

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The main aims of this newsletter are to facilitate your involvement in the development and review of ABS social and economic statistics, to provide information on current developments, and to promote discussion on emerging statistical issues.

CONTACTS

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PUBLICATION ORDERS

To obtain ABS publications,
contact:

National Information Referral
Service (NIRS)
☎ 1300 135 070

Or visit the
ABS Bookshop
☎ (08) 9360 5307
Level 15 Exchange Plaza,
2 The Esplanade, Perth WA 6000

Issue No.14

April 2005

Australia Day Award 30 years of service for Labour Force Interviewer



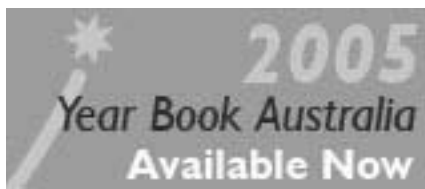
Alan Hubbard, ABS Regional Director, Western Australia presented Jenny Bromley with her Australia Day Award for 30 years of service to the ABS

Jenny Bromley was presented with her award for 30 years of service with the ABS at a special Australia Day morning tea. Jenny works on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and was joined at morning tea by a group of past and present members of the LFS Interviewers Panel (see photo below) who have, between them, amassed an incredible 300 years of service collecting information for the LFS and associated surveys.

The LFS was first conducted in 1960 and the information collected is obtained from occupants of randomly selected dwellings by specially trained interviewers, like Jenny. The **Year Book 2005** features an article on the history of the Monthly Labour Force Survey.



L to R: Lauren Stanes, Peta Cuthbertson, Norma Foley, Irene McGrath, Rikki Mardon, Jenny Bromley, Lorraine Crawford, Joy Spencer, Janet Wallen, Jean Ritchie, Pat Rigney, Dianne Keyes, Bev Farrow and Val O'Reilly.



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View from the Top



Alan Hubbard
Government Statistician and
ABS Regional Director,
Western Australia.

ABS Centenary

From the Commonwealth Government buildings in 1905 in Melbourne to *ABS House* in Canberra today, the ABS has consistently served the nation by the gathering, analysis and dissemination of independent official statistics. This includes the conduct of 14 population censuses as well as regular production of household name statistics like Labour Force and Consumer Price Index. Locally the ABS continues to support informed decision making and provides fora to identify and discuss State statistical needs, both currently and for future planning. The ABS will be celebrating the Centenary throughout the year.

Western Australia's Population reaches 2 million

Western Australia's population reached 2 million during the week commencing 10 January 2005. This population milestone now forms part of Western Australia's demographic history. As the calculation used to determine population growth takes into account all the information that we have available from births, deaths, interstate and overseas arrivals and departures, and the 2001 Population Census, it was not feasible to determine who exactly the 2 millionth Western Australian would have been. However, it could have been a person born around that time, a person who arrived as a permanent settler in Western Australia, or an Australian returning home after living overseas. The state reached its first million in 1970.

State Statistical Forum

The State Statistical Forum held in February focussed on new and ongoing statistical priorities that were common to several states. The Statistician provided detailed responses on these needs to the state representatives attending the Forum. David Smith from the Department of Treasury and Finance represented Western Australian interests. Planned improvements to statistics on natural resource management, water accounts, tourism and the state accounts were all addressed in the Statistician's response. Statistical priorities raised by WA government agencies that were not covered by the Forum will be pursued by the WA Office.

Census 2006 Planning

A detailed plan for the Census Operations in Western Australia has now been completed. Once this plan has been approved by ABS management, the next step will be to build the local Census management team.

Alan Hubbard
Regional Director

Indigenous Engagement Manager



Marissa Russ
Indigenous Engagement Manager

I belong to the Ngarinyin people from the Kimberley in WA and grew up on Gibb River Station (Ngallangunda Aboriginal Corporation).

My working history includes just over 12 years working for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission/Services and then the Department of Communication Information Technology and the Arts. I commenced my position as the ABS Indigenous Engagement Manager (IEM) for WA in November 2004.

My role as IEM is to provide a bridge between the ABS and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in accessing data and information. The duties and objectives of the IEM position include:

- Building and maintaining networks with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations (including engaging and seeking greater participation);
- Advise on appropriate materials to raise statistical awareness;
- Return ABS information to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities;
- Raise awareness of data collection processes; and
- Provide support and assistance to ABS surveys.

My aims are:

- To increase awareness of the ABS to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, organisations and agencies;
- To promote the benefits, assistance and advantages that can be gained by using ABS data; and
- To ensure that ABS data collected from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is easily accessible to Government Departments and Organisations involved in the process of planning services for indigenous people.

For further information contact Marissa Russ

☎(08) 9360 5910 or

email: <marissa.russ@abs.gov.au>.



Government, private and not for profit service organisations are increasingly aware that they must have a clear understanding of the demographic, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of their clients so that they can plan and deliver culturally appropriate services.

To assist service providers in responding to their diverse communities and to promote recognition of diversity in Western Australia, the Office of Multicultural Interests has worked with the ABS to produce a series of Community Profiles based on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

The 14 groups included in the first series of profiles, identified by birthplace groups, are a mix of both established and emerging ethnic communities. They include Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, China, India, Italy, Poland, Germany, Netherlands, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Iraq and communities from the Horn of Africa.

The Community Profiles focus on socio-economic factors, such as labour force participation, occupation, income, housing tenure and family. They provide a key source of information for those planning and delivering services to Western Australia's culturally diverse community.

The analysis of socio-economic indicators contained within the various Community Profiles raises a number of issues, including the level of socio-economic disadvantage among certain groups. These have important implications for service providers.

The Office of Multicultural Interests will continue to make available data on cultural diversity to government agencies, community organisations and researchers. It is only with such knowledge that programs and services can adequately meet the needs of specific groups.

Dr Leela de Mel, Executive Director
Office of Multicultural Interests

The profiles can be viewed and downloaded from the Office of Multicultural Interests web site at
www.omi.wa.gov.au

or

contact the Office of Multicultural Interests on
☎ 9222 8800 to obtain copies of the profiles.



Views of the ABS display at Parliament House which ran during February and March 2005 to commemorate the ABS Centenary.

In 2005 the Australian Bureau of Statistics celebrates its centenary, 100 years as the national statistical agency.

The Bureau came into existence on the 8 December 1905 when the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (Cwlth) was given assent. The following year George Handley Knibbs was appointed Commonwealth Statistician and given the task of establishing the office. There were 10 staff appointed to the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics in 1906. The Bureau was established within the Department of Home Affairs. In the early 1930s the Bureau was moved under the auspices of the Department of the Treasury.

Initially the role of the Commonwealth Statistician was primarily seen as a co-ordination role, bringing together the statistics of each of the different states. However it quickly became clear that the task was somewhat more complicated than that. In 1924, Tasmania was the first state statistical office to integrate with the Commonwealth Bureau. The rest of the state statistical offices integrated in the late 1950s.



Parliament House, Canberra

The Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics became the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1975, independent of other departments. Today the ABS has just under 3,000 staff distributed throughout the state and territories in each capital city.

Year Book Australia 2005

The **Year Book Australia 2005** provides a comprehensive and definitive source of information about Australia. Over 900 pages long, the Year Book spans topics which cover Australia's economic position and social conditions, as well as articles about our community and environment.

To celebrate 100 years of official statistics, both the hard copy Year Book and its **CD-ROM** companion are presented as a special offer in one package, making it great value for money. The **CD-ROM** is the ideal resource for the business computer network and it complements the hard cover version by giving you rapid access to every subject.

A simple interface and a full electronic index make it a convenient source of the up to date information that every business needs from time to time.

Special articles featured in the Year Book 2005 include:

- Temperature measurement and the Stevenson screen
- Sustainable microfinance in Vietnam
- Population figures for state grants – an historical perspective
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians – projections 2001 to 2009
- Same-sex couple families
- The population census – a brief history
- Selected findings from the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
- Labour force experience
- Working arrangements
- Young people in employment



This special ABS centenary offer, is great value for money. Order online at www.abs.gov.au, or telephone **1300 135 070**, and have your credit card details ready.

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www.abs.gov.au

NSS Update



Andy Separovic
NSS Coordinator



NSS Networks

As part of the NSS strategy, forums and networks have been established to allow agencies to share information and experiences about their collection and dissemination of statistics and data management practices.

Australian Government Statistical Forum (AGSF)

The AGSF provides a vehicle for senior staff in Australian Government agencies to discuss key national and international statistical developments. The role of the forum is to: advance the NSS and consider strategic matters of importance to the effective operation of the NSS; consider matters of relevance to producers of statistical services within the Australian Government and share information on developments in each agency's activities, with regard to national statistical information; and to identify opportunities for collaborative work.

State and Territory Forums

In Western Australia the Statistical Policy Committee progresses NSS initiatives and provides a broad perspective of the strategic statistical information needs and priorities across the State Government sector.

Stats Network

The Stats Network is comprised of managers from Australian Government agencies who are involved in the preparation of statistics and their associated analysis and research. It provides a forum for discussion and open communication on statistical and related matters as they affect Australian Government Agencies.

For further information contact Andy Separovic ☎(08)
9360 5385 or

email: [<andy.separovic@abs.gov.au>](mailto:andy.separovic@abs.gov.au)

NDN Update



A national platform for acquiring, sharing and integrating data relevant to policy and research

- ✓ Paul Vickers, NDN representative will be visiting Perth during April to further initiatives currently being discussed with the Western Australian Land Information Service (WALIS), and the Department of Land Information (DOLI).
- ✓ To generate discussion about metadata harmonisation and model development, four discussion forums have been established on the National Data Network web site. These forums focus on the key areas of: NDN Metadata Model, Discovery Metadata, Definitional Metadata and Quality Metadata.

[<www.nationaldatanetwork.org>](http://www.nationaldatanetwork.org)

About ABS Training courses

Using SuperTABLE (NEW)

This half day computer based workshop aims to provide participants with the skills to use this powerful software for manipulating multidimensional ABS datasets (datacubes). **SuperTABLE** Software is used to create tables that can be easily converted to Excel format. As the ABS is progressively releasing more data in **SuperTABLE** format, users of data cubes will need to be familiar with SuperTABLE. This workshop will equip participants with the skills to:

- Access SuperTABLE;
- Create basic tables; and
- Manipulate data.

This course would be useful for ABS datacube users and AusStats subscribers who have little or no experience with **SuperTABLE**.



Group activities are a great way to put what you learn into practice.

Understanding Demographic Data

This one day course develops participants' understanding and use of demographic data. The course provides an awareness of demographic data produced by the ABS and gives an introduction to demographic techniques which enable comparisons of demographic data between regions and over time.

Key issues to be covered include:

- Relationship of Population Census counts to Estimated Resident Population Data
- Components of population change; births, deaths, internal and overseas migration;
- Changing demographic trends; and
- Tools for demographic analysis.

This course would be useful for anyone who wants to improve their understanding of demographic data and processes that shape the population, or who want to use demographic data to describe changes in the population and their potential effects.

Time Series made Simple

This half day workshop aims to provide participants with basic understanding of statistical time series, including an understanding of how to gain a clearer picture of the trends, cycles, seasonal variation, and irregular movements that may be present in the data. Participants will be able to:

- Identify a time series
- Detect trend, cycles and seasonal variation; and
- Smooth time series data using Henderson weights.

The workshop is ideally suited to people who need to analyse time series data, as well as those who need an understanding of the components which make up a time series.

Turning Data Into Information

This two day course develops skills in transforming data into meaningful written information, including:

- Understanding how the collection and compilation of data affects its usefulness, quality and relevance;
- Understanding various statistical techniques for use in data analysis;
- Communicating results and writing effective reports; and
- Constructing meaningful tables and graphs.

The course is best suited to people involved in using data to produce a report or social commentary, or with analysing and describing data that has been collected in surveys or through administrative processes.



Analyse and describe data that has been collected in surveys.

For further information about any of these courses, or ABS Statistical Training in general, please contact Carolann Hoad ☎(08) 9360 5947 or email: <cal.hoad@abs.gov.au>

Library Extension Program



Maita Wilson (pictured above) is the new Coordinator of the Library Extension Program (LEP) in Western Australia, taking over the reins from David Brown, who has just retired.

David made a significant contribution to developing and extending the LEP program in WA and is well known by the WA library community. His dry sense of humour and his dedication to the LEP will certainly be missed in the future.

Maita has worked with the ABS for nine years, gathering experience in various ABS subject areas, Statistical Consultancy, and in Client services and liaison. LEP clients will benefit from her wide experience in the ABS. Maita has a tertiary educational background in Psychology and French.



For further information on the LEP please contact
Maita Wilson
☎(08) 9360 5158 or
Email<maita.wilson@abs.gov.au>

International Statistics Institute



2005 International Statistical Institute Session

The ABS is very pleased to be hosting the 55th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), which will be held in Sydney between 5 and 12 April 2005 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre. We expect about 2000 delegates to attend.

The ISI Sessions are unique and well attended by government, academic and private sector statisticians from throughout the world, supporting a real meeting of practical and research work.

Further information on programs and arrangements for the 55th Session are available from the Session web site

www.tourhosts.com.au/isi2005

ABS Award Winners



L to R: James Separovic, Mirjana Paunoska, Anthony Carberry, David Neill, Renee Chalon, Ian Mackley, Dan Midalia, Lorraine Crawford, David Webb, Alan Hubbard, Joan Sibenaler, Debbie Cullen, Marjorie Hepburn, Tom Pougher, Michael LeSouef.

Alan Hubbard has just presented this happy group of Pricing Officers from the Labour Price Index Survey with an Award from the WA Office Reward and Recognition Scheme.

The group was nominated in the category 'Sustained high level of performance for the duration of a short term project' and the Award relates to the work occasioned by changes to data collection and tax reform legislation.

The changes will reduce provider load and deliver cost savings to the ABS while also improving the quality of the data produced by this survey.

Congratulations Team!

For further information on the Labour Price Index please contact Tim Landrigan

☎(08) 9360 5170 or

Email<tim.landrigan@abs.gov.au>

National Regional Profile A Five Year Time Series

The latest version of the **National Regional Profile (NRP)** on the ABS web site was released on 29 March 2005. The most significant change in the **NRP** release is that it now has a five year time series (1999-2003, on ASGC 2003 boundaries), which will allow users to see changes in economic and social characteristics of their region during that time. Other changes in the **NRP** release include:

- ✓ new data on sources of income, which combines Australian Taxation Office data and income support payments (cat. no. 6524.0, released in January 2005); and
- ✓ data on the value of agricultural production from the 2000-01 Agricultural Census (cat. no. 7121.0).

Access to the **National Regional Profile** facility is through the 'Regional Statistics' icon on the ABS home page. Users can use the drill-down map facility or choose their selected region's name from a pick-list.

The **National Regional Profile** does not include data from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, but there are links on the **NRP** web pages to download the Basic Community Profile for a region of interest. Information from the Census also remains available through the **2001 Census Page on the ABS web site**.

Innovation in Australian Businesses (cat. no. 8158.0)

Innovation in Australian Business (cat. no. 8158.0) presents statistics on the level of innovation in Australian Businesses and characteristics of innovators.

Data presented includes:

- Innovation activities;
- Type of innovation;
- Reasons for innovation;
- Barriers to innovation; and
- Innovation expenditure.

Statistics are classified by the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC), State and Territory and business size, based upon employment.

Release date : 17 February 2005

For further information contact Helen Reich
☎(08) 9360 5104 or
email: <helen.reich@abs.gov.au>

Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia (cat.no. 6306.0)

The biennial Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours (EEH) is designed to provide statistics on the composition and distribution of earnings and hours of employees, as well as information on how employees' pay is set - by award only, collective agreement or individual agreement.

Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia (cat.no. 6306.0) includes tables detailing the distribution and composition of average weekly earnings and hours of employment classified by:

- Sex;
- Adult/junior;
- Full-time/part-time;
- Managerial/non-managerial;
- Industry;
- State/Territory;
- Sector (private/government);
- Employer unit size;
- Composition of earnings; and
- Paid hours.

Release date : 23 March 2005

More detailed information is available on request as customised reports. Contact Valerie Pearson
☎(08) 9360 5374 or
email: <valerie.pearson@abs.gov.au>

Product of the Month

COMING SOON

CHEAPER ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

From 1 January 2005, electronic versions of all new ABS publications will be approximately 28% less expensive than their equivalent hard copy publications.

The lower electronic price will only apply to electronic copies of ABS publications released after 1 January 2005. Please note that the electronic publication price does not apply to electronic publications that were released prior to 2005.

To take advantage of the lower electronic price, you can:

(1) purchase the publication online using your credit card. You must choose to download the electronic publication from the ABS web site rather than order a hard copy for delivery. The **ABS Catalogue** contains the full range of ABS publications, released both before and after 1 January 2005.

(2) download the publication online using your **AusStats** subscription.

(3) subscribe to **email delivery** of a limited number of ABS publications.

In addition to the lower electronic price, all ABS clients purchasing for Australian Schools will receive 30% discount for all standard publications purchased in Statpak.

The telephone number to call is 1800 723 673 or
email: <schools@abs.gov.au>

International Aid

Sunday 16 January 2005 was identified as a 'National Day of Mourning and Reflection' for the victims of the devastating earthquakes and tsunamis in South and South East Asia on 26 December 2004.

The ABS will be supplying equipment to the National Statistical Organisation of Indonesia (BPS) to support their rebuilding of the offices destroyed in the tsunami.

This equipment will be made available to BPS as soon as possible, as the regional statistical offices are heavily involved in providing information that is essential for the recovery process.



The ABS web site has been designed to meet your needs. This Guide focuses on some of the features to help you make the best use of the web site. This is not an exhaustive guide, so please explore further.

1 Help includes

How do I?

Your frequently asked questions answered.

Census

Finding and using census data

AusStats

Information about AusStats and detailed AusStats help

e-Commerce

How to use our e-Commerce facilities

Finding

Information

For search tips and to help you to find data in AusStats

Technical help

Includes SuperTABLE, PDF files and time series spreadsheets

5

Keep up to date with ABS Information.

Sign on for our free email notification service, browse through daily, past, and future product releases.

2

Global links (both top and bottom of all pages)

The Popular Statistics Page

A one stop shop for our most requested statistics, including the latest Population Count, Consumer Price Index, Gross Domestic Product, Unemployment Rate, Retail Trade, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Residential Population - and more.

AusStats Page

Our web-based information service, providing access to : ABS publications from 1998 onwards; over 2,000 spreadsheets; multi-dimensional datasets; Census data and more!

Services We Provide Page

Includes information on the ABS Library Extension Program (LEP) including a list of LEP libraries providing ABS products and services across Australia and ABS Services available to Universities.

Census Page

Check our range of Census products, including free data and reference material. Census Maps are available here.

Themes Page- Subject/Topic Guides to ABS Statistics. This is where you will find the **WA Theme Page**.

The screenshot shows the Australian Bureau of Statistics website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'Home', 'Popular Statistics', 'AusStats', 'Services We Provide', 'Census', 'Themes', 'Methods', 'Classifications', 'Concepts & Standards', 'News & Media', and 'Education Resources'. Below this, there's a 'Statistics' section with a list of products and releases. The 'Product Releases' section highlights releases for Wednesday 14 April 2004 at 11:30am (Canberra time), including 'Trend estimate for retail trade increases by 0.5% - Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)', 'Sixth consecutive monthly fall in approvals - Building Approvals, Australia, March 2004 (cat. no. 8731.0)', 'Local Government spends \$2.1 billion on environment protection - Environment Expenditure Local government Australia, 2001 (cat. no. 4611.0)', 'Showcasing our country - Year Book Australia, 2004 (cat. no. 1301.0)', 'Drought affects grape and wine production - Australian Wine and Grape Industry, 2003 (cat. no. 1329.0)', and 'Women are more likely to receive a non-custodial sentence - Criminal Courts, Australia, 2002-03 (cat. no. 4513.0)'. There's also a 'Media Releases' section with links to 'Christmas causes of death an email from ABS - Media Release' and 'ABS measures of business innovation - Media Release'. The bottom of the page features a 'Quick Links' section with shortcuts to Publications, spreadsheets, time series, etc. via AusStats Australia's latest key economic and social statistics.

3

Search is now available

4

Quick Links

Shortcuts to: Publications, spreadsheets, time series, etc via AusStats Australia's latest key economic and social statistics.

6

Regional Information- Many library users want information about their local areas. **National Regional Profiles** provide a range of social and economic data from ABS and non-ABS sources for the local area of your choice. This is the first time small area data has been so easily available! **Information covered** includes: population, births, unemployment (from DEWR), income support (FaCS), average individual taxable income (ATO), building approvals...and much more!

7

Special Events - Meetings, Seminars, International Events...and much more!