



ASCO

First Edition

STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

ASCO STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION



AUSTRALIAN STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS

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STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION

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PREFACE

This document is one of a series which presents the first edition of the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO). This new classification is the product of an extensive work programme undertaken by a joint project team from the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations (DEIR) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

In the 1970s it became clear that the occupational classifications then in use in Australia suffered from a number of deficiencies which led to widespread criticism, as for example in the Norgard Report on Review of the Commonwealth Employment Service (June 1973) and the Crawford Report on Structural Adjustment (March 1979). Against this background, DEIR and ABS established a joint project in 1978 to develop a new standard classification of occupations.

Research into the needs of the user community and consideration of the relevant technical and conceptual issues led to the conclusion that the structure of the new classification should be based on kind of work, defined primarily in terms of skill level and skill specialisation. Following this, the new structure was constructed on the basis of information on occupational characteristics gathered from an extensive program of field work and statistical feasibility testing.

Progressively, from the first release of this publication (September 1986), ASCO will be used in the presentation of ABS statistics, starting with the Labour Force Survey, Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours and the 1986 Population Census.

The background work leading to the final definition of this important new classification would not have been possible without the co-operation and assistance of many organisations and individuals. Those who have assisted are too numerous by far to list individually, but ABS and DEIR would like to express their appreciation of organisations of industry and commerce, trades unions and other employee representative organisations, State and Commonwealth Government departments and instrumentalities, higher education institutions, community organisations, academics and many private individuals.

Further releases of this document will be issued, as appropriate and in the light of practical experience gained from the use of the classification in ABS activities and from feedback from the user community at large.

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