>	<b>18,434</b>
<b>Note 7C: Other Payables</b>		
Salaries and wages	8,830	8,026
Superannuation	1,279	1,050
Separations and redundancies	5,016	736
<b>Total other payables</b>	<b>15,125</b>	<b>9,812</b>
<b>Total other payables are expected to be settled in:</b>		
No more than 12 months	15,125	9,812
More than 12 months	-	-
<b>Total other payables</b>	<b>15,125</b>	<b>9,812</b>

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 8: Lease Incentives

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Note 8A: Lease Incentives</b>		
Lease incentives	4,931	6,146
<b>Total lease incentives</b>	<b>4,931</b>	<b>6,146</b>
<b>Payable:</b>		
Within one year	1,214	1,214
In one to five years	3,717	4,917
In more than five years	-	15
<b>Total lease incentives</b>	<b>4,931</b>	<b>6,146</b>

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 9: Provisions

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Note 9A: Employee Provisions</b>		
Leave	81,987	77,843
<b>Total employee provisions</b>	<b>81,987</b>	<b>77,843</b>
<b>Employee provisions are expected to be settled in:</b>		
No more than 12 months	20,529	19,323
More than 12 months	61,458	58,520
<b>Total employee provisions</b>	<b>81,987</b>	<b>77,843</b>
<b>Note 9B: Other Provisions</b>		
Make good provision	6,418	5,785
<b>Total other provisions</b>	<b>6,418</b>	<b>5,785</b>
<b>Other provisions are expected to be settled in:</b>		
No more than 12 months	68	-
More than 12 months	6,350	5,785
<b>Total other provisions</b>	<b>6,418</b>	<b>5,785</b>
<hr/>		
	<b>Make good provision</b>	<b>Total</b>
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Carrying amount 1 July 2011</b>	<b>5,785</b>	<b>5,785</b>
Additional provisions made	616	616
Revaluation	17	17
<b>Closing balance 2012</b>	<b>6,418</b>	<b>6,418</b>

The ABS currently has five (2011: four) agreements for the leasing of premises which have provisions requiring the entity to restore the premises to their original condition at the conclusion of the lease. The entity has made a provision to reflect the present value of this obligation.

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 10: Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow Statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash flow statement	4,845	4,037
Balance sheet	4,845	4,037
Difference	-	-
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from operating activities:		
Net cost of services	584,571	393,366
Add revenue from Government	548,632	354,851
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Net loss (gains) on disposal of assets	38	(25)
Depreciation / amortisation	34,481	30,558
Net write down of non-financial assets	761	2,583
Changes in assets / liabilities		
Increase in net receivables	(12,469)	(13,414)
Increase in other non-financial assets	(1,069)	(438)
Decrease in lease incentives	(1,215)	(1,175)
Increase in employee provisions	4,144	1,547
Increase in unearned revenue	8,746	12,763
Increase / (decrease) in suppliers payable	302	(1,219)
Increase in other payables	5,313	2,836
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	3,093	(4,499)

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Note 11: Contingent Assets and Liabilities

	Claims for damages or costs		Total	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Contingent assets</b>				
Balance from previous period	968	-	968	-
New contingent assets recognised	-	968	-	968
Re-measurement	(10)	-	(10)	-
Assets recognised	(15)	-	(15)	-
<b>Total contingent assets</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>968</b>
<b>Contingent liabilities</b>				
Balance from previous period	-	3,435	-	3,435
Obligations expired	-	(3,435)	-	(3,435)
<b>Total contingent liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net contingent assets</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>968</b>

Quantifiable Contingencies

The Schedule of Contingencies reports contingent assets in relation to an insurance claim for \$942,831, (2011: \$942,831). The amount represents an estimate based on reasonable expectations.

During 2010-11 a contingent asset in respect to a claim for costs of \$25,000 was reported, which was settled during 2011-12. There were no further claims for costs in 2011-12.

There are no contingent liabilities reported (2011: Nil).



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Note 12: Senior Executive Remuneration

Note 12A: Senior Executive Remuneration Expenses for the Reporting Period

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
<b>Short-term employee benefits:</b>		
Salary	6,794,122	7,259,234
Annual leave accrued	117,200	71,138
Performance bonuses	7,500	7,500
Other <sup>1</sup>	1,071,514	1,018,662
<b>Total short-term employee benefits</b>	<b>7,990,336</b>	<b>8,356,534</b>
<b>Post-employment benefits:</b>		
Superannuation	1,753,453	1,195,160
<b>Total post-employment benefits</b>	<b>1,753,453</b>	<b>1,195,160</b>
<b>Other long-term benefits:</b>		
Long-service leave	409,755	240,109
<b>Total other long-term benefits</b>	<b>409,755</b>	<b>240,109</b>
<b>Termination benefits</b>		81,439
<b>Total employment benefits</b>	<b>10,153,544</b>	<b>9,873,242</b>

Notes:

- 'Other' includes motor vehicle allowances and other allowances.
- Note 12A is prepared on an accrual basis (therefore the performance bonus expenses disclosed above may differ from the cash 'Bonus paid' in Note 12B).
- Note 12A excludes acting arrangements and part-year service where total remuneration expensed for a senior executive was less than \$150,000.

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Note 12B: Average Annual Reportable Remuneration Paid to Substantive Senior Executives During the Reporting Period

Average annual reportable remuneration <sup>1</sup>	Senior Executives No.	2012			Total
		Reportable salary <sup>2</sup>	Contributed superannuation <sup>3</sup>	Reportable allowances <sup>4</sup>	
		\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements):</b>					
less than \$150,000	6	37,501	8,001	4,669	50,201
\$150,000 to \$179,999	4	108,818	37,206	14,946	160,970
\$180,000 to \$209,999	11	146,116	29,148	23,495	198,759
\$210,000 to \$239,999	14	160,569	35,521	23,727	220,353
\$240,000 to \$269,999	3	189,401	41,445	19,166	250,032
\$270,000 to \$299,999	2	177,094	77,735	24,259	279,088
\$300,000 to \$329,999	3	256,305	54,455	12,898	323,658
\$330,000 to \$359,999	1	194,872	117,222	26,437	338,531
\$510,000 to \$539,999	1	345,107	91,253	83,286	519,646
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>				

Notes:

- This table reports substantive senior executives who received remuneration during the reporting period. Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.
- 'Reportable salary' includes the following: a) gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column); b) reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' to account for tax benefits); and c) exempt foreign employment income.
- The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average actual superannuation contributions paid to senior executives in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period, including any salary sacrificed amounts, as per the individuals' payslips.
- 'Reportable allowances' are the average actual allowances paid. Allowances available to senior executives include motor vehicle allowance.
- 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. The 'bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the ABS during the financial year.
- Various salary sacrifice arrangements were available to senior executives including superannuation, motor vehicle and expense payment fringe benefits. Salary sacrifice benefits are reported in the 'reportable salary' column, excluding salary sacrificed superannuation, which is reported in the 'contributed superannuation' column.
- One senior executive on long term leave who was not on secondment to another entity has been included in 2011-12. (2010-11: 2).

### Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Average annual reportable remuneration <sup>1</sup>	2011					
	Senior Executives No.	Reportable salary <sup>2</sup> \$	Contributed superannuation <sup>3</sup> \$	Reportable allowances <sup>4</sup> \$	Bonus paid <sup>5</sup> \$	Total \$
<b>Total reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements):</b>						
less than \$150,000	8	67,105	12,436	8,743	-	88,284
\$150,000 to \$179,999	2	96,428	53,689	17,230	-	167,347
\$180,000 to \$209,999	19	137,801	34,149	23,301	-	195,251
\$210,000 to \$239,999	8	165,198	37,992	20,955	-	224,145
\$240,000 to \$269,999	4	151,520	77,316	24,803	-	253,639
\$270,000 to \$299,999	1	164,066	82,791	26,310	-	273,167
\$300,000 to \$329,999	3	213,539	78,974	18,327	-	310,840
\$480,000 to \$509,999	1	344,692	79,017	80,970	-	504,679
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>					

#### Notes:

- This table reports substantive senior executives who received remuneration during the reporting period. Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.
- 'Reportable salary' includes the following: a) gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column); b) reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' to account for tax benefits); and c) exempt foreign employment income.
- The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average actual superannuation contributions paid to senior executives in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period, including any salary sacrificed amounts, as per the individuals' payslips.
- 'Reportable allowances' are the average actual allowances paid. Allowances available to senior executives include motor vehicle allowance.
- 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. The 'bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the ABS during the financial year.
- Various salary sacrifice arrangements were available to senior executives including superannuation, motor vehicle and expense payment fringe benefits. Salary sacrifice benefits are reported in the 'reportable salary' column, excluding salary sacrificed superannuation, which is reported in the 'contributed superannuation' column.
- Two senior executives on long term leave who were not on secondment to another entity have been included in 2010-11. (2009-10: 1).
- One senior executive who entered into a secondment arrangement with another entity during the financial year has been included in 2010-11. (2009-10: Nil).

### Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

#### Note 12C: Other Highly Paid Staff

Average annual reportable remuneration <sup>1</sup>	2012					
	Staff No.	Reportable salary <sup>2</sup> \$	Contributed superannuation <sup>3</sup> \$	Reportable allowances <sup>4</sup> \$	Bonus paid <sup>5</sup> \$	Total \$
<b>Total reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements):</b>						
\$150,000 to \$179,999	12	132,184	16,771	11,944	716	161,615
\$180,000 to \$209,999	2	127,052	39,658	23,711	-	190,421
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>					

#### Notes:

- This table reports staff:
  - who were employed by the entity during the reporting period;
  - whose reportable remuneration was \$150,000 or more for the financial period; and
  - were not required to be disclosed in Tables A or B.
 Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.
- 'Reportable salary' includes the following:
  - gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column);
  - reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' to account for tax benefits); and
  - exempt foreign employment income.
- The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average actual superannuation contributions paid to staff in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period, including any salary sacrificed amounts, as per individuals' payslips.
- 'Reportable allowances' are the average actual allowances paid. Allowances available to senior executives include motor vehicle allowance.
- 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. The 'bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the entity during the financial year.
- Various salary sacrifice arrangements were available to other highly paid staff including superannuation, motor vehicle and expense payment fringe benefits. Salary sacrifice benefits are reported in the 'reportable salary' column, excluding salary sacrificed superannuation, which is reported in the 'contributed superannuation' column.
- All staff reported are substantive Directors. Twelve of the Directors reported received higher duties due to acting arrangements at the senior executive level.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Average annual reportable remuneration <sup>1</sup>	2011				Total
	Staff No.	Reportable salary <sup>2</sup>	Contributed superannuation <sup>3</sup>	Reportable allowances <sup>4</sup>	
Total reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements):					
\$150,000 to \$179,999	6	134,486	21,056	11,149	716
\$180,000 to \$209,999	3	114,096	49,735	24,582	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>				<b>167,407</b>
					<b>188,413</b>

Notes:

- This table reports staff:
  - who were employed by the entity during the reporting period;
  - whose reportable remuneration was \$150,000 or more for the financial period; and
  - were not required to be disclosed in Tables A or B.
 Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.
- 'Reportable salary' includes the following:
  - gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column);
  - reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' to account for tax benefits); and
  - exempt foreign employment income.
- The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average actual superannuation contributions paid to staff in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period, including any salary sacrificed amounts, as per individuals' payslips.
- 'Reportable allowances' are the average actual allowances paid. Allowances available to senior executives include motor vehicle allowance.
- 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. The 'bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the entity during the financial year.
- Various salary sacrifice arrangements were available to other highly paid staff including superannuation, motor vehicle and expense payment fringe benefits. Salary sacrifice benefits are reported in the 'reportable salary' column, excluding salary sacrificed superannuation, which is reported in the 'contributed superannuation' column.
- All staff reported are substantive Directors. Eight of the Directors reported received higher duties due to acting arrangements at the senior executive level.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 13: Remuneration of Auditors

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Financial statement audit services were provided free of charge to the ABS by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO).		
<b>The fair value of the services provided</b>		
Financial statement audit services	125,000	125,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>125,000</b>

No other services were provided by the auditors of the financial statements.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 14: Financial Instruments

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Note 14A: Categories of Financial Instruments</b>		
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
<b>Loans and receivables:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,845	4,037
Trade and other receivables*	4,131	2,777
<b>Carrying amount of financial assets</b>	<b>8,976</b>	<b>6,814</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
<b>At amortised cost:</b>		
Trade and sundry creditors	17,118	15,640
<b>Carrying amount of financial liabilities</b>	<b>17,118</b>	<b>15,640</b>

**Note 14B: Net Income and Expense from Financial Assets**

<b>Financial assets</b>		
Bad debts written off	11	8
<b>Net gain from financial assets</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>

**Note 14C: Net Income and Expense from Financial Liabilities**

<b>Financial liabilities - at amortised cost</b>		
Interest expense**	-	66
<b>Net gain from financial liabilities - at amortised cost</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66</b>

**Note 14D: Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

The carrying value of financial instruments of the ABS is a reasonable approximation of the fair value of those financial statements.

\*For the purposes of Note 14 Financial Instruments, trade and other receivables excludes appropriation receivable and GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office.

\*\*The interest expense in 2010-11 relates to a Government loan. The loan was issued in 2001-02 and was repayable in quarterly instalments ending in 2010-11.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

**Note 14E: Credit Risk**

The ABS is a 100% owned Australian Government entity, which is primarily funded for its activities through the budget process.

The majority of services provided by the ABS are delivered to other Government entities and therefore represent minimal credit exposure for the agency.

The maximum exposure to credit risk is the risk that arises from potential default of a debtor. This amount is equal to the total amount of trade and other receivables excluding appropriation receivable and GST receivable from the Australian Tax Office (2012: \$4,130,987 and 2011: \$2,776,948).

The ABS has policies and procedures in relation to debt recovery techniques that are applied as appropriate. The ABS holds no collateral to mitigate against credit risk.

The following table illustrates the ABS' gross exposure to credit risk.

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,845	4,037
Trade and other receivables	4,131	2,777
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,976</b>	<b>6,814</b>

**Credit quality of financial instruments not past due or individually determined as impaired**

	Not past due nor impaired 2012 \$'000	Not past due nor impaired 2011 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2012 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2011 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	4,845	4,037	-	-
Trade and other receivables	3,485	2,344	646	433
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,330</b>	<b>6,381</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>433</b>

**Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2012**

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade and other receivables	203	367	11	65	646
<b>Total</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>646</b>

**Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2011**

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade and other receivables	184	156	28	65	433
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>433</b>

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

**Note 14F: Liquidity Risk**

The ABS receives appropriation funding from the Australian Government. The ABS manages its cash to ensure it is able to make payments as they fall due. In addition, the ABS undertakes cash forecasting to ensure it can meet future liabilities as they fall due. The ABS has policies in place to ensure payments are made on time.

The financial liabilities of ABS are trade and sundry creditors.

The exposure to liquidity risk is based on the notion that the ABS will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. This is highly unlikely due to appropriation funding and mechanisms available to the ABS (e.g. Advance to the Finance Minister) and internal policies and procedures put in place to ensure there are appropriate resources to meet its financial obligations.

The ABS has no derivative financial liabilities in both current and prior year.

**Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities 2012**

	On demand	Within 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	> 5 years	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Trade and sundry creditors	-	17,118	-	-	-	17,118
<b>Total</b>	-	17,118	-	-	-	17,118

**Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities 2011**

	On demand	Within 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	> 5 years	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Trade and sundry creditors	-	15,640	-	-	-	15,640
<b>Total</b>	-	15,640	-	-	-	15,640

**Note 14G: Market Risk**

The ABS holds basic financial instruments that do not expose the ABS to 'currency risk' or 'other price risk'.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

**Note 15: Financial Assets Reconciliation**

		2012	2011
		\$'000	\$'000
<b>Financial assets</b>	<b>Notes</b>		
<b>Total financial assets as per balance sheet</b>		76,071	70,391
Less: non-financial instrument components			
Appropriation receivable	5B	66,338	63,471
GST receivable from the ATO	5B	757	106
Total non-financial instrument components		67,095	63,577
<b>Total financial assets as per financial instruments note</b>	14A	8,976	6,814

### Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

#### Note 16: Appropriations

Table A: Annual Appropriations [Recoverable GST exclusive]

	2012 Appropriations						Appropriation applied in 2012 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance \$'000
	Appropriation Act		FMA Act			Total appropriation \$'000		
	Annual Appropriation \$'000	Appropriations reduced <sup>1</sup> \$'000	AFM <sup>2</sup> \$'000	Section 30 \$'000	Section 31 \$'000			
DEPARTMENTAL								
Ordinary annual services	548,632	-	-	1,507	49,319	-	599,458	15,309
Other services	19,106	-	-	-	-	-	19,106	(7,597)
Equity								
Total departmental	567,738	-	-	1,507	49,319	-	618,564	7,712

#### Notes:

1. Appropriation reduced under Appropriation Acts (Nos.1,3&5) 2011-12; sections 10,11,12 and under Appropriation Acts (Nos.2,4&6) 2011-12; sections 12,13 and 14. Departmental appropriations do not lapse at financial year-end. However, the responsible Minister may decide that part or all of a departmental appropriation is not required and request the Finance Minister to reduce that appropriation. The reduction in the appropriation is effected by the Finance Minister's determination and is disallowable by Parliament. No determinations were made in 2011-12.
2. Advance to the Finance Minister (AFM) – Appropriation Acts (Nos.1,3&5) 2011-12; section 13 and Appropriation Acts (Nos.2,4&6) 2011-12; section 15. No advances were made in 2011-12.
3. The variance between the total ordinary annual services appropriation and the appropriation applied during the reporting period is due to a higher amount of current year undrawn appropriation not being applied during the reporting period. The variance between the equity appropriation and the appropriation applied during the reporting period is due to a higher amount of undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2011 being applied during the reporting period. The undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2012 is detailed in Table C.

### Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011 Appropriations						Appropriation applied in 2011 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance \$'000
	Appropriation Act		FMA Act			Total appropriation \$'000		
	Annual Appropriation \$'000	Appropriations reduced <sup>1</sup> \$'000	AFM <sup>2</sup> \$'000	Section 30 \$'000	Section 31 \$'000			
DEPARTMENTAL								
Ordinary annual services	354,651	-	-	1,292	45,787	-	401,930	19,311
Other services	44,676	-	-	-	-	-	44,676	11,336
Equity								
Total departmental	399,527	-	-	1,292	45,787	-	446,606	30,647

#### Notes:

1. Appropriation reduced under Appropriation Acts (Nos.1&3) 2010-11; sections 10,11,12 and 15 and under Appropriation Acts (Nos.2&4) 2010-11; sections 12,13,14 and 17. Departmental appropriations do not lapse at financial year-end. However, the responsible Minister may decide that part or all of a departmental appropriation is not required and request the Finance Minister to reduce that appropriation. The reduction in the appropriation is effected by the Finance Minister's determination and is disallowable by Parliament. No determinations were made in 2010-11.
2. Advance to the Finance Minister (AFM) – Appropriation Acts (Nos.1&3) 2010-11; section 13 and Appropriation Acts (Nos.2&4) 2010-11; section 15. No advances were made in 2010-11.
3. The variance between the total appropriation and the appropriation applied for the reporting period is due to undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2010 being applied during the reporting period and there being undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2011, as detailed in Table C.

### Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Table B: Departmental Capital Budgets (Recoverable GST exclusive)

	2012 Capital Budget Appropriations			Capital Budget Appropriations applied in 2012 (current and prior years)			
	Appropriation Act		Total Capital Budget Appropriations \$'000	Payments for non-financial assets <sup>3</sup> \$'000	Payments for other purposes \$'000	Total payments \$'000	Variance \$'000
	Annual Capital Budget \$'000	Appropriations reduced <sup>2</sup> \$'000					
DEPARTMENTAL Ordinary annual services - Departmental Capital Budget <sup>1</sup>	18,038	-	18,038	26,273	-	26,273	(8,235)

**Notes:**

1. Departmental Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No.1.3.5). They form part of ordinary annual services, and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts. For more information on ordinary annual services appropriations, please see Table A: Annual appropriations.
2. Appropriations reduced under Appropriation Acts (No.1.3.5) 2011-12; sections 10,11,12 and 15 or via a determination by the Finance Minister.
3. Payments made on non-financial assets include purchases of assets, expenditure on assets which has been capitalised, costs incurred to make good an asset to its original condition, and the capital repayment component of finance leases.
4. The variance between the Capital Budget appropriation and the appropriation applied during the reporting period is due to a higher amount of undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2011 being applied during the reporting period. The undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2012 is detailed in Table C.

### Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2011 Capital Budget Appropriations			Capital Budget Appropriations applied in 2011 (current and prior years)			
	Appropriation Act		Total Capital Budget Appropriations \$'000	Payments for non-financial assets <sup>3</sup> \$'000	Payments for other purposes \$'000	Total payments \$'000	Variance \$'000
	Annual Capital Budget \$'000	Appropriations reduced <sup>2</sup> \$'000					
DEPARTMENTAL Ordinary annual services - Departmental Capital Budget <sup>1</sup>	44,053	-	44,053	24,754	7,612	32,366	11,687

**Notes:**

1. Departmental Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No.1.3.5). They form part of ordinary annual services and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts. For more information on ordinary annual services appropriations, please see Table A: Annual appropriations.
2. Appropriations reduced under Appropriation Acts (No.1.3.5) 2010-11; sections 10,11,12 and 15 or via a determination by the Finance Minister.
3. Payments made on non-financial assets include purchase of assets, expenditure on assets which has been capitalised, costs incurred to make good an asset to its original condition, and the capital repayment component of finance leases.
4. Payments made for other purposes include departmental operating payments due to the approved operating loss of \$7,859 million, as agreed with the Minister for Finance and Deregulation in 2010-11.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Table C: Unspent Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

Authority	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>DEPARTMENTAL</b>		
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 2010-11	-	55,821
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 2011-12	67,093	-
Departmental Act 2 - Non Operating - Equity Injection 2011-12	638	-
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 - Capital Budget (DCB) - Non Operating 2010-11	-	11,687
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 - Capital Budget (DCB) - Non Operating 2011-12	3,452	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,183</b>	<b>67,508</b>

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 17: Special Accounts

Note 17A: Special Accounts ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

	Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys <sup>1</sup>	
	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance brought forward from previous period	-	-
Increases:	-	-
Receipts	-	-
<b>Total increases</b>	-	-
Available for payments	-	-
Decreases:		
Departmental		
Payments made	-	-
<b>Total departmental decreases</b>	-	-
<b>Total decreases</b>	-	-
<b>Total balance carried to the next period</b>	-	-

<sup>1</sup>Appropriation: *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, section 20.

Establishing Instrument: Determination 2010/04.

Purpose: Disburse amounts held on trust or otherwise for the benefit of a person other than the Commonwealth.

The ABS has a Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys special account. This account was established under section 20 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act). For the year ended 30 June 2012 the account had nil balance and there were no transactions debited or credited to it during the current or prior reporting period.



**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

**Note 18: Compensation and Debt Relief**

	2012 \$	2011 \$
<b>Compensation and Debt Relief - Departmental</b>		
No 'Act of Grace payments' were expended during the reporting period. (2011: No expenses).	-	-
No waivers of amounts owing to the Australian Government were made pursuant to subsection 34(1) of the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997. (2011: No waivers).	-	-
No payments were provided under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration (CDDA) Scheme during the reporting period. (2011: No payments).	-	-
No ex-gratia payments were provided for during the reporting period. (2011: No payments).	-	-
No payments were provided in special circumstances relating to APS employment pursuant to section 73 of the Public Service Act 1999 (PS Act) during the reporting period. (2011: No payments).	-	-

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

**Note 19: Assets Held in Trust**

**Monetary Assets**

Financial assets held in trust include the Special account: Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys. This asset held in trust is disclosed in Note 17A: Special Accounts.

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys - Monetary Asset</b>		
Total amount held at the beginning of the reporting period	-	-
Receipts	-	-
Payments	-	-
<b>Total amount held at the end of the reporting period</b>	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-

**Non-monetary Assets**

ABS has no non-monetary assets held in trust in both the current and prior years.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
 Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 20: Reporting of Outcomes

Note 20A: Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Departmental</b>				
Expenses	(628,647)	(425,974)	(628,647)	(425,974)
Own-source income	44,076	32,608	44,076	32,608
<b>Administered</b>				
Expenses	-	-	-	-
Own-source income	5	8	5	8
<b>Net cost of outcome delivery</b>	<b>584,566</b>	<b>393,358</b>	<b>584,566</b>	<b>393,358</b>

Outcome 1 is described in note 1.1.

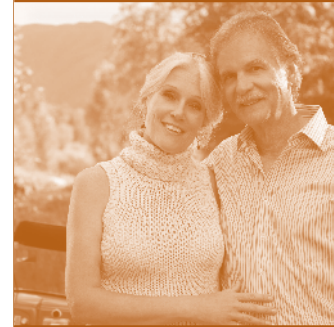
Net costs shown include intra-government costs that are eliminated in calculating the actual Budget Outcome.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
 Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

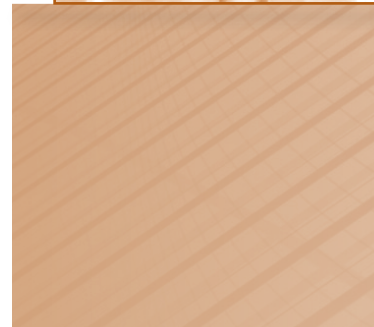
Note 21: Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
Total comprehensive income (loss) less depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriations <sup>1</sup>	4,072	(7,070)
Plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriation	(34,481)	(30,558)
<b>Total comprehensive loss - as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>(30,409)</b>	<b>(37,628)</b>

1. From 2010-11, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements, where revenue appropriations for depreciation/amortisation expenses ceased. Entities now receive a separate capital budget provided through equity appropriations. Capital budgets are to be appropriated in the period when cash payment for capital expenditure is required.



## Section 6 APPENDICES



## Appendix 1

### Contact details



For enquiries about the ABS Annual Report, please contact:

**Director, Communications and Ministerial Liaison,  
Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616  
Telephone: 02 6252 7197  
Email: richard.burgess@abs.gov.au

Access to all ABS documents (including the ABS Annual Report) and statistics is available through the ABS website: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au).

For any queries about statistical information, contact the National Information and Referral Service from anywhere in Australia between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday on

**1300 135 070** (from Australia)  
International clients may call **+61 2 9268 4909**

Alternatively, you can email your query to [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)

For media requests, contact ABS Communications and Ministerial Liaison on **1300 175 070**.

The ABS has offices in every state and territory as listed below:

Office	Street address	Postal address
<b>Central Office (Canberra)</b>	ABS House 45 Benjamin Way, Belconnen ACT 2617	Locked Bag 10 Belconnen ACT 2616
<b>New South Wales</b>	Level 10 44 Market Street Sydney NSW 2000	GPO Box 796 Sydney NSW 2001
<b>Victoria</b>	5th Floor Commercial Union Tower 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne VIC 3000	GPO Box 2796Y Melbourne VIC 3001
<b>Queensland</b>	Level 3 639 Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006	GPO Box 9817 Brisbane QLD 4001
<b>South Australia</b>	Level 9 ANZ House, 11 Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000	GPO Box 2272 Adelaide SA 5001
<b>Western Australia</b>	Level 15 Exchange Plaza, Sherwood Court, Perth WA 6000	GPO Box K881 Perth WA 6842
<b>Tasmania</b>	200 Collins Street, Hobart TAS 7000	GPO Box 66A Hobart TAS 7001
<b>Northern Territory</b>	Level 3 Civitas Building, 22 Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin NT 0800	GPO BOX 3796 Darwin NT 0801
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	ABS House Ground Floor, 45 Benjamin Way, Belconnen ACT 2617	Locked Bag 10 Belconnen ACT 2616

## Appendix 2

### User groups advising the ABS



The following is a list of user groups that advise the ABS work program, and were active throughout 2011-12

#### National groups

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Demographic Statistics Expert Advisory Group
- Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
- Analytical Community Reference Group
- Australasian Mortality Data Interest Group
- Australia and New Zealand Population Workshop
- Australian Bureau of Statistics – Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism High Level Liaison Committee
- Australian Government Energy Data Forum
- Australian Government Statistical Forum
- Australian Health Survey Reference Group
- Australian Statistics Advisory Council
- Australian Transport Data Action Network
- Census – Indigenous Enumeration Strategy Working Group
- Committee of Australian Sport and Recreation Officials Research Group
- Culture Statistics Working Group
- Data and Performance Measurement Principal Committee
- Demography Statistics Advisory Group
- Early Childhood Data Subgroup
- Economic Statistics User Group
- Gender Statistics Advisory Group
- General Social Survey Reference Group
- Household Income and Expenditure Statistics User Advisory Group
- Housing Statistics User Advisory Group
- Information and Communication Technology Statistics Reference Group
- Innovation (incl. R&D) Statistics Reference Group
- Input-Output Statistics User Group
- International Trade in Services User Group
- Labour Statistics Advisory Group
- Longitudinal Studies Advisory Group
- Measures of Australia's Progress Expert Reference Group
- Measures of Australia's Progress Economic Topic Advisory Panel
- Measures of Australia's Progress Environment Topic Advisory Panel
- Measures of Australia's Progress Governance Topic Advisory Panel
- Measures of Australia's Progress Social Topic Advisory Panel

- Methodology Advisory Committee
- Migrant Statistics Advisory Group
- Migrant Statistics Management Board
- Migrant Statistics Reference Group
- Mortality Statistics Advisory Group
- National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data
- National Community Services Information Management Group
- National Corrective Services Statistics Advisory Group
- Work, Life and Family Survey Reference Group

### State and territory government groups

- ACT Information Development Working Group
- Government Agencies Statistical Committee (South Australia)
- National Crime Statistics Advisory Group
- National Criminal Courts Statistics Advisory Group
- National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee
- National Housing and Homelessness Information Management Group
- National Housing Supply Data Sub-group
- Northern Territory Statistical Liaison Committee
- Patient Experience Survey Reference Group
- Personal Safety Survey Advisory Group
- Population Estimates Technical Workshop
- Private Hospital Statistics User Group
- Productivity Measurement Reference Group
- Programme for Assessment of Adult Competencies Reference Group
- Queensland Statistical Table
- Rural Environment and Agriculture Statistics User Forum
- Schools Data Subgroup
- Social Statistics Consultative Groups (Western Australia)
- Social Statistics Forum (all states and territories)
- Standard Business Reporting Taxonomy Approval Committee
- State Accounts User Group
- State Statistical Forum (all states and territories)
- Statistical Clearing House User Group
- Statistical Coordination and User Forum (New South Wales)
- Statistical Policy Committee (Tasmania)
- Statistical Policy Committee (Western Australia)
- Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision
- Strategic Cross-sectoral Data Committee for Early Childhood, Education and Training
- Structural Issues in the Workforce Sub-Committee, Workforce Profile Working Group (Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council (CDSMAC) Sub-Committee)
- Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers Advisory Group
- Tasmanian Statistical Advisory Committee
- Tourism Research Advisory Board
- Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum

## Appendix 3 Consultancy services

### Policy on selection and engagement of consultants

ABS policy on the selection and engagement of consultants is consistent with ABS Chief Executive Instructions, and the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. The ABS selects and engages consultants in a way that provides value for money.

### Total consultancies let in 2011–12

During 2011–12, 25 new consultants were engaged to carry out projects or provide professional and technical advice that could not be provided by ABS staff. The total expenditure on the 25 new consultancies during 2011–12 was \$1,490,359. Expenditure on the 12 existing consultancies which had been let in previous years, and continued into 2011–12, was \$81,455.

Table A3.1 shows the total expenditure on all consultancies, covering both payments made on new contracts let in 2011–12, and payments made on existing contracts let in previous years.

Table A3.1: Consultancy services contracts engaged by the ABS

	Consultancies (number)	Expenditure (\$) including GST
2007-08	30	677,999
2008-09	43	1,353,005
2009-10	53	3,298,010
2010-11	48	2,508,918
2011-12	37	1,571,814

Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on contracts for consultancies. Information on the value of contracts and consultancies is available on the AusTender website [www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au).

## Appendix 4

### Advertising and market research



The ABS paid \$11.9 million (GST exclusive) for advertising, \$1.8 million (GST exclusive) for public relations consultancies, and \$0.808 million (GST exclusive) for market research in 2011–12.

The increase in advertising and public relations consultancy expenditure from 2010–11 was due to activities related to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The organisations that supplied these services included Universal McCann, Leo Burnett and Multicall Pty Ltd.

Market research expenditure incurred in 2011–12 is in relation to focus group testing for the Census of Population and Housing, 2011 Census campaign evaluation, Census household respondent's behavioural survey and Census research on campaign material. The organisations that supplied the market research services included DBM Consultants, Market Attitude Research Services and Hall and Partners Open Mind Pty Ltd.

## Appendix 5

### Freedom of Information requests



#### Introduction

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

Detail on the structure of the ABS can be found in Chapter 2, Overview of the ABS.

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

#### Information held by the ABS

Table A5.1: Categories of documents in the possession of the ABS

<b>Documents open to public access upon payment of a fee</b>	The ABS does not hold any of these types of documents.
<b>Documents available for purchase or customarily available free of charge</b>	The ABS has a wide range of statistical publications available free of charge on its website: <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au">www.abs.gov.au</a> , and through major public libraries. Charged publications can be purchased via the ABS National Information Referral Service (Phone 1300 135 070).
<b>Government and Parliament</b>	The ABS holds policy-related documents, ministerial briefings, ministerial correspondence, replies to parliamentary questions, and tabling documents.
<b>Meetings and conferences</b>	The ABS holds agenda papers, submissions, and records of proceedings of internal and external conferences, management meetings and workshops.
<b>Statistical and statistical services projects</b>	The ABS holds research, development and evaluation papers; records of consultations with suppliers and users of data; statistical classifications; lists of businesses; maps; data collection, processing and publication manuals and instructions; and mailing lists.
<b>Administration and management</b>	The ABS holds work program and planning documents; finance, staff and establishment papers and manuals; personnel files; recruitment files; files on selection and promotion of staff; staff development and training papers; officer services documents; and tenders.

<b>Privacy</b>	The ABS holds a record of the extent and nature of ABS holdings of personal information, as contained in the Personal Information Digest published by the Privacy Commissioner.
<b>General</b>	The ABS holds correspondence, manuals on general subjects, internal reports and administrative circulars.

## ABS Freedom of Information activities

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

A significant part of ABS information holdings is information collected under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. This information is exempt from the provisions of the FOI Act.

The following table provides details of Freedom of Information activities during the years 2007-08 to 2011-12 inclusive. Twenty three requests were made to the ABS under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 during 2011-12.

Table A5.2: Freedom of information activities, 2007–08 to 2010–11 (number)

	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
<b>Requests received*</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Decisions made</b>					
Access granted in full	-	-	-	2	2
Access granted in part	3	1	5	-	5
Access not granted#	-	2	1	4	11

\* Includes requests which have been withdrawn, transferred to another agency or not finalised prior to the reporting deadline.

# Includes requests where no documents exist and documents exist that are not subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

## Where to get information

### Freedom of Information inquiries

All inquiries concerning access to documents under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 may be directed to the Freedom of Information Contact Officer, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616; Phone 02 6252 7203; Email: freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

### General information

The ABS offers an initial contact point for all information requests:

**Telephone:** 1300 135 070

**Email:** client.services@abs.gov.au

**Facsimile:** 1300 135 211

**Mail:** Client Services, ABS,  
GPO Box 796,  
Sydney, NSW, 2001.

## Appendix 6

### Professional papers by ABS officers

Officers of the ABS prepared the following professional papers, which were presented or published between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012

**Amarasinghe, Anura** Labour Characteristics and Private Health Insurance: Exploring the Relationship Using the Confidentialised 1% Personal Income Tax Data. Presented at 22nd Australian Labour Market Research Workshop, University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia 6-7 February 2012

**Apted, Lisa; Carruthers, Philip; Lee, Geoff; Oehm, Daniel; Yu, Frank** Industrialisation of Statistical Processes, Methods, and Technologies. Presented by Geoff Lee at the 58th World Statistics Congress of the International Statistical Institute, Dublin, Ireland, 21-26 August, 2011

**Barosevic, Marko; Conn, Lewis; Cullen, Derick** Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM) in the CPI. Presented by Lewis Conn at the 58th World Statistics Congress of the International Statistical Institute, Dublin, Ireland, 21-26 August, 2011

**Cadogan-Cowper, Andrew; Johnson, Tony** Measuring the Green Economy. Presented at the OECD Working Party on Environmental Information, Paris, France, 15-16 November 2011

**Chipperfield, James; Yu, Frank** Protecting Confidentiality in a Remote Analysis Server. Presented at Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality Tarragona, Spain, 26-28 October 2011

**Chipperfield, James; Yu, Frank; Gare, Melissa** Providing access to microdata for statistical purposes – experiences of the Australian Bureau of Statistics with Remote Analysis Server. Proceedings of Statistics Canada Symposium, 1-4 November 2011

**Comisari, Peter; Feng, Lilina; Freeman, Brendan** Valuation of Water Resources and Water Infrastructure Assets. Presented at the London Group on Environmental Accounting, Stockholm, Sweden, 12-15 September 2011

**Eigenraam, Mark; Vardon, Michael; Hasker, Jessica; Stoneham, Gary; Chua, Joselito** Valuation of ecosystem goods and services in Victoria. Presented at Expert Meeting on Ecosystem Accounts, London UK, 5-7 December 2011

**Farrell, Emma; Hewett, Kettie** Keeping up appearances: maintaining standards during strategic changes in electronic reporting. International Statistical Institute 58th Congress, Dublin, Ireland 21-26 August 2011

**Farwell, Keith** A Comparison of Hierarchical and Hidioglou-Berthelot Macro-Edits. Presented at the Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys, Montreal, Canada, 11-14 June, 2012

**Farwell, Keith; Chung, Kin** Automatic Editing of Categorical Business Survey Data in the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys, Montreal, Canada, 11-14 June, 2012

**Gilbert, Narissa** Data Quality Assurance - Quality Gates Framework for Statistical Risk Management. Presented at the Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys, Montreal, Canada 11-14 June, 2012

**Gilbert, Narissa; Stokes, Katy; Fyfe, Carolyn** Lessons learnt from different approaches to the implementation of quality initiatives. Presented at the European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics, Athens, Greece, 30 May -1 June 2012

**Gurusamy, Kavitha** Enablers of Open Source Software adoption: A case study of APS organisations. Published in The Australasian Journal of Information Systems, Vol 17, No 2 - 2012 pp. 5-23

**Gurusamy, Kavitha** A Case Study Of Open Source Software Adoption In Australian Public Sector Organisation. Presented at The Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems, Brisbane, Australia, 7-11 July 2011

**Hao, Manson; Cadogan-Cowper, Andrew; Chia, Nathan; Legoff, Gregory; Mahadeva, Kuru** Development of environmentally extended I-O tables for CHG emissions in Australia. Presented at the 20th IIOA conference in Bratislava, Slovakia, 24-29 June 2012

**Jarvis, Bjorn** Innovations in the Census Post Enumeration Survey in Australia. Presented by Geoff Lee at the 58th World Statistics Congress of the International Statistical Institute, Dublin, Ireland, 21-26 August, 2011

**Lagura, Erwin; Norman, Philip; Richmond, Mike; Watling, Richard** The Public Transport Usage of Two Melbournes. Presented at the Australasian Transport Research Forum 2011 Proceedings, Adelaide, Australia, 28 - 30 September 2011

**Leaver, Victoria; Chipperfield, James; Gare, Melissa** Automatically protecting user-defined tables and analytic outputs from the Australian Population Census. Presented at ESSnet workshop on Statistical Disclosure Control of Census data Luxembourg 19-20 April 2012

**Lu, Kevin** Minimizing sample overlap with surveys using different geographic units. Presented at the ASEARC Conference, University of Wollongong, 2-3 February, 2012

**Marley, Jennifer; Leaver, Victoria** A Method for Confidentialising User-Defined Tables: Statistical Properties and a Risk-Utility Analysis. Presented at the 58th World Statistics Congress of the International Statistical Institute, Dublin, Ireland, 21-26 August, 2011

**Rotaru, Cristian; McNaughton, Shaun; Soriano, Franklin** Revisiting the Estimation of Substitution Biases and the Construction of Spatial Price Indexes using Scanner Data. Presented at 2011 Economic Measurements Group Workshop, Sydney, NSW 30 November - 3 December 2011

**Starick, Rosslyn; Watson, Nicole** Evaluation of Alternative Income Imputation Methods for a Longitudinal Survey . Published in Journal of Official Statistics, Vol. 27, No. 4, pp. 693-715 2011

**Starick, Rosslyn; Steel, Jack** Does increased effort lead to a less representative response? Selected case studies from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Presented at the European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics - Q2012, Athens, Greece, 30 May - 1 June 2012

**Tam, Siu-Ming** Toward GSIM V1.0 as a cornerstone for common reference architecture. Presented at Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2012) Washington, D.C., U.S.A. 21 - 23 May 2012

**Tam, Siu-Ming** Platform for International Collaboration – Preliminary thoughts from the ABS. Presented at Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2012) Washington, D.C., U.S.A. 21 - 23 May 2012

**Thompson, Graeme** Linking Information to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing in 2011. Presented at the ESSnet Data Integration workshop, (Instituto Nacional de Estadística) Madrid, Spain 24-25 November 2011

**van Kints, Marcel** Recent developments in Australian Residential Property Price Indexes. Presented at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices, Geneva, Switzerland, 30 May – 1 June 2012

**Vardon, Michael** The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water: development, implementation and use. Published in Water Accounting International Approaches to Policy and Decision-making, 2012

**Vardon, Michael; Cadogan-Cowper, Andrew; Juskevics, Valdis; Lound, Mark** The Building Blocks for Land and Ecosystem Accounting. Presented at the London Group on Environmental Accounting, Stockholm, Sweden, 12-15 September 2011

**Vardon, Michael; Eigenraam, Mark McDonald, Jane; Mount, Richard; Cadogan-Cowper, Andrew** Towards an Integrated Structure for SEEA Ecosystem Stock and Flow Accounts Presented at Expert Meeting on Ecosystem Accounts, London UK, 5-7 December 2011

**Watmuff, Ross** Sample frame and coverage issues for Indigenous population surveys in Australia. Presented at the 4th conference of the European Survey Research Association, 18-22 July 2011

**Watmuff, Ross** Multiple designs for Census data collection and surveys. Presented at 2011 Joint Statistical Meetings (of the American Statistical Association), Miami Beach, Florida 30 July - 4 August 2011

**Zhang, Guangyu; Campbell, Paul** Developing the Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset and Identifying Its Potential Uses. Published in The Australian Economic Review, 45(1), pp.126-133 2012.



## Appendix 7

### Submissions to parliamentary committees

Table A7.1: Submissions to parliamentary committees and inquiries, 2011–12

Committee/Inquiry	Description of submission/information provided
<b>House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.</b> Report: Doing time - time for doing Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system.	In October 2011, the ABS provided a submission to the government's response to the recommendations of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs report Doing time - time for doing Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system. The ABS submission addressed the report's recommendations to improve identification documents and expand data collections.
<b>House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing</b> Report: Before it's too late (July 2011)	In August 2011, the ABS contributed to a whole-of-government response to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing report - Before it's too late which was released in July 2011. This report made ten recommendations that aimed to improve Australia's capacity to prevent youth suicide. The ABS response which passed through to the Department of Health and Aging for inclusion in the whole-of-government response, addressed the first three recommendations relating to improving the nature of data that can be made publicly available in relation to suicide and youth suicide in particular. In the next few months the ABS will release a publication focusing on suicide data, a publication which will assist in addressing some but not all of the three recommendations.

## Appendix 8

### Documents tabled in Parliament

In accordance with section 6 of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, the ABS tabled, in both Houses of Parliament, 18 proposals for the collection of information for statistical purposes. Details of the proposals are shown in the following table.

Table A8.1: Tabling – proposals for the collection of information for statistical purposes, 2011–12

Date tabled (a)	Statistical collection (b)
4 July 2011	Multipurpose Household Survey
16 August 2011	Water Supply and Sewerage Services Survey 2010-11
16 August 2011	Retail Trade Margins Price Index Survey
13 September 2011	Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies
13 September 2011	New Topics in the Monthly Population Survey
31 October 2011	Personal Safety Survey
31 October 2011	Collection of Household Energy Consumption Information
7 February 2012	Waste Management, Transport and Motor Vehicle Usage Survey 2012
7 February 2012	2012 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
13 March 2012	Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities
19 March 2012	Business Survey of Residential Electricity Distribution
8 May 2012	Agricultural Resource Management Survey
8 May 2012	Land Management Practices Survey 2011-12
18 June 2012	Multipurpose Household Survey 2012–13
18 June 2012	Wage Price Index Survey
18 June 2012	Film, Television and Digital Games Survey 2011-12
18 June 2012	Construction Industry Survey 2011-12
25 June 2012	Survey of Sales to Households - Energy Retailing Survey

- (a) If the proposal was tabled on different dates in the two Houses of Parliament, the earlier of the dates is shown.  
 (b) Unless otherwise indicated by the title, the statistical collection is a national project

## Disclosure of lists of business names and addresses

In accordance with clause 6 of the Statistics Determination 1983 made under section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act*, the ABS tables, in both Houses of Parliament, details of the disclosure of lists of names, addresses and other information, provided to a specified department or authority. The information released is shown in the following table.

Table A8.2: Tabling - disclosure of lists of names and addresses, 2011–12

Date tabled (a)	Information released
19 March 2012	Lists of Agricultural Farm Businesses for the Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics – Bureau of Rural Sciences
8 May 2012	Release of lists of Early Childhood Education Businesses for the Commonwealth, State & Territory Education Departments.
18 June 2012	Release of lists of Businesses for Safe Work Australia.

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

## Appendix 9

### Special articles in previous annual reports

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

*Integrating Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes* (2010-11, Chapter 3)

*Natural disasters and their impact on statistics* (2010-11, Chapter 4)

*Developments in Data Integration* (2009-10, Chapter 3)

*100 Years of Census* (2009-10, Chapter 4)

*The Role of a National Statistical Agency in a global financial crisis* (2008-09, Chapter 3)

*Climate change and official statistics* (2008-09, Chapter 4)

*The role of official statistics in COAG information related initiatives for measuring outcomes* (2008-09, Chapter 5)

*Australia's National Statistical Service in the 21st Century* (2007–08, Chapter 3)

*100 Years of International Trade Statistics* (2007–08, Chapter 4)

*Retirement of the Australian Statistician* (2006–07, Chapter 6)

*2006 Census of Population and Housing* (2006–07, Chapter 7)

*Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations* (2006–07, Chapter 8)

*Communicating statistics to the nation* (2005–06, Chapter 6)

*Development and implementation of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC 2006)* (2005–06, Chapter 7)

*International engagement* (2004–05, Chapter 3)

*History of Australian Censuses of Population and Housing* (2004–05, Chapter 4)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Statistical Benchmarking as a Means of Improving Performance* (1999–2000, Chapter 4)  
*Review of the ABS Household Survey Program* (1998–99, Chapter 2)  
*ABS Experience in Workplace Relations* (1998–99, Chapter 3)  
*The Destruction of Census Forms* (1997–98, Chapter 2)  
*Recent Developments in Price and Labour Cost Indexes* (1997–98, Chapter 3)  
*The Pint Pot Revisited* (1996–97, Chapter 2)  
*The 1996 Census of Population and Housing* (1996–97, Chapter 3)  
*Developments in the Australian National Accounts* (1995–96, Chapter 2)  
*The Destruction of Census Forms* (1995–96, Chapter 3)  
*Retirement of Mr Ian Castles, AO, Australian Statistician, 1986–1994* (1994–95, Chapter 1)  
*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey* (1994–95, Chapter 2)  
*The 1996 Census of Population and Housing* (1993–94, Chapter 2)  
*Reducing Respondent Load* (1992–93, Chapter 2)  
*Security of ABS Data Holdings* (1992–93, Chapter 3)  
*The 1991 Census of Population and Housing (1990–91, Chapter 2, Population Census)*  
*The ABS in the Marketplace* (1989–90, Chapter 2)  
*A Quart out of a Pint Pot* (1988–89, Chapter 2).  
*Household Expenditure Surveys in Australia: A Chronology* (1988–89, Appendix 15)  
*Complaints to the Australian Press Council* (1988–89, Appendix 16)  
*Statistics and Privacy* (1987–88, Chapter 3)  
*Media Liaison for ABS Health Survey* (1987–88, Appendix 12)  
*ABS Corporate Plan* (1986–87, Chapter 2)  
*Health Statistics and the Report of the Better Health Commission* (1986–87, Chapter 3)  
*The Role of a National Statistical Office* (1986–87, Appendix 10)  
*Dissemination of Statistics by the ABS* (1985–86, pages 9 to 14)  
*The ABS Program of Industry Collections* (1984–85, pages 8 to 13, supplemented by Appendix 5)  
*The ABS Program of Population Surveys* (1983–84, pages 7 to 11, supplemented by Appendix 5)  
*A Decade's Work Program* (1981–82, Section 2)  
*Minimising Reporting Burden* (1980–81, Section 2)  
*The Accuracy and Reliability of Estimates of National Income and Expenditure* (1979–80, Section 2)  
*Preparations for the 1981 Census of Population and Housing* (1978–79, Section 2)  
*Forward Planning in the ABS* (1977–78, Section 2)  
*The Collection of Information* (1976–77, Section 2)  
*What the ABS Does* (1975–76, Section 2)

## Appendix 10 Legal services expenditure

Paragraph 11.1 (ba) of the Legal Services Directions 2005 (issued by the Attorney-General under section 55ZF of the *Judiciary Act 1903*) requires the ABS to make records of its legal services expenditure available, to the public.

For the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, legal services expenditure by the Australian Bureau of Statistics is shown in the following table.

*Appendix Table 10.1: Summary of Legal Services Expenditure 2011-12 (inclusive of GST)*

<b>Total external legal services expenditure</b>	\$190,905.20
Total number of Counsel briefed	0
Total number of Counsel direct briefed	0
Total value of Counsel briefs	0
<b>Total of disbursements (excl. Counsel)</b>	\$1392.39
Total of professional fees paid	\$189,512.81
<b>Total internal legal services expenditure</b>	\$0.00
<b>Total Costs Recovered</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>

*Table A10.2: External legal services expenditure 2011-12 (inclusive of GST)*

Counsel	
<b>Total number of Counsel briefed</b>	0
<b>Total number of Counsel direct briefed</b>	0
<b>Total value of Counsel briefs</b>	0
<b>Disbursements (excluding Counsel)</b>	<b>\$1,392.39</b>
<b>Professional fees</b>	
Total professional fees paid	\$189,512.81
<b>Breakdown of professional fees paid</b>	
Ashurst Australia (previously Blake Dawson)	\$12,914.72
Australian Government Solicitor	\$96,844.25
Minter Ellison	\$440.00
Norton Rose	\$79,313.84

## Appendix 11

### Access for people with disabilities



As at 30 June 2012 the ABS was in the process of finalising its 2012–2016 Workplace Diversity Action Plan. Findings from the review of the 2005–2007 ABS Disability Action Plan will be incorporated with the broader 2012–2016 Workplace Diversity Action Plan, due to be released in the 2012–13 financial year.

Through the development of the new Workplace Diversity Action Plan, the ABS seeks to ensure that ABS clients and employees with disabilities can be assisted by business and workplace policies and practices through a variety of mechanisms.

Since 2007–08 APS agencies have been required to report their employer role to the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC). The ABS has reported on its activities for disability through the APSC's State of the Service agency survey for 2011–2012.

During 2011–2012, initiatives to enable access to ABS products and services for clients with disabilities included:

- Quality assurance and quality improvement mechanisms: The ABS continues work to comply by 2014 with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.0 developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).
- ABS Service Delivery Charter: The ABS Service Delivery Charter describes the relationship between the ABS and its customers. The Charter specifies what to expect when accessing the ABS website and other services. An updated version of this Charter will be published in September 2012. Feedback and complaint mechanisms for ABS customers are set out in the Charter.
- Collection mechanisms: The ABS has three collection mechanisms relating to disability. These are:
  - I. The Survey of Disability; Ageing and Carers (SDAC)
  - II. The ABS Short Disability Module
  - III. The Census of Population and Housing (Census).

The SDAC, with a 75 question set, provides the largest and most comprehensive collection of disability data on the Australian population. Information is collected on three population groups – people with a disability, people aged 65 years and over, and people who provide assistance to others because of a disability or old age. This Survey has moved from a six yearly to a three yearly cycle and is due to be enumerated in the latter half of 2012. Results from this iteration of the SDAC will be released in 2013–14.

## Appendix 12

### Environmental and ecological sustainability



During 2011–12, the ABS has remained committed to the principles of ecologically sustainable development as outlined in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.

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

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

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

The ABS Environmental Management System (EMS) provides evidence of the ABS's commitment to ecological sustainable development. The ABS operates primarily in an office-based environment and is increasingly moving from paper to electronic products. This is being achieved by continuing to:

- make free publications available on the ABS website and increasing the number of publications available electronically, to reduce demand for printed publications
- use duplex printing and copying
- have a knowledge framework, incorporating digital recordkeeping rather than paper records and automatic recordkeeping facilities for ABS workgroup databases
- utilise electronic reporting such as the eCensus, electronic reporting and computer assisted interviewing to replace paper forms.

Other matters relating to ecologically sustainable development at the ABS include:

- incorporating environmental efficiency measures into the market testing process for new leases with the integration of Green lease schedule to each new tenancy
- inclusion of environmental and whole-of-life-cycle clauses as part of the tender and evaluation process in most procurement activities
- promoting sustainable environmental practices in the current enterprise agreement
- the use of automatic shutdown of computer workstations overnight and the virtualisation of servers to allow for more efficient use of resources resulting in energy savings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The ABS's activities have the potential to affect the environment through consumption of energy, waste production and the impact on local waterways, flora and fauna. A number of ongoing action plans, with relevant targets and objectives have been put in place to reduce the ABS's environmental impact. These include:

- reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas pollution;
- reducing paper consumption
- reducing carbon emissions in transportation
- decreasing water usage
- increasing waste recycling
- increasing the procurement of environmentally friendly products.

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

The ABS has sought to minimise its impact by:

- implementing Green IT initiatives such as Wake-on-LAN to allow software updates whilst automatically shutting down computers across the ABS, upgrading to Windows 7 software, Ei-Power software to enable benchmarking and monitoring of ICT components and Data Centre server virtualisation
- installing motion sensors in all ABS House tenanted areas and energy efficient LED lights within certain areas of the ABS House tenanted areas to reduce energy
- procuring 10% green energy as part of the whole-of-government energy contract for ABS House and 10% green energy for the Victorian office

- programming automatic shorter shutdown periods on most ABS printers together with duplex printing as a default
- establishing digital recordkeeping processes and methods for collecting, managing and delivering knowledge databases
- promoting free electronic publications on the website, reducing the number of printed copies
- using electronic reporting such as the eCensus, electronic reporting and computer assisted interviewing, in place of paper form
- introducing ENVI, a carbon neutral paper for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing
- upgrading video conferencing equipment software and increasing the number of video conferencing facilities to support virtual teams thus reducing the amount of interstate travel
- using the Greenhouse Vehicle Guide when leasing ABS owned vehicles
- using re-manufactured and recycled cartridges for photocopiers, faxes and printers, and recycling used printer cartridges wherever possible
- recycling paper, bottles, aluminium cans, steel cans, plastic and cardboard products in all offices
- recycling mobile phones, batteries, polystyrene and plastic shopping bags in Central Office
- using A4 paper with 100% recycled content
- purchasing white goods with heavily weighted energy ratings
- using organic inks and biodegradable coating in printed publications
- promoting, participating in and celebrating environmental and energy programs around national and international events such as World Environment Day, Earth Hour, Walk and Ride to Work days, Business Clean Up Week, National Recycling Week and sustainable transport activities
- providing tips internally on ways to reduce employee work and home environmental footprint.

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

The ABS has implemented an Environmental Management System at its primary site, ABS House, and continues to monitor the aspects of the organisation that have an environmental impact. Objectives and targets are set each year to manage and reduce the impact.

## Appendix 13 Workplace Health and Safety



### Training

Work Health and Safety (WHS) positions that were filled or vacant and employees who received position-specific training during 2011-12 are presented in Table A13.1. First Aid Officers require refresher course training every three years, Health and Safety Representatives require training every two years, and Wardens are required to attend a number of different training sessions throughout the year.

Table A13.1: Work Health and Safety positions filled, vacant, and training provided during 2011-12.

Position	Filled	Vacant	Trained 2011-2012
First Aid Officer	58	1	23
Health & Safety Representative	62	10	38
Warden	213	15	119

### Employee Assistance Program

The primary reasons for new clients (ABS employees, or their families) accessing the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) during 2011-12 are presented in Table A13.2.

Table A13.2: Primary reasons for office-based staff and ABS Interviewers Employee Assistance Program usage, 2011-12

Primary Issue	Office-based staff	ABS Interviewers	Total ABS clients
Work issues	84	4	88
Personal Issues	212	11	223
Total	296	15	311

## WHS Incident Reporting

Figure A13.1: Incident Rate per 100 FTE by ABS office, 2011-12

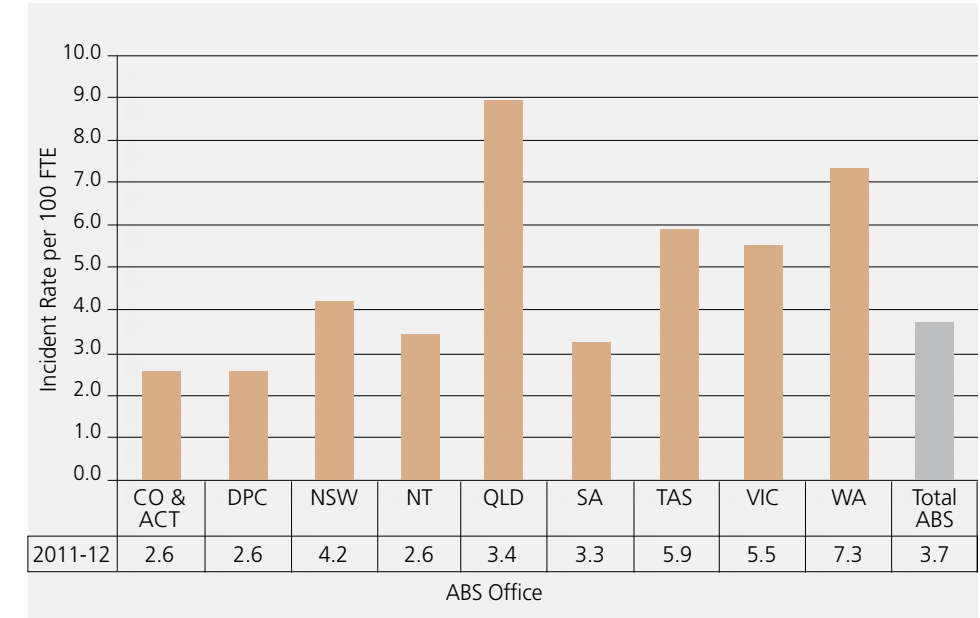
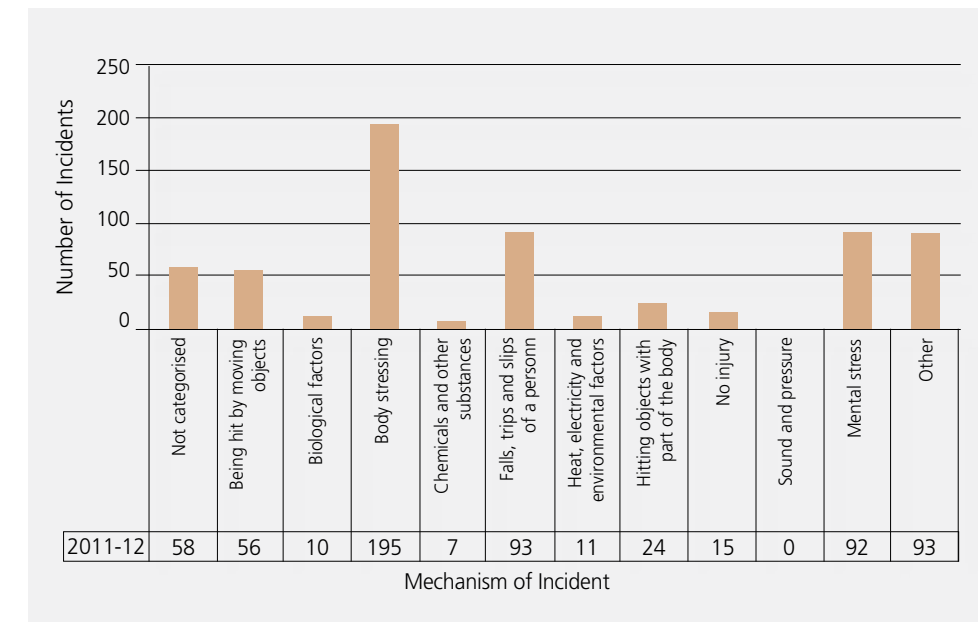


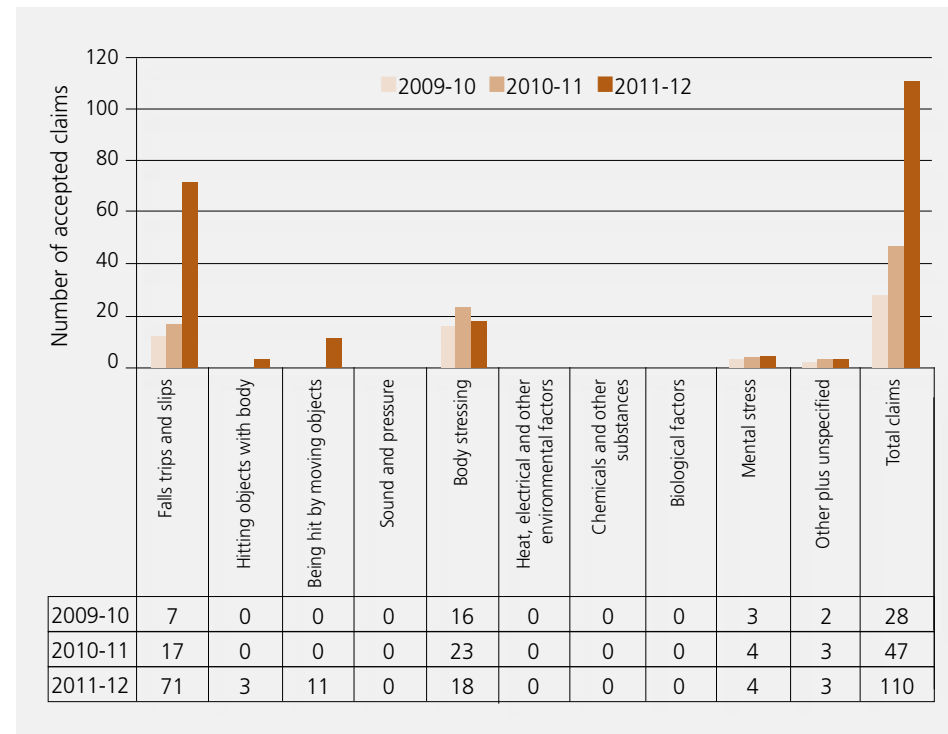
Figure A13.2: Number of Incidents by Mechanism of Incident, 2011-12



## Workplace Injuries and Illnesses

The total accepted Comcare claims by mechanism of incident from 2009–10 to 2011–12 is shown in Figure A13.3. The total number of claims has increased this year with falls, trips and slips showing the largest increase. The increase is largely attributed to the increase in the workforce for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

Figure A13.3: Total Number of Comcare Accepted Claims by Mechanism of Incident, 2009–10 to 2011–12



## Appendix 14

### ABS Reconciliation action plan

#### Our approach to reconciliation

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

#### Summary of progress for 2011–12

During 2011–12 the ABS actively engaged with internal and external stakeholders in the development of a new ABS Reconciliation Action Plan (2012–15), and a new Workplace Diversity Action Plan (2012–16). Final consultation and release of the Plans will occur in early 2012–13. As part of the development process for the new Plans the ABS has undertaken an extensive consultation process which included Reconciliation Australia, key Australian Government agencies, key internal stakeholders, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees (through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff workshop held in November 2011), ABS employees and their representatives.

Key achievements and initiatives that occurred in parallel with the development of the 2012–15 Reconciliation Action Plan included:

- Three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cadets were placed in ABS positions in 2011–12.
- Terms of Reference were developed and expressions of interest sought for a new ABS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group to support the development, implementation and review of the new Plan.
- The ABS in partnership with the Australian Football League (AFL) released the ABS Footy Stats Program, developed to use football to improve the statistical literacy of young Australians
- Reconciliation activities were integrated with higher level business plans and mainstream organisational and business practices by:
  - incorporating employment strategies with the proposed Workplace Diversity Action Plan 2012–16
  - including of the 2012–15 Reconciliation Action Plan in the ABS People Business Plan
  - making workplace diversity data a feature in ABS Human Resources Indicator Reports (for SES and all ABS staff).

#### Moving forward

The ABS continues to face challenges in increasing the recruitment, retention and development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ABS, including development of the cultural competency skills of its employees.

In meeting these challenges and continuing to strive towards associated targets, community engagement and cultural awareness, we will continue to actively engage with Reconciliation Australia, key Australian Government agencies, internal stakeholders, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees, ABS employees and their representatives.

The new ABS Reconciliation Action Plan and the Workplace Diversity Action plan will be released in early 2012–13.

## Appendix 15

### Agency resource statements and resources for outcomes

Agency resource statement 2011-12	Actual Available Appropriation for 2011-12	Payments Made 2011-12	Balance Remaining 2011-12
	(a)	(b)	(a-b)
<b>Ordinary Annual Services <sup>1</sup></b>			
Prior year departmental appropriation	67,508	67,508	-
Departmental appropriation Act 1	545,819	478,726	67,093
Departmental appropriation Act 3	2,813	2,813	-
S.31 Relevant agency receipts	49,319	49,319	-
S.30 Repayments to the Commonwealth	1,507	1,507	-
Departmental appropriation Act 1 – Capital Budget (DCB) 2	18,038	14,586	3,452
<b>Total ordinary annual services</b>	<b>685,004</b>	<b>614,459</b>	<b>70,545</b>
<b>Total ordinary annual services</b>	<b>685,004</b>	<b>614,459</b>	<b>70,545</b>
<b>Other services Departmental non-operating <sup>3</sup></b>			
Prior year departmental appropriation	-	-	-
Departmental appropriation Act 2	1,068	430	638
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>638</b>
<b>Total other services</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>638</b>
<b>Total net resourcing and payments</b>	<b>686,072</b>	<b>614,889</b>	<b>71,183</b>

<sup>1</sup> Appropriation Act (No. 1) and Appropriation Act (No.3) 2011-12. Includes prior year departmental appropriation, S.31 relevant agency receipts and S.30 repayments to the Commonwealth.

<sup>2</sup> \$18m in 2011-12 for the Departmental Capital Budget. For accounting purposes this amount has been designated as 'contributions by owners'.

<sup>3</sup> Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2011-12.

#### SECTION 6

#### APPENDICES APPENDIX 15 AGENCY RESOURCE STATEMENT AND RESOURCES FOR OUTCOMES

### Resources for outcomes

Expenses and Resources for Outcome 1 <sup>A</sup>	Budget 2011-12 \$'000	Actual Expenses 2011-12 \$'000	Variation 2011-12 \$'000
	(a)	(b)	(a-b)
<b>Outcome 1</b>			
Informed decisions, research and discussion within governments and the community by leading the collection, analysis and provision of a high quality, objective and relevant statistical information			
<b>Outcome 1</b>			
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	600,996 <sup>B</sup>	591,353	
Departmental appropriation (Appropriation Bill No. 3) C	2,813 <sup>C</sup>	2,813	
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	35,960	34,481	
<b>Total Expenses for Outcome 1</b>	<b>639,769</b>	<b>628,647</b>	<b>11,122</b>

	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Average staffing level (number)</b>	<b>2,988</b>	<b>3146</b>

Notes:

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

B Budget Source: 2011-12 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements. Departmental appropriation combines "Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No. 1)" and "Revenue from independent sources (s31)".

C Budget Source: 2011-12 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements

Note: The variance of \$11m is mainly due to:

Reduction in revenue from independent sources \$11m

\*Excludes DPC, Interviewers and Census Field Agents

#### SECTION 6

#### APPENDICES APPENDIX 15 AGENCY RESOURCE STATEMENT AND RESOURCES FOR OUTCOMES



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## Section 7 GLOSSARY AND INDEX



## Glossary



ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics	ATO	Australian Taxation Office
ABS cat. no.	ABS catalogue number	AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
ABSDL	Australian Bureau of Statistics Data Laboratory	BLD	Business Longitudinal Database
ACIN	Australian Community Indicators Network	BMI	Body Mass Index
ADB	Asia Development Bank	BOPCOM	Committee on Balance of Payments (International Monetary Fund)
ACT	Australian Capital Territory	BPS	Badan Pusat Statistik (Statistics Indonesia)
AFL	Australian Football League	CAC	computer-assisted coder
AFOS	Australian Bureau of Statistics Future Organisational Sustainability	CaMD	Customised and Microdata Delivery
AGSF	Australian Government Statistical Forum	CBE	Commander of the Order of the British Empire
AHS	Australian Health Survey	CCSD	Capital City Statistical Division
AHECC	Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification	CDP	Census Data Processing Centre
ALCIs	Analytical Living Cost Indexes	CDSMAC	Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference
ALWOS	Australian Land and Water Ownership Survey	CEC	Conference of European Statisticians
AM	Member of the Order of Australia	CMIMF	Common Metadata Information Management Framework
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office	CO	Central Office
ANZ	Australia and New Zealand	COAG	Council of Australian Governments
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations	COICOP	Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification	CPI	Consumer Price Index
AO	Order of Australia	CPICC	CPI commodity classification
APIs	Application Programming Interfaces	CSM	Concepts, Sources and Methods
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	CSTAT	Committee of Statistics (OECD)
APS	Australian Public Service	CURF	Confidentialised Unit Record File
APSC	Australian Public Service Commission	DDI	Data Documentation Initiative
ARMS	Agricultural Resource Management Survey	DoHA	Department of Health and Ageing
ASAC	Australian Statistics Advisory Council	DIISRTE	Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education
ASCCEG	Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups	DPC	Data Processing Centre
ASCL	Australian Standard Classification of Languages	DPF	Development and Performance Framework
ASCRG	Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups	DQO	Data Quality Online
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification	EA	Enterprise Agreement
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard	EAP	Employee Assistance Program
AST	Australian Social Trends	ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
		EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
		EL	Executive Level
		ELG	Executive Leadership Group
		EM algorithm	Expectation–Maximisation algorithm
		EMS	Environmental Management System
		ENVI	carbon neutral paper
		EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
		ERG	Expert Reference Group

ESA	Essential Statistical Assets	ISWGNA	Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	IT	information technology
ESS	Essential Statistical Assets	ITPIs	International Trade Price Indexes
FaHCSIA	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	LaMPS	Land Management Practices Survey
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	LGA	Local Government Area
FOI	Freedom of Information	LSAC	Longitudinal Study of Australian Children
FTE	Full Time Employee	MAC	Methodological Advisory Committee
GCCSA	Greater Capital City Statistical Area	MAP	Measure of Australia's Progress
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
GFS	Government Financial Statistics	MP	Member of Parliament
GFSM	Government Financial Statistics Manual	N/A	not applicable
GFC	Global Financial Crisis	NACCHO	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
GFS	government finance statistics	NAGATSIHID	National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data
GFSM	Government Finance Statistics Manual (International Monetary Fund)	NATSIHEC	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equality Council
GLP	Graduate Leadership Program	NATSIHS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey
G-NAF	Geocoded National Address File	NCCJS	National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics
GSIM	Generic Statistical Information Model	NHS	National Health Survey
GSO	General Statistics Office of Vietnam	NDS	National Directorate of Statistics, Timor-Leste
GST	Goods and Services Tax	NESTI	Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators (OECD)
GSS	General Social Survey	NGERS	National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System
HDI	Human Development Index	NHMS	National Health Measures Survey
HECS	Household Energy Consumption Survey	NHS	National Health Survey
HLG-BAS	High-Level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics	NHSC	National Health and Safety Committee
HPI	House price index	NIRS	National Information and Referral Service
HR	Human Resources	NNS	National Nutrition Survey
HSR	Health and Safety Representative	NoD	Notice of Direction
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language	NSO	National Statistical Organisation
IA	Integrating Authority (for data integration)	NSS	National Statistical Service
IAB	Interactive Advertising Bureau	NSTI	National Statistical Training Institute
IAOS	International Association for Official Statistics	NSW	New South Wales
ICE	International Collaboration Effort	NT	Northern Territory
ICP	International Comparison Program	NTDS	National Training and Development Section
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	OATSIH	Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (within DoHA)
IMF	International Monetary Fund	OCMIMF	Operationalising a Common Metadata Information Management Framework
IMTP	Information Management Transformation Program	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
IPS	Information Publication Scheme	PBLCI	Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education	PES	Census Post Enumeration Survey
ISSN	International Standard Serial Number	PIN	Provisional Improvement Notice

PM&C	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	UNCEEA	United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting
PMO	Program Management Office	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
PPIs	positive performance indicators (in WHS context)	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
PPIs	Producer Price Indexes	UNSC	United Nations Statistics Commission
PSIRF	Public Sector Information Release Framework (in Victoria)	UNSD	United Nations Statistical Division
QLD	Queensland	USA	United States of America
R&D	research and development	VIC	Victoria
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory	WA	Western Australia
REEM	Remote Execution Environment for Microdata	W3C	World Wide Web Consortium
RHSC	Regional Health and Safety Committees	WHS	workplace health and safety
RRMSEs	Relative Root Mean Squared Errors	WPI	Wage Price Index
RSE	Relative Standard Error	WPIIS	Working Party for Indicators of the Information Society (OECD)
SA	South Australia	WPTGS	Working Party of International Trade in Goods and Trade in Services Statistics (OECD)
SACC	Standard Australian Country Classification		
SAEs	Small Area Estimates		
SCH	Statistical Clearing House		
SDAC	Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers		
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange		
SEEA	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting		
SES	Senior Executive Service		
SFIC	Strategic Finance and Investment Committee		
SGAS	Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics		
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific		
SLA	statistical local area		
SMG	Senior Management Group		
SN	Statistical Network		
SNA	System of National Accounts		
SRC Act	Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988		
SSF	State Statistical Forum		
STA	Survey of Tourist Accommodation		
STSS	State and Territory Statistical Services		
TAG-SS	Technical Advisory Group – Social Statistics, Statistics Committee, ESCAP		
TAPs	Topic Advisory Panels		
TAS	Tasmania		
TSA	Tourism Satellite Account		
TSD	Technology Services Division		
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics		
UK	United Kingdom		
UN	United Nations		

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