



# ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15





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ISSN 0314-0008



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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 2014-15 ABS Annual Report can be found at: **[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)**



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Australian Statistician

The Hon. Kelly O'Dwyer MP  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

Dear Parliamentary Secretary

I am pleased to present the annual report for the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2015.

This report has been prepared in accordance with section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. Subsection 46(1) of that Act requires that the accountable authority is to provide a copy of the report to the responsible Minister for presentation to the Parliament.

The report has been prepared in accordance with guidelines approved on behalf of the Parliament by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit. These guidelines provide that a copy of the annual report is to be laid before each House of the Parliament on or before 31 October.

The report includes the ABS's audited financial statements as required by section 42 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014.

In addition, and as required by Section 10 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014, I certify that the ABS has:

- prepared fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans
- in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation and reporting mechanisms that meet the needs of the ABS
- taken all reasonable measures to appropriately deal with fraud relating to the ABS.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David W. Kalisch'.

**David W. Kalisch**  
Australian Statistician

14 September 2015

## Contact details

For enquiries about the ABS Annual Report, please contact:

**Director  
Planning Governance and Ministerial Liaison  
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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 Communications & Dissemination Branch on 1300 175 070.

The ABS has offices in every state and territory as listed below.

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<b>Brisbane</b>	295 Ann Street, Brisbane Queensland 4000	GPO Box 9817 Brisbane QLD 4001
<b>Adelaide</b>	ANZ House, 11 Waymouth Street, Adelaide SA 5000	GPO Box 2272 Adelaide SA 5001
<b>Perth</b>	The Durack Centre, 263 Adelaide Terrace, Perth WA 6000	GPO Box K881 Perth WA 6842
<b>Hobart</b>	200 Collins Street, Hobart Tasmania 7000	GPO Box 66 Hobart TAS 7001
<b>Darwin</b>	Civitas Building, 22 Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin NT 0800	GPO Box 3796 Darwin NT 0801
<b>Canberra</b>	ABS House, 45 Benjamin Way, Belconnen ACT 2617	Locked Bag 10 Belconnen ACT 2616

# Contents



<b>Copyright information</b>		<b>ii</b>
<b>Letter of transmittal</b>		<b>iii</b>
<b>ABS contact details</b>		<b>iv</b>
<b>Contents</b>		<b>v</b>
<b>Section 1</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>1</b>
Chapter 1	Australian Statistician's review	<b>2</b>
Chapter 2	ABS at a glance	<b>11</b>
Chapter 3	Special articles	<b>20</b>
	Unlocking the power of statistics: mental health services use and outcomes	<b>20</b>
	The National Agricultural Statistics Review – a framework for the future of agricultural data	<b>23</b>
	Improving macroeconomic statistics	<b>26</b>
	Big data plays a big role in the future of statistics	<b>29</b>
	Data integration – diverse sources and big data offer new insights	<b>32</b>
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>Report on performance</b>	<b>35</b>
Chapter 4	Performance report	<b>36</b>
Chapter 5	Program reports	<b>47</b>
<b>Section 3</b>	<b>Management and accountability</b>	<b>67</b>
Chapter 6	Corporate governance	<b>68</b>
Chapter 7	Management of human resources	<b>77</b>
<b>Section 4</b>	<b>Financial statements</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Section 5</b>	<b>Glossary and index</b>	<b>159</b>
	List of requirements	<b>160</b>
	Glossary	<b>163</b>
	Index	<b>166</b>



## Section One **Overview**



# Chapter 1

## Australian Statistician's review



### Introduction

It is an honour, privilege and responsibility to be the 15th Australian Statistician.

The ABS is one of Australia's most trusted institutions, with community confidence and respect around the way it has documented our nation's development over the past 110 years. Over time the ABS has introduced an extensive range of statistical information that reports on the nation's economic, social and environmental conditions.



In the past year, the ABS released over 500 statistical products, all available to key decision makers as well as the general public, while planning our digital-led Census for 2016.

The ABS is delivering more information back to the community now than was the case just 15 years ago, at the same time as our economy, labour market and society have grown and become more complex. Over the same 15 year period, the resources provided to the ABS from government have also reduced significantly, and we are a more effective and efficient organisation. This has been achieved through the commitment, dedication, skills and expertise of ABS staff.

I am very pleased that the Government has agreed to our request for funding to refresh our statistical infrastructure, with provision of an additional \$250 million over the next five years (2015–16 to 2019–20), the first significant infrastructure investment in over two decades. This recognises the critical importance of the ABS producing accurate, timely information for a range of purposes.

It also demonstrates the Government's confidence that the ABS will effectively implement the Statistical Business Transformation Program over the coming years, to better manage our risks and put in place enterprise-wide approaches that are more efficient. This is a necessary and ambitious change program, and the ABS will put in place processes to systematically manage the statistical risks.

We are not only looking to modernise our key infrastructure but we need to also transform our statistical business. This includes developing better ways to acquire, process and disseminate information.

In addition to infrastructure funding, the Government has provided the ABS with the opportunity to propose changes to our legislative framework that would support our essential activity, especially for the future operations of the ABS, and this will be progressed over the coming year.

## Transforming the ABS

Since my appointment in December 2014, I have emphasised three main outcomes for the ABS in coming years.

**The first outcome is the continued delivery of rigorous, robust, timely data** that meets a wide range of user needs and also has the trust of our data providers, and is drawn directly from either households or businesses or from other sources such as administrative data collections.

**The second outcome is to foster increased innovation** around what we do and how we work, so we can respond to changing requirements for information by key decision makers and the community. We should also find new information opportunities we can capitalise on, and recognise the need to reform our processes so we can continue to deliver quality, timely information with limited resources.

**The third outcome is to ensure that the nation gets greater value from the information resources held by the ABS**, recognising that ABS data is a key element of Australia's national infrastructure, which if used effectively can enhance our nation's growth and productivity potential as well as assist governments and others confronting complex problems and difficult choices.

## Our transformation program

Over recent months, considerable attention has been given to transforming the ABS for the future. We must:

- ensure we understand the complex and dynamic information **environment** in which we operate and strengthen our key partnerships
- have a clear, focused and contemporary **strategy** for the entire ABS
- have agile, efficient and effective **governance** structures and supporting mechanisms
- have a workforce of **people** that is diverse, expert and adaptable
- have an organisational **culture** that delivers high performance, innovation and creativity, accountability and collaboration
- have **infrastructure** that is fit-for-purpose, with particular attention to our statistical systems and processes as well as physical accommodation for our staff.



The key transformation elements – of environment, strategy, governance, people, culture and infrastructure – will be the areas of attention for ABS leadership during our change program over at least the next five years.



## Improved governance

The ABS has revisited its governance arrangements, in order to encourage and enable more agile and better decision-making. Changes over recent months include a flatter organisational structure with attention to managing our key opportunities and risks, greater clarity around senior accountabilities, and refreshing our internal delegations to ensure decisions are being made at the lowest appropriate level.

A new Corporate Plan will drive the ABS transformation agenda.

We will need to increase our pace of innovation over coming years to at least match that of the dynamic information environment we are in. We will also have higher expectations of our managers and our staff, commensurate with their skills, remuneration and the training we provide across the organisation.

## Driving high performance

In the interconnected and rapidly changing information environment in which we now have to operate, the ABS will have to derive greater value from a more diverse and adaptable workforce.

Over the past year, the ABS has fully understood the messages it has received from recent reviews – including the 2013 Australian Public Service Commission Capability Review – about the need to drive change well beyond our transformation of processes and systems and to challenge and review ABS culture and values.

Guided by the ABS Capability Action Plan, the ABS has increased expectations that leaders and managers at all levels will make sound judgements supported by principle-based policies and management, including building on existing performance management processes to facilitate high performance.

The ABS has also prioritised external engagement as a business strategy for the ABS. This includes the creation of the Strategic Partnerships and Projects Division. ABS is increasing ABS staff exposure to the context in which the ABS operates so they understand, commit to and contribute to the ABS transformation agenda.

▶ **The ABS has been acknowledged as a public service leader in pursuit of flexible working arrangements and effective use of technology, and we are looking to harness this in the context of a high performance organisation.**

Looking forward, we require a good balance of staff with past experience in the organisation as well as those who come with other experiences and insights, to ensure we capitalise on the input of staff throughout the organisation.

We will seek to draw greater value from insights and collaborations across the ABS, capitalising on the expertise we have across our 2,800-strong organisation through developing a stronger team based culture that is aligned to the best interests of the organisation as a whole.

We need to not only have depth and breadth of technical statistical skills, and staff who understand how to make best use of key information for a range of purposes, but also to have management and corporate services expertise that complements our information-related expertise.

I strongly feel that the ABS should be an employer of choice, so it can continue to attract and retain high quality staff. With our predominantly project-based work, in most areas we can provide greater flexibility and adaptability for staff to deliver required outputs within predictable timeframes, and we actively encourage our staff to improve what we do and how we work.

▶ **If the ABS is to maintain its reputation as a world class national statistical organisation, we will need an organisational culture characterised by high performance, quality leadership, trust and innovation.**

## Partnering to build a dynamic statistical system

A key approach of the ABS to deal with today's dynamic information environment is to have strengthened partnerships, with governments, business and the community. This will deliver improved understandings – for us and our stakeholders – around competing priorities, what is required, what is feasible and what is affordable.

An example of this is the ABS and Department of Industry and Science partnership to expand ABS collection and analysis activities to assess new industry policy initiatives. This has involved the creation of a new firm-level longitudinal business database – the Expanded Analytical Business Longitudinal Database – to provide a richer source of information for analysis of business performance, competitiveness and productivity.

Department of Industry and Science partnership: the creation of the Expanded Analytical Business Longitudinal Database will enable Australia to participate in a project sponsored by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development examining the links between employment growth, productivity, business age and business size.

Enduring partnerships between the ABS and our key stakeholders will have two main characteristics of mutual respect and mutual benefit, and increased collaboration will be a key feature of a transformed ABS over coming years.

## Harnessing the ABS for greater public value

The information resources of the ABS are part of Australia's essential infrastructure. More effective use of these ABS data has the potential to contribute to better decision-making and enhance our country's growth potential, productivity and wellbeing. Taxpayers have paid for this information to be collected and produced, and ABS legislation requires the ABS to maximise effective use of this information balanced against the requirement to maintain the privacy of sensitive information (especially from people and households) given to the ABS.

The recently completed ABS initiative to identify and prioritise the Essential Statistical Assets for Australia will also be a key input to future prioritisation of our work program and associated resource prioritisation.

 **The value of the ABS has always been built on providing trusted, reliable information. The prevailing challenge for the ABS now and over coming years is, with limited resources, to reconcile these expanding expectations and deliver quality, timely, priority information for a range of purposes.**

The ABS encountered some issues with its labour force estimates in August/September 2014, while we were introducing many necessary changes to our household survey program. A number of subsequent reviews have provided key recommendations around some technical matters as well as the broader leadership of the organisation.

The ABS has agreed with these recommendations and has already implemented most of them, so we are better placed to continue to deliver quality, timely information across our entire statistical program.

The bottom line for the ABS is that we need to manage our statistical risks more carefully, especially when they involve major changes to our statistical program.

## Increasing access to data

The ABS operates within a thorough legislative framework, largely established in the 1970s, that guides our decision-making.

The ABS requires this robust legislative framework because of the sensitive data we receive from households and businesses, as well as the trusted role we have been given in managing and reporting this information.

The ABS has made significant progress towards improving the availability and use of data, as advances in both technology and statistical methodology now enable us to provide greater access to data, but in ways that do not disclose sensitive personal information.

Because of these advances, we have already pursued some opportunities to use our information more effectively within the constraints of our current legislative framework.

I recently agreed to enhance access to the linked longitudinal Census dataset – comprising five percent of the Australian population – by making it available through the ABS Data Laboratory. This dataset is enabling rich research, such as into the propensity of Australians to identify as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

A number of arrangements are being used effectively and safely to help meet government demand for necessary information, especially access to microdata:

- the Productivity Commission currently has two in-posted officers to access data required for their Migration Inquiry
- a Department of Social Services officer is to be in-posted to access a linked dataset containing Census and social security information
- the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has two in-posted officers to access data for an extensive burden of disease project funded by the Department of Health.

The ABS has shared its automated anonymisation routines for testing purposes in the Departments of Human Services, Health, and Social Services, in the expectation that the routines will be a whole-of-government solution for protecting the privacy of sensitive personal information in statistical applications.

## Innovative data solutions

We are reviewing our core economic and business statistics in order to streamline our survey collections from business, make better use of whole-of-government infrastructure, and expand our use of government administrative data and commercial information.

We will introduce a new Australian Population Survey as a consolidated mechanism to collect information from households and deliver a rapid response capability.

The ABS is making more use of data integration, which safely brings together existing data sources to create new datasets through use of advanced technology and statistical tools, to create new data sources for statistical, policy and research purposes. The ABS was the first agency to be accredited as an Integrating Authority in April 2012.

The ABS worked closely with the National Mental Health Commission, the Department of Health, and the Department of Human Services to provide timely statistics on mental health by linking information on the use of medical services with Census data.

ABS innovations will meet new and emerging data needs. For example, the ABS is developing a prototype known as the Graphically Linked Information Discovery Environment (GLIDE), which is a suite of tools using Semantic Web methods to help analysts explore and visualise linked data. GLIDE has linked personal income tax data with business tax data to explore new methods to manage, link and analyse cross-sectional and longitudinal data.

A pilot project to inform policy development through the combination of Census and social security information was established between the ABS and the Department of Social Services.

The ABS is already a user of big data – with considerable potential to use much more – as effective use of this government data reduces our need to collect information separately and directly from households and businesses.

ABS is moving beyond the public data environment to draw insights from retail scanner data, to explore options with other data sources such as investigating the use of satellite imagery to measure agriculture crop yields and new methodological approaches to using telecommunication location information.

The spatial opportunities of big data approaches are considerable and have the potential to fundamentally change how we produce population information – especially the extent to which we can measure temporal dynamics which have generally been beyond the reach of traditional approaches.

## Digital-led Census 2016

The 2016 Census will be Australia's first predominantly online Census. For this Census, we will be promoting online response as the first option for households – the majority of Australians will not receive a paper form unless it is specifically requested by the householder.

The ABS expects nearly two-thirds of all responses to be completed through the online form which will be accessible on a wide range of devices, from desktop and laptop computers to smart phones and tablets.

**Census 2016 will take place on 9 August 2016.**

Planning for the 2016 Census is at an advanced stage and progressing to plan. Our Census-related activity will obviously become a major priority throughout the 2015–16 year in the lead-up to the Census.

**Census 2016 will generate 327 tonnes less material than Census 2011.**

In considering its transformation options the ABS suggested to the Australian Government that the frequency of the Census be changed from every five years to every ten years. In addition, an expanded household population survey program was proposed, to include a new longitudinal survey across Australia. The aims were delivery of more regular and reliable regional population information; reduction in volatility in our labour force series; improvements in the range of statistical information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; and better measurement of changes in economic and social circumstances for key disadvantaged groups.

Following consultation with parliamentary representatives concerning necessary legislative change and associated timing requirements, it was decided to give priority instead to the considerable logistical exercise of running the Census in 2016.

## Supporting the Australian Government's digital agenda to reduce red tape

The ABS is participating actively with the Australian Government's digital transformation agenda and is collaborating with other departments and agencies to connect users better with information, make digital transactions for our providers easier, and improve access to information for all Australians.

Consistent with this agenda, ABS plans to make it easy and convenient for businesses and households to complete ABS surveys online. Over the past three years, the ABS has already introduced electronic forms to replace paper forms, and has moved to digital data collection for most of its business surveys and some of its household surveys.

**The ABS plans to make further improvements to enhance the online survey experience for users, and to introduce smarter and more adaptive electronic forms in the near future, while also ensuring information quality.**

The ABS has engaged with the Australian Taxation Office to plan for the implementation of a Standard Business Reporting gateway for financial reporting by businesses.

Many businesses have already adopted Standard Business Reporting for tax purposes and this capability is embedded in commercial software products.

We will establish a gateway to trial reporting by businesses using Standard Business Reporting which aims to make it easier and more convenient for them, while maintaining and potentially improving the quality of our statistical outputs.

## A new Survey Management Centre of Excellence

In November 2014 the ABS announced that it would be opening a ninth office as a Survey Management Centre of Excellence.

The new office is leased from Deakin University and provides the catalyst for a strategic partnership between the ABS and the university.

Located in Geelong, the office will be a national hub for all provider management and data acquisition, as well as the home of a Statistical Instrument Design and Development Unit.

With around 250 staff, the centre will deliver strategic and operational benefits and is expected to open in early 2016.

## In conclusion

It has been a very busy and varied year for the ABS, with a number of challenges presenting themselves, but it has also been a year which the ABS has been able to position itself for a renewed statistical future.

The arrest and sentencing of a former ABS employee for insider trading has been one of the most disappointing events in the ABS's 110 year history.

**The severity of the sentence for the former ABS employee and his co-accused sends a clear message to the community about the essential integrity of ABS data and ABS processes, and supports strong internal efforts by the ABS to reduce the likelihood of any other improper use of ABS data.**

The coming year will be challenging for the ABS with further preparation for the 2016 Census and our large transformation agenda. It will also be a very exciting one as we look to take best advantage of the emerging information opportunities, and expect the ABS will make further progress delivering the valuable information infrastructure required by the nation.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the thousands of people across Australia who participate in our business and household surveys; without their ongoing cooperation and support it would simply not be possible to provide the statistical information needed to foster informed debate and drive evidence based policy making.

Similarly, there is a significant ongoing contribution to Australia's statistical system made by the various public sector agencies that provide reliable administrative information used by the ABS for a range of official statistics. This includes vitals data supplied by the Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages, immigration and customs data from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, financial services information sourced from the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority and government financial information sourced from all governments. The continued support and assistance of these agencies is greatly appreciated.

I also want to recognise the contributions made by ABS staff, including our interviewers, who have continued to produce high quality, trusted statistics while working with fragile and ageing systems. In particular I want to recognise the effort of our leaders through this period of transformation, specifically Jonathan Palmer who acted as Australian Statistician for the first five-and-a-half months of this reporting period.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the significant support for the ABS from the Treasurer, the Hon. Joe Hockey, MP, and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, the Hon. Kelly O'Dwyer, MP. Their recognition and advocacy for the role of the ABS were critical in maintaining the Government's confidence and securing the financial investment for our transformation program.

### **David W. Kalisch**

Australian Statistician

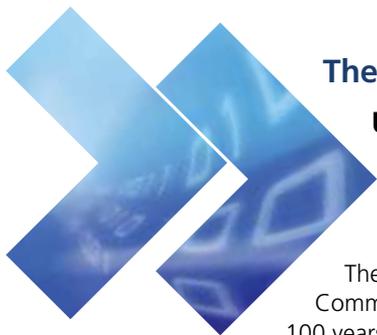


# Chapter 2

## ABS at a glance



ABS at a glance 2014 – 15		
<b>15.2</b>	million visits to the ABS website	
<b>2.7</b>	million downloads of ABS products	
<b>507</b>	statistical products released	
<b>35,993</b>	calls to the National Information and Referral Service	
<b>10,886</b>	downloads in 2014–15 of ABS’s Run that Town app, bringing the total to 83,177 downloads since the initial release in 2013	
<b>3,771</b>	online articles attributing the ABS in 2014–15	
<b>18,739</b>	Facebook likes	
<b>22,524</b>	Twitter followers	
<b>100,000+</b>	households in South Australia and Western Australia were involved in the largest Census field test on 5 August 2014, part of the preparations for the 2016 online Census on 9 August 2016	



## The ABS Vision

**Unleashing the power of statistics for a better Australia**

### Who we are

The ABS is Australia's official national statistical agency. The Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was established over 100 years ago, following enactment of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. This 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.

### What we do

The ABS is a trusted provider of information for Australia. It maintains the confidentiality of the individuals and businesses whose information is collected while it strives to make statistics as accessible and useful as possible.

The ABS provides statistics on a wide range of economic, population, social, 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.

### Where we are

The ABS has eight offices, located in each state and territory capital city. All state and territory offices have primary responsibility 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.

### Our plan

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 vision, strategic direction, strategic priorities and objectives, as well as the ABS's transformation agenda.

### Responsible minister

The ABS is an agency under the Treasury portfolio. During 2014–15, the Hon. Steven Ciobo MP, then Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer and Federal Member for Moncrieff, had responsibility for the Australian Bureau of Statistics from July to December 2014. In December 2014 the Hon. Kelly O'Dwyer MP, Federal Member for Higgins, took over ministerial responsibility for the ABS when she took office as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer.

*The Hon.  
Steven Ciobo MP,  
former Parliamentary  
Secretary to the  
Treasurer and  
Federal Member for  
Moncrieff*



*The Hon.  
Kelly O'Dwyer MP,  
Parliamentary  
Secretary to the  
Treasurer and  
Federal Member for  
Higgins*



## 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*

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 2014–15.

## Australian Statistics Advisory Council

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) 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 at least twice a year.

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 AM, Director, ACIL Allen Consulting. 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 the advice furnished to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer 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 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.

The Council's annual report can also be found on its website.

*Australian Statistics Advisory Council Meeting – June 2015*



## Outcome and program structure

### ABS outcome

In the Portfolio Budget Statements 2014–15, the ABS has one outcome: Informed decision-making, research and discussion within governments and the community by leading the collection, analysis and provision of high quality, objective and relevant statistical information.

### ABS program

Within the context of the Portfolio Budget Statements, Program 1.1 (Australian Bureau of Statistics), the ABS produces and disseminates statistics to meet the above outcome.

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

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

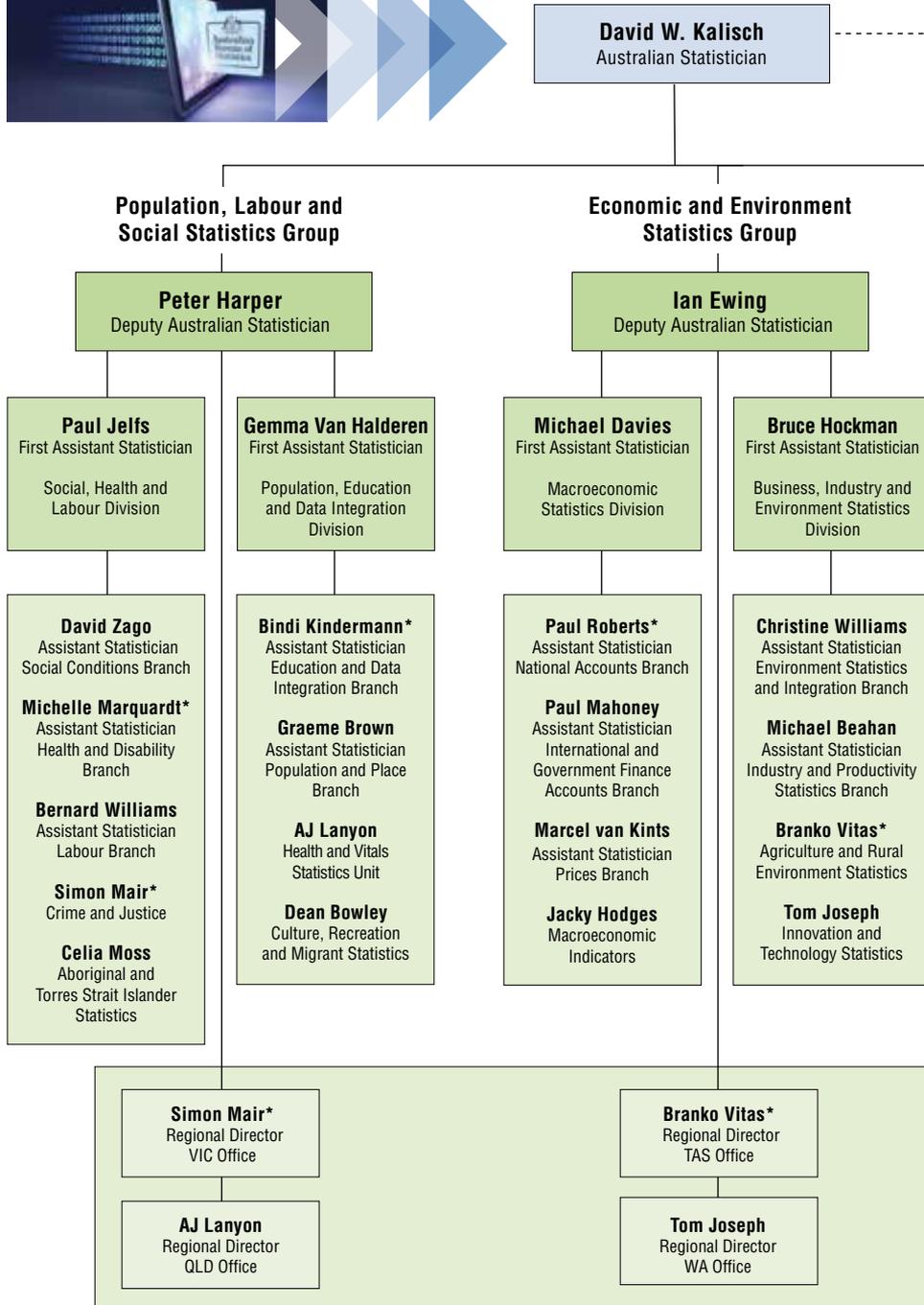
### Organisational structure

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

As at 30 June 2015, the ABS produced and disseminated statistics under two broad programs: Economic and Environment Statistics; and 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 services 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.

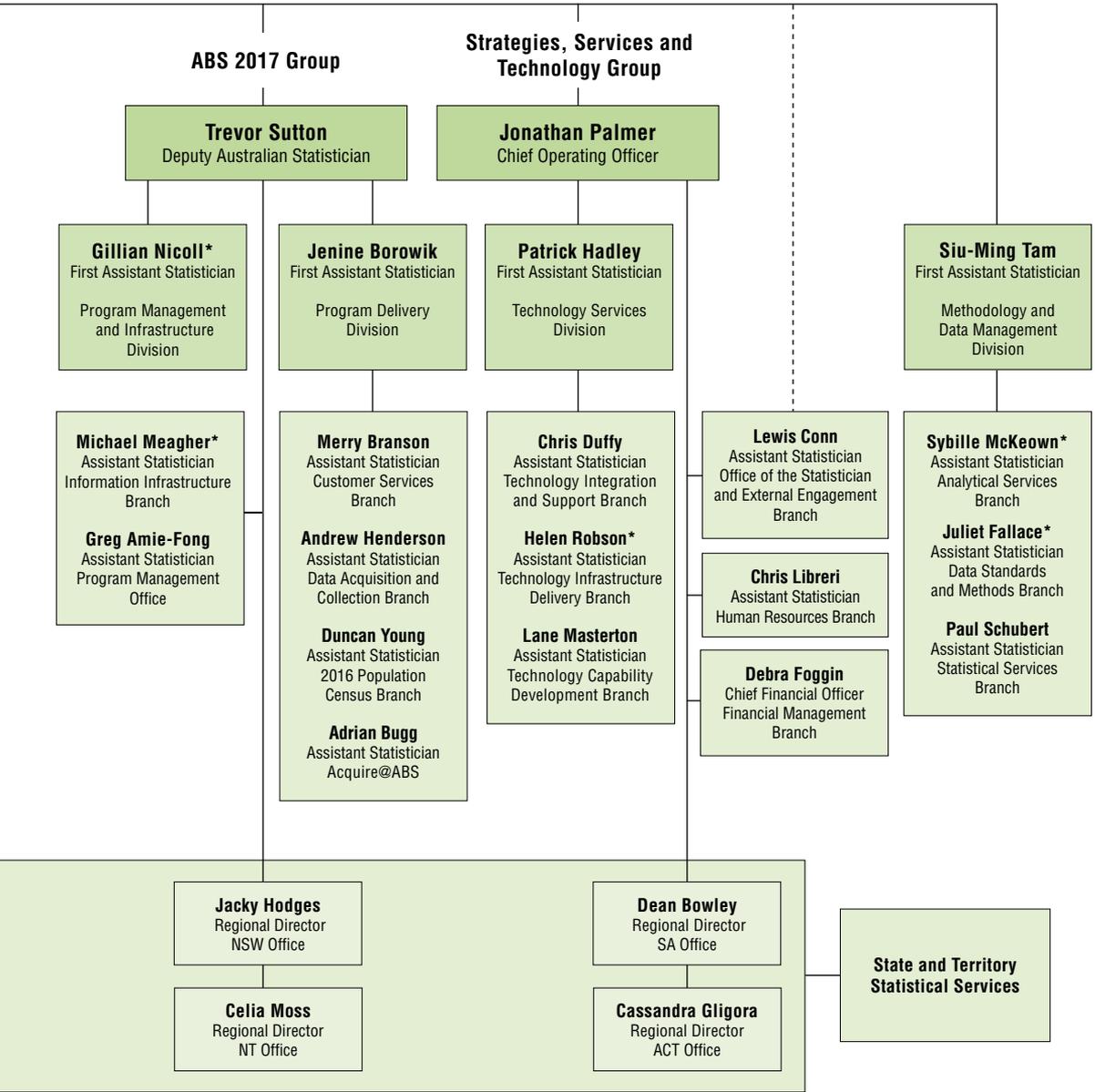
# Organisation chart

as at 30 June 2015 (a)



Note: \*Individual is acting in this role.

(a) The ABS's organisational structure changed on 1 July 2015. The latest structure is available on the ABS website: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)



Regional Directors have responsibility for statistical program and also appear against the relevant divisions above.

## Financial position



### Entity resource statements and resources for outcomes

The full financial statements are provided in Section 4. The Entity Resource Statement 2014–15 and Expenses for outcomes are provided in Tables 2.1 and 2.2.

#### Entity resource statement

**Table 2.1: Entity resource statement**

Entity resource statement 2014–15	Actual available appropriation for 2014–15 \$'000	Payments made 2014–15 \$'000	Balance remaining 2014–15 \$'000
	(a)	(b)	(a-b)
<b>Ordinary Annual Services</b>			
Prior year departmental appropriation	63,304	63,304	–
Departmental appropriation Act 1	319,735	269,238	50,497
Departmental appropriation Act 5	1,726	–	1,726
S74 Retained Revenue Receipts	40,724	40,724	–
S27 Repayment to the Commonwealth	1,995	1,995	–
Departmental appropriation Act 1 – Capital Budget (DCB)	21,309	17,873	3,436
<b>Total ordinary annual services</b>	<b>448,793</b>	<b>393,134</b>	<b>55,659</b>
<b>Other services</b>			
<b>Departmental non-operating</b>			
Prior year departmental appropriation	224	137	87
Equity injections	5,328	5,328	–
<b>Total other services</b>	<b>5,552</b>	<b>5,465</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Total net resourcing and payments for Australian Bureau of Statistics</b>	<b>454,345</b>	<b>398,599</b>	<b>55,746</b>

## Resources for outcomes

**Table 2.2: Resources for outcomes**

Expenses for Outcome 1 a	Budget	Actual Expenses	Variation
	2014–15	2014–15	2014–15
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	(a)	(b)	(a–b)
<b>Outcome 1</b>			
Informed decision-making, research and discussion within governments and the community by leading the collection, analysis and provision of high quality, objective and relevant statistical information			
<b>Outcome 1</b>			
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation (Appropriation Bill No. 1 and 5)	362,185 (b)	364,552	(2,367)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	32,709	29,484	3,225
<b>Total Expenses for Outcome 1</b>	394,894	394,036	858
	2013–14	2014–15	
Average staffing level (number) (c)	2,637	2,641	

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: 2014–15 Portfolio Budget Statements. Departmental appropriation combines 'Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No. 1, 3 and 5)' and Retained Revenue Receipts under section 74 of the PGPA Act 2013.
- (c) Excludes the Census Data Processing Centre, interviewers and Census field agents.

## Chapter 3

### Special articles

#### Unlocking the power of statistics: mental health services use and outcomes



As Australia's national statistical agency, the ABS has more than a century of experience in data analysis, and it has built an enviable international reputation for the quality and thoroughness of its statistical methods.

Over the last few years, the ABS partnered with other government departments and agencies to develop innovative solutions to answer important policy questions, with an emphasis on unlocking the potential of existing administrative data to provide both new insights as well as improving the quality and usefulness of existing data.

The ABS is planning to expand further its use of existing government data, and it is now well-placed to use the experiences detailed in this article as a stepping stone to larger and more complex projects in the future.

The following project outlines how a partnership between the ABS, the National Mental Health Commission and the Department of Health has produced a new dataset to address a key policy need. This has been achieved through meshing the ABS's skills and capabilities – in data integration and methodology – with non-ABS datasets, providing an expanded and improved evidence base for policy and planning.

#### Meshing Census demographics with administrative health data

During 2014–15, the ABS harnessed three existing Australian Government data sources to create a new source of information about the people who use government subsidised mental health-related services and medications, including which people were likely to make more use of these services or medications.

This project provided greater insight into the lives of these people without compromising the privacy of individuals.

#### Project drivers

In 2014 the National Mental Health Commission was asked by government to conduct a review of mental health programs and services.

The review was to look at the efficiency and effectiveness of programs and services supporting people with mental health problems to see if these programs, services and medications were helping people to lead a contributing life and engage productively in the community. Additionally, advice was sought to see if services were reaching those most in need, in particular those living in regional, rural and remote Australia.

The National Mental Health Commission asked for assistance from the ABS in developing a sound evidence base about mental health services in Australia, so that they could use that information to underpin the review and its recommendations.

While there was a great deal of information around the number of subsidised mental health-related prescriptions and services provided each year in Australia prior to this project, little was

known about the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the people using them.

To support the review the ABS already had a range of mental health data from existing surveys, such as the 2007 National Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey and the 2011–13 Australian Health Survey.

However, none of the existing data sources had the detail around the use of mental health services and medication usage which was available from administrative data sources such as the Medicare Benefits Schedule or the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

By using the very basic demographics from both the Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits data as a key, the ABS was able to unlock a range of richer demographic data from the Census, adding information on education, employment, housing, income, country of birth, proficiency in spoken English, and need for assistance and family relationships to each of the Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme datasets.

## How the data was integrated

The Department of Health provided the ABS with the anonymised Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits datasets, while the Department of Human Services extracted and provided the associated anonymised demographic data.

These data were then combined with Census data using probabilistic linkage techniques – essentially finding best matches based on a person's sex, age and location. At the end of this process, around 70% of the Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits records were assigned a richer range of demographic characteristics thanks to Census data.

This new *Mental Health Services – Census Integrated Dataset* not only provided the National Mental Health Commission with additional information to support the review, it also expanded the suite of existing mental health data sources.

This new dataset is another outcome of the Census Data Enhancement Project, an ABS initiative that integrates data from the Census of Population and Housing with other datasets to efficiently create new enhanced data sources for statistical, policy and research purposes.

## Challenges

This project involved a number of challenges for the ABS including:

- becoming familiar with the requirements of the *National Health Act 1953*, and the *Health Insurance Act 1973* in relation to the use of Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits data to ensure that legislative requirements were met
- working with large datasets that weren't primarily designed to produce statistics
- bringing together data from three different sources in a way that ensured the outputs from the combined dataset were both informative and high quality
- working within the very tight timeframe imposed by the review.

Overcoming these challenges was a testament to the partnership of the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the National Mental Health Commission and the ABS.

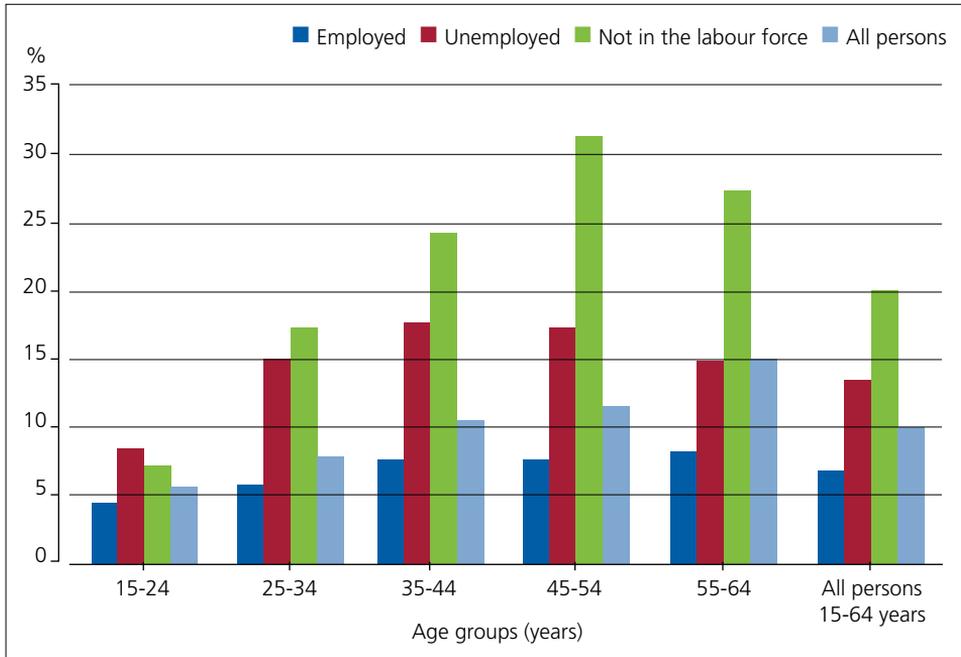
## Current outputs

In October 2014 the ABS released a publication from the integrated dataset, *Characteristics of people using mental health services and prescription medication, 2011* (cat. no. 4329.0). This provided summary information from the dataset such as labour force participation and educational attainment of those accessing Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits services.

Further analyses of the Census Integrated Dataset are currently being undertaken on behalf of a range of stakeholders including the National Mental Health Commission.

An example of the types of output from the work is presented in Figure 3.1.

**Figure 3.1. Proportion of Australians accessing subsidised mental health-related Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medication by labour force status and age groups.**



Source: *Characteristics of people using mental health services and prescription medication, 2011* (cat. no. 4329.0).

## Future opportunities

The ABS is working on a series of publications focusing on the relationship between mental health related services and medication usage and the housing and experiences of homelessness, high-end users of services and medications, long-term usage, and usage of services and medications among people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The ABS is also investigating the feasibility of adding other datasets to the *Mental Health Services – Census Integrated Dataset*.

## Acknowledgements

The ABS acknowledges the continuing support of a number of agencies for this project. The project was made possible through funding from the National Mental Health Commission and data provision from the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services. The ABS also acknowledges the importance of the information provided by individuals to the datasets used in this project.

The ABS treats this information in the strictest confidence as is required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the *National Health Act 1953*, and the *Health Insurance Act 1973*.

‘This project demonstrates the innovation that can be achieved in mental health planning when agencies are able to work outside their usual mandates. The result of this partnership, and use of the linked data with Census, will enable better delivery of services in Australia, targeting those most in need.’

David Butt, CEO, National Mental Health Commission

## Special article:

### The National Agricultural Statistics Review – a framework for the future of agricultural data

Australia's agricultural activities vary from extensive pastoral and cropping activities, to intensive livestock and horticultural production. Agriculture utilises a large proportion of Australia's natural resources including, in 2012–13, 52% of Australia's total land area and 65% of the nation's water use.

Agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries make a significant contribution to Australia's society and economy, employing over 300,000 people and producing \$45 billion worth of exports in 2014.

The effectiveness of all sectors of the agricultural industry is enhanced by having access to timely, high quality statistics for a range of needs, from planning and policy making to economic forecasting and industry promotion. Starting in 2013–14, the National Agricultural Statistics Review (NASR) was a joint project between the ABS and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) to improve Australia's system of agricultural statistics and develop a framework for ongoing assessment, coordination and governance of information needs into the future.

#### Project drivers

The review set out to: identify the priority information needs of stakeholders; find unmet needs; and identify inconsistencies as well as opportunities for improvements to Australia's agricultural statistics. The final report was published in July 2015.

The NASR was initiated by ABS and ABARES to build on outcomes of recent internal program reviews by both agencies, including the Essential Statistical Assets for Australia review that was released by the ABS in 2015 in *Essential Statistical Assets for Australia, 2014*, (cat. no. 1395.0).

The agricultural statistics review aimed to identify opportunities to improve Australia's agricultural statistics system and develop a framework for the ongoing assessment, coordination and governance of statistical information needs.

The National Agricultural Statistics Review covered:

- ABS censuses and surveys
- ABARES farm, fisheries and forestry surveys
- commissioned research and reports containing statistics
- administrative data holdings
- other datasets residing in any agency's databases.

#### Outcomes

A key concern identified by stakeholders during the NASR project was the burden that survey activity places on respondents, particularly farmers, who take on this load in addition to a range of other regulatory and administrative requirements.

Farmers may receive multiple survey forms from a number of different organisations, with limited time to respond. Not only is this inefficient for farmers, it can impact on the survey quality as increased reporting burden can lead to increased disengagement from survey activity. This may result in lower response rates which impacts on the quality and usefulness of the statistics. The lack of quality data can then lead various agricultural organisations to undertake extra survey activity to fill the quality gap, further increasing the burden on farmers.

There was also a range of concerns identified in relation to the quality of statistics in the Australian agricultural statistical system, particularly accuracy and timeliness.

One of the main outcomes of the review was the Enduring Goals for Australian Agriculture Framework. These goals cover the economic, social and environmental aspects of Australian agriculture and they are designed to be stable – subject to minimal change – over the next twenty plus years.

The five goals for the agriculture statistics framework are:

- competitive and profitable agriculture sector
- prosperous communities
- sustainable natural resource use
- growing trade and market access
- protecting animal, plant and human health and welfare.

## Future opportunities

A range of opportunities and innovations were identified in the review consultation, including:

- expanded use of electronic data collection (web forms) to improve the quality, speed and efficiency of data collection and improve the respondent experience
- greater use of administrative data to reduce reliance on direct collection and potentially improve the accuracy and timeliness of the statistics produced
- the use of statistical data integration to draw greater value out of existing sources and inform the social, environmental and economic aspects of agriculture
- implementing a 'one-stop-shop' for agricultural statistics to improve discoverability and accessibility
- better defining the roles and responsibilities of respective stakeholders within the system, including ABS and ABARES, and the roles of government compared to industry, to improve coordination and governance.

## The next steps for Australia's agricultural statistical system

Overall, the review has been an extensive assessment of Australia's agricultural statistical system, working with stakeholders across all sectors to identify the core information needs of Australia's agricultural industry, and assessing the ability of the system to meet these needs.

In undertaking the review, both ABS and ABARES gained an improved understanding of the statistics that each agency produces, respective processes and methods, and their roles in contributing to the Australian agricultural statistical system.

The research into current best practice in agricultural statistical systems has identified opportunities for establishing a modern, adaptive and responsive agricultural statistical system for Australia's future.

ABS and ABARES are now well-placed to lead the system towards this future vision. Both agencies will continue their collaboration, building on the findings of the review and further improving the collaborative relationships built with agricultural data stakeholders.

The ABS will work with ABARES and other stakeholders across the agriculture statistical system to address the issues identified through the NASR for the 2015–16 Agricultural Census.

## Acknowledgements

The ABS acknowledges the input of the 40-plus government and industry organisations that participated in the review forums, as well as the ongoing support of ABARES in conducting this review.

‘Three key outcomes from the review are the definition of the enduring goals as a conceptual framework, the paradigm shift of going to administrative data as a first port of call, and the focus on increased utilisation of technologies through the statistical cycle. In addition, the enthusiasm for much greater collaboration and coordination not only between ABS-ABARES but with the wider industry stakeholder group will lead to better outcomes for the system and its users.’

Dr John Sims, Senior Principal Scientist, ABARES, Department of Agriculture



## Special article: Improving macroeconomic statistics

Macroeconomic statistics deal with the performance, structure and behaviour of Australia's economy as a whole.

Australia's GDP (gross domestic product) is the most widely recognised macroeconomic statistic, but it is just one of a whole range of financial measures – collectively called the national accounts – that aim to track Australia's economic performance in relation to the rest of the world.

### Project drivers

Over the last few years, the ABS has been improving the collection, analysis and quality of a number of its macroeconomic statistics.

These improvements mainly relate to Australia's national accounts, international trade and finance. One major milestone has been the release of Australia's first quarterly household balance sheet.

Priorities for improvement have aligned with changes in the Australian economy as it moves away from tangible (goods based) and more towards intangible (services based).

### Following the shift from goods to services in retail trade

Historically, retail trade was around 60% of household spending, but this has been slowly falling since the 1960s. Retail trade now makes up only about 30% of household final consumption expenditure.

To address this shift in consumer spending, the ABS has been expanding the coverage of retail trade from the traditional 'bricks and mortar' approach to also include service activities used by households – in leisure, travel, recreation and entertainment sectors of the economy – as well as to start including estimates of online retail sales.

The expansion of coverage started with the establishment of two new quarterly collections: the Survey of Consumer Sales – Energy Retailing and the Survey of Consumer Sales – Communications Services.

The energy retailing survey provides estimates of the value of sales of electricity and gas to consumer customers, while the communications services survey provides estimates of the value of sales of mobile, fixed line and fixed internet services to household customers.

Further achievements include the enhancement of the existing monthly retail trade collection to include *Experimental Estimates of Online Retail Turnover* by domestic retailers. These experimental estimates started in the September quarter 2013 and they have been subject to continuing improvements in survey methodology and in response to user feedback.

### Improving producer price indexes for services

Just as the consumer price index shows price change at the consumer or household level, producer price indexes show price change at the wholesale level. Producer price indexes were traditionally developed around tangible industries such as mining, agriculture and manufacturing.

However, as the modern economy transitions to a service based economy, the ABS has prioritised improvements to service based producer price indexes to improve the coverage, robustness, timeliness and quality of existing services producer price indexes as well as to introduce several new indexes.

The first of several new indexes based on administrative data was implemented with the completion of the producer price index review. Additional series have been progressively implemented into the services producer price indexes as part of an ongoing improvement program.

### **Improving international trade coverage**

Improvements to coverage and efficiencies in data collection have been made, as well as enhancing the quality of merchandise trade quantity data that is used to compile volume measures in the national accounts. These have led to improvements in the data on international trade transactions in government services, and government finance statistics data in general.

A significant component was improving the quality of the Survey of International Trade in Services, by linking the survey to the ABS Business Register, adopting data collection and editing systems similar to those employed by other economic collections and streamlining the systems adopted in modelling estimates for non-surveyed service types.

Thanks to this work, significant improvements have been made to data quality – timeliness has been improved and the level of revisions has reduced, providing a better quality output for users.

### **Working with APRA to improve financial accounts**

The ABS has a long standing agreement to capture, edit and disseminate data sourced from the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) via the tripartite data sharing agreement in place between APRA, the Reserve Bank of Australia and ABS. The key objective of this agreement is to reduce response burden to Australian financial businesses.

A particular focus of recent tripartite work is to produce improved superannuation data, which contributes to Australia's financial accounts and ABS Managed Funds estimates.

The superannuation data is specifically used to measure the contribution of the superannuation industry to GDP, and to national, sector (and in particular the household sector) measures of income, savings and wealth.

The improvements also facilitate the production of internationally comparable statistics on the performance of the superannuation industry and reflect current international statistical standards.

This project is to improve the quality of Australia's financial accounts through quality assured quarterly APRA and ABS income and expense data.

The project uses quarterly APRA balance sheet data from authorised depository institutions and registered financial corporations data as well as data from registered superannuation entities and general insurers.

The development of better systems and processes will facilitate annual and quarterly compilation and deliver financial income estimates. The annual process will enable not only the production of series that feed directly into the Australian System of National Accounts, but also the compilation and delivery of annual series for the purposes of producing benchmarks.

## Household distribution within the Australian System of National Accounts

Widely used macroeconomic measures of the economy such as the national accounts provide vital information on the size and structure of the economy but they do not provide information on the distribution of income and wealth, or individual access to goods and services.

These issues of equity are widely recognised as crucial to an understanding of material well-being, and have received increasing attention over recent years. Issues of income distribution and access are also central to targeting and improving the efficiency of economic policies.

In 2014, the ABS was among only a few national statistical offices (NSOs) to produce a time series of the household distributional dataset within the Australian System of National Accounts. The data are constructed using both the macroeconomic household estimates produced through the Australian System of National Accounts and the ABS household economic resource surveys. The data answers questions related to household groups:

- contribution to growth in income (consumption, gross saving and net worth)
- household material living standards.

**Figure 3.2: Contribution of income quintiles to gross saving, percentage change from 2003–04 to 2011–12**

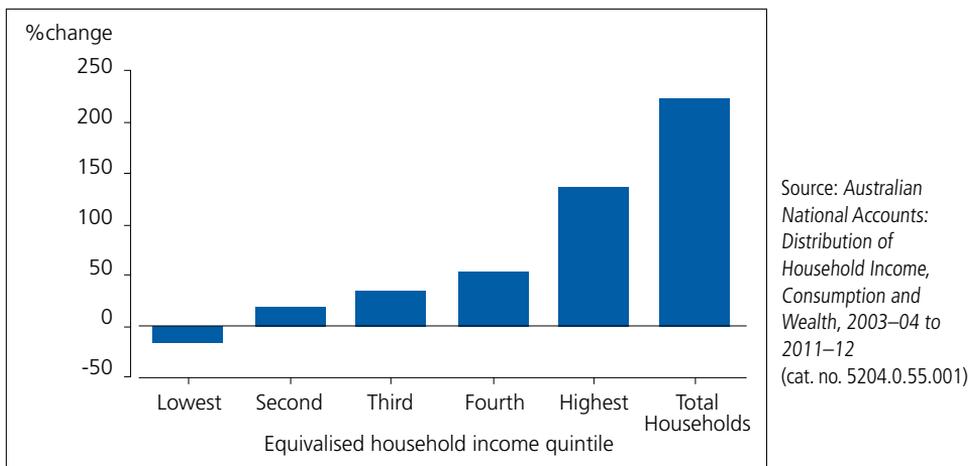


Figure 3.2 illustrates that households in the highest income quintile showed the largest increase of 135% of the 234% increase in gross saving from 2003–04 to 2011–12. For the same period the lowest quintile decreased gross saving by 17%.

The feedback received by users on the data has been very positive, with the Reserve Bank of Australia indicating that it would like to see the time series extended to the most recent release of the Australian National Accounts.

In November 2015, the ABS plans to release the household distributional dataset up to 2014–15. The release will include the latest data from the *2014–15 Australian System of National Accounts* (cat. no. 5204.0) released in October 2015.

## Acknowledgements

The ABS would like to thank the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority and the RBA for their assistance and encouragement across a range of indicators. The ABS also acknowledges the importance of the feedback as well as the information provided by individual businesses to many of the datasets used in creating Australia's macroeconomic indicators.

## Special article: Big data plays a big role in the future of statistics

The ease of access of internet based services has fuelled an explosive growth of human interaction in the digital world. A large part of our everyday lives is now spent online, for business, education, social contact or just entertainment.

In addition, a web of connected digital devices is emerging that operates independently of personal interaction. These devices – such as mobile phones, smart energy meters, traffic flow meters or point-of-sale scanners – are all continually producing data snapshots as part of their ongoing operation, making them all sources of potentially new and highly detailed datasets.

Much of this human and machine generated data – collectively referred to as ‘big data’ – is now accessible to national statistical agencies. It can be assembled and analysed to create a richer, more dynamic and better focused statistical picture of society, the economy and the environment.

When combined with traditional data sources – from surveys or existing administrative processes – these new big data sources enable new forms of statistical analysis with potential benefits when it comes to government service delivery and the development of well informed policy.

### Project drivers

Government policy development and evaluation is increasingly hindered by the persistence of what have been called ‘wicked problems’. These are social, economic or environmental issues that are difficult to define clearly – definitions may even change over time – and involve complex and often hidden interdependencies among many possible causes.

No one statistical dataset is likely to encompass all the information relevant to a particular wicked problem, and a better understanding may require a unique combination of sources – drawing from government and private sector data, from surveys, administrative collections and data created by digital devices – in order to more fully understand the problem.

In this context, the analysis of big data promises new insights into long standing policy problems, and may even provide the means to reduce the cost and improve the timeliness of mainstream statistical products.

### Challenges

The whole concept of big data is relatively new, and many of the statistical techniques required to make the best use of it are still being developed and tested by national statistical organisations and academia.

The ABS is already developing methodological and technological foundations for what it believes will be a new paradigm in official statistics, drawing heavily on recent advances in mathematical and computer sciences and underpinned by a number of significant advances in the representation, storage, transformation and integration of data.

There are a range of technical, legislative and privacy challenges to address. Not all government organisations may have appropriate legislation in place to enable the sharing of administrative datasets; private organisations may regard the data they hold as commercially sensitive and be unwilling to share it, and – most importantly – considerable methodological work may be required to create processes that maintain the confidentiality and privacy of individuals when a number of datasets are combined.

## Current outputs

In order to demonstrate and validate its research into the possibilities of big data, the ABS has produced some prototype solutions that apply new methods and technologies to real business problems. These have been developed to meet the analytical and computational demands of big data.

The centrepiece is the Graphically Linked Information Discovery Environment (GLIDE) – an integrated platform for the linking and analysis of multiple datasets from diverse sources. The basis of the approach used in GLIDE is that statistical concepts and data are represented and stored in the form of an ‘information network’. This structure can be drawn upon to retrieve and visualise both unit-level and aggregate data, and it allows users to explore a linked dataset from different analytical perspectives – including structural, relational, spatial, temporal and schematic.

GLIDE currently hosts a prototype dataset derived from linked administrative data sources relating to businesses and persons held by the ABS and the Australian Taxation Office, including:

- Personal Income Tax
- Business Income Tax
- Pay As You Go
- Business Activity Statements
- ABS Business Register.

Existing data about employers is mostly collected from ABS business surveys and is generally unconnected to data about employees, which are usually collected through ABS household surveys. The ability to identify the employer-employee relationship in a statistical dataset greatly enhances the type of analysis that can be conducted.

The prototype linked dataset offers the potential to explore a range of business and labour force issues, such as:

- how employer and employee characteristics affect firm productivity
- the impact of firm births and deaths on economic activity
- which industries are creating and shedding jobs
- how many people hold multiple jobs and what types of jobs and employers multiple jobs are concentrated in
- which industries mainly provide short-term employment
- firm turnover at regional levels.

## Future opportunities

The ABS has developed GLIDE as a proof-of-concept implementation of the sorts of technical components needed to represent and work with multiple data sources. Following the development of a business strategy, the intention is to expand it further into a robust production system that can support the exploratory analysis of large, complex, interconnected datasets. In addition, the ABS is investigating the use of ‘machine reasoning’ methods to mine such data automatically for new insights, and natural language processing to extract information efficiently from the content of text documents.

The ABS has developed an initial ‘information discovery environment’ as a proof-of-concept implementation of the sorts of technical components needed to represent and work with multiple data sources.

This prototype information discovery environment helps to find, manipulate and visualise data drawn from a number of sources and the intention is to further develop it into a

robust tool that can support a range of valid statistical analyses. The goal is to have a data framework that will enable analysis from a number of different perspectives – spatial, temporal, relational, structural or schematic – and in a form that can be adjusted and evolved as required.

As part of further developing the potential of big data, the ABS is also:

- trialling the use of the linked data standards developed by World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
- evaluating the use of the W3C vocabularies framework for developing prototype models of statistical units
- investigating the application of automatic ‘machine reasoning’ methods such as first-order logic
- looking at natural language processing as an aid to extracting information from datasets.

## Acknowledgement

The ABS acknowledges the ongoing support and assistance of the Australian Taxation Office in the creation of the linked dataset employer-employee database.



## **Special article:**

### **Data integration – diverse sources and big data offer new insights**

The ABS sees its future as a statistical organisation working to a solutions centred data model, underpinned by a strong methodological effort in providing statistical tools that will improve the ABS's ability to link, combine and repurpose data in meaningful ways.

There are two general approaches to linking data – either across collections, or through time. Cross collection linkage relies on finding common elements in different source datasets and then using these common elements to merge the datasets together, while time based linkage creates a time series of data from a number of 'single point in time' observations.

#### **Project drivers**

Transforming statistics in a major way relies on new approaches to sourcing or creating datasets, and integrating components of these datasets with a wide range of administrative data held by governments and organisations. The ABS needs to use data integration as a statistical tool to increase the depth and breadth of available statistics without adding extra costs to government or additional respondent burden on the Australian community.

Statistical data integration developments rely on partnering with the government, research and private sector. The ABS is building capability through new and existing partnerships with data custodians to improve accessibility to public information, maximising its use for statistical purposes. Through contributing to Australian Public Service wide initiatives the ABS is supporting the increased availability of data and developing greater capacity to create 'on demand' integrated datasets.

#### **Current outputs**

##### **New insights from cross-sectional integrated data**

The ABS has expanded a number of existing datasets by using data integration to provide a point in time view of social, economic and environmental issues.

By combining information from surveys, administrative collections and censuses, a more complete picture of the circumstances of individuals, households and businesses can be seen. Integrated datasets have the flexibility to be combined with additional point in time and/or longitudinal information to understand broader implications as policy directions evolve and Australian society changes.

##### **Mental health services and the Census**

In partnership with the National Mental Health Commission, the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services, the ABS has integrated a subset of Commonwealth subsidised mental health related data items from the Medicare Benefits Schedule and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, with demographic details from the Census of Population and Housing. This dataset supported new analysis of the effectiveness and efficiency of mental health services in Australia – for more information on this initiative, see the article about Unlocking the power of statistics (pages 20–22).

##### **Measuring educational outcomes over time**

The ABS has led a number of data integration initiatives in partnership with state and territory agencies, the Australian Government Department of Education and Training and other stakeholders that aim to address data gaps and build the evidence base in child development, education and training statistics. This work combined information from the Census with the Australian Early Development Census and National Assessment Program

– Literacy and Numeracy to produce experimental estimates for Queensland and Tasmania. These datasets were used to analyse the impact of personal, family, social and economic characteristics on school achievement and child development over time.

In addition, the ABS collaborated with the National Centre for Vocational Education Research and other stakeholders to demonstrate the potential for measuring longitudinal post-study outcomes by linking vocational education and training and census data.

Ultimately, these pathfinder projects aim to expand the information available to answer policy and research interests.

### **Migrant Personal Income Tax Data Integration Feasibility project**

The Migrant Personal Income Tax Data Integration project linked an extract of the Department of Social Services settlement database with data from the Australian Taxation Office to test the feasibility of developing an integrated dataset for research and statistical purposes. This project demonstrated that the linking of these records was feasible, and a research paper documenting the project findings has been released.

The linked dataset will provide a comprehensive picture of the economic outcomes of migrants to assist policy makers and researchers to better understand the experience of migrants and their contribution to Australia.

This is particularly important given the prominence of Australian immigration policy in shaping future population growth, and the major changes that have occurred in migration policies over the last decade.

### **Increasing availability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics**

Integrated and longitudinal data is meeting growing demand for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics without the need to collect additional information.

Examples are:

- improving the life expectancy estimates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by linking death registrations to Census records
- exploring whether school leavers from 2006 had continued on to further study and/or had moved into the workforce by 2011.

### **New insights from longitudinal data**

Longitudinal data provides researchers and policy makers with the ability to study changing patterns in social, economic and environmental conditions. Recognising that the complexities of pathways and transitions involve many external factors in an individual's life, longitudinally integrated datasets provide evidence to understand these trajectories.

The ABS currently produces three key longitudinally linked datasets:

- the Business Longitudinal Database
- the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset
- the Longitudinal Labour Force Dataset.

### **The Business Longitudinal Database**

The Business Longitudinal Database comprises several datasets containing characteristics and financial information about small and medium businesses and it has already provided new information about business innovation, efficiency performance and likelihood of business survival.

Recently, in conjunction with the Department of Industry and Science, the ABS has developed a new integrated firm-level dataset, the Expanded Analytical Business Longitudinal

Database, which links financial and characteristics data for all active businesses in the Australian economy from 2001–02 to 2012–13.

### **The Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset**

The Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset combines socio-demographic information about individuals from the 2006 and 2011 Censuses and allows the study of changing patterns in social and economic conditions at the individual level has been used by researchers and policy makers to:

- better understand the factors associated with identification of Indigenous status by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- investigate employment outcomes of workers who moved between industries
- investigate changes in family relationships and transitions of individuals.

### **The Longitudinal Labour Force Dataset**

The Longitudinal Labour Force Dataset combines 36 monthly labour force surveys along with data collected from other ABS surveys from January 2008 to December 2010. It allows in depth analysis of the Australian labour market over time and provides information about labour force status, socio-demographic characteristics, employment information as well as industry and occupation of individuals.

It has been used by researchers and policy makers to investigate:

- labour mobility
- household structure and economic participation
- employment outcomes of migrants
- increases in unemployment during recessions.

## **Future opportunities**

Advances in statistical methods, technology and the availability of administrative data are creating rich sources for evidence based analysis of government programs.

In its role as a provider and coordinator of official statistics, the ABS is harnessing emerging opportunities to create new datasets, fill data gaps and increase the accessibility of statistics.

The ABS is moving towards a solutions centred data provision model, underpinned by data integration. Transforming the ABS's statistical output will rely on new approaches to sourcing or creating datasets, as well as integrating components of these datasets with a wide range of other data held by governments and organisations.

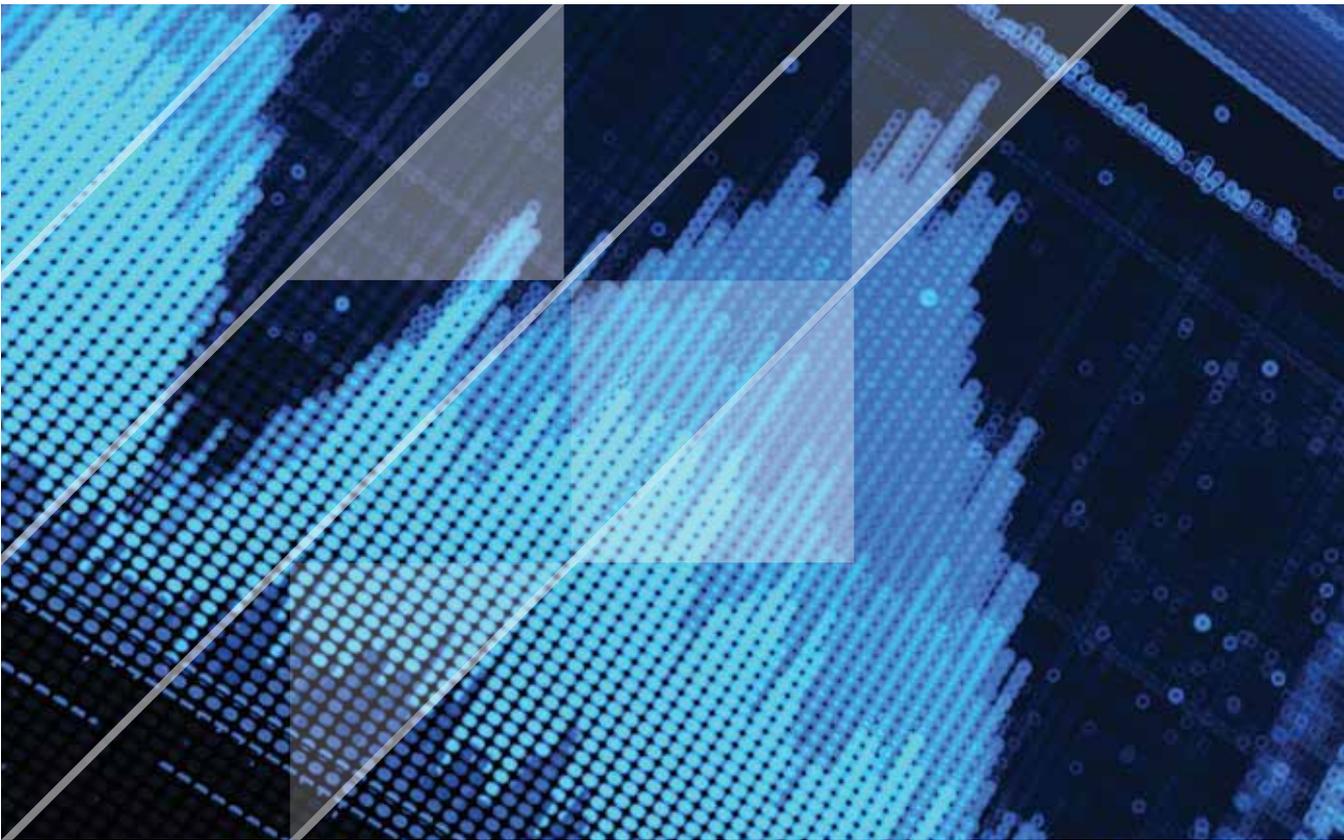
The ABS will continue to use data integration as a standard statistical tool to increase the depth and breadth of available statistics, while technological advances and modern statistical techniques continue to open up new possibilities in data integration and big data, facilitate greater access to microdata and safeguard the privacy of individuals.

Future data options will harness new technologies and create new access pathways for our research and policy partners – find out more about ABS data integration at:

**[www.abs.gov.au/dataintegration](http://www.abs.gov.au/dataintegration)**

The ABS is building capability through new and existing partnerships with data custodians to improve accessibility to public information, maximising its use for statistical purposes. Through participating in public sector initiatives the ABS is supporting the increased availability of data and developing greater capacity to create new 'on demand' integration information.

## Section Two [Report on performance](#)



## Chapter 4

# Performance report



The ABS is Australia's central statistical authority for the Australian Government and provides statistical services for our state and territory governments. The ABS is responsible for:

- collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating statistics and related information,
- coordinating the statistical operations of official bodies by:
  - avoiding duplication
  - achieving comparability and integration
  - maximising the utility of available data
  - developing and implementing statistical standards
  - providing statistical advice and assistance
  - working with international organisations on statistical matters.

This chapter provides an assessment of the ABS's performance in relation to the objectives and key performance indicators published in the 2014–15 Portfolio Budget Statement.

### **OBJECTIVE 1. Decision-making, research and discussions are underpinned by relevant statistical information**

#### **KPI 1.1 Australia's key decisions, research and discussions continue to be underpinned by trusted official statistics**

In 2014–15 ABS products and services continued to inform decisions by governments and the community. Key ABS statistics included: national accounts information; data on the labour force; the Consumer Price Index and other prices indexes; information from the Census of Population and Housing; and estimated resident population. These informed decisions on:

- the indexation of government payments, superannuation payments, government taxes and charges, and the distribution of grants to states and territories (e.g. the apportionment of shares of GST funding) and funding to other entities (e.g. hospitals)
- salary and wage negotiations
- the assessment of legislated decisions such as the setting of minimum wages by Fair Work Australia and the setting of the cash rate by the Reserve Bank of Australia
- the distribution of electoral boundaries by the Australian Electoral Commission
- the preparation of government reports (such as the 2015 Intergenerational Report).

Use of ABS data in reports by Parliamentary Committees shows ABS data is used to inform the development and evaluation of government policies and programs. There were 68 references to ABS statistics in Parliamentary Committee reports in 2014–15. There were 850 references

to ABS statistics in Hansard, showing the continued use of ABS statistics to inform public debate and decision-making. Microdata citations in academic journals have also continued, with 75 citations, showing an active use of official statistics for research purposes.

Community discussions are informed through media coverage. ABS statistics continued to be widely reported in the media, with over 6,300 articles citing ABS statistics without concerns about their quality in 2014–15 (table 4.6).

In 2014–15 the ABS commissioned a survey of Community Trust in ABS Statistics. The survey was conducted in 2015 from April to July and the results will be published in October 2015. The survey was previously undertaken in 2010, when 92% of those surveyed were found to trust or greatly trust the ABS.

### **KPI 1.2 Statistical information continues to be relevant to the needs of key stakeholders through active engagement**

In 2014–15 the ABS developed a stakeholder engagement strategy to revitalise stakeholder engagement as a central pillar in the ABS's organisational culture and looked for ways to partner with others to ensure information continues to be relevant. An example is the partnership with the Department of Industry and Science to expand ABS collection and analysis activities to assess new industry policy initiatives. This involved the creation of a new firm-level longitudinal business database – the Expanded Analytical Business Longitudinal Database – to provide a richer source of information for analysis of business performance, competitiveness and productivity.

The ABS uses a range of mechanisms to ensure it keeps in touch with the needs of its key stakeholders. The Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) is the key advisory body to the ABS. Members are chosen to represent a broad cross-section of government, business, academic and community perspectives. In 2014–15 ASAC advised the ABS on: its overall statistical directions and priorities; ABS sustainability; the statistical business transformation program and wider transformation agenda; improvements to the National Statistical System through the development of a forward-looking National Statistics Policy and the Essential Statistical Assets for Australia Initiative; and plans to achieve a primarily digital Census of Population and Housing in 2016. The State and Territory Statistical Forum membership is representative of all state and territory governments. The forum works with the ABS to progress their statistical priorities. In 2014–15 this forum focused on progressing issues in relation to statistical data integration, statistical capability and measures of disadvantage.

In addition to these cross-cutting, strategic engagement forums, the ABS hosts a comprehensive range of specialist statistical and topic advisory groups. These groups advise on specific statistical developments and on emerging issues that may influence future statistical needs, in relation to their areas of expertise.

The ABS also engages with its government stakeholders by outposting ABS statisticians to other agencies. Outposted ABS officers provide strategic statistical support for specific projects and policy initiatives, build statistical capability, and provide advice on data management practices to improve the health of the Australian statistical system. In 2014–15, 31 outpostings were undertaken, up from 30 undertaken during the previous year.

## **OBJECTIVE 2. High quality statistical information is available to inform Australia's most important issues**

### **KPI 2.1 The quality and accuracy of Australia's official statistics is maintained or improved**

In 2014–15 the ABS produced over 500 statistical products (including microdata products). For each output the ABS aims to achieve an appropriate level of quality and accuracy, while also operating cost-effectively and minimising provider burden. Quality declarations, which include statements on accuracy, are published with most key ABS statistical publications, including Australia's three headline economic collections: National Accounts; Consumer Price Index (CPI); and Labour Force; as well as the ABS's Estimated Resident Population releases. Developments impacting the quality of these headline measures during 2014–15 included:

- implementation of all recommendations that have a substantive bearing on the quality of the monthly labour force estimates, from the Independent Technical Review of the Labour Force Survey
- continued monitoring of the collection and production of labour force estimates to enhance quality, including directing increased resources to the production of the estimates and ensuring greater coherence with other macro economic statistics
- publication of the full set of sectoral accounts on a quarterly basis for the first time – including quarterly income accounts by institutional sector (cat. no. 5232.0)
- implementation of transactions data into CPI (cat. no. 6401.0); research undertaken to maximise use of the data; and development of standards for the use of transactions in CPI.

### **KPI 2.2 Australia's leading indicators adhere to appropriate statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies to maintain quality and support comparability in the global statistical systems**

To ensure comparability between countries, the standards, frameworks, classifications and methodologies governing official statistics are agreed internationally. The ABS publishes the concepts, sources and methods it uses for all key macro economic, industry and demographic statistics. These publications include information on the applications of internationally agreed practices in ABS statistics. Where possible, the ABS meets agreed standards, and in some cases the ABS is a world leader in the implementation of newly agreed or updated standards.

Each year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) assesses Australia's observance of its Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS). Since it is not practical for any country to observe all internationally agreed data standards, frameworks and methodologies fully, these standards provide an accepted benchmark for the main economic and population indicators for subscribing countries. In relation to official statistics produced by the ABS, in its 2014 report the IMF found that Australia met the requirements of the SDDS.

The IMF releases formal reports on countries in consultation with the national government for most years. The most recent country report on Australia was published in February 2014 and it noted that:

Australia subscribed to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and its metadata are posted on the Fund's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board. In recent years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has taken several initiatives to further improve the quality of the data, such as including the prices of financial services in the CPI and developing new measures of labor underutilization. Method to calculate contributions to growth has also been revised so that each volume component adds to total volume GDP growth.

*IMF Country Report No. 14/51: Australia, February 2014*

### KPI 2.3 Use of ABS data increases

A high level of use of ABS statistics indicates their relevance to a broad audience. In 2014–15 there were 15.2 million visits to the ABS website, an increase of approximately 1.5 million on the previous year, and an increase of over 6.5 million since 2010–11.

**Table 4.1 Key metrics of ABS website visits, use of content and online performance**

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Statistical products released (a)	708	729	652	507
Visits to the website	11,264,801	12,208,441	13,714,415	15,236,433
Downloads	2,171,665	2,436,997	2,799,192	2,712,883
Calls to NIRS (b)	51,592	82,087	48,619	35,993
Social Media – Facebook and Twitter				
Facebook posts	n/a	n/a	115	105
Newsfeed reach	318,278	273,779	847,395 (c)	231,200 (c)
Number of tweets	n/a	n/a	625	464
Number of re-tweets	n/a	n/a	3,287	1,675

- (a) This time series has been revised. The series previously included products that were reissued or updated after publication. The decrease in products from 2013–14 is due to the consolidation of ABS publications to ensure the ABS makes effective use of government funding.
- (b) National Information and Referral Service.
- (c) The increase in newsfeed reach in 2013–14, followed by a decline in 2014–15, was primarily due to a service Facebook offered to promote posts. The ABS used this free service in 2013–14 but ceased using it in 2014–15 when it became a charged service.

### KPI 2.4 High-quality statistical information is available to describe Australia's most important issues

In December 2014 the ABS published Essential Statistical Assets (ESA) for Australia, which holistically assessed the quality of Australia's 74 essential statistics. Overall the results were positive with most statistics assessed as meeting an acceptable standard for the quality indicators selected and having appropriate quality practices and processes in place for the purposes of ESA.

There were areas for improvement for some statistics, mainly in the quality dimensions of timeliness, accuracy and coherence. One statistic (ambient air quality) was identified as having significant quality issues for the purposes of ESA. Seven statistics were identified as having moderate quality issues for the purposes of ESA (expenditure on research and development; household income; wealth and expenditure statistics; housing affordability; income, labour and family dynamics; pollution and accumulation of waste; size and location of protected terrestrial and marine parks; and domestic household travel (time, distance and mode)).

Three statistics (biodiversity and ecosystem health; water quality of natural systems; and access to essential social services) were identified as having data gaps which meant no quality assessment was undertaken.

More details on the quality of essential statistics are available in *Essential Statistical Assets for Australia, 2014* (cat. no. 1395.0). The ESA initiative is now identifying and pursuing future investment priorities.

### OBJECTIVE 3. The cooperation and support of providers continues

#### KPI 3.1 Provider cooperation is demonstrated through the achievement of target survey response rates

The ABS sets high target response rates for collections to ensure surveys are representative of the whole population. Overall, the ABS continues to achieve very high response rates, however not all surveys met their targets in 2014–15, as shown in Table 4.2 below. This is due to the increasing difficulty of collecting survey forms from households and businesses. The ABS has an ongoing program of methodological research and development aimed at improving the quality of survey responses into the future and reducing the need to run surveys by using alternate sources of information such as administrative data.

**Table 4.2. Response rates achieved for selected surveys**

	Target response rate (%)	Final response rate (%) (a)			
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
<b>Business surveys</b>					
Retail Business Survey	95	95	95	94	90
Quarterly Business Indicators Survey	85	87	86	88	88
Capital Expenditure Survey	90	94	92	90	90
Economic Activity Survey	90	86	85	85	87
Business Characteristics Survey	95	95	97	97	96
Survey of Average Weekly Earnings	98	98	94	94	95
Survey of International Trade in Services	90	95	95	94	92
<b>Household surveys</b>					
Labour Force Survey (b)	94	96	96	95	94
Multi Purpose Household Survey (c)	80	80	79	78	74
Survey of Income and Housing	84	81	(d)	80	(d)
National Health Survey	87	(d)	(d)	(d)	82

(a) Average response rates over the year for quarterly or monthly surveys.

(b) Target response rate was lowered from 97% to 94% in February 2014.

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

(d) Survey not conducted during the year.

To encourage the support of businesses and households the ABS actively protects the privacy of respondents. The Australian Privacy Principles complement the ABS's obligations under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Privacy Act), which require the ABS to maintain the confidentiality of information collected under the Privacy Act. The ABS meets the confidentiality requirements of the Privacy Act by ensuring information provided is securely maintained, used only for statistical purposes, and used only in aggregated tables and unidentifiable microdata files to support research and analysis.

### KPI 3.2 ABS commitment to reducing provider burden is demonstrated through the minimisation of provider load

The most significant factors contributing to provider burden are the number of surveys in the field, and the number of households and businesses participating in them. The number of contributing households and businesses has a direct relationship with the quality of estimates produced. More streamlined interactions with data providers (such as the use of online forms) also helps to reduce overall burden on providers, as does the increased use of administrative data rather than direct collection. In 2014–15, the ABS continued to move beyond the public data environment to explore options with telecommunications companies around mobile phones, and investigate use of satellite imagery to measure agriculture crop yields. The increased use of administrative data is highlighted in Chapter 3.

The total number of hours taken by businesses to complete ABS business surveys in the 2014–15 financial year was approximately 383,000. This is an increase of 19,000 hours on the reported figure in 2013–14. Caution is advised when comparing the provider load numbers reported from one year to the next, as the ABS work program is made up of different collections each year. Some collections are conducted every year and others every two or three years. The ABS also conducts ad hoc surveys. This flexible work program allows the ABS to provide statistics more relevant to our users.

The increase in reported hours in 2014–15 has been influenced by:

- the addition of three new collections: the Information Media and Telecommunications Industry Survey; Freight Management Survey; and the Land Management and Agricultural Commodities Survey. Combined, these totalled approximately 10,850 provider load hours.
- the inclusion of some collections that have been undertaken in previous years, where the provider burden information was not available for reporting in previous annual reports. These collections are: the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers; the Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours; Vineyards, Australia; the Monthly Survey of Financial Information; and the Retail Business Survey. Combined, these contributed approximately 24,100 provider load hours.

Excluding the major test undertaken for the Census of Population and Housing, the total number of hours taken by households to complete ABS household survey forms is estimated at 55,000 hours in 2014–15, a decrease of 9,000 hours from the 2013–14 total.

### KPI 3.3 Complaint resolution performance meets ABS Surveys Charter standards

The ABS Surveys Charter includes information on how surveys are conducted, and outlines the rights and obligations of the ABS and survey participants. The Charter explains what people can expect when dealing with the ABS and ABS interviewers, including standards expected of the ABS when responding to complaints. The overwhelming majority of businesses and households selected in ABS surveys understand and support the need for high quality statistics.

Households and businesses have a number of options 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, in most cases, when participants call these numbers their concerns are resolved by the ABS officers receiving the calls.

The ABS received 594 written queries or complaints from businesses in 2014–15 (Table 4.3). Most approaches from businesses were seeking exemption from the requirement of ongoing participation in the ABS Business Survey Program. The ABS does, at times, provide general exemptions from surveys in exceptional circumstances. Some providers are also granted temporary exemptions on compassionate grounds.

The ABS received 105 written queries or complaints from households, most of which were seeking exemption from participation in surveys. Exemption is provided to households in exceptional circumstances, usually on compassionate grounds.

**Table 4.3: Written correspondence to the ABS from businesses and households selected in ABS surveys, 2011–12 to 2014–15 (a)**

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
<b>Business surveys</b>	670	849	758	594
Requests for exemption	609	777	611	381
Other complaints and queries	61	72	147	213
<b>Household surveys</b>	119	86	119	105
Requests for exemption	45	44	84	81
Other complaints and queries	74	42	35	24

(a) Excludes correspondence to politicians (ministerial correspondence), which is shown in Table 4.4.

In 2014–15, the ABS received and responded to 37 queries from politicians advocating on behalf of constituents (Table 4.4).

**Table 4.4: Correspondence to the ABS from politicians acting on behalf of constituents, 2011-12 to 2014-15**

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Business surveys	3	10	18	25
Household surveys	34	25	21	12

The ABS's performance against the standards for managing correspondence from businesses is summarised below in Table 4.5.

**Table 4.5: Performance against ABS Surveys Charter complaint resolution standards for 2014–15: targets and actual performance**

Performance standard: responding to correspondence from businesses	Target (days)	Actual performance (average days)	Actual performance (% of total where target achieved)
Sent written acknowledgement	7	4	77%
Sent written advice outcome	28	10	95%

### **KPI 3.4 Customer service performance meets the ABS's Service Delivery Charter standards**

The ABS Service Delivery Charter outlines the ABS's commitment to providing a high level of customer service. In 2014–15 the ABS met its commitments by:

- providing a telephone enquiry service during regular business hours (Australian Eastern Standard Time) Monday to Fridays
- ensuring the website was available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, subject to events beyond its control
- advertising website unavailability for maintenance purposes one working day prior to the website being unavailable

- fixing all broken web page links within three working days of notification by a customer
- referring any 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
- responding to customer enquiries as soon as possible
- providing a quote as soon as possible based on specific customer information requested and final specifications
- delivering information requested within the time frame negotiated between customer and the ABS consultant
- processing Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) microdata product access requests as soon as possible following of receipt of completed CURF application forms.

More information about the ABS's commitment to meeting the expectations of its customers is presented in the program reports in Chapter 5.

#### **OBJECTIVE 4. Trust in official statistics is maintained**

##### **KPI 4.1 Australian public sentiment about ABS statistics remains positive**

Positive public sentiment regarding the ABS is represented by the number of positive and neutral media articles, which include articles citing ABS statistics without concerns about their quality. There was an increase in negative media coverage in 2014–15 (Table 4.6), following a significant increase in negative media coverage in 2013–14. The increase in 2013–14 was driven by articles regarding an ex-ABS staff member who was charged with insider trading. Negative coverage on this continued in 2014–15 and there was also negative reporting on the quality, reliability and methodology of Labour Force, Australia, and negative reporting on the future of the Australian Census of Population and Housing.

**Table 4.6: Positive, negative and neutral articles in selected print newspapers, 2010–11 to 2014–15 (a)**

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total number of articles	1,692	2,524	3,442	2,054	6,603
Positive and neutral articles	1,679	2,062	3,436	1,991	6,363
Negative articles	13	12	6	61	240
Negative articles as a % of total	0.8%	0.5%	0.2%	3.0%	3.6%

(a) From March 2014 articles syndicated by multiple publications are counted individually. From September quarter 2014 the ABS started sourcing media monitoring services from a private company which expanded the number of articles sourced. These breaks in series explain the majority of the increase in the total number of articles in 2014–15. The negative articles as a % of total is the preferred measure of Australian public sentiment about ABS statistics.

#### **OBJECTIVE 5. Statistical capability is improved within Australia, Asia and the Pacific region to support informed decision-making, and progress is made in the national and global statistical systems**

##### **KPI 5.1 National statistical literacy programs effectively engage target audiences**

Adequate statistical literacy is needed to ensure statistical information is used effectively. During 2014–15 the ABS released the third, more detailed, tier of the Draft Statistical Capability Framework (the framework) to our partners in government, the community and internationally for consultation. The aim of the framework is to guide greater integration of statistical capability development effort across the ABS, and with our partners. The framework forms a key part of the infrastructure being implemented to transform the ABS's approach to building statistical capability.

During 2014–15 the ABS:

- received detailed feedback on the draft framework from our local and state government partners which is being incorporated back into the framework ready for further consultation
- worked with state and territory governments through the State Statistical Forum to get sign-off on a plan to build statistical capability within their governments including reviewing and sharing case studies of good practices
- used the framework to build statistical capability in the Pacific region
- contributed to the Australian Government-led Policy Visualisation Network, helping to bring policy makers together to explore how government agencies can get the most out of visualisation techniques to inform policy making and evaluation
- worked with other stakeholders to develop enhanced statistical methods for the future including Australian Technology Network Universities, the University of Wollongong and the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute. This also includes a partnership with University of Queensland to develop enhanced statistical modelling capabilities through the development of the ABS Longitudinal Datasets Training Program.

### **KPI 5.2 Effective delivery of international engagement programs increase the statistical capability of national statistical offices in Asia and the Pacific region**

In 2014–15 the ABS continued to take a strong lead role in Asia and the Pacific region to support the development of increasingly high-quality, comparable statistics. During 2014–15 the ABS:

- partnered with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to provide technical assistance and capability development in Fiji, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste
- supported regional improvement in Civil Registrations and Vital Statistics
- contributed as a member of the Governing Council of the UN Statistics Institute of Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), and also a member of the Friends of the Chair group which will report to ESCAP on strategic directions for SIAP for the next five years
- co-chaired the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Technical Advisory Group on Population and Social Statistics.

More information on the ABS's international statistical capability building programs in Asia and the Pacific region is provided in Chapter 5.

### **KPI 5.3 The National Statistical Services priorities are progressed or met**

During 2014–15 the ABS made progress in all five of its priority areas for the National Statistical Service:

- transforming information management infrastructure
- maximising the use of public information assets for statistical and research purposes
- progressing the Essential Statistical Assets for Australia initiative
- enabling statistical information to be integrated with location information
- enhancing the level of statistical capability across government agencies.

In 2014–15 the ABS progressed these interrelated priorities with the support of key statistical governance forums, including the Australian Government Statistical Forum, the State Statistical Forum, the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, and the Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board. Further information on the National Statistical Service is provided in the program reports in Chapter 5.

## **OBJECTIVE 6. Statistical and information infrastructure is developed to better support Australia's long-term statistical needs**

### **KPI 6.1 Products, services and tools are available and improved to assist providers to meet their obligations**

The cooperation of Australian businesses and households is critical to the quality of ABS statistics. In 2014–15, the ABS continued to work to make digital transactions for data providers easier. Online forms are now available as an option for 80% of the business surveys run by the ABS. Of the businesses offered an online option, approximately 90% opt in. Online take up rates for households are much lower (about 22%), but still exceed the introductory target of 20%.

Initiatives undertaken in 2014–15 to improve interactions with providers include the new respondent online survey interface. Respondents selected in ABS business and household surveys can now access their online survey forms on the ABS website through an ABS Survey Account. The new service provides respondents with a single port of access for all their ABS survey obligations.

In preparation for Australia's first predominantly digital Census in 2016, a large public test of 100,000 dwellings was conducted across parts of South Australia and Western Australia in August 2014. This test confirmed that the changes to the Census approach to make online response the default option will be effective and that an online response of 65% can be expected in the 2016 Census. The 2016 Census online form has been enhanced to work across smart phones, tablets and desktops and incorporates new features to interact with the provider in real-time to clarify responses.

Information about the ways the ABS is supporting the Australian Government's digital agenda to reduce red tape is provided in Chapter 3. More information on online forms is provided in the program reports in Chapter 5.

### **KPI 6.2 The ABS progresses new sustainable solutions to support statistical information management**

In 2014–15 the ABS continued to improve its approach to statistical information management by:

- embedding an initial critical set of statistical metadata concepts into our Metadata Registry & Repository (MRR) and the supporting technologies that make those metadata concepts available for use
- iteratively improving our foundational infrastructure, in particular the MRR, Statistical Workflow Management System and Content Authoring tools through updates that reflect learnings from scenarios and trials
- developing and showcasing a first prototype of the Statistician's Workbench which demonstrated a metadata driven business process integrated with the foundational infrastructure
- capturing the core organisational requirements of an Enterprise Data Management environment to be ready for an approach to the market for commercial solutions
- successful collaboration with multiple statistical organisations building software and sharing development and maintenance costs of OECD.Stat software – an important machine-to-machine data access solution supporting our data dissemination strategy
- making savings and consistency improvements in the processes we use for confidentiality by introducing perturbation within the SuperStar 2 product – used internally to produce many of our published tabulations
- introducing a corporate tool to simplify the application of user requested confidentiality.

### **KPI 6.3 The ABS is actively involved in the development of statistical frameworks, methods and standards**

During 2014–15 the ABS continued its significant involvement in the development of statistical frameworks, standards and methods. Key contributions include:

- co-chairing the UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information to lead international work on developing a global geospatial statistical framework, investigating global geocoding and geographic classification practices, and statistical-geospatial metadata interoperability
- an extensive contribution to the International Workshop on Work, Labour Force and Earnings Statistics
- being one of the few countries to: implement transactions data into Consumer Price Index; conduct research to maximise use of the data; and develop standards for the use of transactions in CPI
- contributing to the first UN Compilation Guide for the new Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services
- contributing to a range of international standard setting activities, including the National Accounts Advisory Expert Group, the IMF's Balance of Payments Committee and the Government Finance Statistics Advisory Committee.

In the big data sphere, the ABS:

- chaired the United Nations (UN) Statistical Division Global Working Group on Big Data and the task team on satellite imagery, remote sensing and geospatial data
- contributed to the production of a Big Data Quality Framework report as a member of a UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), released on the UNECE website as a part of The Role of Big Data in the Modernisation of Statistical Production project.



# Chapter 5

## Program reports



### Introduction

The ABS work program aligns with the ABS's legislative mandate and regulations as determined by the Australian Parliament. The work program is developed in consultation with the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, stakeholders (Australian Government, state and territory governments and non-government users), and data providers.

### Statistical Production

#### National Accounts

The National Accounts program provides data about the level of economic activity, the pattern of economic growth and the structure of the Australian and state economies. These statistics systematically and comprehensively summarise the economic transactions that take place within the Australian economy and between Australia and the rest of the world.

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.

#### Key achievements in 2014–15

- Publication of an expanded set of institutional sector income accounts commenced on a quarterly basis, accompanied by an expanded and improved set of capital and financial accounts. The publication of sectoral accounts allows users to undertake more timely analysis of the balancing items of the income account, the capital account and the financial account. It also informs users on the transmission of economic shocks, in particular, the linkages between the 'real' and financial economies.
- Distribution of household income, consumption and wealth was published as a time series. These estimates provide a bridge between macro economic aggregate household estimates produced within the Australian System of National Accounts and the ABS household economics surveys' distributional analysis of household income, consumption and wealth.
- Experimental estimates of mining multi-factor productivity accounting for changes in mineral and energy resources were published. This initiative improved the interpretability and overall fitness for purpose of productivity measures in the mining industry.

## Labour

The Labour Statistics program provides evidence to support labour market, economic and social analysis through the provision of high quality labour statistics in a timely, efficient and effective manner. The program provides information about the structure and performance of the labour market including statistics on: labour force participation; employment; hours worked; unemployment and labour underutilisation; job vacancies; employment conditions and working arrangements; employee earnings and labour costs; and workplace relations.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- Substantial progress in responding to recommendations from the Independent Technical Review of the Labour Force Survey including the introduction of prior correction methodology for Labour Force supplementary surveys to improve the seasonal adjustment of the series.
- Compilation of the first tranche of new content from the Labour Force Content review.
- Release on time of over 45 monthly, quarterly, biannual, annual and less frequent aggregate sets of labour market statistics including:
  - Results from the 2013–14 Work Related Injuries released for the first time as a Table Builder product.
  - Results from the May 2014 Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours released earlier and with greater detail and improved analytical commentary.
- Articles released on a range of topics to increase the understanding and use of labour market statistics.
- Completion of a review to ensure the Industrial Disputes statistics remain relevant and meet critical information needs in a changing industrial relations environment.
- Extensive support to the Fair Work Commission on their Australian Workplace Relations Study survey and publication.
- Perturbation introduced as the default method to confidentialise aggregate estimates from household surveys.
- Contribution to the early stages of the International Labour Organisation review of the International Classification of Status in Employment.

## Prices

The Prices program compiles a number of main economic indicators that measure changes in a set of prices over time. This includes the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Residential Property Price Index (RPPI), the Wage Price Index (WPI), and a range of Producer Price Indexes (PPIs) and International Trade Price Indexes (ITPIs). The program also produces Selected Living Cost Indexes for select household types, including the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI).

The CPI is used: to produce volume estimates for components of the Australian national accounts; as a basis for indexing government payments, superannuation payments and government taxes and charges; as an input into salary and wage negotiations (the WPI is also used for this purpose); and for indexation of government bonds and business contracts (the PPIs and ITPIs are also used for indexation of contracts). RPPIs are used to analyse trends in the housing market and changes in the value of the housing stock. The PBLCI is used as a basis for indexing pensions and other payments to government benefit recipients.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- The supply of electronic transactions datasets directly from retail businesses was negotiated, to price a selection of products to compile the CPI. Transactions data is being used to price products that represent approximately 25% of the weight of the Australian CPI (as at the March quarter 2015). The use of transactions data is being further explored as it creates opportunities to enhance the CPI, such as producing the CPI at higher frequency and producing spatial price measures.
- A review of the RPPI was undertaken in response to planned reductions in the ABS work program. The ABS is continuing to publish a core set of RPPIs, the total value of dwelling stock and related statistics. The timing of the calculation and release of the indexes and the total value of dwelling stock has been aligned with the *Australian National Accounts: Finance and Wealth* (cat. no. 5232.0). The review outcomes were implemented in the March quarter 2015.
- Significant contributions were made, through missions and technical assistance, to the development of statistics in Asia and the Pacific region, as part of work funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This included CPI and PPI technical advice to Timor-Leste, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Indonesia. Capability development of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the region has been the focus of these missions.

### 2016 Census Program

The Census of Population and Housing is the ABS's largest and one of our most important statistical collections. Its objective is to measure the number and key characteristics of people in Australia on Census night, and the dwellings in which they live, accurately and efficiently. This provides a reliable basis for the estimation of the population of each state, territory and local government area, primarily for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funds.

The Census also provides the characteristics of Australian population and housing within small geographic areas, and for small population groups. Census data is used to support planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities of government, businesses, researchers and others.

Censuses have been conducted in Australia every five years since 1961, with the most recent Census held on Tuesday 9 August 2011. Preparations are well advanced for Australia's 17th national Census of Population and Housing to be held on Tuesday 9 August 2016.

The 2016 Census has undergone a major transformation and will be the first Census in our nation's history where most households will participate in the Census online, and field operations will be largely digitised with limited reliance on paper material. This digital transformation puts us at the forefront of international Census practice and sets the foundation for the future of all statistical collections undertaken by the ABS.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- In August 2014 we conducted the largest Census test in ABS history. This live field test involved approaching 100,000 dwellings across parts of South Australia and Western Australia. The test has given us confidence in our processes and in the infrastructure designed to support the digital-first approach for the 2016 Census.
- We have almost completed the development of the Address Register. This register will be used to mail Census information to 80% of dwellings in the 2016 Census and support other statistical activities across the ABS in the future.
- The topics and paper questionnaire to be used for the 2016 Census were finalised and print production commenced.
- The ABS has continued to work collaboratively with international statistical partners who

conduct traditional census activity. In 2014 Australia hosted the International Census Forum and remains an active participant in a range of international working groups focused on sharing experiences and fostering innovation in census taking activities around the world.

## International and Government Financial Accounts

The International and Government Financial Accounts program provides information on International Accounts and the Public Sector Accounts. The program provides statistics on Australia's Balance of Payments, International Investment Position, Merchandise Trade, and Trade in Services. 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 also inputs to the Australian national accounts.

The program also provides government finance statistics (GFS) in respect of the Australian Government, state and territory governments, local governments, and their public non-financial and public financial corporations. 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. GFS are also used to assist in the distribution of Australian Government grants to state governments.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- Experimental quarterly state trade data on a Balance of Payments basis were published in response to significant demand from state users. This has demonstrated that the series can be meaningfully constructed and ongoing publication of this data will commence in 2015–16.
- Estimation of iron ore prices in merchandise trade statistics was improved, bringing forward price adjustments from trade on a Balance of Payments basis into the merchandise trade series. These adjustments have significantly reduced the revisions to iron ore exports on a merchandise trade basis.
- Quarterly balance sheets for the general government sector were introduced, improving the frequency and timeliness of information on the stock of assets and liabilities for general government. These data are published in the sectoral accounts of *Australian National Accounts: Finance and Wealth* (cat. no. 5232.0).

## Population and Place

The Population and Place statistics program provides estimates of recent and projected populations and information about fertility, mortality, migration, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations and demographic trends, births and deaths. It also provides statistics for over 3,000 regions.

In addition, the program provides services such as geographic classifications, spatial analysis, data management, mapping and research, Population Census support and land accounting, and supports social statistics through frameworks and international engagement.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- Quality overseas arrival and departures statistics were released during a period of disruption to the quality and timeliness of administrative data sources.
- New annual series of regional internal migration estimates for 2006–07 to 2013–14 for Statistical Areas Level 2 and Local Government Areas were released.
- Projections of the number of households, families and living arrangement types to the year were released.

- *Australian Historical Population Statistics, Australia* was updated, presenting a wide range of historical demographic data going back to 1788.
- *Frameworks for Australian Social Statistics, 2015* was released.
- The Statistical Spatial Framework was developed and implemented, enhancing the consistent production of geo-statistics.
- *Australian Population Grid, 2011* was released, showing population in a gridded format.
- *ABS Geospatial Web Services User Guide, 2015* was released, providing access to statistical geography as web services.
- A small area estimation team was established to produce small area health and disability estimates.
- Progress was made on two new data integration projects on migrant outcomes, linking with personal income tax data and Census data.
- The model for dissemination of causes of death unit record data was finalised and implemented in partnership with the Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- The program co-authored with the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages one chapter in the *Proof of Birth* publication regarding Australia's Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System and the extent of birth registration.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics program provides information essential for monitoring the social and economic circumstances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The program also provides statistical leadership in the collection and analysis of data for and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Key elements of the program include commitment to: ongoing engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in ABS planning, collection and dissemination activities; assessing and improving the quality of statistics available from the Census of Population and Housing, surveys and administrative sources; analysis and reporting to explain and improve understanding of data; and developing strategies to maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of data collection and reduce respondent burden on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

Information is used by governments, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations, and the general community, to inform policy development and evaluation and provide an understanding of the overall wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- The six-yearly National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey was successfully undertaken, with first results expected to be published in early 2016.
- Further data from the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey was released, including information on biomedical results, physical activity levels and nutritional intake.
- The review of the Indigenous Status Standard was completed, with outcomes and recommendations for further research published.
- The program continued its commitment to local level facilitation and engagement that ensures the collection and production of high quality and relevant data for and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including by implementing strategies to return information collected in ABS surveys to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

## Agriculture and Rural Environment Statistics

The Agriculture and Rural Environment Statistics program provides reliable, relevant and timely information on the agriculture industry and its contribution to the Australian economy, rural communities and natural resource management. The program provides data on: agricultural commodities produced on farms and their associated value; structural information including the number, size and main industry of farm businesses; natural resource and land management practices undertaken on farms; water used by farms for irrigation and sources of water; farmer demographics; and the level of foreign ownership of agricultural businesses, land and water assets.

Information from the program supports informed decision-making by Australian, state and territory governments, industry organisations, the academic sector and the wider community on issues important for agricultural policy determination at the national, state and regional levels. These issues include the productivity and competitiveness of the agriculture sector, food security and natural resource management.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- The ABS and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) jointly continued to progress the National Agricultural Statistics Review (NASR). The NASR was undertaken to assess all aspects of the Australian agricultural statistical system and its ability to inform decision-making. More information is available in the special article in Chapter 3 (pages 23–25).
- Provider burden was reduced by combining the survey forms for two major surveys, the 2013–14 Rural Environment and Agricultural Commodity Survey and the 2013–14 Land and Management Practices Survey, enabling businesses selected in both surveys to report via a single form.

## Health and Disability

The Health and Disability Statistics program develops, compiles and disseminates information about the health of the Australian population from both administrative and survey based data sources.

Information is extracted and analysed from these collections to understand: patterns of health risk factors including obesity, physical activity, nutrition, smoking and alcohol use; health, mental health and disability service usage; health outcomes including causes of death; the experience of patients in using health services; and the pattern of disability and experiences of those with a disability in the community.

The information is used by the Australian and state and territory governments to identify public health and disability issues, assess their magnitude and distribution, assess health system performance, develop health policies and undertake program evaluation. The information is also used by academics to understand health outcomes of the population and their drivers; and by the general public, community groups and the media to understand health risks and issues.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- First release of nutrition and biomedical results for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.
- *Australian Health Survey: Usual Nutrient Intakes, 2011–12* (cat. no. 4364.0.55.008) was released with Food Standards Australia New Zealand. This was last updated in 1995.
- Information about Australian Government-subsidised mental health service and medication information was integrated with Census data to improve understanding of the effectiveness of these services. More information is available in the special article in Chapter 3 (pages 20–22).

- The 2015 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers was developed.
- The program engaged with the World Health Organizations to develop and assess the next revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11).

## Innovation and Technology Statistics

The Innovation and Technology Statistics program provides information to assist in understanding the impacts of innovation and information communications technology (ICT) on economic growth, productivity and social wellbeing. Innovation is a key component in making Australia more productive and more competitive. ICT is an important enabler of innovation and contributes to productivity growth.

The program provides data on: innovation in Australian businesses; research and experimental development undertaken by businesses, governments, higher education institutions and private not-for-profit organisations; venture capital and later stage private equity activity; and the penetration and use of selected ICT for both businesses and households.

The program also produces the Business Longitudinal Database, a tool for understanding business activity and microeconomic drivers of business performance and productivity.

The program contributes to the work of national and international agencies through input to the review and development of statistical standards and frameworks in relevant fields of statistics.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- In partnership with the Department of Industry and Science the program expanded collection and analysis activities to assess new industry policy initiatives such as growth sectors. This included the creation of a new firm-level longitudinal business database to provide a richer source of information to undertake analysis on business performance, competitiveness and productivity.
- In partnership with the Department of Communication's Bureau of Communications Research the program progressed a major review of Australian ICT and digital economy statistics to improve the quality of information available for decision makers.
- The program supported and provided valued input into the work of key international organisations (such as the OECD) which are working in the field of innovation and technology statistics.

## Environment Statistics and Integration

The Environment Statistics and Integration program produces statistics on both the environment and business demography.

The program contributes to meeting the demand for comprehensive and coordinated information about Australia's environment, focusing on key themes such as water, energy, and land management. It addresses the complex inter-relationships between the environment, society and the economy.

The program is also 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.

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

## Key achievements in 2014–15

- The program contributed to the United Nations (UN) System of Environmental and Economic Accounting Applications and Extensions (SEEA-EA), the OECD SEEA Implementation Task Force, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization workshop on the development of SEEA – Agriculture, and the 20th Annual Meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting.
- *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, June 2010 to June 2014* (cat. no. 8165.0) was released.
- A range of environmental accounting publications were released in relation to water and energy.
- The ABS's first experimental land account was released, for the Great Barrier Reef.
- The new publication, *Employment in Renewable Energy Activities, Australia, 2013–14* (cat. no. 4631.0) was released.
- A collaborative data integration project was undertaken with the Department of Agriculture, which included the secondment of an analyst to the ABS, in order to assess the impact of logging regulation on businesses.
- Technical assistance on statistical business registers was provided to Indonesia and Bangladesh. ABS also contributed to a new international manual, *Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers*, which will be published in 2015.

## Social Conditions

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. Statistics from the program cover topics including income, expenditure, wealth, housing, superannuation, families, gender, violence, time use, work and family balance, volunteering, homelessness, culture, sport, leisure and social capital.

The program provides design, development, collection management and processing services to support the Growing Up in Australia Study (Longitudinal Study of Australian Children), in partnership with the Department of Social Services 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 income support and other government assistance, taxation, housing, homelessness, community and family services, and issues related to older people, children, youth, men and women.

## Key achievements in 2014–15

- Data processing was completed for the 2013–14 Survey of Income and Housing, which included detailed information on household income, wealth and housing for a range of household types, to be released later in 2015.
- The combined Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing 2015–16 was developed, including a targeted sample to support calculation of the Pensioner and Beneficiary Cost of Living Index.
- Fieldwork and data processing was finalised for the sixth wave of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children.
- The seventh wave of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children was redeveloped, including new methods and content to maintain relevance during transition into adulthood.
- The content and enumeration procedures for the development of the 2016 Personal Safety Survey were reviewed.

- Reviews of family, housing and income statistical standards were completed.
- The seventh and eighth editions of *Gender Indicators, Australia* compendium report were released, including significant redesign of the electronic release to improve accessibility.
- The program contributed to international developments in gender, wealth and income statistics, through Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe processes.
- *Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia, 2013–14* (cat. no. 4177.0) and *Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, Australia, 2013–14* (cat. no. 4114.0) were released.

## Education Statistics

The Education Statistics program produces statistics on early childhood education and care, schooling and further education. 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 surveys related to education, training and work. This information is used by Australian and state and territory governments for performance assessment and policy making, by organisations involved in educational research and analysis, and by the community to inform decision-making.

The program focuses on improving the relevance and quality of education and training statistics. In recent years, the program has collaborated with a range of data custodians and stakeholders to demonstrate how data integration can enhance the evidence base for social, economic and education policy in Australia.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- Results from the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection were published, including a Preschool Education microdata product. These results support assessment of the Australian Government's commitment to universal access to early childhood education for all children in the year before formal schooling under the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education, and the National Indigenous Reform Agreement.
- Results from the annual National Schools Statistics Collection were published, providing data on schools, students and staff involved in the provision or administration of primary and secondary education, for all Australian states and territories. The Collection supports a range of national education reporting.
- The results from the annual Survey of Education and Work were released, with plans finalised to include historical time series of key indicators in 2015–16.
- The results from the three-yearly Childhood Education and Care Survey were released.
- The program completed the conduct and analysis of several projects integrating education administrative data records (school enrolments, vocational education and training (VET), Australian Early Development Census and data from the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) with the 2011 Census of Population and Housing to expand the range of data available and improve the education evidence base. The analysis provided new insights into factors that impact on child development and school student achievement, and the various pathways of young people participating in VET and their longitudinal post-school destinations and outcomes.

## Crime and Justice

The Crime and Justice Statistics program leads national statistical activity aimed at developing and improving the information available in this field. The user-funded components of the program include compiling and publishing national statistics on recorded crime, courts and corrections, and working 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.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- A new stakeholder engagement program was implemented, focusing on national data requirements to better understand current and emerging crime and justice policy needs. The ABS will incorporate feedback from stakeholders into the design and delivery of future statistical products.
- Findings were delivered from the civil justice system data gaps project. This project examined existing data holdings across six civil justice agencies in the federal civil justice sector, finding that it is feasible to develop a stronger evidence base for the civil justice system.
- Work commenced with the Department of Social Services to improve the evidence base for family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia. The ABS worked with state/territory police agencies to establish experimental family and domestic violence statistics which will be published for the first time in September 2015.
- Work was undertaken with the Attorney-General's Department to improve the evidence base for identity crime. The ABS is continuing to work with justice agencies to examine and improve identity crime recording and to establish a statistical framework for identity crime.

## Macroeconomic Indicators

The Macroeconomic Indicators program compiles financial statistics; building and construction statistics; and business indicators. The program compiles statistics on the financial assets and liabilities of financial institutions, and on stocks and flows of finance for sectors of the economy, using ABS statistical surveys and other sources including the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) and the Australian Taxation Office.

The program also compiles construction statistics on activity levels in residential building, non-residential building and engineering construction and building approvals data collected from approving authorities on expected construction of dwellings and expected construction activity.

In addition, the program is responsible for a range of sub-annual economic indicators which are essential inputs to the compilation of quarterly and annual national accounts and include: monthly turnover by selected retail industries and the takeaway food services industry; quarterly company profits, inventories, sales and labour costs; quarterly actual and expected new capital expenditure; and quarterly actual and expected mineral and petroleum exploration.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- In collaboration with APRA, the superannuation industry was consulted on proposed improved collection of financial data, which is planned for implementation in 2016 and is compliant with revised international standards for the System of National Accounts and the Balance of Payments Manual.

- The quality of statistics on loans to First Home Buyers, published in *Housing Finance* (cat. no. 5609.0), was improved with the design of a statistical model to adjust for under-reporting by some lenders.
- A key relationship has been established with the Western Australian Building Commission for joint effort on collection of building approvals data aimed at reducing provider burden for approval authorities in WA and an increase in quality and coherence of WA building approvals data.
- *Retail Trade, Australia* (cat. no. 8501.0) was expanded to include a 'per capita' measure of domestic retail trade expenditure and experimental estimates of household expenditure on selected services.

## Statistical Data Integration

The key objective of the ABS Centre for Data Integration is to build strong partnerships with data custodians, users and the Australian community in unleashing the full value of existing data sources to contribute to the evidence base needed to inform on a range of important social, economic and environmental issues.

Statistical data integration brings together existing data sources or collections to create new datasets for statistical, policy and research purposes. Integrated datasets provide increased access to government held data, an efficient way of meeting current and emerging information requirements as well as the opportunity to more effectively support policy development, research and discussion. There are a growing number of examples where the ABS is reusing existing data to replace direct collection from businesses and the community, thereby reducing respondent burden and cost to taxpayers. For these reasons, progressing statistical data integration is a high priority for the ABS.

The ABS Centre for Data Integration undertakes a range of data integration projects in partnership with data custodians and users. It supports best practice in conducting data integration projects through the development of infrastructure, resources and tools, and manages internal policy and governance arrangements. This ensures the ABS is able to innovate in the harvesting of existing data to contribute to the evidence base needed and is able to undertake high risk integration projects, including those involving the linkage of sensitive data.

In addition, the ABS also provides strategic and collaborative leadership through participation in the governance arrangements for data integration involving Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes. The ABS provides the Secretariat for this important Australian Government initiative. Further information is available from the National Statistical Services (NSS) website: [www.nss.gov.au](http://www.nss.gov.au).

### Key achievements in 2014–15

The main outputs from the ABS data integration program include the integration of existing Census, survey, transactional and administrative data sources to deliver new insights on the inter-relationships between factors across social, economic and environmental domains. During 2014-15, the ABS consolidated and progressed work on key flagship data integration projects, including the:

- Business Longitudinal Database (BLD) which allows analysts to monitor and evaluate the impacts of policies and industry trends on Australian businesses at the individual business level for small and medium businesses (*Microdata: Business Longitudinal Database*, cat. no. 8168.0.55.001). User funding from the Department of Industry and Science has enabled the construction of an Expanded Analytical BLD, providing a firm-level foundational linked data asset to which other data can be added.
- Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (ACL), which links 2006 and 2011 Census records longitudinally and successive Censuses to build a picture of how social and

economic pathways vary for a diverse range of population sub groups over the long term (*Microdata: Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset*, cat. no. 2080.0). A significant achievement has been the provision of greater access to the ACLD, including researcher access to an expanded ACLD with linked administrative data subject to data custodian approvals.

Other key achievements in 2014–15 included the Mental Health Services-Census Data Integration project which brought together for the first time the breadth of the 2011 Census data with administrative information on people accessing subsidised mental health-related Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) services and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription medication. The power of data sharing and data integration in strengthening the evidence base to support stronger policy development, program delivery and research was also demonstrated through the recent development of a database (2009–10 Personal Income Tax and Migrants Integrated Dataset) that brings together administrative data from the Australian Tax Office, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and the Department of Social Services to provide detailed sources of personal income received by migrants.

In addition to these projects, the ABS works closely with Australian and state and territory government departments, breaking down barriers to data sharing, fostering trust and understanding, improving data management capability, and establishing a fertile environment for future cross-portfolio and cross-jurisdictional data integration projects. In 2014–15, the ABS played a key role in providing strategic and collaborative leadership through its role on the Commonwealth Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board.

Key achievements include:

- completion of an independent review of the implementation of the Arrangements for Data Integration Involving Commonwealth Data for Statistical and Research Purposes
- accreditation of the Australian Institute of Family Studies as an Integrating Authority for Commonwealth data
- release of the *Guide for Data Integration Projects Involving Commonwealth Data for Statistical and Research Purposes*, which provides conceptual and practical advice in understanding and implementing the framework for data integration projects.

## Industry and Productivity Statistics

The Industry and Productivity Statistics program provides information about the structure, financial operations, performance and production of Australian industries. This information is used to monitor the economy and the business cycle, and to support compilation of the Australian National Accounts and Environmental–Economic Accounts.

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.

The program also provides statistics on transport and transport-related activities and tourism statistics, including the Australian Tourism Satellite Account (TSA).

In addition, the program undertakes macroeconomic statistics research, economic analysis and reporting, and economic integration functions. Analytical activities in the program include research projects to improve the accuracy, efficiency and coherence of existing economic statistics, and to develop new statistical products. The program compiles and publishes aggregate market sector and industry-level multifactor productivity (MFP) statistics and conducts research into the measurement and interpretation of these statistics.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- A range of new tourism aggregates was introduced, including chain volume estimates (inflation adjusted), price indexes and a labour productivity index in the 2013–14 release of the TSA.
- The first release of *Information, Media and Telecommunications Services, Australia* (cat. no. 8681.0) presented detailed national industry estimates of employment, major economic and financial aggregates.
- ABS collaborated with the Clean Energy Regulator to unlock administrative data to reduce business provider load.
- New experimental estimates of industry contributions to market sector labour productivity growth were introduced into the 2013–14 ABS industry MFP data cube.

## Statistical Partnerships and Transformation

### Information Infrastructure

The Information Infrastructure program is responsible for designing and developing the next generation of statistical information infrastructure, which, once implemented across ABS collections, will allow the ABS to transform the way its business is undertaken. The program will deliver a coherent and integrated environment for the life-cycle management of ABS data and metadata.

The program is leading the design, development and implementation of: information management governance, infrastructure and standards; and metadata-driven processes that encompass the life-cycle management of data and metadata assets.

The program also leads ABS contributions to the development of international standards, which will facilitate sharing of statistical infrastructure and business processes between National Statistical Offices.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- The program progressed towards developing foundational information infrastructure for an improved approach to managing the ABS's information assets. The program:
  - continued to implement the ABS information architecture, including augmentation of the ABS metadata model, development of training materials and creation of technical libraries to support integration
  - integrated the ABS metadata registry and repository into the security environment and with the statistical business process management system
  - developed detailed business requirements for an enterprise-wide data management environment to provide life-cycle management of statistical data.
- The program contributed to the development and refinement of international metadata models, including Data Documentation Initiative v4 and Logical Information Model for the Common Statistical Production Architecture. These internationally agreed models of common terminology and definitions are used by the ABS to describe statistical metadata and information flows.

### Program Management Office

The Program Management Office (PMO) provides centralised and coordinated support to the ABS to ensure the successful delivery of business process and information management transformation objectives. It also had responsibility for the development of the business case for the ABS business transformation.

The PMO promotes and facilitates excellence in the areas of project management and business process analysis and reengineering as well as providing program support in resource management and change management. These four functions service the various ABS divisions and specifically the ABS 2017 change program with the critical skills and support required to achieve their outcomes by ensuring:

- alignment between strategies, programs and projects
- future designs for business, information management, technology and applications are aligned to the ABS Enterprise Architecture
- appropriate governance to ensure good change management
- visibility of program management information, including tracking and realising business benefits
- development of standardised methodologies, frameworks, processes and tools
- robust business analysis and process redesign
- efficient use of allocated resources.

#### **Key achievements in 2014–15**

- The successful business case, new policy proposal and Cabinet Implementation Plan was delivered, resulting in the Australian Government investing \$250 million for a five-year business transformation program to address a significant risk to the production of critical official statistics.
- Better practice program and project governance structures were delivered.
- A benefits realisation framework for the ABS was delivered, as well as a series of outcome and benefits maps at the project level.
- The Statistical Business Transformation Program was designed and developed.

### **National Statistical Service Leadership**

The National Statistical Service (NSS) Leadership program provides a focus within ABS and with key partners for strategies aimed at strengthening and expanding the NSS.

The NSS is a community of government agencies working to build a rich statistical picture in order to better inform Australia. The NSS aims to improve the quality and usefulness of official statistical assets within Australia's statistical system. Its objectives are: optimising and improving Australia's essential statistical assets for evidence based policy development, evaluation and research; improving statistical infrastructure and services; and increased statistical capability of producers and users of statistics.

#### **Key achievements in 2014–15**

- A number of strategic secondments into ABS and outposts of ABS staff to other government organisations have built a shared understanding of the goals and issues faced in providing quality information. For example, the ABS and the Department of the Treasury seconded people in both directions over the period.
- The Statistical Clearing House (SCH), in its role as the mandatory central clearance point for business surveys that are run, funded, or conducted on behalf of the Australian Government, reviewed 61 survey submissions. The submissions were reviewed to minimise the load placed on businesses by Australian Government surveys, reduce unnecessary survey duplication, ensure business surveys are fit-for-purpose, and assist building the statistical capability of survey managers. The SCH redesigned their Basic Survey Information form, reinstated the Business Survey Register and refreshed their website to streamline processes and provide accessible reference information for survey managers.

- Following approval from all data custodians, results of the Essential Statistical Assets quality assessments were published on the ABS website in December 2014 as *Essential Statistical Assets for Australia, 2014* (cat. no. 1395.0). For the first time, users and producers now have a shared understanding of the quality of Australia's essential statistics, including aspects like accuracy and timeliness.
- In July 2014 ABS was a sponsor of GovHack which highlighted the role of government in supporting access to and sharing of public administration assets. Outposted officers fostered capability across government through various initiatives including training in data extraction and confidentiality, and support for data management strategies aimed at opening up access to agency data to inform policy development.

## Statistical Infrastructure and Support

### Customer Services

The Customer Services program provides high quality communication and dissemination services to customers.

The program provides information solutions that cater for a wide range of customers and their evolving information requirements. These include self-service statistics and other information on the ABS website and social media. The program also operates the National Information and Referral Service, user-pays information consultancies, and provides support for the complex needs of researchers through streamlined access to, and use of, microdata.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- Strong ongoing business delivery was achieved with products and services provided to a wide range of ABS clients:
  - 507 successful statistical releases through online channels
  - 35,993 calls and 8,150 emails were answered
  - 20 microdata releases with 2 basic CURFs, 3 expanded CURFs, and 15 TableBuilder datasets
  - 38 datasets available in TableBuilder including Census longitudinal, health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, and physical activity datasets
  - a total of 40 datasets available in ABS.Stat
  - 1,355 tailored consultancies.
- Data by Region was released. This is a key ABS open initiative application and web service that provides an interface to and machine-to-machine interaction with ABS data sourced from ABS.Stat. The latest available statistics are updated regularly making it an ideal one-stop shop for region-based information.
- The Population Clock web service was released as a proof-of-concept for the machine-to-machine delivery of ABS data.
- The Website User Forum and Microdata Users Group were established to improve engagement with key users of ABS data.
- The program strongly influenced the Statistical Information System Collaboration Community with regards to the collaborative direction, development and governance of the .Stat product.

## Data Acquisition and Collection

The Data Acquisition and Collection program provides a comprehensive statistical data collection service for the ABS that also encompasses administrative data acquisition. The program is leading the Acquire@ABS program to transform collection operations through the introduction of an online reporting capability that will include the first online Census of Population and Housing in 2016. In doing so, it supports ABS objectives by providing a high quality, timely and cost-effective service while maintaining the trust and cooperation of providers through a range of measures, including: efficient and effective data collection operations; developing and maintaining a skilled and committed home and office-based interviewer workforce upholding the confidentiality of information provided to the ABS; and continually improving the processes and instruments for ABS interaction with providers.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- Improved processes were implemented to increase response rates in the Monthly Population Survey, with significant improvement in the rate and consistency in the Northern Territory while maintaining response rates in other states.
- Response rates were improved for remote Aboriginal communities participating in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey collection.
- The program continued stabilisation of systems, including providing new technology to our field force, improving the work health and safety system and enabling improved quality processes.
- Work continues to improve the provider experience:
  - The e-form implementation project, started in 2012 to introduce a new online collection mode, was completed in October 2014. This project has resulted in ongoing high take-up rates for the majority of ABS business surveys and over 30% of household respondents now interacting through the online form.
  - A new authentication process has been introduced for users of e-forms which meets industry standards and facilitates self-service functionality for survey respondents.
  - The online Census Instrument capability was developed for the digital-first 2016 Census, to support two-thirds of the Australian population reporting online.

## Analytical Services

The Analytical Services program conducts research and development in analytical methods to support the production of high quality and trusted statistics, manage and mitigate statistical risks, and exploit opportunities presented by the emerging information economy. Key focus areas for the 2014–15 work program include data integration, confidentialisation, and innovative analytical methods for both traditional and emerging data sources.

By providing analytical support and methodological advice, the program contributes to the delivery and continued improvement of ABS statistical outputs. For example, the advancement of data integration and analysis methodologies underpins the creation of a richer, more dynamic and focused statistical picture of Australia for informed decision-making. Dynamic data confidentialisation methods and improvements to microdata access requirements make data more widely accessible while robustly protecting the confidentiality of information provided by individuals or businesses. The production of time series in seasonally adjusted and trend form are an important input to policy formation, decision-making and research. Examining big data sources helps position ABS to capitalise on the opportunities presented by emerging data.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- ABS capability in data integration was advanced through important developments in methods that estimate the precision of linkage projects and new tools for the specification and application of deterministic and probabilistic linkage strategies.
- Developed new insights through the second release weight for the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, providing further analytical opportunities for this longitudinal linked dataset.
- Developed innovative methods of analysing successive Censuses and birth registration data to identify issues and trends in Indigenous populations, including changes in identification.
- Shared leading-edge disclosure avoidance techniques in TableBuilder and Data Analyser with Australian Government departments and international statistical offices to improve perturbation capability and protect individual information against re-identification.
- Continued capability building in demographic microsimulation.
- Maximised the potential of existing data by applying advanced techniques to the analysis of the Longitudinal Labour Force Survey data, linked National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy-Census data, and the longitudinal Business Income Tax/Business Activity Statement data.
- Built capability in statistical methods for preparation and analysis of satellite imaging data for estimating agricultural crop related statistics.
- Formed close working partnerships with a range of government agencies and research institutes involved in analysis of remote sensing data.
- Assisted the United Nations Statistics Division Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics, with ABS chairing the first Global Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics in Beijing and leading the Task Team on Satellite Imagery, Remote Sensing and Geospatial Data.
- Continued work on international projects that are developing common components for data linking, confidentiality, seasonal adjustment, and data analysis for official statistics.
- Assisted the Department of the Treasury and other Australian Government departments involved in redeveloping a static microsimulation model of the income tax and transfer system.

### Data Standards and Methods

The Data Standards and Methods program is responsible for promoting the comparability, integration, coherence and quality of ABS statistics, through the use of standard concepts, definitions, classifications and procedures. It is also responsible for the infrastructure used to hold key definitional metadata and to store statistical data from which ABS outputs are sourced.

Key focus areas of the program are: transformation of statistical metadata into future ABS infrastructure; the modernisation of the ABS Data Management framework for transforming statistical data into future ABS infrastructure; and the development of new mathematical, statistical and computational methods to enable future ABS analytical and processing capability.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- Data governance framework and strategies for managing data in an integrated data management environment were developed.
- 2016 Census coding indexes for Occupation, Education and Industry were delivered.
- A reference set of definitional standards and taxonomies was published as part of the delivery of Deputy Secretary Efficiency Working Group Initiative 9 – Develop Standard

Definitional Taxonomy. The reference set includes financial, demographic and welfare data definitions and includes key ABS standards. The reference set was provided to government, through GovShare, to ensure better and more coherent collection of information.

- Twenty standards were published on the ABS website.
- A prototype was developed to demonstrate new methods and semantic technologies for representing, discovering and visualising complex information such as cross-sectional and longitudinal data derived from diverse survey, administrative and big data sources, to solve challenging policy analysis problems in the areas of firm-level productivity, labour market dynamics, and regional economic activity.
- New techniques in machine intelligence were applied in developing an improved automated coding system for complex classifications to improve the speed, accuracy, consistency and cost-effectiveness of coding textual fields in survey and administrative datasets.

## Statistical Services

The Statistical Services program provides specialist services to meet new and ongoing demands in official statistics.

The program supports the statistical collection and production processes, and provides leadership in developing the future methodological infrastructure of the ABS.

The program also minimises the load on data providers through efficient data collection methods, sample designs, techniques to control sample overlap between surveys and, in the case of Australian business surveys, through reviews and approvals by the Australian Government Statistical Clearing House.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- In response to the independent technical review into the Labour Force Survey, analyses into the mode effect of web-forms and lower response rates were completed.
- An improved method to remove Supplementary Survey effects from the seasonally adjusted employment and unemployment data from the Labour Force Survey was implemented.
- Analysis into the volatility of Labour Force data series was conducted, with the results published as a feature article in the June 2015 edition of *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001).
- Best practices and standards for collecting survey data by web-forms were developed and implemented.
- Processes were implemented to encourage respondents to self-complete survey forms.
- Methodology for automatically allocating Census 2016 field work was developed and applied in the 2014 Major Test.
- Models were developed for predicting the work needed in the follow-up phase of Census 2016. The models were used to inform workforce planning decisions.
- A significant reduction to sample size and provider load was achieved through a more efficient Annual Integrated Statistics core redesign.
- The design and selection of additional Industry Growth Sectors was integrated with the Business Characteristics Survey through innovative methods.
- A new sample design and estimation strategy was developed for the Household Income and Expenditure Survey. This will significantly improve the quality of estimates for households that receive a majority of their income from pensions and benefits.
- A more efficient method for balancing national accounts tables was developed.
- The program completed a set of development plans that provide leadership and directions for transforming ABS methodology as part of the ABS Statistical Business Transformation Program.

## Corporate Support

### Technology Services

Effective management of information technology allows the ABS to continually improve access to statistical data and services, while maintaining security and integrity standards. The Technology Services program supports all areas of the ABS in the delivery of business outcomes through the effective and innovative application of information technology.

In 2014–15, the program worked in close partnership with other areas across the ABS in preparing business cases, capabilities and technology plans for business transformation. There has been great success in implementing and building ICT capacity and capabilities, undertaken both to respond to new work demands and in preparation for transformation. The aim has been to refine technology sourcing strategies and to build an agile, flexible and adaptable ICT workforce.

#### Key achievements in 2014–15

- Work continued on the development of technology infrastructure and applications for the 2016 Census. This included successful large-scale tests in 2014 – which in part used a newly developed mobile application to support the Census field staff. The field tests have been critical in fine-tuning ICT planning and technologies for the 2016 Census.
- In response to recommendations from a security review, system access control management and monitoring was strengthened. An external identity management solution was delivered. Progress also continued in implementing a range of updated Government security requirements.
- National collaboration continued in the areas of data integration, data analytics, identity access management, and contribution to the development of whole-of-government technology strategies. International collaboration with NSOs in other countries continued, as did the statistical aid work program supporting Pacific Island nations.
- Implementation of next generation end-user and mobile computing technologies commenced. These will provide the platform for a more efficient and flexible working environment for all ABS staff including teleworking, activity-based working, and wifi in all offices.

### Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides leadership and strategic support to assist the ABS and its employees to meet business objectives. Services are provided directly to employees and indirectly through a support and coordination role, which includes policy advice, framework development and internal consultancy. Corporate Services operates on a national basis and provides services to all ABS staff.

Corporate Services provides leadership and consultancy on workforce planning, budgeting, business continuity and financial reporting, financial policies, communications, dissemination, legislation, policies and risk management. Corporate Services also provides human resources services; manages property; maintains and develops corporate support systems and services; and ensures the ABS meets its legislative and other government obligations.

#### Key achievements in 2014–15

- Corporate Services helped set up a fully functioning centre to process Overseas Arrival and Departure Cards, during a period of disruption to the quality and timeliness of administrative data sources. The centre was fully operational within two weeks, ensuring the timely provision of data for publication.

- The program addressed recommendations from several Comcare liaison and compliance inspections, and a long-running (since May 2013) inspection into Population Survey Operations field work practices has been closed by Comcare.
- Development work was undertaken to deliver a new enterprise wide Learning Management System, known as CapabilityPlus. This will be key to transforming learning in the ABS and will enable the ABS to deploy a suite of blended learning programs including virtual classrooms. CapabilityPlus will be released in August 2015.
- The new offices in Adelaide and Perth were established for ‘activity based working’ with better facilities for collaboration while reducing space and cost.

## International Relations

The ABS International Relations program guides the international work of the organisation. The program supports a more holistic approach to the ABS’s international work, ensuring alignment to broader government priorities, and promoting closer relations with countries in Asia and the Pacific region. In particular, the program aims to: contribute to the development of international statistical standards, frameworks, strategies and policies; collaborate with international organisations to develop a shared set of infrastructure and collaborate on best practice; and build capability in developing National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in Asia and the Pacific region.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- Contributed to the discussion on key global statistical priorities, including presenting on big data for official statistics, and data in support of the post-2015 development agenda at the United Nations Statistical Commission.
- Presented on the modernisation of statistical production and services to promote the innovative use of data at the Conference of European Statisticians.
- Contributed to the setting of regional priorities of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Committee on Statistics.
- Supported:
  - Input to the statistical dimensions of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
  - Improvements to the quality of civil registration and vital statistics in the Pacific region.
- Provided training and support to Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Fiji, to improve macroeconomic statistics, and in the case of Fiji, to support a successful 2017 Fiji Census.



*Visit to the ABS by Papua New Guinea Minister for National Planning, March 2015.*

*Left to right: Jacinta Manua, Deputy High Commissioner, Ian Ewing, Deputy Australian Statistician, David Kalisch, Australian Statistician, Hon. Charles Abel, MP, Minister for National Planning and Monitoring, Hakaua Harry, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Tom Joseph, Regional Director, Western Australia, Seldon Deilala, First Secretary to Minister.*

Section Three **Management and  
accountability**



## Chapter 6

# 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 users' current and emerging statistical priorities, and is consistent with the ABS's vision 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 stakeholders and the user community about the ABS work program
- 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 levels
- instructions and manuals to ensure staff have access to ABS policies and practices.

### 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 2014–15 are outlined in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1: Senior management committees for 2014–15

Executive Leadership Group	<p>The Executive Leadership Group (ELG) advises the Australian Statistician. Its role is to provide strategic oversight of the organisation and determine policy. ELG's role includes giving high-level focus to strategic client engagement, internal leadership and the key priorities of the organisation. ELG meets fortnightly to ensure ongoing attention is given to strategic issues affecting the future of the organisation, including statistical business transformation, statistical risk management and strategic client engagement. ELG sets the strategic directions for the ABS and refers its strategic decisions to the Senior Management Group for implementation.</p> <p>ELG membership consists of the Australian Statistician (chair) and the Deputy Australian Statisticians. To promote diversity, the Statistician will, if required, appoint an additional member to ensure that ELG includes at least one member of each sex.</p>
Senior Management Group	<p>The Senior Management Group (SMG) focuses on cross-cutting issues to support ABS transformation, successfully manage risks and ensure the efficient and effective delivery of the ABS work program. SMG is an advisory body chaired by the Chief Operating Officer. SMG meetings also address other issues, including resource management, dissemination issues, human resources and accountability. SMG membership consists of the Chief Operating Officer (chair), the General Managers, and two capital city heads of office. Other senior officers attend as required for particular items.</p>
ABS Management	<p>ABS Management Meetings play a major role in determining ABS strategic directions, priorities and resource allocations. 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>Management Meeting members include the Australian Statistician (chair), Deputy Australian Statisticians, General Managers, and two capital city heads of office (on a rotating basis). In 2015, the Management Meeting agenda included some items where all SES were invited to participate.</p>
Audit Committee	<p>The Audit Committee is responsible for providing independent assurance and assistance to the Australian Statistician on the ABS's financial and performance reporting responsibilities, risk oversight and management, and system of internal controls, including those applied to ensure legislative compliance and the execution of the functions of the ABS. Protiviti have recently been engaged to provide internal audit services to the ABS.</p> <p>The Committee meets a minimum of four times a year and consists of six members, four of whom are external. Current members of the Committee are Ms Jennifer Clark (external, chair of the Committee), Mr Max Shanahan (external), Mr Will Laurie (external), Mr Stephen Sheehan (external), Mr Michael Smedes (internal) and Mr Dean Bowley (internal). Appointments to the Committee membership are based on individual personal qualities, experience and skills, including the ability to demonstrate independence on matters before the Committee.</p>

Protective Security Management Committee	<p>The ABS maintains a comprehensive security framework, overseen by a Protective Security Management Committee chaired by a Deputy Australian Statistician. The security framework ensures that both physical and computer security are maintained.</p> <p>The Committee is a key means of ensuring the ABS meets its legal requirement not to divulge identifiable information and to ensure there is policy to meet the security and privacy related requirements of legislation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i></li> <li>• <i>Census and Statistics Act 1905</i></li> <li>• <i>Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975</i></li> <li>• <i>Privacy Act 1988</i></li> <li>• <i>Crimes Act 1914.</i></li> </ul>
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## Planning

While much of the 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.

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 available on the ABS website: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Risk management

The ABS Risk Management Framework (the Framework) provides the basis for an organisational approach to managing risk. It includes the ABS Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Guidelines. In 2015, the Framework was reviewed to align with the new Commonwealth Risk Management Policy and as part of continual improvement against outcomes of the annual Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking Survey.

The ABS adopts an integrated approach to risk management:

- policy positions reflect the risk appetite of senior management in respect of the decisions they empower staff to make and any limitations applied to that decision-making process
- governance arrangements ensure transparency in decision-making, operation and accountability by promoting strong leadership, sound management and effective planning and review
- planning and reporting cycles provide explicit opportunities to document goals and the respective risks to achieving those goals

- assurance activities are targeted based on the relative importance of objectives to the ABS, the level of risk in the activities and the level of surety that is in place in relation to a risk.

The internal audit program provides assurance on key risk areas as identified by senior management and the Audit Committee. Outcomes of audits are presented to the Audit Committee. The committee also has oversight of significant internal reviews.

## Fraud control

The ABS has a Fraud Control Plan to provide the framework and associated guidance for fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data collection procedures and processes that meet the specific needs of the ABS and broader government obligations. It is supported by a fraud risk assessment which documents identified fraud risks, treatment strategies, responsibilities, dates for implementation and reporting obligations.

The ABS Fraud Control Plan is reviewed and updated biennially. The fraud risk assessment is reviewed biannually or more frequently where the ABS has identified significant changes to fraud risk exposure.

The Audit Committee has oversight of ABS fraud control activity.

## Security of premises

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

The security of ABS premises, and of the information technology environment, is a key aspect of maintaining that trust and confidence, and is 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 protective security measures.

The ABS computer network has a secure gateway, which allows connection to some internet services only. The secure gateway was 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. Databases are accessible only by approved users. The computer systems are regularly monitored and usage audited. There were no unauthorised access incidents into ABS computing systems during 2014–15.

## External scrutiny

### 2013 Australian Public Service Commission Capability Review

The findings of the 2013 Australian Public Service Commission Capability Review (APSC Review), undertaken by Mr Tony Cole AO, Mr John Ombler and Ms Carmel McGregor, were released in December 2014. The review called for the ABS to make fundamental changes and identified significant organisational opportunities. It reiterated that the ABS is a world class statistical organisation with a strong foundation and highly skilled, engaged and committed staff. However, it also clearly reaffirmed the need for the ABS to transform not only systems and infrastructure, but also culture, attitudes, and ways of operating. The report from the review is available on the APSC website: [www.apsc.gov.au](http://www.apsc.gov.au)

The ABS welcomed the review's findings and the opportunity they bring to strengthen the organisation. The Capability Action Plan (CAP) is the ABS's response to the APSC Review.

The CAP outlines strategies and actions for implementation in response to the review and focuses on five key priority areas:

1. A comprehensive and coordinated approach to transformation
2. Leadership, decision-making and resource prioritisation
3. Open and engaged partnerships
4. Staff commitment and contribution to transformation
5. Valuing high performance and diversity.

The CAP is available on the ABS website: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## **Review of ABS sensitive information controls**

A former ABS staff member was arrested for a range of offences relating to the disclosure of sensitive statistics in May 2014. Following this the ABS contracted Belinda Gibson, a former Deputy Chair of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, to conduct a review. The review assessed the ABS system of controls relating to the unauthorised disclosure of market sensitive information. It involved an assessment of ABS policies and processes, interviews with ABS staff, and benchmarking of the ABS controls against other Australian Government and various international statistical organisations.

The review found that the ABS operates with a coherent scheme of controls to protect against unauthorised disclosure, which is broadly consistent with similar government agencies. The review confirmed the strong value the ABS places in maintaining the security of information entrusted to the agency. The review found no systemic issues with the way the ABS handles confidential personal and market sensitive information, or with ABS's general security policies and practices.

The review identified four areas for improvement, with specific recommendations in each of these:

- access controls
- culture and training
- financial disclosures
- information technology (IT) monitoring and surveillance.

The ABS agreed with all identified areas for improvement and has implemented all but three of the recommendations. Two recommendations will be addressed with the release of a new policy in September 2015. The remaining recommendation, which relates to a longer term IT project, will be implemented by December 2015.

The report from the review is available on the ABS website: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## **Independent technical review into the Labour Force Survey**

The ABS commissioned a review with independent external input to develop an appropriate method for seasonally adjusting October 2014 and following months' estimates.

The review concluded that changes to the timing of the supplementary surveys were the main contributing factor to recent volatility in the seasonally adjusted estimates. The review therefore recommended modifying the seasonal adjustment process to adjust for the impact of supplementary surveys.

The ABS implemented this key recommendation in the October 2014 Labour Force estimates, released on 6 November 2014, and will continue to apply this method to future estimates.

The ABS accepted all the recommendations from the report and has either implemented a change to its process or included the recommendation in future work programs as appropriate.

Updates on the ABS's implementation of the recommendations from the review were provided regularly in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) during 2014–15, with updates provided in the March 2015 issue, the May 2015 issue and the June 2015 issue.

## Other reviews

Dr Martin Parkinson PSM, previous Secretary of the Department of the Treasury, chaired a review in parallel with the independent review into the Labour Force Survey that reported to the Treasurer.

There were no other significant developments in external scrutiny in 2014–15, with no reports issued by the Attorney-General, Parliament or the Commonwealth Ombudsman. There were no individual or administrative review decisions of relevance to the ABS.

A range of Australian Government bodies examined the operations of the ABS. The ABS assisted in providing information to the Auditor-General and the Ombudsman during 2014–15.

There were no adverse comments relating to the ABS from the Auditor-General, the Ombudsman, Parliamentary Committees, or courts or tribunals during 2014–15.

## Privacy

As an Australian Government agency, the ABS must comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*, including the *Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012*, and the Australian Privacy Principles. These govern the way personal information about any person – including 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 Policy published on the ABS website.

The ABS has a privacy officer who, providing the perspective of a privacy advocate, advises on privacy issues internally, investigates allegations of misuse or unauthorised disclosures regarding personal information, 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 Australian Privacy Commissioner through the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, advising the Commissioner regularly of the ABS's forward work program, providing documents pertaining to surveys collecting personal information and seeking advice on any new ABS initiatives about which privacy advocates may have concerns.

During 2014–15 the ABS was a partner of Privacy Awareness Week, which is an initiative of the Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities Forum to promote awareness of privacy issues and the importance of the protection of personal information.

For the 2014–15 Privacy Awareness Week, the ABS communicated important information to staff based on the themes of maintaining a strong security culture and preserving privacy in everyday life.

## Submissions to parliamentary committees

**Table 6.2: ABS submissions to parliamentary committees in 2014–15**

Committee/Inquiry	Description of submission/information provided
House of Representatives Economics Committee Inquiry on Foreign Ownership of Residential Real Estate	In July 2014, the ABS provided a submission to the House of Representatives Economics Committee Inquiry on Foreign Ownership of Residential Real Estate. The submission outlined the data sources available to inform the Inquiry.
Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into Young People in Aged Care	In February 2015, the ABS provided a submission to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into Young People in Aged Care. The submission outlined the data sources available to inform the Inquiry and provided some data.
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee Inquiry into the Australian Grape and Wine Industry	In May 2015 the ABS provided a submission to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee Inquiry into the Australian Grape and Wine Industry. The submission outlined the data sources available to inform the Inquiry.

## Information Publication Scheme

Agencies subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) 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. Each agency must display a plan on its website showing what information it publishes in accordance with the IPS requirements.

The ABS's IPS plan is available on the ABS website: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Assets

The ABS's assets are essential to the effective conduct of its business, and are part of a combination of resources required for service delivery. The ABS maintains an asset register which is managed in accordance with Accountable Authority Instructions and Australian Accounting Standards. The ABS has an asset threshold of the following:

- \$1,000 for IT assets, including purchased software
- \$100,000 for internally generated software
- \$2,000 for non-IT assets.

Assets with expenditure greater than, or equal to, these amounts are capitalised and recorded on the asset register.

The total value of assets is \$112.7 million. Most of the assets are intangible (internally generated software), and these were valued at \$70.0 million in 2014–15. Tangible assets (property, plant and equipment) formed the remainder, and these were valued at \$32.8 million with other non-financial assets (prepayments and accrued revenue) valued at \$9.9 million. Tangible assets are valued with the assistance of an independent assessor.

## Purchasing

The ABS undertakes a wide variety of procurement and contracting activities, with the majority of purchases 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 Accountable Authority 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, as well as providing direct involvement for more complex procurement projects. Information on procurement policy and practices is available to staff through an internal procurement portal.

The ABS continues to invest in developing procurement skills and reviewing processes to ensure that efficiency and value-for-money outcomes are achieved.

## Procurement initiatives to support small business

The ABS supports small business participation in the Australian Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprise and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance website:

[www.finance.gov.au/procurement/statistics-on-commonwealth-purchasing-contracts/](http://www.finance.gov.au/procurement/statistics-on-commonwealth-purchasing-contracts/)

## Commonwealth Indigenous Procurement Policy

The ABS has implemented the Commonwealth Indigenous Procurement Policy in its procurement processes and is working closely with other Australian Government entities within the Treasury portfolio to ensure the requirements of the policy are met. The policy is available on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website:

[www.dpmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/indigenous\\_procurement\\_policy\\_1.pdf](http://www.dpmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/indigenous_procurement_policy_1.pdf)

## Exempt contracts

During the 2014–15 financial year, the ABS did not exempt any contracts from publication on AusTender on the basis that they would disclose exempt information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

## Consultants

The ABS engages consultants where specialist skills are required that are not available in-house or when independent research, review or assessment is required. Consultants are typically engaged to investigate or diagnose an identified issue or problem, carry out defined reviews or evaluations, or provide independent advice to assist in ABS decision-making.

Before engaging consultants, the ABS takes into account the skills and resources required for the task, the skills available internally, and the cost-effectiveness of engaging external expertise. The decision to engage a consultant is made in accordance with the PGPA Act and related regulations including the Commonwealth Procurement Rules and relevant internal policies.

Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on consultancies. Information on the value of contracts and consultancies is available on the AusTender website:

[www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au)

During 2014–15, 21 new consultancy contracts were entered into, involving total actual expenditure of \$0.9 million. In addition, nine ongoing consultancy contracts were active during the 2014–15 year, involving total actual expenditure of \$0.3 million.

## Advertising

### Advertising and public relations

The ABS has paid \$0.2 million for advertising (non-campaign) placed by Mitchells Adcorp Alliance (Dentsu Mitchell and Adcorp Australia) through the Australian Government's Central Advertising System, administered by the Department of Finance.

ABS non-campaign advertising includes, but is not limited to:

- recruitment for specific job vacancies, including ABS field and interviewer staff
- notification of date and/or location specific information, including a large scale Census field test in August 2014
- other public notices, such as participant recruitment for research and cognitive testing purposes.

The ABS paid \$0.1 million for public relations consultancies, provided by Landor Associates and Fenton Strategic Communications.

### Market research

The ABS paid \$0.4 million for market research services. Market research expenditure incurred in 2014–15 was in relation to preparations for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing. The organisations supplying these services included the CSIRO and Hall & Partners Open Mind Pty Ltd.

The Social Research Centre was engaged to conduct the Community Trust in the ABS Statistics survey to measure the level of trust the Australian community and the statistical user community have in the ABS and ABS statistics. A similar survey was conducted in 2010. Results from the 2015 survey are expected to be available in October 2015.

# Chapter 7

## Management of human resources



### Introduction

It is our workforce who will ensure we can meet the challenge of transforming the ABS to engage better with partners, develop responsive processes, make the best use of modern technologies, and be a high performing and accountable organisation. Preparing ABS staff for the future will enable us to deliver on our vision 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 help the ABS meet these needs
- recognise the changes to the ABS operating environment, and can help the ABS adapt to these changes
- possess professional competencies and a commitment to the Australian Public Service (APS) Values.

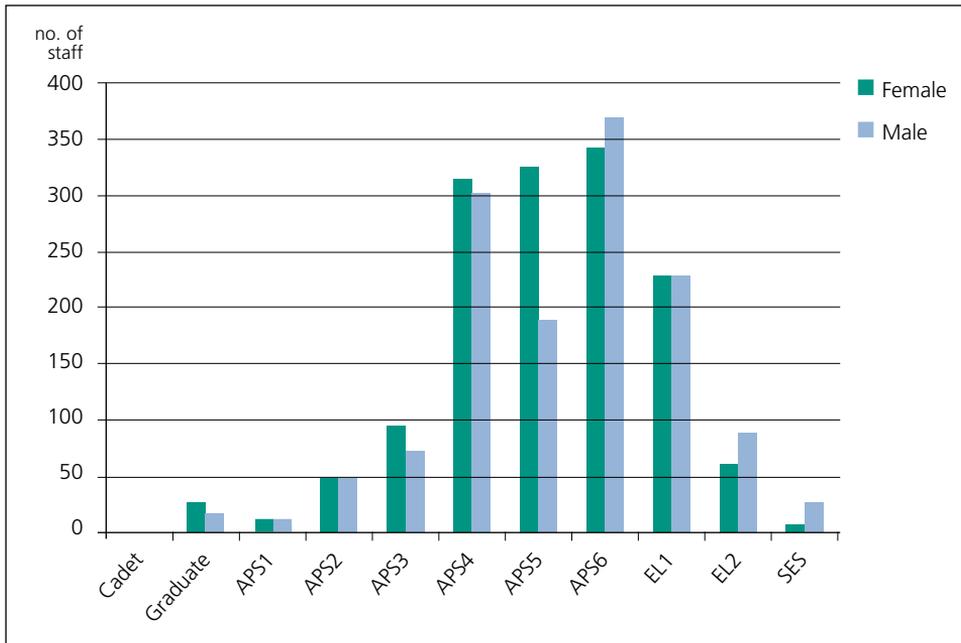
Proficient management of human resources is the key to ensuring the engagement and retention of a workforce that can deliver the ABS work program now and into the future.

As at 30 June 2015, there were 2,900 staff employed at the ABS under the *Public Service Act 1999*: 1,384 men and 1,516 women. This includes operative and inoperative employees. The ABS had 2,824 operative and paid inoperative staff, as at 30 June 2015.

There were also 1,435 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*. Of these, 919 were Census Field Officers and 516 were Household Survey Interviewers.

Figure 7.1 and Tables 7.1 and 7.2 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 Census field staff), and 76 unpaid inoperative staff are excluded from the tables.

**Figure 7.1: Employment classification by sex, 30 June 2015 (a) (b)**



- (a) Includes operative and paid inoperative staff.
- (b) Excludes the Australian Statistician (statutory appointment).

**Table 7.1: Number of ABS staff by location and status, at 30 June 2015 (a) (b)**

	Ongoing		Non-ongoing		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Sydney	194	47	21	60	322
Melbourne	250	61	15	8	334
Brisbane	154	35	22	25	236
Adelaide	149	51	9	5	214
Perth	100	30	35	35	200
Hobart	85	26	17	5	133
Darwin	32	8	5	0	45
Canberra	1,059	195	62	24	1,340
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>2,824</b>

- (a) Includes operative and paid inoperative staff.
- (b) Excludes the Australian Statistician (Statutory appointment).

At 30 June 2015 there were eight women in the ABS Senior Executive Service (SES), representing 24% of the total number of ABS SES officers.

**Table 7.2: Number of ABS SES officers by level, sex and year (a)**

Year (at 30 June)	SES Level			Sex		
	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	24	10	34
2013	28	8	4	30	10	40
2014	29	7	3	30	9	39
2015	26	6	2	26	8	34

(a) Includes only operative, substantive SES officers as at 30 June 2015. Excludes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Excludes SES officers outposted to another department, i.e. one SES Officer for 2008–10 and 2011–12.

## 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 our goals. The Plan is revised annually.

The four high-level national strategies progressed through the 2014–15 People Plan were:

1. Strengthen business and leadership capability to prepare for the future
2. Demonstrate strong leadership to drive cultural change and support our people through organisational transformation
3. Shape our future workforce through effective deployment, recruitment and employment practice
4. Understand and monitor our workforce and external environment.

These strategies reflect the people-related priorities articulated in the ABS Corporate Plan.

## Workplace diversity in the ABS

The ABS is committed to valuing and supporting a diverse workforce, including differences in gender, age, language, ethnicity, cultural background, disability, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, educational level, life experience, work experience, socioeconomic background and personality.

The following plans form the ABS Workplace Diversity Program. These plans are integrated with the ABS People Plan 2014–15.

- *ABS Workplace Diversity Action Plan 2013–2017* (cat. no. 1010.0)
- *ABS Reconciliation Action Plan 2013–2016* (cat. no. 1011.0)
- *ABS Gender Diversity Action Plan 2014–17* (cat. no. 10130.0).

In addition, the ABS demonstrates commitment to access and equity through the ABS *Agency Multicultural Plan 2013–15* (cat. no. 1012.0).

## Workplace Diversity Action Plan

The *Workplace Diversity Action Plan 2013–2017* sets out four strategies that aim to achieve positive outcomes from increased workplace diversity:

1. Strengthen a respectful and inclusive work environment and culture.
2. Improve our ability to attract, recruit and retain people of diverse backgrounds and targeted under-represented diversity groups (note: the targeted groups are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people with disability).
3. Improve our understanding of workplace diversity issues and increase the analysis and utilisation of workplace diversity metrics.
4. As a statistical services provider, ensure accessible services, products and data collection practices are provided for people with disability and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

## Reconciliation Action Plan

The ABS is committed to reconciliation. 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.

The *ABS Reconciliation Action Plan 2013–2016* sets out actions the ABS will take to:

- increase the recruitment, retention and development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ABS (Table 7.3)
- build the capability of ABS employees to respond effectively to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities through respect and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culture
- ensure that ABS policies, programs and services effectively respond to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities
- develop the statistical literacy skills of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities to enable them to make informed decisions about themselves, their families and their communities.

**Table 7.3: Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples employed in the ABS, 2014–15**

	30 June 2014	30 June 2015
Ongoing employees	25	21
Non-ongoing employees	1	1
Total	26	22

## Gender Diversity Action Plan

In November 2014, the *ABS Gender Diversity Action Plan 2014–17* was introduced. It sets out the organisation's commitment to achieving gender diversity at all levels in the ABS. It aims to do this by identifying and removing barriers to allow women the same access to, and participation in, leadership roles as their male colleagues.

The *Gender Diversity Action Plan 2014–17* has four overarching strategies:

1. Recruiting and deploying for diverse leadership (to ensure that our SES selection processes are best practice and free from unintended bias).
2. Working flexibly (to support increased use of flexible job design arrangements for senior staff, both in terms of locations and working arrangements).
3. Staying connected (to ease the transition of staff entering into or returning from long periods of leave, and capitalise on the talent and expertise of former ABS staff).
4. Building a more inclusive corporate culture (to promote a working environment where diverse leadership styles can flourish).

**Table 7.4: ABS staff by level by gender 2014–15**

Nominal Classification	Female	Male	Total
APS1	13	12	25
APS2	49	50	99
APS3	118	87	205
APS4	318	305	623
APS5	326	189	515
APS6	343	369	712
EL1	230	230	460
EL2	60	89	149
SESB1	7	20	27
SESB2	1	5	6
SESB3	0	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,465</b>	<b>1,359</b>	<b>2,824</b>

*Includes operative and paid inoperative staff only*

*Excludes the Australian Statistician and unpaid inoperative staff*

## Agency Multicultural Plan

The *ABS Agency Multicultural Plan 2013–15* was released in July 2013. Under the plan, the ABS is committed to improving how we engage and respond to the needs of Australians from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The ABS works towards fostering an organisation that recognises and supports employees from culturally diverse backgrounds.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- The APS RecruitAbility Scheme was implemented for positions advertised as part of the ABS 2015 APS/EL recruitment activity. The effects of unconscious bias were reduced by redacting personal identifiers from applications.
- Employee diversity and cultural awareness was fostered through online and face-to-face training, events and regular communications.

- A protocol for engaging with people with disability in the community was released.
- Mutually beneficial partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations were created and employee cultural awareness was supported through participation in the Jawun Indigenous APS Community Secondment Program.
- The Gender Diversity Working Group was established to oversee the successful implementation of the Gender Diversity Action Plan.
- Unconscious bias training was provided for all SES employees, and an information session was presented for all staff.
- The option for employees to select gender 'X' (Indeterminate/Intersex/Unspecified) in personnel records was implemented, in alignment with the 2013 Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender.
- The use of flexible working arrangements in the ABS was increased.
- A Leadership Pipeline Mentoring Program was developed, to focus on middle managers who are a key cohort to become the future SES.
- Specific cross-cultural training sessions were delivered to ABS staff working on international statistical capability development.

## Training and development

Training statistics from 2005–06 to 2014–15 are presented in Table 7.5.

In line with the ABS People Plan 2014–15 priorities, 'building core capability' and 'strengthening leadership', the ABS has focused on enhancing the ABS learning approach and building quality programs to enable ABS transformation.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

- In early 2015 an enterprise-wide Learning Management System was procured and used to deploy training to a large Address Canvassing field force, in preparation for the 2016 Census.
- Review of our suite of Leadership and Management training was ongoing, to ensure these programs will enable leaders to drive cultural change and support our people through organisational transformation.
- An Executive Level Development Program was implemented, comprising a suite of new modules, predominantly e-learning, to build executive accountability in APS managers.
- In partnership with the University of Canberra, the ABS developed a Graduate Certificate of Statistics.

Executive Coaching continues to be accessed by our Executive Level and SES staff to build their leadership capability with 34 employees accessing this service.

External consultation was undertaken in relation to the draft Statistical Capability Framework. The development of the Graduate Certificate of Statistics in partnership with the University of Canberra was an example of our commitment to external partnerships with tertiary institutions, in order to build statistical capability, with 34 employees accessing this service.

The Australian Statistician's Fellowship Program, which engaged five participants after a competitive selection process, focuses on the development of leadership and critical capabilities. This program is challenging, practical and experiential.

The Graduate Development Program commenced in February 2015 with 44 participants.

The program, which is run over a nine-month period, has been delivered using a blended learning approach. Formal capability development along with networking opportunities enabled graduates to transition effectively into the ABS. Projects continue to form the basis of an experiential learning component.

**Table 7.5: ABS employee training days (a)**

	Total ABS operative staff (b)	Attendance days	Average training days
2005–06 (d)	2,865	16,163 (c)	5.6
2006–07 (d)	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
2012–13	2,920	7,547 (e)	2.6
2013–14	2,878	5,935	2.1
2014–15	2,966	4,447 (f)	1.5

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

(e) Decrease partly due to move to e-learning approaches.

(f) Continued decrease due to increased e-learning options.

## Recruitment

In line with the interim arrangements for APS recruitment introduced by the Australian Public Service Commission in October 2013 (and streamlined in September 2014), priority was given to redeployment of existing staff and the use of higher duties and non-ongoing staff to fill vacant positions for most of 2013–14. With the exception of the graduate campaign and Indigenous Engagement Managers, ABS had not advertised APS positions since that time.

In April 2015 a national APS/EL recruitment strategy was advertised within the APS for positions at the APS4 – EL2 levels across four streams (statistical, methodology, ICT and business delivery), attracting over 2,000 applications. The strategy was a streamlined merit-based process reflecting best practice and designed to provide for maximum flexibility for future staffing decisions. It included a number of initiatives such as a shorter, more focused application process, simplified rating system, and national panels to ensure consistency of assessment. In order to address potential unconscious bias in the shortlisting process, applications were redacted to remove gender and other identifiers.

Graduates are an important source of ABS future leaders and the ABS graduate recruitment campaign continued to attract a large number of applicants from a broad range of disciplines. One-way video interviewing was introduced this year as part of the shortlisting process, to further enhance the robust assessment process.

Preparations are underway for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing with field staff being recruited in selected areas across Australia to undertake preliminary work for the main event in 2016.

## Workplace health and safety

### Overview

The ABS is committed to fostering a proactive and collaborative approach to the management of work health, safety and wellbeing in the workplace. Specialist teams include a network of Work Health and Safety (WHS) Advisors, with a focus on prevention and wellbeing at work, early intervention and the management of rehabilitation and return to work programs to support managers and workers to implement a safe system of work.

The agency Senior Management Group has responsibility for oversight of the ABS WHS management system.

### Key achievements in 2014–15

Measures taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees during 2013–14 included:

- The ABS Work Health Safety and Rehabilitation Management Strategy 2014–17 and Action Plan 2014–15 received executive endorsement. These plans guide biannual monitoring and assessment of WHS and rehabilitation management.
- A revised Work Health and Safety and Rehabilitation Management Statement of Commitment received executive endorsement in preparation for wider consultation with employees and their representatives.
- Focus on the health and safety of ABS field-based staff was strengthened, particularly in relation to supervision while in the field, communications and consultation
- Angry Anderson, well-known Australian icon and ACT Lifeline patron, was the keynote speaker for a nationally broadcast seminar to recognise World Mental Health Day 2014.
- The implementation of an activity-based work pilot in Adelaide Office and a teleworking pilot in Melbourne Office was supported. This will inform the roll-out of flexible work across the remainder of ABS offices from 2015–16.
- A national influenza vaccination program was conducted across all ABS offices in autumn 2015, with 39% of office-based staff receiving the vaccination, equivalent to the uptake in 2013–14.
- An annual national hazard inspection program was conducted; it identified 13% fewer hazards than the 2013 program.
- The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) presented eight nationally broadcast and video-recorded worklifeAssist™ seminars for staff.



*Angry Anderson  
and Alg Australian  
Statistician  
Jonathan Palmer,  
World Mental  
Health Day 2014*

### Consultation and communication

The ABS has one national, one interviewer and eight regional Health and Safety Committees. Health and Safety Committees are required to meet at least once every three months. During 2014–15, ABS Health and Safety Committees achieved 84% conformance with this requirement.

Revised WHS guidelines regarding personal protective equipment and first aid were released in 2014–15, following consultation with staff and their representatives. The ABS has also commenced a review of its WHS manual, and will release updated guidelines in 2015–16 following consultation.

## Training

In the ABS there are a number of specific WHS roles filled by trained staff:

- First Aid Officers must complete an accredited First Aid training course initially and attend a refresher course every 12 months.
- Health and Safety Representatives have the option of completing a five-day training course upon commencement in the role, and are then entitled to attend a one-day refresher course every 12 months.
- Wardens are required to attend annual training in the emergency procedures for their workplace. Skills retention training must be undertaken at intervals not greater than six months.

Table 7.6 sets out the type and number of WHS positions and the number who received training in 2014–15.

**Table 7.6: WHS Positions and Training, 2014–15**

Position	Filled*	Vacant*	Received training during 2014–15
First Aid Officer	61	0	35
Health and Safety Representatives	68	2	32 (a)
Warden	214	11	177

\* As at June 2015

(a) Health and Safety Committee representatives received training in November 2014 and February 2015 to assist them in their role.

## Provisional Improvement Notices

One Provisional Improvement Notice was issued to the ABS by a Health and Safety Representative during 2014–15 in relation to interviewer work in a remote community. The Provisional Improvement Notice was reviewed by Comcare and closed as the inspector was satisfied with the risk assessment documentation and emergency extraction plans provided to interviewers prior to subsequent remote community deployments.

## Comcare investigations and inspections

In 2014–15 Comcare conducted four workplace inspections. One contravention of the primary duty of care requirement of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* was found. No notices were issued by Comcare under Part 10 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* during 2014–15.

The ABS has worked collaboratively with Comcare throughout the year on work health and safety and rehabilitation matters. The ABS works with Comcare to understand strategic changes in each organisation and to implement improved practices to reduce workers' compensation claim numbers and duration. The ABS has invited Comcare inspectors to Health and Safety Representative forums.

## Comcare Premium

The ABS Comcare Premium rate for 2014–15 was 2.46% of total salary including GST (Table 7.7).

**Table 7.7: Comcare workers' compensation premium rate**

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
ABS	1.27	1.93	2.28	2.46
Australian Government average	1.41	1.77	1.81	2.12

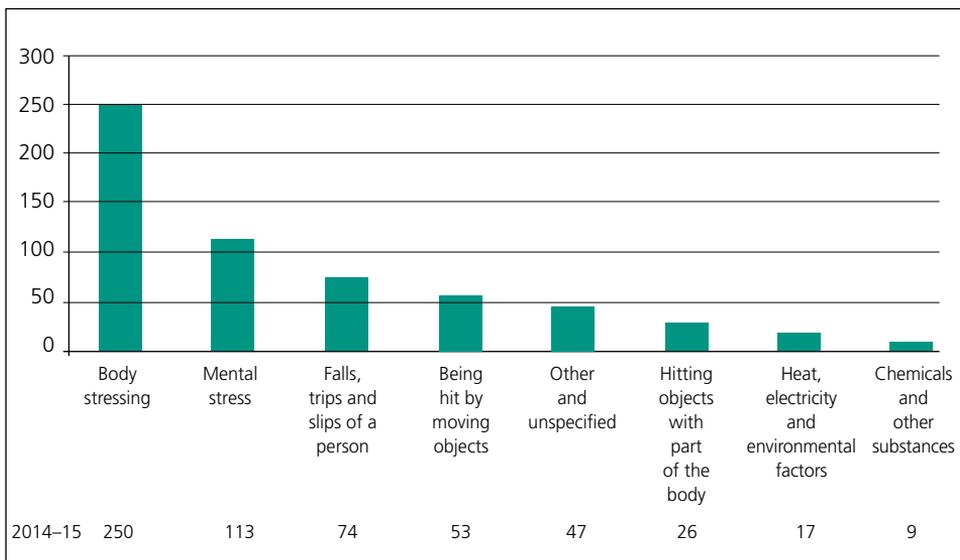
## Incidents and investigations

Under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, the ABS is required to report all 'notifiable incidents', which arise from undertaking the business of the ABS. Notifiable incidents include the death of a person, serious injury or illness, or a dangerous incident. There were two notifiable incidents in 2014–15 (one serious injury or illness and one dangerous incident).

## Workplace injuries and illnesses

The top three mechanisms of incident resulting in injury or illness reported in the ABS during 2014–15 were body stressing, mental stress and falls, trips and slips (Figure 7.2). In addition, there were 261 safety incidents reported that resulted in no injury or damage only to property.

**Figure 7.2: Number of injuries and illnesses by mechanism of incident 2014–15**



## Workers' compensation

There were 19 accepted workers' compensation claims with a date of injury occurring within 2014–15, compared to 37 in 2013–14 (Table 7.8).

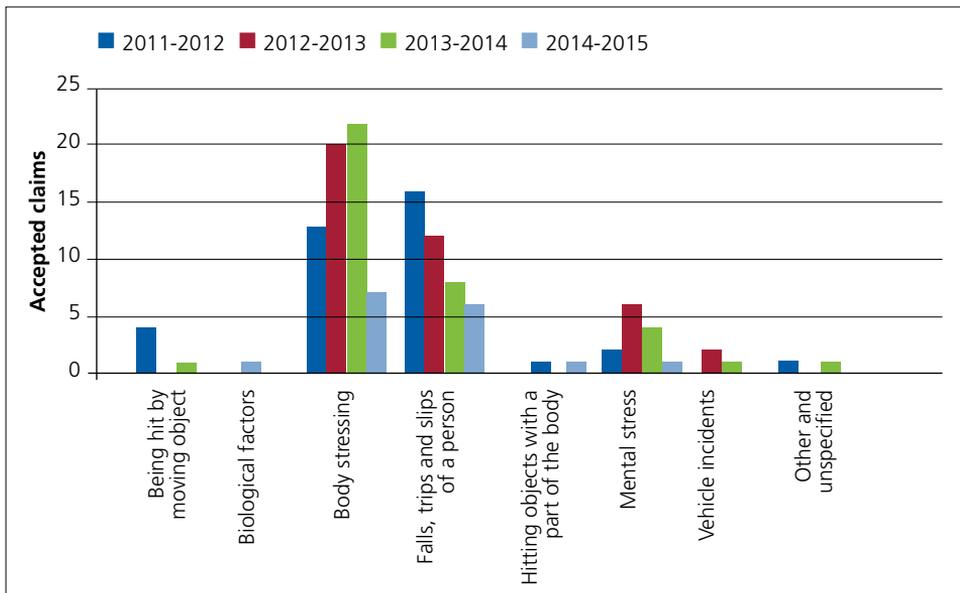
**Table: 7.8 ABS accepted compensable claims by date of injury, 2011–12 to 2014–15 (a)**

Accepted claims	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	TOTAL
ABS office-based and interviewers	37	40	37	16	<b>130</b>
Census	88	0	0	3	<b>91</b>
TOTAL	125	40	37	19	<b>221</b>

(a) When comparing recent periods with previous years' data it should be noted that the data on the current period is the least mature and may not give a definitive view of related performance.

The ABS is committed to the effective management of ill or injured employees. The People Management and Wellbeing Section strategically assesses and actively manages Comcare compensation claims to assist in returning injured staff to pre-injury duties within the ABS. Figures 7.3 and 7.4 show the number of accepted claims by mechanism of incident. The Section focused on developing the ABS Rehabilitation Management System following a Comcare audit in March 2014. All action items from the audit have either been signed off or are nearing completion. Current priorities include addressing long-term and high-cost claims and working on proactive approaches through employee education and early intervention.

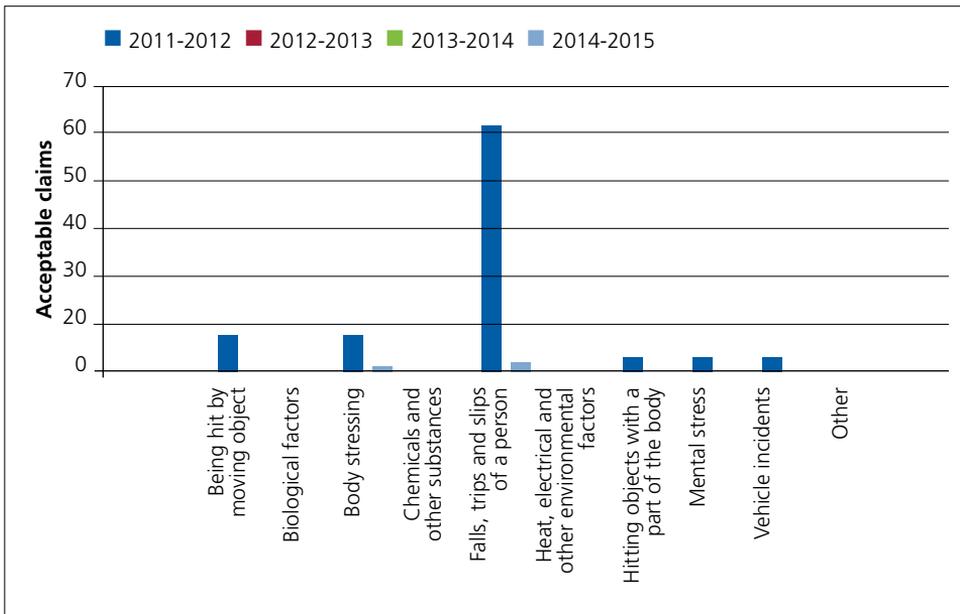
**Figure 7.3: ABS office-based and interviewer accepted claims by mechanism of incident, 2011–12 to 2014–15**



<b>2011–12</b>	4	0	13	16	1	2	0	1	<b>37</b>
<b>2012–13</b>	0	0	20	12	0	6	2	0	<b>40</b>
<b>2013–14</b>	1	0	22	8	0	4	1	1	<b>37</b>
<b>2014–15</b>	0	1	7	6	1	1	0	0	<b>16</b>
<b>Total</b>	5	1	62	42	2	13	3	2	<b>130</b>

Being hit by moving object	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Biological factors	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Body stressing	13	20	22	7	0	0	0	0	
Falls, trips and slips of a person	16	12	8	6	0	0	0	0	
Hitting objects with a part of the body	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Mental stress	2	6	4	1	0	0	0	0	
Vehicle incidents	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Other and unspecified	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>130</b>

Figure 7.4: Census accepted claims by mechanism of incident, 2011–12 to 2014–15 (a)



<b>2011–12</b>	9	0	9	0	61	0	3	3	3	0	<b>88</b>
<b>2012–13</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>2013–14</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>2014–15</b>	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	<b>3 (b)</b>
<b>Total</b>	9	0	10	0	63	0	3	3	3	0	<b>91</b>

Being hit by moving object

Biological factors

Body stressing

Chemicals and other substances

Falls, trips and slips of a person

Heat, electrical and other environmental factors

Hitting objects with a part of the body

Mental stress

Vehicle incidents

Other

**Total**

(a) The Census of Population and Housing was most recently conducted in August 2011.

(b) Census testing conducted in August 2014.

## Attendance management

In 2014–15, the average number of days of unscheduled absence per full-time equivalent (FTE) was 13 days (Table 7.9). This aligns with the Australian Government (Large Agency) median over the previous two years (13.4 days per FTE in 2013–14 and 13.7 days per FTE in 2012–13).

**Table 7.9: Unscheduled absence: days per FTE (a)**

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
ABS (b)	10.9	12.3	13.0	13.0
Australian Government (Large Agency) median	12.6	13.7	13.4	n/a (c)

(a) Excludes interviewers, non-ongoing Census Data Processing Centre staff, and Census field staff.

(b) A break in the ABS time series occurred in 2012–13. Therefore, data prior to this period is not comparable.

(c) The Australian Government (Large Agency) median for 2014–15 was not available at the time of preparing this report.

## Employee Assistance Program (EAP) utilisation

The EAP utilisation rate for ABS office-based staff during 2014–15 was 2.6% compared with 2.2% in 2013–14. The EAP utilisation rate for ABS interviewer staff during 2014–15 was 1.5% compared with 1.3% in 2013–14.

## Consultation in the ABS

The ABS is committed to effective workplace relations arrangements 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 the following elements:

- line managers who have key responsibility for ensuring timely and effective communication and consultation in the workplace
- consultative forums which are convened in each resource centre, including capital city offices
- the National Forum, which includes ABS management, employee and union representatives
- representatives of unions, meeting with management as necessary.

A meeting of the National Forum was held in November 2014 to discuss the ABS State of the Service Census results, the 2013–14 ABS People Plan, flexible work arrangements and the ABS Workplace Diversity and Reconciliation Action Plans. The National Forum also met in March 2015. The Forum had a strong focus on our people and the future directions of the ABS.

## Agreement making

The ABS has a number of industrial instruments in place to cover the employment arrangements for 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
- individual Determinations under section 24 (1) of the *Public Service Act 1999* which cover Senior Executive Service employees.

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

- the Australian Bureau of Statistics Interviewers Agreement 2011–2014 which covers home-based ABS interviewers
- a collective Determination under s.16(3) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* which covers Census field employees working on the 2016 Census of Population and Housing testing program.

Details of the number of employees covered by an Enterprise Agreement or a Determination under s. 24(1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*, as at 30 June 2014, are as follows:

- ABS employees covered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014: 2,862
- ABS employees covered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Interviewers Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014: 516
- SES employees covered by s. 24(1) Determination: 36.

## The ABS salary system

### Salary arrangements

The ABS Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014 outlined the salary arrangements for non-SES ABS employees for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. The last general salary increase was in 2013–14 for APS1 to EL2 employees and was paid from 4 July 2013 as a general salary increase of 1% for all employees. Table 7.10 shows the salary ranges for ABS employees.

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 ABS 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 7.10: Salary ranges by classification as at 30 June 2013 (a)**

Classification	Minimum (\$)	Maximum (\$)
<b>Australian Public Service (APS) level</b>		
APS1 (Adult)	40,394	46,019
APS2	46,191	52,084
APS3	52,622	59,318
APS4	59,368	66,777
APS5	66,781	75,013
APS6	75,020	84,721
<b>Executive Officer level (EL)</b>		
EL1	92,168	106,545
EL2	115,064	133,014
<b>Senior Executive Service (SES) level</b>		
SES Band 1	156,704	194,511
SES Band 2	194,511	225,882
SES Band 3	225,882	na(b)

(a) The salary ranges took effect from 5 July 2012.

(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 or medallion of commendation together with a gift voucher or in-kind award such as a work group morning tea or lunch.

Organisational guidelines have been developed to ensure consistent conduct of recognition and reward in the ABS.

Total ABS expenditure for the scheme in 2014–15 was \$79,936.

There is also an annual Statistician's Award that recognises 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.

In January 2015, Australian Statistician's Awards were presented to four staff:

- Philip Bell, for providing leadership through innovation in his leading and influential role in ABS survey methods.
- Stuart Langdown, for providing leadership in service provision through his management of the release of data through the ABS website.
- Paul Lowe, for providing leadership through innovation and leadership in statistics, through his exemplary leadership of the Transforming People Statistics Project, which is a highly innovative and integrated approach for the ABS to better deliver population and social statistics into the future.
- Emily Walter, for leadership of our people, for her management and responsiveness for her team in the successful release of the one percent and five percent Census Confidentialised Unit Record Files.

## Performance management in the ABS

The ABS is committed to being a high-performing public agency, promoting a people-oriented culture through a focus on leadership, communication, innovation and engagement.

The ABS Development and Performance Framework (DPF) is designed to increase organisational performance by supporting all employees to maximise their performance through individual development, job satisfaction and positive, trusted working relationships.

The ABS Development and Performance Agreement was recently updated to accommodate the performance management changes to the *Public Service Act 1999* that came into effect on 1 July 2015. To further enrich the performance culture within the ABS the successful Managing for Performance Improvement program, which aimed to increase the capability of managers by optimising existing APS and ABS performance management initiatives, is being transitioned into a blended learning program with e-learning modules provided for easier access.

The People Capability Framework (PCF), which complements the DPF and coincides with the start-of-cycle Development and Performance Agreement process, is designed to help managers and staff have more meaningful and structured development conversations, feeding into the development component of the DPF. Aggregate PCF results from the evaluation enable the ABS to:

- understand its capability bench strength and associated development priorities across the organisation
- align people capability development activities with current and future work program requirements (which is particularly important for our transformation)
- inform workforce planning processes and learning and development solutions.

The 2014 PCF had a 54% employee self-evaluation participation rate, and an 83% manager evaluation participation rate. SES and Executive Level staff were expected to participate in the evaluation, with APS level staff strongly encouraged to participate through an opt-in approach.

The PCF demonstrates the ABS commitment to the APS employment principle that requires effective performance from each employee.



## Ecological sustainability

During 2014–15, the ABS was committed to the principles of Ecological Sustainable Development as outlined in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

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 has an endorsed Environmental Policy Statement which articulates our commitment to the identification and pursuit of effective environmental practices. In accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, the ABS pursues environmentally positive practices by:

- seeking to minimise adverse environmental impacts from its operations
- complying with relevant Commonwealth and territory environment legislation and the Australian Government's environmental policies and initiatives
- working towards continuously improving our environmental performance.

The ABS has implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS), which identifies, implements and promotes environmentally sensitive operations.

### **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 works closely with the community and governments to build information on environmental statistics further, to complement the more established information bases on population, society and the economy. The focus of this development work is 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 Reports in Chapter 5 for:

- Agriculture and Rural Environment Statistics
- Environment Statistics and Integration.

### **516A (6) (c) What is the effect of the organisation's activities on the environment?**

The ABS seeks to minimise its impact on the environment through a number of measures, consistent with aims identified in its EMS.

## **Identify, implement and promote environmental management systems and operations**

Since 2009, the ABS has maintained an EMS at its largest office site, ABS House in Canberra.

## **Operate in an environmentally responsible manner and where practical, reduce energy, waste and other resources**

- To reduce energy consumption and waste, ABS has rolled out smart lighting technologies in all tenanted areas. In addition, energy efficient LED lights and fluorescents are installed in new fit-outs and tenancy upgrades.
- Free publications are available on the ABS website. ABS has increased the number of publications available electronically, reducing demand for hard copies.
- ABS uses computer-assisted interviewing, where appropriate, in place of paper forms.
- By improving video conferencing equipment software and increasing the number of video-conferencing facilities to support virtual teams, ABS has reduced the need for staff travel.
- ABS provides recycling services in all offices.

## **Comply with relevant Commonwealth and territory environment legislation and the Australian Government's environmental policies and initiatives**

- ABS developed an ICT Energy Management Plan in alignment with requirements and targets set by the *ICT Sustainability Plan 2010–2015*, which includes:
  - server virtualisation
  - automatic shutdown of PCs overnight. Unused PCs stay powered off during the day
  - print-on-demand
  - duplex printing and copying
  - replacement of direct network printers to anywhere print multi-function devices (MFDs)
  - reduction of MFD numbers and replacement with mono-printers
  - reduced standby timeout period on MFDs from 90 to 60 minutes
  - continual refresh program for desktops, servers and storage, utilising latest available technology
  - introducing 100% recycled content copy paper
  - maintaining Altiris EiPower desktop energy measurement software
  - high-level metering of data centre (located in ABS House) and communications equipment energy consumption
  - intelligent management system for data centre air-conditioners upgraded to increase efficiency
  - variable speed drives in data centre condenser water pumps and cooling tower fans
  - intelligent server management system to maximise energy efficiencies – for newer technology servers.

## **Encourage and promote environmentally sound procurement practices in compliance with Commonwealth Procurement Rules**

- ABS maintains procurement of 10% green energy as part of the whole-of-government energy contract for ABS House and 10% green energy for the New South Wales, Victorian and South Australian capital city offices.
- ABS includes environmental and whole-of-life-cycle clauses as part of the tender and evaluation process in most procurement activities.
- ABS leases vehicles with 10.5 GVG rating in accordance with the Green Vehicle Guide.
- ABS procures 100% recycled paper for general office use.

### **Provide an environmentally sound workplace and implement environmentally sound work practices**

- Progressive introduction of flexible working arrangements has reduced the need for staff to work from ABS offices full-time. Where implemented this has reduced staff travel to and from offices, decreased office footprint by 20%, and reduced demand for associated office resources use such as paper and furniture.
- ABS maintains a building management system to control lighting and reduce energy use in accordance with green lease schedules.
- ABS uses re-manufactured and recycled cartridges for photocopiers, faxes and printers, and recycling used printer cartridges wherever possible.
- ABS purchases white goods with heavily weighted energy ratings.
- ABS promotes sustainable environmental practices in the current Enterprise Agreements.

### **Monitor our programs and implement processes of continuous improvement**

- ABS collects regular statistics on its environmental performance in accordance with all legislative requirements. This enables the ABS to monitor and report on the impact it has on the environment, and ensures the ABS is able to measure its continual improvement against these requirements, as reported and published in *Energy Use in the Australian Government's Operations*.

### **Develop an environmentally responsible culture across all levels of our organisation and consult, educate, train and motivate staff about their environmental responsibilities**

- ABS promotes, celebrates and participates in environmental and energy programs around national and international events, and publishes tips on the intranet on ways to reduce the work and home environmental footprint.

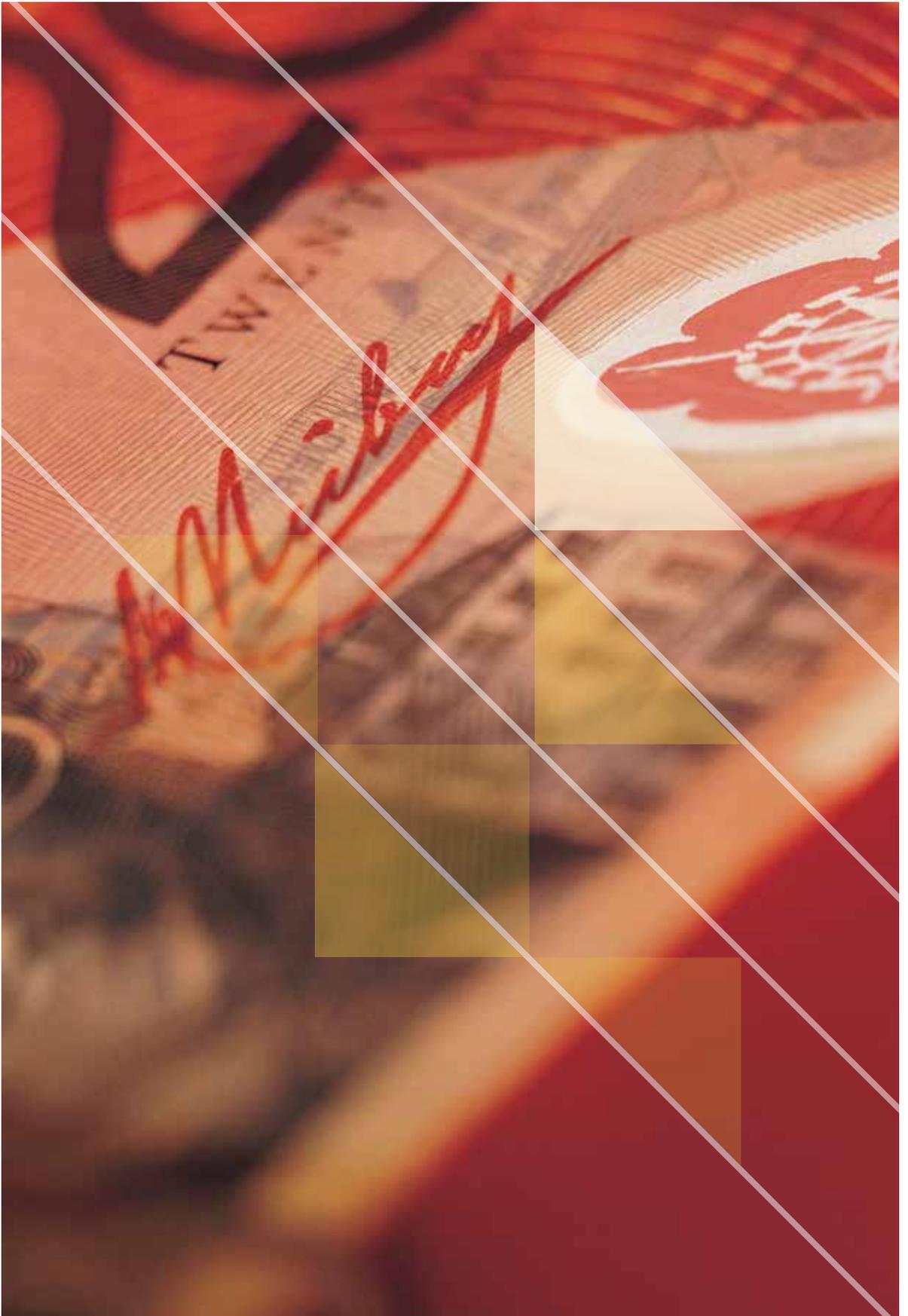
#### **516A (6) (d) What measures are taken by the organisation to minimise the impact of its activities on the environment?**

The ABS's activities have the potential to affect the environment through consumption of energy and water, waste production and waste sent to landfill. A number of ongoing action plans, with relevant targets and objectives have been put in place to reduce the ABS's environmental impact. These aim to:

- reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas pollution
- reduce paper consumption
- reduce carbon emissions in transportation
- decrease water usage
- decrease waste sent to landfill, whilst increasing packaging and waste recycling
- increase the procurement of environmentally friendly products.

#### **516A (6) (e) What are the mechanisms for reviewing and increasing effectiveness of these measures?**

The ABS has implemented an EMS at its largest site, ABS House in Canberra, and continues to monitor the activities of the organisation that have an environmental impact. Objectives and targets are set each year to manage and reduce the environmental impact.



## Section Four Financial Statements





## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

I have audited the accompanying annual financial statements of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2015, which comprise:

- Statement by Accountable Authority and Chief Financial Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement;
- Schedule of Commitments;
- Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income;
- Administered Reconciliation Schedule;
- Administered Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to and forming part of the financial statements comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

#### *Accountable Authority's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

The Australian Statistician of the Australian Bureau of Statistics is responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards and the rules made under that Act. The Australian Statistician is also responsible for such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I 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 entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Accountable Authority of the entity, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601  
19 National Circuit BARTON ACT  
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

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) comply with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 30 June 2015 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Peter Kerr  
Executive Director  
Delegate of the Auditor-General  
Canberra  
14 August 2015

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**STATEMENT BY ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015 comply with subsection 42(2) of the Public Governance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Australian Bureau of Statistics will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Signed.....

David W. Kalisch  
Australian Statistician

14 August 2015

Signed.....

Warren Rushby  
A/Chief Financial Officer

14 August 2015

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2015*

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>			
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee benefits	4A	275,897	274,519
Suppliers	4B	87,369	75,014
Depreciation and amortisation	4C	29,484	34,827
Write-off and impairment of assets	4D	1,017	2,137
Losses from asset sales	4E	-	72
Other expenses		269	98
<b>Total expenses</b>		<u>394,036</u>	<u>386,667</u>
<b>Own-Source Income</b>			
<b>Own-source revenue</b>			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	5A	40,997	42,055
Other revenue		2,066	1,040
<b>Total own-source revenue</b>		<u>43,063</u>	<u>43,095</u>
<b>Gains</b>			
Gains from sale of assets	5B	2	-
Other gains	5C	310	125
<b>Total gains</b>		<u>312</u>	<u>125</u>
<b>Total own-source income</b>		<u>43,375</u>	<u>43,220</u>
<b>Net cost of contribution by services</b>		<u>(350,661)</u>	<u>(343,447)</u>
Revenue from Government	5D	321,461	309,968
<b>Deficit attributable to the Australian Government</b>		<u>(29,200)</u>	<u>(33,479)</u>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
<b>Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services</b>			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus/(deficit)	8B	(171)	488
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<u>(171)</u>	<u>488</u>
<b>Total comprehensive loss attributable to the Australian Government</b>		<u>(29,371)</u>	<u>(32,991)</u>

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
*as at 30 June 2015*

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	7A	2,079	3,705
Trade and other receivables	7B	56,084	63,348
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>58,163</b>	<b>67,053</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Leasehold improvements	8A, 8B	14,154	20,256
Property, plant and equipment	8A, 8B	18,628	15,858
Intangibles	8C, 8D	70,069	70,444
Other non-financial assets	8E	9,874	10,769
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>112,725</b>	<b>117,327</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>170,888</b>	<b>184,380</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Suppliers	9A	18,992	20,065
Unearned revenue	9B	28,929	30,539
Other payables	9C	12,952	16,243
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>60,873</b>	<b>66,847</b>
<b>Lease incentives</b>			
Lease incentives	10A	1,285	2,500
<b>Total lease incentives</b>		<b>1,285</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Provisions</b>			
Employee provisions	11A	83,107	86,629
Other provisions	11B	6,571	6,481
<b>Total provisions</b>		<b>89,678</b>	<b>93,110</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>151,836</b>	<b>162,457</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>19,052</b>	<b>21,923</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed equity		156,377	129,877
Reserves		23,922	24,093
Accumulated deficit		(161,247)	(132,047)
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>19,052</b>	<b>21,923</b>

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Statement of Changes in Equity  
for the period ended 30 June 2015**

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation surplus		Contributed equity/capital		Total equity	
	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>Opening balance</b>								
Balance carried forward from previous period	(132,047)	(98,568)	24,093	23,605	129,877	101,476	21,923	26,513
<b>Adjusted opening balance</b>	<b>(132,047)</b>	<b>(98,568)</b>	<b>24,093</b>	<b>23,605</b>	<b>129,877</b>	<b>101,476</b>	<b>21,923</b>	<b>26,513</b>
<b>Comprehensive income</b>								
Deficit for the period	(29,200)	(33,479)	-	-	-	-	(29,200)	(33,479)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	(171)	488	-	-	(171)	488
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>(29,200)</b>	<b>(33,479)</b>	<b>(171)</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(29,371)</b>	<b>(32,991)</b>
Total comprehensive income attributable to Australian Government	(29,200)	(33,479)	(171)	488	-	-	(29,371)	(32,991)
<b>Transactions with owners</b>								
<b>Contributions by owners</b>								
Equity injection - Appropriations	-	-	-	-	5,191	8,211	5,191	8,211
Departmental capital budget	-	-	-	-	21,309	20,190	21,309	20,190
<b>Total transactions with owners</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,500</b>	<b>28,401</b>	<b>26,500</b>	<b>28,401</b>
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>(161,247)</b>	<b>(132,047)</b>	<b>23,922</b>	<b>24,093</b>	<b>156,377</b>	<b>129,877</b>	<b>19,052</b>	<b>21,923</b>
<b>Closing balance attributable to Australian Government</b>	<b>(161,247)</b>	<b>(132,047)</b>	<b>23,922</b>	<b>24,093</b>	<b>156,377</b>	<b>129,877</b>	<b>19,052</b>	<b>21,923</b>

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Cash Flow Statement**  
*as at 30 June 2015*

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Appropriations		328,008	283,034
Sales of goods and rendering of services		43,545	64,242
Net GST received		7,738	6,107
<b>Total cash received</b>		<u>379,291</u>	<u>353,383</u>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Employees		282,658	268,036
Suppliers		97,390	86,087
<b>Total cash used</b>		<u>380,048</u>	<u>354,123</u>
<b>Net cash from/(used by) operating activities</b>	12	<u>(757)</u>	<u>(740)</u>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		38	49
<b>Total cash received</b>		<u>38</u>	<u>49</u>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Purchase of leasehold improvements		1,019	3,430
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		9,684	4,688
Purchase of intangibles		16,313	18,572
<b>Total cash used</b>		<u>27,016</u>	<u>26,690</u>
<b>Net cash used by investing activities</b>		<u>(26,978)</u>	<u>(26,641)</u>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Contributed equity		26,109	25,269
<b>Total cash received</b>		<u>26,109</u>	<u>25,269</u>
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>		<u>26,109</u>	<u>25,269</u>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>		<u>(1,626)</u>	<u>(2,112)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		3,705	5,817
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	7A	<u>2,079</u>	<u>3,705</u>

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Schedule of Commitments**  
*as at 30 June 2015*

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>BY TYPE</b>		
<b>Commitments receivable</b>		
Net GST recoverable on commitments	(8,544)	(9,936)
<b>Total commitments receivable</b>	<u>(8,544)</u>	<u>(9,936)</u>
<b>Commitments payable</b>		
<b>Capital commitments</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	1,411	1,663
Intangibles	2,939	-
<b>Total capital commitments</b>	<u>4,350</u>	<u>1,663</u>
<b>Other commitments</b>		
Operating leases <sup>1</sup>	76,020	103,785
Other <sup>2</sup>	13,610	3,844
<b>Total other commitments</b>	<u>89,630</u>	<u>107,629</u>
<b>Total commitments payable</b>	<u>93,980</u>	<u>109,292</u>
<b>Net commitments by type</b>	<u>85,436</u>	<u>99,356</u>
<b>BY MATURITY</b>		
<b>Commitments receivable</b>		
<b>Net GST recoverable on commitments</b>		
Within 1 year	(3,293)	(2,936)
Between 1 to 5 years	(3,935)	(5,227)
More than 5 years	(1,316)	(1,773)
<b>Total net GST recoverable on commitments</b>	<u>(8,544)</u>	<u>(9,936)</u>
<b>Total commitments receivable</b>	<u>(8,544)</u>	<u>(9,936)</u>
<b>Commitments payable</b>		
<b>Capital commitments</b>		
Within 1 year	4,350	1,663
<b>Total capital commitments</b>	<u>4,350</u>	<u>1,663</u>
<b>Operating lease commitments</b>		
Within 1 year	27,639	27,878
Between 1 to 5 years	33,905	56,409
More than 5 years	14,476	19,498
<b>Total operating lease commitments</b>	<u>76,020</u>	<u>103,785</u>
<b>Other Commitments</b>		
Within 1 year	11,921	2,758
Between 1 to 5 years	1,689	1,086
<b>Total other commitments</b>	<u>13,610</u>	<u>3,844</u>
<b>Total commitments payable</b>	<u>93,980</u>	<u>109,292</u>
<b>Net commitments by maturity</b>	<u>85,436</u>	<u>99,356</u>

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Schedule of Commitments**  
*as at 30 June 2015*

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Note: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

1. Operating leases included for 2014-15 are 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.	No contingent rentals exist. There are no renewal or purchase options available to the ABS.

2. Other commitments comprise: contract and consultancy services \$4,831,614 (2014: \$496,121), provision of IT services \$2,827,067 (2014:\$1,449,442) and other contracts totalling \$ 5,951,789 (2014: \$1,898,573).

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2015*

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
<b>Non-taxation revenue</b>			
Fines <sup>1</sup>		-	3
Other <sup>2</sup>		-	2
<b>Total non-taxation revenue</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>
<b>Total income</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>
<b>Net contribution by services</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>
<b>Surplus</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>

<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 Income.

<sup>2</sup>Unidentified receipts returned to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Administered Reconciliation Schedule**

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
<b>Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July</b>	-	-
<b>Net contribution by services</b>		
Income	-	5
<b>Transfers to the Australian Government</b>		
Appropriation transfers to OPA		
Transfers to OPA	-	(5)
<b>Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Administered Cash Flow Statement  
for the period ended 30 June 2015**

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Fines		-	3
Other		-	2
<b>Total cash received</b>		-	5
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>		-	5
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Cash to the Official Public Account		-	5
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		-	-

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Table of Contents - Notes

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- Note 1:** Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
- Note 2:** Events After the Reporting Period
- Note 3:** Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements
- Note 4:** Expenses
- Note 5:** Own-Source Income
- Note 6:** Fair Value Measurements
- Note 7:** Financial Assets
- Note 8:** Non-Financial Assets
- Note 9:** Payables
- Note 10:** Lease Incentives
- Note 11:** Provisions
- Note 12:** Cash Flow Reconciliation
- Note 13:** Contingent Assets and Liabilities
- Note 14:** Senior Management Personnel Remuneration
- Note 15:** Financial Instruments
- Note 16:** Financial Assets Reconciliation
- Note 17:** Appropriations
- Note 18:** Reporting of Outcomes
- Note 19:** Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances

## Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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#### Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

##### 1.1 Objective of the Australian Bureau Of Statistics

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is an Australian Government controlled entity. It is a non-corporate Commonwealth 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 the collection, analysis and provision of high quality, objective and relevant statistical information.

The ABS is structured to produce the aforementioned outcome through its economic and environment statistics and population, labour and social statistics.

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 are general purpose Financial Statements and are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Financial Reporting Rules (FRR) , for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2014; 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 and liabilities 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 FRR, assets and liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position 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 executory contracts are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Assets and liabilities that are unrecognised are reported in the schedule of commitments or the schedule of contingencies note.

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 eight leases for office space around Australia. All of the lease agreements include a make good clause.

It is considered that three make good arrangements are 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 11B)

For the remaining five leases, it is considered probable that the make good requirement would not 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 are reviewed annually.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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### 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.

#### Future Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

Other new standards/revised standards/interpretations/amending standards that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to the future reporting period are not expected to have a future financial impact on the ABS.

### 1.5 Revenue

#### Revenue from Government

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 next Census will be conducted in August 2016.

Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts.

#### Other Types of Revenue

Sales of goods and services include 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 ABS.

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 ABS.

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

Other revenue includes all miscellaneous revenue such as officer contributions, Comcover recoveries and recoveries of salary from seconded agencies.

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 non-corporate or corporate Commonwealth entity as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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#### 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 9B).

#### **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.

#### **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 2015. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

An independent actuarial valuation of employee benefit liabilities is conducted every three years. The last review was performed by the Australian Government Actuary in September 2013.

##### Separation and Redundancy

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's administered schedules and notes.

The 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. The 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.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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### 1.10 Provision for Make good

Provision for make good obligations are recognised when: the ABS has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event; it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount has been reliably estimated. The ABS makes an assessment as to whether a make good provision is required at the commencement of each new lease and at reporting date, in accordance with the aforementioned recognition criteria contained within AASB137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. Provisions are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate.

### 1.11 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and 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.

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 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 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 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 asset'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.

### 1.13 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.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

### 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.

### 1.14 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position but are reported in the 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.

### 1.15 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.

### 1.16 Property, Plant and Equipment

#### Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Statement of Financial Position, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000 (\$1,000 for IT hardware 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).

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located. This is particularly relevant to 'make good' provisions in property leases taken up by the entity where there exists an obligation to restore the property to its original condition. These costs are included in the value of the entity's leasehold improvements with a corresponding provision for the 'make good' recognised.

#### Revaluations

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

<i>Asset Class:</i>	<i>Fair Value Measured at:</i>
Leasehold Improvements	Market selling price & depreciated replacement cost
Property, plant and equipment	Market selling price & depreciated replacement cost

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment is carried at fair value. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets do not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment 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 are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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 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), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable assets are based on the following useful lives:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
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 2015. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment is 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.

## 1.17 Intangibles

### Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of intangible assets are recognised initially at cost in the Statement of Financial Position, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000 for purchased software, and \$100,000 for Internally Generated Software assets (IGSW), 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).

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.

Intangible assets are amortised on a straight-line basis over their anticipated useful life.

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2015.

### Internally Generated Software

In its role as Australia's national statistical agency, the ABS builds and maintains a significant set of 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 8C). 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 effort recording data for programmers are in line with the requirements of the FRRs.

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 2015. Impairment on intangibles is recognised in Note 4D.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

### 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:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Computer software (proprietary)	Lease term	Lease term
Computer software (internally generated)	5-16 years*	5-16 years*

\*The above table outlines the range of life in years for computer software, however, the average life is currently 9 years (2014: 8 years).

The aggregate amount of amortisation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 4C.

### **1.18 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 intangibles, and property, plant and equipment balances respectively.

Software assets are not amortised 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 amortisation commences from that date.

### **1.19 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.

### **1.20 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 lease payments and subscriptions.

#### Accrued Revenue

The ABS accrues revenue at the time when goods are provided and/or the services are performed.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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### 1.21 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.

### 1.22 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 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 2015, including potential risks relating to long service leave, goods and services tax and payments under determinations of the Remuneration Tribunal, and assessed that the overall risk of a breach was considered low. During 2014-15 there were 20 LSL overpayment breaches of Section 83, totalling \$46,762, all the funds are either recovered or being recovered. During the 2013-14 financial year, there were no breaches of Section 83, and the risk assessment was low.

Breaches of Section 83 will continue to be assessed as part of the Compliance Report process each financial year.

### 1.23 Decision on Commonwealth Expenditure

The Australian Government continues to have regard to developments in case law, including the High Court's most recent decision on Commonwealth expenditure in *Williams v Commonwealth* [2014] HCA 23, as they contribute to the larger body of law relevant to the development of Commonwealth programs. In accordance with its general practice, the Government will continue to monitor and assess risk and decide on any appropriate actions to respond to risks of expenditure not being consistent with constitutional or other legal requirements.

### 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 2014-15, nor were there any in 2013-14.

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. 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.

### 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 2015.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

**Note 3: Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements**

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
<b>Surplus attributable to ABS</b>	<b>284</b>	1348
Changes in asset revaluation reserve	<u>(171)</u>	<u>488</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) less depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriations<sup>1</sup></b>	<b><u>113</u></b>	<b><u>1,836</u></b>
Plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriation	<u>(29,484)</u>	<u>(34,827)</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>	<b><u>(29,371)</u></b>	<b><u>(32,991)</u></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 appropriated in the period when cash payment for capital expenditure is required.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

**Note 4: Expenses**

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 4A: Employee Benefits</b>		
Wages and salaries	219,353	223,937
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	16,811	16,120
Defined benefit plans	24,196	21,798
Leave and other entitlements	2,704	4,157
Interviewer wages	14,697	13,168
Interviewer superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	1,533	1,348
Defined benefit plans	856	721
Census field staff wages	4,517	301
Census field staff superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	341	5
Separation and redundancies	1,877	8,179
Other employee expenses	591	700
	<u>287,476</u>	<u>290,434</u>
Less amounts capitalised for IGSW	<u>(11,579)</u>	<u>(15,915)</u>
<b>Total employee benefits</b>	<u>275,897</u>	<u>274,519</u>

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 4B: Suppliers</b>		
<b>Goods and services supplied or rendered</b>		
Consultants	1,161	780
Contractors	5,976	3,543
IT services and communications	12,795	11,067
Printing and subscriptions	2,973	1,699
Building expenses (excluding lease payments)	8,129	7,293
PSO interviewer	4,929	4,254
Recruitment and employment related	2,555	2,856
Stationery and postage	2,186	1,509
Travel and training	11,747	9,407
Advertising and market research	683	301
Other	2,055	2,074
<b>Total goods and services supplied or rendered</b>	<b>55,189</b>	<b>44,783</b>
<b>Goods supplied in connection with</b>		
Related parties	254	409
External parties	14,534	12,067
<b>Total goods supplied</b>	<b>14,788</b>	<b>12,476</b>
<b>Services rendered in connection with</b>		
Related parties	3,099	3,973
External parties	37,302	28,334
<b>Total services rendered</b>	<b>40,401</b>	<b>32,307</b>
<b>Total goods and services supplied or rendered</b>	<b>55,189</b>	<b>44,783</b>
<b>Other suppliers</b>		
<b>Operating lease rentals in connection with</b>		
External parties		
Minimum lease payments	25,401	24,606
Workers compensation expenses	6,779	5,625
<b>Total other suppliers</b>	<b>32,180</b>	<b>30,231</b>
<b>Total suppliers</b>	<b>87,369</b>	<b>75,014</b>
<b>Note 4C: Depreciation and Amortisation</b>		
<b>Depreciation</b>		
Property, plant and equipment and leasehold improvement	13,803	14,002
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>13,803</b>	<b>14,002</b>
<b>Amortisation</b>		
Intangibles	15,681	20,825
<b>Total amortisation</b>	<b>15,681</b>	<b>20,825</b>
<b>Total depreciation and amortisation</b>	<b>29,484</b>	<b>34,827</b>

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
<b><u>Note 4D: Write-off and Impairment of Assets</u></b>		
Impairment on financial instruments	(30)	56
Impairment on intangible assets	-	230
Asset write-offs	<u>1,047</u>	<u>1,851</u>
<b>Total write-off and impairment of assets</b>	<b><u>1,017</u></b>	<b><u>2,137</u></b>
<b><u>Note 4E: Losses from Asset Sales</u></b>		
Property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	-	(49)
Carrying value of assets sold	-	94
Selling expense	<u>-</u>	<u>27</u>
<b>Total losses from asset sales</b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>72</u></b>

## Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

#### Note 5: Own-Source Income

	2015	2014
<b>Own-Source Revenue</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>

#### Note 5A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services

##### Sale of goods in connection with

Related parties	476	759
External parties	91	159
<b>Total sale of goods</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>918</b>

##### Rendering of services in connection with

Related parties	33,987	34,001
External parties	6,443	7,136
<b>Total rendering of services</b>	<b>40,430</b>	<b>41,137</b>
<b>Total sale of goods and rendering of services</b>	<b>40,997</b>	<b>42,055</b>

#### Note 5B: Gains from Sale of Assets

Property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	38	-
Carrying value of assets sold	(21)	-
Selling expense	(15)	-
<b>Total gains from sale of assets</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>

#### Note 5C: Other Gains

Resources received free of charge		
Remuneration of auditors	125	125
Services received from related entities	185	-
<b>Total other gains</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>125</b>

#### Note 5D: Revenue from Government

Appropriations		
Departmental appropriations	321,461	309,968
<b>Total revenue from Government</b>	<b>321,461</b>	<b>309,968</b>

**Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

**Note 6: Fair Value Measurements**

**Note 6A: Fair Value Measurements, Valuation Techniques and Inputs Used**

		Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period using		
		2015	2014	Category (Level 1, 2 or 3)
		\$'000	\$'000	
<b>Non-financial assets:</b>				
Leasehold improvements	13,634	16,654		Level 3
Leasehold improvements	-	193		Level 2
Property, plant & equipment	13,105	10,356		Level 2
Property, plant & equipment	5,523	5,502		Level 3
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>	<b>32,262</b>	<b>32,705</b>		
<b>Total fair value measurements</b>	<b>32,262</b>	<b>32,705</b>		

The ABS did not measure any non-financial assets at fair value on a non-recurring basis as at 30 June 2015 (2014: None).

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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### Fair value Measurements - Highest and Best Use

ABS's assets are held for operational purposes and not held for the purposes of deriving a profit. The current use of all NFAs is considered their highest and best use.

### Recurring and non-recurring Level 3 fair value measurements - valuation processes

ABS tests the procedures of the valuation model as an internal asset materiality review at least once every 12 months (with a formal revaluation undertaken once every three years). If a particular asset class experiences significant and volatile changes in fair value (i.e. where indicators suggest that the value of the class has changed materially since the previous reporting period), that class is subject to specific valuation in the reporting period, where practicable, regardless of the timing of the last specific valuation. The entity engaged Australian Valuation Solutions (AVS) to undertake a full revaluation and confirm that the models developed comply with AASB 13.

The weighted average is determined by assessing the fair value measurement as a proportion of the total fair value for the class against the total useful life of each asset.

Significant Level 3 inputs utilised by the entity are derived and evaluated as follows:

#### Property, Plant & Equipment - Adjusted Market Transactions

The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement of PPE assets relates to the market demand and valuers judgement to determine the fair value measurement of these assets. A significant increase (decrease) in this input would result in a significantly higher (lower) fair value measurement.

#### Leasehold Improvements, Property, Plant and Equipment - Consumed economic benefit / Obsolescence of asset

Assets that do not transact with enough frequency or transparency to develop objective opinions of value from observable market evidence have been measured utilising the cost (Depreciated Replacement Cost or DRC) approach. Under the DRC approach the estimated cost to replace the asset is calculated and then adjusted to take into account its consumed economic benefit / asset obsolescence (accumulated depreciation). Consumed economic benefit / asset obsolescence has been determined based on professional judgement regarding physical, economic and external obsolescence factors relevant to the asset under consideration.

### Note 6B: Level 1 and Level 2 Transfers for Recurring Fair Value Measurements

There were no transfers between Levels 1 or 2 during the period.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

**Note 6C: Reconciliation for Recurring Level 3 Fair Value Measurements**

**Recurring Level 3 fair value measurements - reconciliation for assets**

	Non-financial assets					
	Property, Plant and Equipment		Leasehold Improvements		Total	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
<b>As at 1 July</b>	5,502	4,286	16,654	18,361	22,156	22,647
Total losses in accumulated depreciation <sup>1</sup>	(2,774)	(2,080)	(6,132)	(1,728)	(8,906)	(3,808)
Purchases	1,617	2,498	3,118	21	4,735	2,519
Revaluations	(1)	798	(108)	-	(109)	798
Sales	(4)	-	(15)	-	(19)	-
Issues	-	-	-	-	-	-
Settlements	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers into Level 3	1,183	-	117	-	1,300	-
Transfers out of Level 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total as at 30 June</b>	<b>5,523</b>	<b>5,502</b>	<b>13,634</b>	<b>16,654</b>	<b>19,157</b>	<b>22,156</b>

Changes in unrealised gains/(losses) recognised in net cost of services for assets held at the end of the reporting period

1. These gains/(losses) are presented in the Statement of Comprehensive Income

## Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

#### Note 7: Financial Assets

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 7A: Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash on hand or on deposit	2,079	3,705
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2,079</b>	<b>3,705</b>
<b>Note 7B: Trade and Other Receivables</b>		
<b>Goods and services receivables in connection with</b>		
Related parties	524	1,158
External parties	436	1,801
<b>Total receivables for goods and services</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>2,959</b>
<b>Appropriations receivables</b>		
Existing programs	53,667	59,823
<b>Total appropriations receivables</b>	<b>53,667</b>	<b>59,823</b>
<b>Other receivables</b>		
Statutory receivables	1,439	584
Sundry receivables	18	30
<b>Total other receivables</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>614</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</b>	<b>56,084</b>	<b>63,396</b>
<b>Less impairment allowance:</b>		
Goods and services	-	(48)
<b>Total impairment allowance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(48)</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>	<b>56,084</b>	<b>63,348</b>
<b>Trade and other receivables (net) expected to be recovered</b>		
No more than 12 months	56,084	63,348
<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>	<b>56,084</b>	<b>63,348</b>
<b>Trade and other receivables (gross) aged as follows</b>		
Not overdue	55,894	63,015
Overdue by		
0 to 30 days	168	217
31 to 60 days	20	21
61 to 90 days	1	22
More than 90 days	1	121
<b>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</b>	<b>56,084</b>	<b>63,396</b>
<b>Impairment allowance aged as follows</b>		
Overdue by		
More than 90 days	-	(48)
<b>Total impairment allowance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(48)</b>

Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2014: 30 days).

The ABS has no provision for doubtful debts and all receivables are expected to be recovered.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

**Note 8: Non-Financial Assets**

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
<b>Note 8A: Leasehold Improvements and Property Plant and Equipment</b>		
<b>Leasehold improvements</b>		
Fair value	19,955	32,065
Accumulated depreciation	(6,321)	(15,218)
Work in progress	520	3,409
<b>Total leasehold improvements</b>	<b>14,154</b>	<b>20,256</b>
<b>Property, plant and equipment</b>		
Fair value	29,314	23,125
Accumulated depreciation	(10,686)	(7,267)
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>18,628</b>	<b>15,858</b>
<b>Total leasehold improvements and property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>32,782</b>	<b>36,114</b>

No indicators of impairment were found for property, plant and equipment.

Revaluations of non-financial assets

Australian Valuation Solutions Pty Ltd reviewed the fair value of property plant and equipment as at 30 June 2015. A revaluation decrement of \$171,000 (2014 Increment of \$487,082) was debited to the asset revaluation reserves and included in the equity section of the statement of financial position for property plant and equipment in 2014-15. Australian Valuation Solutions Pty Ltd has subsequently issued a certificate of fair value for this asset class as at 30 June 2015.

The figures in this note include work in progress and therefore the total amount differs to Note 6A.

No leasehold improvements and property, plant and equipment are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

**Note 8B: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Leasehold Improvements and Property, Plant and Equipment 2015**

**Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of leasehold improvements and property, plant and equipment for 2015**

	Leasehold improvements \$'000	Property, plant and equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2014</b>			
Gross book value	35,474	23,125	58,599
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(15,218)	(7,267)	(22,485)
<b>Total as at 1 July 2014</b>	<b>20,256</b>	<b>15,858</b>	<b>36,114</b>
<b>Additions</b>			
Purchased	1,019	9,684	10,703
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	(108)	(63)	(171)
Reclassifications	(790)	790	-
Depreciation	(6,206)	(7,597)	(13,803)
Disposals			
Other disposals	-	(21)	(21)
Write-offs	(17)	(23)	(40)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2015</b>	<b>14,154</b>	<b>18,628</b>	<b>32,782</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2015 represented by:</b>			
Gross book value	20,475	29,314	49,789
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(6,321)	(10,686)	(17,007)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2015</b>	<b>14,154</b>	<b>18,628</b>	<b>32,782</b>

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

### Note 8B: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Leasehold Improvements and Property, Plant and Equipment 2014

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of leasehold improvements and property, plant and equipment for 2014

	Leasehold improvements \$'000	Property, plant & equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2013</b>			
Gross book value	32,049	36,155	68,204
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(8,785)	(17,806)	(26,591)
<b>Total as at 1 July 2013</b>	<b>23,264</b>	<b>18,349</b>	<b>41,613</b>
<b>Additions</b>			
Purchased	3,430	4,688	8,118
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	488	488
Reclassification	-	22	22
Depreciation	(6,435)	(7,567)	(14,002)
Disposals	-	(94)	(94)
Other disposals	-	-	-
Write-offs	(3)	(28)	(31)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2014</b>	<b>20,256</b>	<b>15,858</b>	<b>36,114</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2014 represented by:</b>			
Gross book value	35,474	23,125	58,599
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(15,218)	(7,267)	(22,485)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2014</b>	<b>20,256</b>	<b>15,858</b>	<b>36,114</b>

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<b><u>Note 8C: Intangibles</u></b>		
<b>Computer software</b>		
Internally developed – in progress	3,720	5,354
Internally developed – in use	173,831	163,587
Purchased	36,793	32,553
Accumulated amortisation	(142,962)	(129,737)
Accumulated impairment losses	(1,313)	(1,313)
<b>Total computer software</b>	<b>70,069</b>	<b>70,444</b>
<b>Total intangibles</b>	<b>70,069</b>	<b>70,444</b>

No intangibles are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

**Note 8D: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles 2015**

**Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of intangibles for 2015**

	Computer software internally developed \$'000	Computer software purchased \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2014</b>			
Gross book value	168,941	32,553	201,494
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(110,116)	(20,934)	(131,050)
<b>Net book value 1 July 2014</b>	<b>58,825</b>	<b>11,619</b>	<b>70,444</b>
<b>Additions</b>			
Purchased	-	4,733	4,733
Internally developed	11,580	-	11,580
Amortisation	(11,551)	(4,130)	(15,681)
Disposals			
Write-offs	(1,007)	-	(1,007)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2015</b>	<b>57,847</b>	<b>12,222</b>	<b>70,069</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2015 represented by</b>			
Gross book value	177,551	36,793	214,344
Accumulated amortisation	(118,391)	(24,571)	(142,962)
Accumulated impairment	(1,313)	-	(1,313)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2015</b>	<b>57,847</b>	<b>12,222</b>	<b>70,069</b>

**Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

**Note 8D: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles 2014**

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of intangibles for 2014

	Computer software internally developed \$'000	Computer software purchased \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2013			
Gross book value	170,452	30,905	201,357
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(110,155)	(16,433)	(126,588)
Net book value 1 July 2014	60,297	14,472	74,769
Additions			
Purchased	-	2,657	2,657
Internally developed	15,915	-	15,915
Reclassifications	-	(22)	(22)
Amortisation	(15,391)	(5,434)	(20,825)
Disposals			
Write-offs	(1,996)	(54)	(2,050)
Net book value 30 June 2014	58,825	11,619	70,444
Net book value as of 30 June 2014 represented by			
Gross book value	168,941	32,553	201,494
Accumulated amortisation	(108,803)	(20,934)	(129,737)
Accumulated impairment	(1,313)	-	(1,313)
Net book value 30 June 2014	58,825	11,619	70,444

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>Note 8E: Other Non-Financial Assets</b>		
Accrued revenue	1,270	510
Prepayments	<u>8,604</u>	<u>10,259</u>
<b>Total other non-financial assets</b>	<b><u>9,874</u></b>	<b><u>10,769</u></b>
<b>Other non-financial assets expected to be recovered</b>		
No more than 12 months	8,967	8,987
More than 12 months	<u>907</u>	<u>1,782</u>
<b>Total other non-financial assets</b>	<b><u>9,874</u></b>	<b><u>10,769</u></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

#### Note 9: Payables

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 9A: Suppliers</b>		
Trade creditors and accruals	11,375	10,886
Operating lease rentals	7,578	9,125
Sundry creditors	39	54
<b>Total suppliers payables</b>	<b>18,992</b>	<b>20,065</b>
<b>Suppliers expected to be settled</b>		
No more than 12 months	14,458	13,734
More than 12 months	4,534	6,331
<b>Total suppliers</b>	<b>18,992</b>	<b>20,065</b>
<b>Suppliers in connection with</b>		
Related parties	154	27
External parties	18,838	20,038
<b>Total suppliers</b>	<b>18,992</b>	<b>20,065</b>

Settlement was usually made within 30 days.

#### Note 9B: Unearned Revenue

Unearned revenue	28,929	30,539
<b>Total unearned revenue</b>	<b>28,929</b>	<b>30,539</b>
<b>Unearned revenue expected to be settled</b>		
No more than 12 months	14,225	22,637
More than 12 months	14,704	7,902
<b>Total unearned revenue</b>	<b>28,929</b>	<b>30,539</b>

#### Note 9C: Other Payables

Salaries and wages	10,400	8,431
Superannuation	1,686	1,281
Separations and redundancies	866	6,531
<b>Total other payables</b>	<b>12,952</b>	<b>16,243</b>
<b>Other payables expected to be settled</b>		
No more than 12 months	12,952	16,243
More than 12 months	-	-
<b>Total other payables</b>	<b>12,952</b>	<b>16,243</b>

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

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**Note 10: Lease Incentives**

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 10A: Lease Incentives</b>		
Lease incentives	<u>1,285</u>	<u>2,500</u>
<b>Total lease incentives</b>	<b><u>1,285</u></b>	<b><u>2,500</u></b>
<b>Lease incentives expected to be settled</b>		
Within 1 year	941	1,215
Between 1 to 5 years	<u>344</u>	<u>1,285</u>
<b>Total lease incentives</b>	<b><u>1,285</u></b>	<b><u>2,500</u></b>

## Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

#### Note 11: Provisions

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 11A: Employee Provisions</b>		
Leave	83,107	86,629
<b>Total employee provisions</b>	<b>83,107</b>	<b>86,629</b>
<b>Employee provisions expected to be settled</b>		
No more than 12 months	22,572	23,544
More than 12 months	60,535	63,085
<b>Total employee provisions</b>	<b>83,107</b>	<b>86,629</b>
<b>Note 11B: Other Provisions</b>		
Make good provision	6,571	6,481
<b>Total other provisions</b>	<b>6,571</b>	<b>6,481</b>
<b>Other provisions expected to be settled in:</b>		
No more than 12 months	703	124
More than 12 months	5,868	6,357
<b>Total other provisions</b>	<b>6,571</b>	<b>6,481</b>

	Make good provision	Total
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2014</b>	<b>6,481</b>	<b>6,481</b>
Additional provisions made	234	234
Amounts used	(144)	(144)
Amounts reversed	-	-
Unwinding of discount or change in discount rate	-	-
<b>Total as at 30 June 2015</b>	<b>6,571</b>	<b>6,571</b>

The ABS currently has three (2014: four) agreements for the leasing of premises which have provisions requiring the ABS to restore the premises to their original condition at the conclusion of the lease. The ABS has made a provision to reflect the present value of this obligation.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

**Note 12: Cash Flow Reconciliation**

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
<b>Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per statement of financial position to cash flow statement</b>		
<b>Cash and cash equivalents as per</b>		
Cash flow statement	2,079	3,705
Statement of financial position	<u>2,079</u>	<u>3,705</u>
<b>Discrepancy</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from/(used by) operating activities:</b>		
Net contribution by services	(350,661)	(343,447)
Revenue from Government	<b>321,461</b>	309,968
<b>Adjustments for non-cash items</b>		
Loss on disposal of assets	(17)	45
Depreciation/amortisation	<b>29,484</b>	34,827
Net write-off of non-financial assets	<b>1,047</b>	2,081
<b>Movements in assets and liabilities</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
(Increase)/Decrease in net receivables	<b>7,655</b>	(25,565)
(Increase)/Decrease in other non-financial assets	<b>895</b>	(1,561)
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Decrease in lease incentives	(1,215)	(1,216)
Decrease in employee provisions	(3,522)	(481)
Increase in other provisions	<b>90</b>	68
Increase/(Decrease) in unearned revenue	(1,610)	17,242
Increase/(Decrease) in suppliers payable	(1,073)	475
Increase/(Decrease) in other payables	<u>(3,291)</u>	<u>6,824</u>
<b>Net cash used by operating activities</b>	<u>(757)</u>	<u>(740)</u>

## Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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#### **Note 13: Contingent Assets and Liabilities**

ABS has no contingent assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2015 (2014: Nil).

#### **Quantifiable Contingencies**

There are no contingent assets reported (2014: Nil)

There are no contingent liabilities reported (2014: Nil).

#### **Unquantifiable Contingencies**

As at 30 June 2015, ABS had no unquantifiable contingencies.

#### **Significant Remote Contingencies**

ABS had no significant remote contingencies.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

**Note 14: Senior Management Personnel Remuneration**

**Note 14A: Senior Management Personnel Remuneration**

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>Short-term employee benefits</b>		
Salary	7,222,230	8,919,265
Performance bonuses	1,958	3,740
Other <sup>1</sup>	<u>1,070,051</u>	<u>1,147,864</u>
<b>Total short-term employee benefits</b>	<u>8,294,239</u>	<u>10,070,869</u>
<b>Post-employment benefits</b>		
Superannuation	<u>1,804,559</u>	<u>1,496,948</u>
<b>Total post-employment benefits</b>	<u>1,804,559</u>	<u>1,496,948</u>
<b>Other long-term employee benefits</b>		
Long-service leave	275,792	280,214
Annual leave accrued	<u>178,014</u>	<u>201,414</u>
<b>Total other long-term benefits</b>	<u>453,806</u>	<u>481,628</u>
<b>Termination benefits</b>	529,115	-
<b>Total senior executive remuneration expenses</b>	<u>11,081,719</u>	<u>12,049,445</u>

1. "Other" comprises motor vehicle allowances and other allowances.

The total number of senior management personnel that are included in the above table are 46 (2014: 49).

## Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

#### Note 15: Financial Instruments

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 15A: Categories of Financial Instruments</b>		
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
<b>Loans and receivables</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,079	3,705
Trade and other receivables*	978	2,941
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>3,057</b>	<b>6,646</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
<b>Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost</b>		
Trade and accruals creditors	11,375	10,886
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>11,375</b>	<b>10,886</b>
<b>Note 15B: Net Losses on Financial Assets</b>		
<b>Loans and receivables</b>		
Bad debts written off	(30)	56
<b>Net losses on financial assets</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Note 15C: Fair Value of Financial Instruments</b>		

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 15 Financial Instruments, "Trade and other receivables" excludes both appropriation and GST receivables.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

### **Note 15D: Credit Risk**

The ABS is a 100 percent 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 (2015: \$978,000 and 2014: \$2,941,000).

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.

#### **Credit quality of financial instruments not past due or individually determined as impaired**

	<b>Not past due nor impaired 2015 \$'000</b>	Not past due nor impaired 2014 \$'000	<b>Past due or impaired 2015 \$'000</b>	Past due or impaired 2014 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	2,079	3,705	-	-
Trade and other receivables	788	2,608	190	333
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,867</b>	<b>6,313</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>333</b>

#### **Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2015**

	<b>0 to 30 days \$'000</b>	<b>31 to 60 days \$'000</b>	<b>61 to 90 days \$'000</b>	<b>90+ days \$'000</b>	<b>Total \$'000</b>
Trade and other receivables	168	20	1	1	190
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>190</b>

#### **Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2014**

	<b>0 to 30 days \$'000</b>	<b>31 to 60 days \$'000</b>	<b>61 to 90 days \$'000</b>	<b>90+ days \$'000</b>	<b>Total \$'000</b>
Trade and other receivables	217	21	22	73	333
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>333</b>

### **Note 15E: 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.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

The ABS has no derivative financial liabilities in both current and prior year.

### **Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities in 2015**

	On demand \$'000	Within 1 year \$'000	1 to 2 years \$'000	2 to 5 years \$'000	> 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade and sundry creditors	-	11,375	-	-	-	11,375
<b>Total</b>	-	11,375	-	-	-	11,375

### **Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities in 2014**

	On demand \$'000	Within 1 year \$'000	1 to 2 years \$'000	2 to 5 years \$'000	> 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade and sundry creditors	-	10,886	-	-	-	10,886
<b>Total</b>	-	10,886	-	-	-	10,886

### **Note 15F: 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 16: Financial Assets Reconciliation**

		2015	2014
		\$'000	\$'000
	Notes		
<b>Total financial assets as per statement of financial position</b>		<b>58,163</b>	67,053
<b>Less: non-financial instrument components</b>			
Appropriation receivable	7B	53,667	59,823
Statutory receivables (GST)	7B	1,439	584
<b>Total non-financial instrument components</b>		<b>55,106</b>	60,407
<b>Total financial assets as per financial instruments note</b>	15A	<b>3,057</b>	6,646

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

### Note 17: Appropriations

#### Note 17A: Annual Appropriations (Recoverable GST exclusive)

	Appropriation Act		PGPA Act				Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2015 (current years) \$'000	Variance \$'000
	Annual Appropriation \$'000	Appropriations reduced <sup>1</sup> \$'000	Section 27 <sup>2</sup> \$'000	Section 74 \$'000	Section 75 \$'000	Section 76 \$'000			
<b>Departmental</b>									
Ordinary annual services	342,820	(50)	1,995	40,724	-	385,489	393,135	(7,646)	
Other services	5,328	(137)	-	-	-	5,191	5,328	(137)	
Equity		(187)	1,995	40,724	-	390,680	398,463	(7,783)	
<b>Total departmental</b>	<b>348,148</b>	<b>(187)</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>40,724</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>390,680</b>	<b>398,463</b>	<b>(7,783)</b>	

#### Notes:

1. A appropriation reduced under Appropriation Acts (No.1, 3 & 5) 2014-15; sections 10, 11, 12 and under Appropriation Acts (No.2, 4 & 6) 2014-15; sections 12, 13 and 14. Departmental appropriations \$137,000 lapsed due to Annual appropriations for 2011-12 or earlier periods were extinguished under the Statute Stocktake (Appropriations) Act 2013 and the Omnibus Repeal Day (Autumn 2014) Act 2014.
2. Section 27 represents reimbursements to the ABS for payments made from appropriation. Section 74 represents retained receipts for good and services provided to external and related entities as per Note 1.5.
3. The variance between the total Departmental appropriation and the appropriation applied is due to prior year undrawn appropriation being used. The undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2015 is detailed in Table C.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	Appropriation Act		FMA Act				Appropriation applied in 2014 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance <sup>3</sup> \$'000
	Annual Appropriation \$'000	Appropriations reduced <sup>1</sup> \$'000	Section 30 <sup>2</sup> \$'000	Section 31 \$'000	Section 32 \$'000	Total appropriation \$'000		
Departmental								
Ordinary annual services	330,158	-	1,735	60,697	-	392,590	364,398	28,192
Other services								
Equity	8,211	-	-	-	-	8,211	8,449	(238)
Total departmental	338,369	-	1,735	60,697	-	400,801	372,847	27,954

### Notes:

1. Appropriation reduced under Appropriation Acts (No.1, 3 & 5) 2013-14; sections 10, 11, 12 and under Appropriation Acts (No.2, 4 & 6) 2013-14; 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 2013-14.
2. Section 30 represents reimbursements to the ABS for payments made from appropriation. Section 31 represents retained receipts for good and services provided to external and related entities as per note 1.5.
3. The variance between the total Departmental appropriation and the appropriation applied is due to prior year undrawn appropriation being used. The undrawn appropriation at 30 June 2014 is detailed in Table C.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

### Note 17B: Departmental Capital Budgets ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

	2015 Capital Budget Appropriations		Capital Budget Appropriations applied in 2015 (current and prior years)					
	Appropriation Act		PGPA Act		Payments for non-financial assets <sup>3</sup> \$'000	Payments for other purposes \$'000	Total payments \$'000	
	Annual Capital Budget \$'000	Appropriations reduced <sup>2</sup> \$'000	Section 75 \$'000	Appropriations \$'000				
Departmental Ordinary annual services - Departmental Capital Budget <sup>1</sup>	21,309	-	-	21,309	17,873	-	17,873	3,436

#### 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 Note 17A: Annual appropriations.
2. Appropriations reduced under Appropriation Acts (No. 1, 3, 5) 2014-15: 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.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2014 Capital Budget Appropriations		Capital Budget Appropriations applied in 2014 (current and prior years)	
	Appropriation Act	FMA Act	Total Capital Budget Appropriations	Payments for non-financial assets <sup>3</sup>
Annual Capital Budget \$'000	Appropriations reduced <sup>2</sup> \$'000	Section 32 \$'000	Appropriations \$'000	Payments for other purposes \$'000
				Total payments \$'000
Departmental				Variance \$'000
Ordinary annual services - Departmental				
Capital Budget <sup>1</sup>	20,190	-	20,190	17,145
				-
				17,145
				3,045

### 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 Note 17A: Annual appropriations.
2. Appropriations reduced under Appropriation Acts (No.1, 3, 5) 2013-14: 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.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

#### Note 17C: Unspent Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Departmental</b>		
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 2014-15	<b>50,496</b>	-
Departmental Appropriation Act 5 2014-15	<b>1,726</b>	-
Departmental Act 2 - Non Operating - Equity Injection 2013-14	<b>87</b>	87
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 2013-14	-	60,259
Departmental Act 2 - Non Operating - Equity Injection 2011-12	-	137
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 - Capital Budget (DCB) - Non Operating 2013-14	-	3,045
Departmental Appropriation Act 1 - Capital Budget (DCB) - Non Operating 2014-15	<b>3,436</b>	-
<b>Total departmental</b>	<b>55,745</b>	63,528

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

**Note 18: Reporting of Outcomes**

**Note 18A: Net Cost of Outcome Delivery**

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Departmental</b>				
Expenses	(394,036)	(386,667)	(394,036)	(386,667)
Own-source income	43,375	43,220	43,375	43,220
<b>Administered</b>				
Expenses	-	-	-	-
Income	-	5	-	5
<b>Net cost of outcome delivery</b>	<b>(350,661)</b>	<b>(343,442)</b>	<b>(350,661)</b>	<b>(343,442)</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

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#### Note 19: Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances

The following tables provide a comparison of the original budget as presented in the 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) to the 2014-15 final outcome as presented in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards for the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The Budget is not audited.

The following tables provide a comparison between the 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) budget and the final financial outcome in the 2014-15 financial statements. The Budget is not audited and does not reflect additional budget estimates provided in the 2014-15 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) or the revised budget provided as part of the 2015-16 PBS. However, major changes in budget have been explained as part of the variance analysis where relevant. The actuals are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

As a guide, variances are considered to be 'major' based on the following criteria:

- the variance between budget and actual is greater than 10%; and
- the variance between budget and actual is greater than 2% of the relevant category (Income, Expenses and Equity totals); or
- an item below this threshold but is considered important for the reader's understanding or is relevant to an assessment of the discharge of accountability and to an analysis of performance of an entity.

An explanation for a major variance may not be provided where the item is considered small in the overall context of the financial statements.

Where a budget has not been provided for in the PBS, for example non-cash items such as asset revaluations, asset write-offs and sale of asset adjustments unless the variance is considered to be 'major' no explanation has been provided.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

**Note 19A: Departmental Budgetary Reports**

**Statement of Comprehensive Income for Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2015*

	Actual	Budget estimate	
		Original <sup>1</sup>	Variance <sup>2</sup>
	2015	2015	2015
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>			
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee benefits	275,897	272 715	3,182
Suppliers	87,369	76 427	10,942
Depreciation and amortisation	29,484	32 709	(3,225)
Write-off and impairment of assets	1,017	-	1,017
Losses from asset sales	-	-	-
Other expenses	269	500	(231)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>394,036</b>	<b>382,351</b>	<b>11,685</b>
<b>Own-Source Income</b>			
<b>Own-source revenue</b>			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	40,997	30 000	10,997
Other revenue	2,066	100	1,966
<b>Total own-source revenue</b>	<b>43,063</b>	<b>30,100</b>	<b>12,963</b>
<b>Gains</b>			
Gains from sale of assets	2	-	2
Other gains	310	120	190
<b>Total gains</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>Total own-source income</b>	<b>43,375</b>	<b>30,220</b>	<b>13,155</b>
			-
<b>Net cost of contribution by services</b>	<b>(350,661)</b>	<b>(352,131)</b>	<b>1,470</b>
			-
Revenue from Government	321,461	319 785	1,676
<b>Deficit attributable to the Australian Government</b>	<b>(29,200)</b>	<b>(32,346)</b>	<b>3,146</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
<b>Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services</b>			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	(171)	-	(171)
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>	<b>(171)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(171)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive loss attributable to the Australian Government</b>	<b>(29,371)</b>	<b>(32,346)</b>	<b>2,975</b>

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics' original budgeted financial statement that was first presented to Parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS)).

2. Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanations of major variances are provided at Note 19B.

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

### Statement of Financial Position for Australian Bureau of Statistics

as at 30 June 2015

	Actual	Budget estimate	
		Original <sup>1</sup>	Variance <sup>2</sup>
	2015	2015	2015
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2,079	5,495	(3,416)
Trade and other receivables	56,084	37,112	18,972
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>58,163</b>	<b>42,607</b>	<b>15,556</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Leasehold improvements	14,154	18,607	(4,453)
Property, plant and equipment	18,628	24,514	(5,886)
Intangibles	70,069	64,161	5,908
Other non-financial assets	9,874	8,074	1,800
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>	<b>112,725</b>	<b>115,356</b>	<b>(2,631)</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>170,888</b>	<b>157,963</b>	<b>12,925</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Suppliers	18,992	17,345	1,647
Unearned revenue	28,929	13,297	15,632
Other payables	12,952	8,857	4,095
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>60,873</b>	<b>39,499</b>	<b>21,374</b>
<b>Lease incentives</b>			
Lease incentives	1,285	3,716	(2,431)
<b>Total lease incentives</b>	<b>1,285</b>	<b>3,716</b>	<b>(2,431)</b>
<b>Provisions</b>			
Employee provisions	83,107	91,706	(8,599)
Other provisions	6,571	6,413	158
<b>Total provisions</b>	<b>89,678</b>	<b>98,119</b>	<b>(8,441)</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>151,836</b>	<b>141,334</b>	<b>10,502</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>19,052</b>	<b>16,629</b>	<b>2,423</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed equity	156,377	158,429	(2,052)
Reserves	23,922	23,605	317
Accumulated deficit	(161,247)	(165,405)	4,158
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>19,052</b>	<b>16,629</b>	<b>2,423</b>

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics' original budgeted financial statement that was first presented to Parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS)).

2. Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanations of major variances are provided at Note 19B.



## Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

#### Cash Flow Statement for Australian Bureau of Statistics

for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Actual	Budget estimate	
		Original <sup>1</sup>	Variance <sup>2</sup>
	2015	2015	2015
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Appropriations	328,008	316,785	11,223
Sales of goods and rendering of services	43,545	30,000	13,545
Net GST received	7,738	6,256	1,482
<b>Total cash received</b>	<b>379,291</b>	<b>353,041</b>	<b>26,250</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Employees	282,658	270,715	11,943
Suppliers	97,390	82,063	15,327
<b>Total cash used</b>	<b>380,048</b>	<b>352,778</b>	<b>27,270</b>
<b>Net cash from/(used by) operating activities</b>	<b>(757)</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>(1,020)</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	38	100	(62)
<b>Total cash received</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(62)</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Purchase of leasehold improvements	1,019	5,425	(4,406)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	9,684	10,441	(757)
Purchase of intangibles	16,313	13,049	3,264
<b>Total cash used</b>	<b>27,016</b>	<b>28,915</b>	<b>(1,899)</b>
<b>Net cash used by investing activities</b>	<b>(26,978)</b>	<b>(28,815)</b>	<b>1,837</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Contributed equity	26,109	28,552	(2,443)
<b>Total cash received</b>	<b>26,109</b>	<b>28,552</b>	<b>(2,443)</b>
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	<b>26,109</b>	<b>28,552</b>	<b>(2,443)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>	<b>(1,626)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,626)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	3,705	5,495	(1,790)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>2,079</b>	<b>5,495</b>	<b>(3,416)</b>

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics' original budgeted financial statement that was first presented to Parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS)).

2. Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanations of major variances are provided at Note 19B.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

**Note 19B: Departmental Major Budget Variances for 2015**

<b>Explanations of major variances</b>	<b>Affected line items (and schedule)</b>
<p><b>Suppliers</b>            The variance to budget is due to additional expenses for ABS Business Transformation, supplier expenses related to increased own source revenue and an increase in contractors. Census related activity and expenditure has also increased in preparation for the 2016 Census. There has also been \$1.6 million additional expenditure which is related to additional appropriation in Appropriation Bill (No. 6) 2014 15.</p>	<p>Suppliers (Statement of Comprehensive Income), Operating cash used - employees, suppliers (Cash Flow Statement)</p>
<p><b>Revenue</b>            The budget was based on historical revenue trends. A significant portion of the user funded revenue is confirmed in-year or just before the start of the financial year as other agencies finalise budgets. From 2015-16 the budget estimates have been update to recognise more current levels of user funding.</p>	<p>Sale of goods and rendering of services, Suppliers (Statement of Comprehensive Income), Operating cash used - suppliers, Operating cash received - sale of goods and rendering of services (Cash Flow Statement)</p>
<p><b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>            The 2014-15 Budget reflected an estimated cash balance at 30 June 2014. In 2014-15 the cash balance has been reduced to ensure the ABS is under the allowable cash limit.</p>	<p>Cash and Cash equivalents ( Statement of Financial Position)</p>
<p><b>Trade and other Receivables</b>            The Appropriation Receivable balance increased by \$22 million during the financial year as a result of increased user funded survey revenue received for activities that will continue into future financial year(s).</p>	<p>Trade and other receivables, Unearned Revenue (Statement of Financial Position)</p>
<p><b>Unearned Revenue</b>            The \$15.6 million increase relates to an increase in user funded survey activities that will be undertaken in future financial year(s).</p>	<p>Trade and other receivables, Unearned Revenue (Statement of Financial Position)</p>
<p><b>Leasehold improvements and Property, plant and equipment (PPE)</b>            The variance of \$10.3 million is primarily due to the reallocation of \$3.0 million from the original budget to Intangible assets, a reduction to the ABS budget of \$1.9 million in Appropriation Bill (No. 6) 2014-15, and the deferral of purchases of \$2.5 million to 2015-16.</p>	<p>Leasehold improvements and Property, plant and equipment (PPE) (Statement of Financial Position)</p>

## Australian Bureau of Statistics Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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### Depreciation and amortisation

The variance of \$3.2 million is due to increases in the estimated useful lives of some intangible assets as at 30 June 2014. These changes were made after the 2014-15 budget estimate was finalised.

Expenses - depreciation and amortisation  
(Statement of Comprehensive Income)

---

### Financing activities - cash received

The variance relates to a \$1.9 million funding reduction in Appropriation Bill (No. 6) 2014-15 and a movement in undrawn capital appropriation of \$391,000.

Financing activities - cash received (Cash Flow Statement)

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### Lease incentives

The variance relates to lease incentives used during 2014-15.

Lease incentives (Statement of Financial Position)

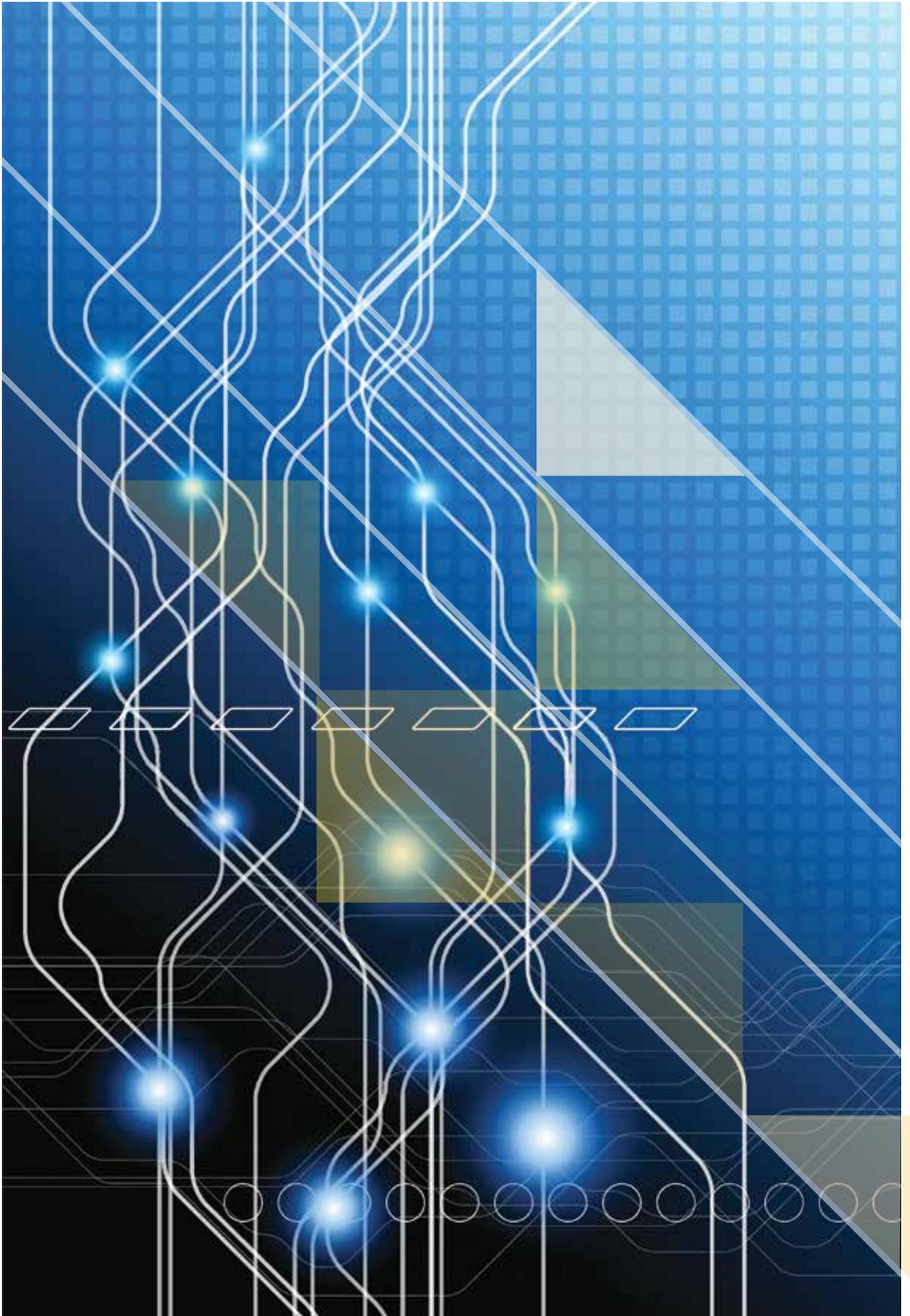
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### Employee provisions and other payables

Other payables comprise salary and redundancy accrued expenses as at 30 June 2015. The original budget estimate did not fully reflect the actual salary accrual as at 30 June 2015. The Employee provision comprises accumulated leave liabilities owed to staff. The variance is a combination of leave entitlements taken in July 2014 for redundancies and an overestimate of the leave to be accrued during 2014-15.

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Employee provisions and other payables (Statement of Financial Position) and Employee benefits (Statement of Comprehensive Income)



## Section Five Glossary and Index



# List of requirements



Description	Page
Letter of transmittal	iii
Contents	v
Index	166
Glossary	163
Contact officer	ii & iv
Internet home page address and internet address for report	ii & iv
<b>Review by the Secretary</b>	
Review by Australian Statistician	2-10
Summary of significant issues and developments	2-10
Overview of department's performance and financial results	2-10, 18-19, 98-157
Outlook for the following year	2-10
Significant issues and developments – portfolio	n/a
<b>Departmental overview</b>	
Role and functions	11-19
Organisation structure	15-17
Outcome and program structure	15
Where outcomes and program structure differ from PB statements/PAES other portfolios accompanying any other additional appropriation bills (other portfolios), details of variations and reason for change	n/a
Portfolio structure	n/a
<b>Report on performance</b>	
Review of performance during the year in relation to programs and contribution to outcomes	36-46
Actual performance in relation to deliverables and KPIs set out in PBS/PAES or other portfolio statements	36-46
Where performance targets differ from the PBS/PAES, details of both former and new targets, and reasons for the change	n/a

Narrative discussion and analysis of performance	2-10, 36-46
<b>Description</b>	<b>Page</b>
Trend information	36-46, 47-66
Significant changes in nature of principal functions/ services	n/a
Performance of purchaser/provider arrangements	n/a
Factors, events or trends influencing departmental performance	2-10, 36-46
Contribution of risk management in achieving objectives	70-73
Performance against service charter customer service standards, complaints data, and the department's response to complaints	36-46
Discussion and analysis of the department's financial performance	2-10, 18-19, 98-157
Discussion of any significant changes in financial results from the prior year, from budget or anticipated to have a significant impact on future operations	2-10
Agency resource statement and summary resource tables by outcomes	18-19
<b>Management and accountability</b>	
<b>Corporate governance</b>	
Agency heads are required to certify their agency's actions in dealing with fraud	iii
Statement of the main corporate governance practices in place	68-76
Names of the senior executives and their responsibilities	16-17
Senior management committees and their roles	69-70
Corporate and operational plans and associated performance reporting and review	2-10, 36-46
Internal audit arrangements including approach adopted to identifying areas of significant financial or operational risk and arrangements to manage those risks	69-71
Policy and practices on the establishment and maintenance of appropriate ethical standards	36-46
How nature and amount of remuneration for SES officers is determined	91
<b>External scrutiny</b>	
Significant developments in external scrutiny	71-73
Judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals and by the Australian Information Commissioner	73
Reports by the Auditor-General, a Parliamentary Committee, the Commonwealth Ombudsman or an agency capability review	71-73
<b>Management of human resources</b>	
Assessment of effectiveness in managing and developing human resources to achieve departmental objectives	77-95
Workforce planning, staff retention and turnover	77-83
Impact and features of enterprise or collective agreements, individual flexibility arrangements (IFAs) determinations, common law contracts and Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs)	89-90

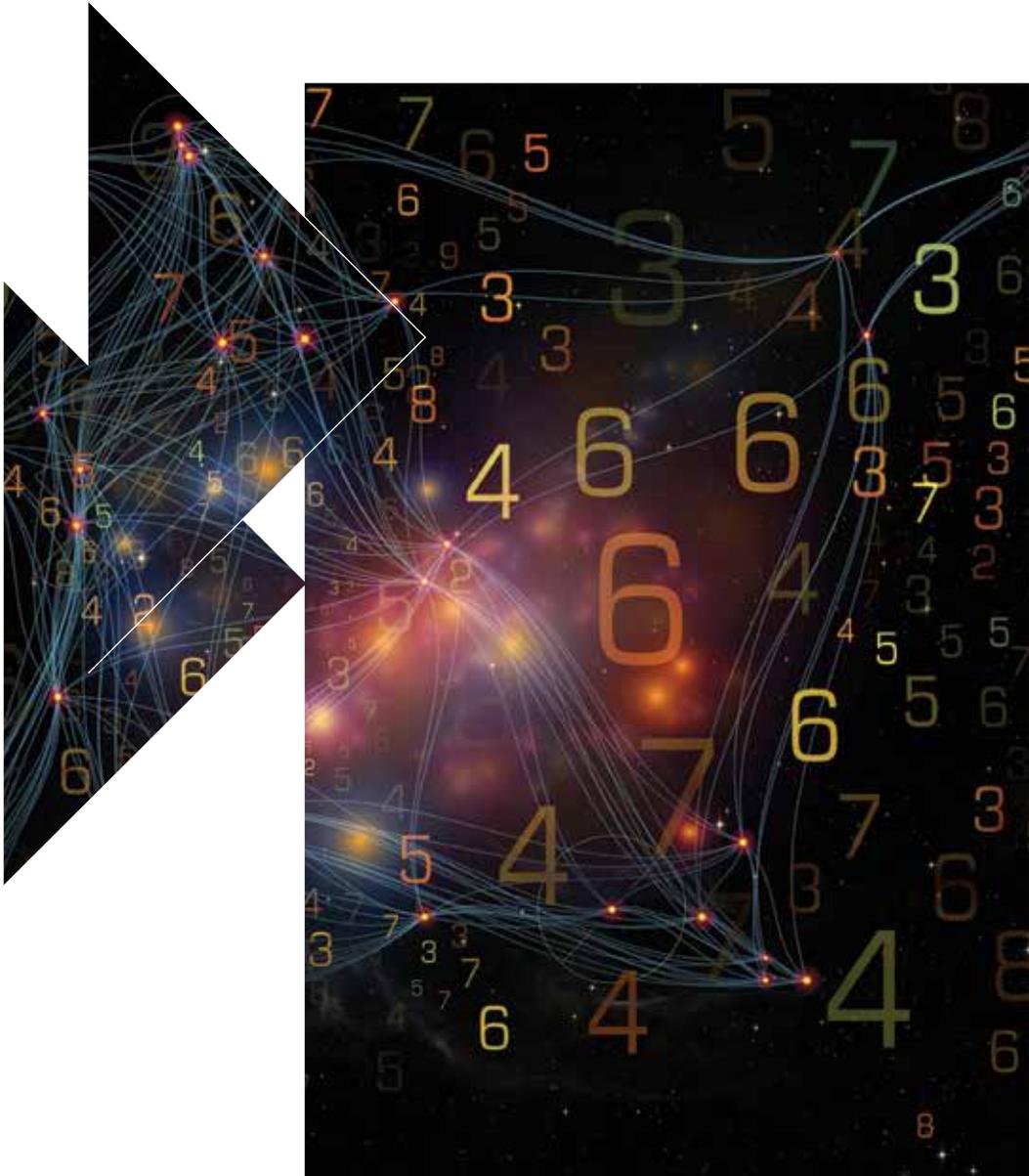
Description	Page
Training and development undertaken and its impact	82-83
Work health and safety performance	84-89
Productivity gains	92
Statistics on staffing	77-95
Statistics on employees who identify as indigenous	80
Enterprise or collective agreements, IFAs, determinations, common law contracts and AWAs	89-90
Performance pay	n/a
Assessment of effectiveness of assets management	74
Assessment of purchasing against core policies and principles	75
The annual report must include a summary statement detailing the number of new consultancy services contracts let during the year; the total actual expenditure on all new consultancy contracts let during the year (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing consultancy contracts that were active in the reporting year; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting year on the ongoing consultancy contracts (inclusive of GST). The annual report must include a statement noting that information on contracts and consultancies is available through the AusTender website.	75-76
Absence of provisions in contracts allowing access by the Auditor-General	nil
Contracts exempted from publication in AusTender	75
Procurement initiatives to support small business	75
Financial statements	98-157
Work health and safety (schedule 2, Part 4 of the <i>Work Health and safety act 2011</i> )	84-88
Advertising and Market Research (Section 311A of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i> ) and statement on advertising campaigns	76
Ecological sustainable development and environmental performance (Section 516A of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> )	93-95
Compliance with the agency's obligations under the <i>Carer Recognition Act 2010</i>	n/a
Grant programs	n/a
Disability reporting – explicit and transparent reference to agency-level information available through reporting mechanisms	52-53 & 79-81
Information Publication Scheme statement	74
Correction of material errors in previous annual reports	n/a
Agency Resource Statements and Resources for Outcomes	18-19

## Glossary

ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AMP	Agency Multicultural Plan
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
APS	Australian Public Service
APSC Review	Australian Public Service Capability Review
ASAC	Australian Statistics Advisory Council
CAP	Capability Action Plan
cat. no.	Catalogue number
Census	Census of Population and Housing, conducted every five years under the authority of the <i>Census and Statistics Act 1905</i> . The Census aims to measure accurately the number of people and dwellings in Australia on Census Night, and a range of their key characteristics.
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSPA	Common Statistical Production Architecture
CURF	Confidentialised Unit Record File
DPF	Development and Performance Framework
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe (UN)
EL	Executive Level
ELG	Executive Leadership Group
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
ESA	Essential Statistical Assets
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN)
FOI	Freedom of Information
FOI Act	<i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>
FTE	full-time equivalent (employees)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFS	government finance statistics
GLIDE	Graphically Linked Information Discovery Environment
HLG MOS	High Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
ICT	information and communications technology
in-posted	An officer of another agency posted to ABS
IPS	Information Publication Scheme

IT	Information technology
MFD	multi-function device
MFP	multifactor productivity
MRR	Metadata Registry and Repository
N/A	not applicable
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy
NASR	National Agricultural Statistics Review
NIRS	National Information and Referral Service
NSO	National Statistical Organisation
NSS	National Statistical Service
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
outposted	An ABS officer posted to another agency
PCF	People Capability Framework
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i>
PMO	Program Management Office
PPIs	Producer Price Indexes
Privacy Act	<i>Privacy Act 1988</i>
QLD	Queensland
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
RPPI	Residential Property Price Index
SA	South Australia
SCH	Statistical Clearing House
SDDS	IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard
SEEA	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
SEEA–AA	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting: Applications and Extensions
SES	Senior Executive Service
SIAP	Statistics Institute of Asia and the Pacific (UN)
SMG	Senior Management Group
SSF	State Statistical Forum
TAS	Tasmania
TSA	Tourism Satellite Account
UN	United Nations
UNECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
UN EG–ISGI	UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
UNESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNSC	UN Statistical Commission

UNSD	UN Statistics Division
UNSIAP	UN Statistics Institute of Asia and the Pacific
VET	Vocational education and training
VIC	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
WHS	Work health and safety
WHS Act	<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i>
WPI	Wage Price Index



## Index

### A

- abbreviations and acronyms, 163–5
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
  - employed in ABS, 80
  - engagement with, 51
  - health surveys, 51, 52
  - Indigenous Status Standard, 51
  - Reconciliation Action Plan, 80
  - social surveys, 62
  - statistics, 33, 51
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics program, 51
- ABS 2017 change program, 59–60 *see also* business transformation (ABS)
- ABS 2017 Group, 17
- ABS Business Register, 27
- ABS Data Laboratory, 6
- ABS Management Meeting, 69
- ABS Service Delivery Charter, 42–3
- ABS Surveys Charter, 41, 42
- absences, unscheduled, 89
- ABS.Stat, 61
- accountability *see* corporate governance
- achievements *see* performance
- Acquire@ABS program, 62
- addresses and contact details
  - ABS, iv
  - ASAC, 14
- administrative data, 7, 10, 58, 59
  - education administrative data, 55
  - GLIDE dataset, 7, 30
  - health data, 20–2, 58
  - Overseas Arrival and Departure Card processing, 65
  - personal income received by migrants, 33, 58
  - see also* big data; data integration; Essential Statistical Assets for Australia
- administrative review decisions, 73
- advertising, 76
- Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, 46
- advisory groups for ABS, 14, 37, 44, 61
  - see also* engagement
- Agency Multicultural Plan, 81–2
- agency resource statement and resources for outcomes, 18–19
- agreement making, 89–90
- agricultural statistics, 23–5, 52
- Agriculture and Rural Environment Statistics program, 52
- agriculture crop yields measurement by satellite imagery, 8
- Allen, Geoff, 14
- Analytical Services program, 62–3
- Anderson, Angry, 84
- Arrangements for data integration involving commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes, 58 *see also* data integration
- arts and cultural events attendance, 55
- Asia and the Pacific region, 44, 49, 65, 66
- Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities Forum, 73
  - asset management, 74
  - attendance management, 89
- Attorney-General, 73
- Attorney-General's Department, 56
- Audit Committee, 69, 71
- audits
  - independent auditor's report, 98–9
  - internal, 69, 71
- AusTender, 75
- Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, 23–5, 52
- Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, 12, 13, 14
- Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, 34, 57–8, 62
- Australian Early Development Census, 32–3, 55
- Australian economy, measurement of *see* macroeconomic statistics
- Australian Government departments and agencies *see* government agencies

- Australian Government Statistical Clearing House see Statistical Clearing House
- Australian Government Statistical Forum, 44
- Australian Government's digital agenda, 8–9
- Australian Health Survey 2011–13, 21
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 7
- Australian National Audit Office, independent auditor's report, 98–9
- Australian Population Survey, 7
- Australian Privacy Commissioner, 73
- Australian Privacy Principles, 40, 73
- Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, 10, 27, 28, 56
- Australian Public Service Commission, 83  
 Capability Review, 4, 71–2
- Australian Statistician  
 authority and responsibilities, 13  
 review of year, 2–10
- Statistician's Awards, 91
- Statistician's Fellowship Program, 82
- Australian Statistics Advisory Council, 14, 37, 44
- Australian System of National Accounts, 27–8
- Australian Taxation Office, 9, 30, 31, 33, 56
- authority and responsibilities of ABS, 13 see also legislation
- average staffing level, 19
- awards for staff (recognition and rewards), 91
- B**
- Balance of Payments, 50
- Bangladesh, 54
- Bell, Philip, 91
- big data, 7–8, 29–31, 46, 63 see also data integration
- bilateral discussions see international engagement
- blogs see social media
- building (construction) statistics, 56–7
- business databases, 5, 7, 33–4, 37, 53, 57, 63
- business information confidentiality see confidentiality of data; privacy; security of premises and systems
- Business Longitudinal Database, 33–4, 53, 57
- business surveys  
 clearance process for government surveys, 60, 64  
 online forms, 8–9, 45, 62  
 provider burden, 41  
 provider correspondence, 41–2  
 response rates, 40
- business transformation (ABS), 2, 3–4, 59–60, 64–65
- business counts, 54
- Business Registers, ABS (see under A), 27
- C**
- Capability Action Plan, 4, 72
- capability development see statistical capability development; training and development of ABS staff
- CapabilityPlus learning management system, 66
- Capability Review (APSC), 4, 71–2
- Census and Statistics Act 1905*, 12, 13, 73
- Census Data Enhancement project, 21
- Census data integration initiatives, 20–2, 32–4, 55, 57–8
- Census frequency, 8
- Census longitudinal datasets, 6, 57–8
- Census of Population and Housing 2011, 49, 55
- Census of Population and Housing 2016  
 date, 8  
 field staff safety and security, 84  
 online data collection, 8, 45, 49  
 preparation and field test, 11, 49–50, 64–5, 76, 83
- Census program, 49–50
- Centre for Data Integration, 57–8
- Chairperson, ASAC, 14
- change management programs (ABS) see business transformation (ABS)

- children, 54, 55
  - citations of ABS statistics in academic journals, 37
  - Civil Registrations and Vital Statistics, 44, 51
  - classifications (standards) *see* standards
  - Clean Energy Regulator, 59
  - collaboration *see* engagement
  - collection of data *see* data collection
  - Comcare
    - investigations and inspections, 66, 85
    - premium, 85
    - workers' compensation claims, 86–8
  - Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking survey, 70
  - committees
    - Health and Safety, 84
    - international *see* international engagement
    - parliamentary, 74
    - senior management, 68–70
  - Commonwealth data integration *see* data integration
  - Commonwealth Indigenous Procurement Policy, 75
  - Commonwealth Ombudsman, 73
  - communication of statistics *see* publications and products; websites
  - communications services survey, 26
  - communications technology *see* information and communications technology (ABS)
  - community engagement *see* engagement
  - Community Trust in ABS Statistics, 37, 76
  - complaints handling, 41–3
  - Conference of European Statisticians, 66
  - Confidentialised Unit Record Files, 61
  - confidentiality of data, 7, 40 *see also* privacy
  - construction statistics, 56–7
  - consultancy services
    - engaged by ABS, 75–6
    - provided by ABS, 61
  - consultation
    - within ABS, 84, 89
    - with stakeholders *see* engagement
  - Consumer Price Index, 48–9
  - contact details
    - ABS, iv
    - ASAC, 14
  - content authoring, 45
  - contracting, 75
  - Cooperation and support of providers (Objective 3), 40–3
  - corporate governance, 4, 68–76
  - Corporate Plan, 12
  - Corporate Services program, 65–6 *see also* human resources management
  - correspondence, 41–2
  - courts and tribunals, 73
  - Crime and Justice Statistics program, 56
  - Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board, 44, 58
  - cultural events and venues attendance, 55
  - culturally and linguistically diverse groups *see* workplace diversity
  - customer service performance, 41–3, 61
  - Customer Services program, 61
  - cyber threats *see* security of premises and systems
- D**
- Data Acquisition and Collection program, 62
  - Data Analyser, 63
  - Data by Region application, 61
  - data collection
    - online forms, 8–9, 45, 62
    - see also* surveys
  - data dissemination *see* publications and products
  - Data Documentation Initiative, 59
  - data gaps, 39, 56
  - data integration, 7, 57–8
    - Census data, 20–2, 32–4, 55, 57–8
    - education administrative data, 55
    - governance, 44, 58
    - impact of logging regulation on businesses, 54

- longitudinal data, 33–4
  - mental health services – census data, 20–2, 32, 58
  - migrant data, 33, 58
  - opportunities, 22, 34
  - outputs, 32–4
  - see *also* big data
  - data management see information and communications technology (ABS); information management; metadata data quality
    - High-quality statistical information (Objective 2), 38–9
    - quality declarations, 38
  - Data Standards and Methods program, 63–4
    - see *also* metadata; standards
  - data visualisation, 44
  - Deakin University, partnership with, 9
  - Decision-making underpinned by relevant statistical information (Objective 1), 36–7
  - Department of Agriculture, 54
  - Department of Communication Bureau of Communications Research, 53
  - Department of Education and Training, 32
  - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 44, 49
  - Department of Health, 7, 21
  - Department of Human Services, 7, 21
  - Department of Immigration and Border Protection, 10
  - Department of Industry and Science, 5, 33, 37, 53
  - Department of Social Services, 7, 33, 56
  - Deputy Australian Statisticians, 16–17
  - Deputy Secretary Efficiency Working Group initiatives, 63–4
  - Development and Performance Framework (ABS staff), 92 see *also* human resources management
  - disability
    - data collection mechanisms, 52–3
    - Health and Disability program, 52–3
    - workplace diversity, 79–82
  - disclosure of information, unauthorised, 9, 43
    - review of controls, 72
  - dissemination of information see publications and products; websites
  - Draft Statistical Capability Framework, 43–4
- E**
- early childhood education and care, 55
  - ecological and environmental sustainability (ABS), 93–5
  - Economic and Environment Statistics Group (ABS), 16
  - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN), 44, 66
  - Economic Commission for Europe (UN), 46, 55
  - economic statistics see environmental-economic accounting; macroeconomic statistics
  - education administrative data, 55
  - Education Statistics program, 55
  - educational outcomes over time, 32–3
  - electronic data collection see online forms
  - email inquiry service see National Information and Referral Service
  - Employee Assistance Program, 84, 89
  - employees of ABS see human resources management
  - employer–employee database, 30–1
  - employment statistics see Labour Statistics program
  - Enduring Goals for Australian Agriculture framework, 24
  - energy consumption and management (ABS), 94–5
  - energy retailing survey, 26
  - engagement
    - with advisory groups, 37, 44, 61
    - on crime and justice data requirements, 56
    - with Indigenous communities, 51
    - international, 44, 46, 49–50, 53, 54, 55, 63, 66

- with key stakeholders, 37
- with universities, 44
- whole-of-government initiatives, 7, 65  
see also partnerships
- enquiry service see National Information and Referral Service
- enterprise agreements, 89–90
- entity resource statement and resources for outcomes, 18–19
- Environment Statistics and Integration program, 53–4
- environmental sustainability (ABS), 93–5
- environmental-economic accounting, 54
- Essential Statistical Assets for Australia, 6, 23, 39, 61
- Executive Leadership Group, 69
- exempt contracts, 75
- exemption from participation in surveys, 41–2
- Expanded Analytical Business Longitudinal Database, 5, 33–4, 37
- external scrutiny, 71–2

## F

- Facebook, 11, 39
- Fair Work Commission, Australian Workplace Relations Study, 48
- family and domestic violence statistics, 56
- farmers
  - survey activity burden, 23
  - survey activity burden reduction, 52
- Fellowship program, 82
- Fiji, 49, 66
- financial data, 10, 27–8
- financial position
  - entity resource statement and resources for outcomes, 18–19
  - funding for business transformation program, 2, 60
- financial statements, 98–157
- first home buyers, loans to, 57
- Flexible Working Arrangements, 82
- Food and Agriculture Organization, 54

- forums see committees; international engagement
- Forward Work Program, 70 see also program reports
- fraud control, 71
- Freedom of Information Act 1982*, 74, 75
- Freight Management Survey, 41
- functions see role
- funding see financial position
- future directions (ABS), 8–9

## G

- Gender Diversity Action Plan, 81, 82
- Gender Indicators, Australia*, 55
- geographical region access application, 61
- geospatial data and statistics, 46, 50–1, 63
- Gibson, Belinda, 72
- Global Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics, Beijing, 63
- glossary, 163–5
- governance, 4, 68–76
- governance forums, 14, 37, 44
- government agencies
  - ABS outposted officers, 37, 60–1
  - data see administrative data
- government finance statistics, 27, 50
- Government Finance Statistics Advisory Committee, 46
- government policy and decision making, 36–7, 44
- government statistics see administrative data; government finance statistics
- government surveys clearance process, 60
- GovHack, 61
- graduate recruitment, 82, 83
- Graphically Linked Information Discovery Environment (GLIDE), 7, 30
- Great Barrier Reef land account, 54
- green initiatives, 93–5
- Growing Up in Australia Study (Longitudinal Study of Australian Children), 54

**H**

Health and Disability program, 52–3

Health and Safety Committees, 84

*Health Insurance Act 1973*, 21

health promotion in ABS see workplace health and safety

health surveys, 51, 52

High-quality statistical information (Objective 2), 38–9

high-volume data holdings see big data

household balance sheet, 26

household distribution within national accounts, 28, 47

Household Expenditure Survey, 54

household inflation indicators see Consumer Price Index

household surveys

- new population survey, 7
- online forms, 8–9, 45, 62
- provider burden, 41
- provider correspondence, 41–2
- response rates, 40

housing finance, 57

human resources management, 65–6, 77–92

- attendance management, 89
- capability development, 4–5
- consultative arrangements, 84, 89
- employment arrangements, 89–90
- key achievements, 81–2, 84
- leadership development, 82
- mental health and welfare, 84, 89
- People Capability Framework, 92
- People Plan, 79
- performance management, 92
- recognition and reward, 91
- recruitment measures, 80, 81, 83
- salary arrangements, 90–1
- staff (numbers and profile), 19, 77–9, 80, 81, 90
- training and development, 66, 82–3, 85, 92
- unscheduled absences, 89
- work health and safety, 84–8
- workforce planning, 64, 65, 79, 92
- workplace diversity, 79–82

**I**

identity management, 65

illness and injury incidence (ABS staff), 86–8

income (ABS) see financial position

income tax data, 30, 33

Independent Technical Review of the Labour Force Survey, 38, 48, 72–3

Indigenous Australians see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Indigenous Status Standard, 51

Indonesia, 49, 54, 66

Industry and Productivity Statistics program, 58–9

industry policy initiative assessment, 5, 37, 53

inflation indicators see Consumer Price Index

information and communications technology (ABS)

- achievements, 65
- energy management, 94
- information management tools, 45, 63–4
- learning management system, 66
- mobile technologies, 65
- security, 65, 71, 72
- software (intangible assets), 74
- see also information management; websites

information and communications technology statistics, 53, 59

information and referral service see National Information and Referral Service

information disclosure, unauthorised, 9, 43

review of controls, 72

information dissemination see publications and products; websites

Information Infrastructure program, 59

information management, 45, 59, 63–4

Information Media and Telecommunications Industry Survey, 41

Information Privacy Principles see Australian Privacy Principles

Information Publication Scheme, 74

information technology see information and communications technology (ABS)

infrastructure (information) see Information Infrastructure program

infrastructure (statistical) see statistical infrastructure

injury and illness incidence (ABS staff), 86–8

Innovation and Technology program, 53

insider trading by former employee, 9, 43

intangible assets, 74

integrated data see data integration

Integrating Authorities, 7

integrity, 9

internal audits, 69, 71

international accounts, 50

International and Government Financial Accounts program, 50

International Census Forum, 50

International Classification of Diseases revisions, 53

international engagement, 44, 46, 49–50, 53, 54, 55, 63, 66

International Investment Position, 50

International Monetary Fund

- Balance of Payments Committee, 46
- Special Data Dissemination Standards, 38

International Relations program, 66

international standards, 38, 46, 59, 66

international trade data collection and coverage, 27

International Workshop on Work, Labour Force and Earnings Statistics, 46

## J

judicial decisions, 73

justice statistics see Crime and Justice Statistics program

## K

key performance indicators, 36–46 see also performance; program reports

## L

labour force data, 34, 38, 48, 72–3

Labour Force Survey, 64

- Independent Technical Review of, 34, 48, 72–3

Labour Statistics program, 48

land accounts, 54

Land and Management Practices Survey, 52

Land Management and Agricultural Commodities Survey, 41

Langdown, Stuart, 91

leadership and coordination role (ABS), 37, 44, 58, 60–1

leadership development within ABS, 82 see also training and development of ABS staff

Learning Management System, 66

legislation, 70

- Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, 12, 13, 14
- Census and Statistics Act 1905*, 12, 13, 73
- Freedom of Information Act 1982*, 74, 75
- Health Insurance Act 1973*, 21
- National Health Act 1953*, 21
- Privacy Act 1988*, 40, 73
- Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012*, 73
- Public Governance, Accountability and Performance Act 2013*, iii, 100
- Public Service Act 1999*, 89, 90
- Statistics (Arrangements with States) Act 1956*, 13

legislative framework, 6, 12, 13

letter of transmittal, iii

linked data, 7, 30–1 see also data integration

living cost indexes, 48, 54

location information see geospatial data and statistics

logging regulation, impact on businesses, 54

Logical Information Model for the Common Statistical Production Architecture, 59

London Group on Environmental Accounting, 54

longitudinal data, 32–4  
 business data, 5, 7, 33–4, 53, 57, 63  
 Census dataset, 6, 57–8  
 tax data, 7

Longitudinal Labour Force Dataset, 34, 63

Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, 54

Lowe, Paul, 91

**M**

Macroeconomic Indicators program, 56–7

macroeconomic statistics, improvements to, 26–8

Managing for Performance Improvement Program, 92

Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services, UN Compilation Guide, 46

mapping see geospatial data and statistics

market research, 76

media coverage, 37, 43  
 positive and negative, 43  
 social media, 11, 39

media request contact details, iv

Medicare Benefits Schedule administrative data, 21, 58

mental health and welfare (ABS staff), 84

mental health data, 7, 20–2, 32, 52, 58

Mental Health Services – Census Integrated Dataset, 21, 22, 58

Merchandise Trade, 50

metadata, 45, 59

methodology development and implementation, 46 see also standards

microdata, 7, 61

Migrant Personal Income Tax Data Integration project, 33, 58

mining industry, 47, 50

Minister, 12

mission  
 ABS, 12  
 ASAC, 14

mobile applications, 29, 65

Monthly Population Survey, 62

multicultural plan, 81–2

**N**

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 62

national accounts, 26, 27–8, 46, 47, 50

National Accounts program, 47

National Agricultural Statistics Review, 23–5, 52

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, 32–3, 55, 63

National Centre for Vocational Education Research, 33

National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection, 55

National Forum (ABS staff), 89

*National Health Act 1953*, 21

National Indigenous Reform Agreement, 55

National Information and Referral Service  
 calls and emails, 11, 39, 61  
 contact details, iv

National Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey 2007, 21

National Mental Health Commission, 7, 20–2

National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education, 55

National Schools Statistics Collection, 55

National Statistical Policy, 37

National Statistical Service  
 Leadership program, 60–1  
 priorities, 44

newsfeed reach, 11

notifiable incidents, 86

**O**

objectives of ABS  
 performance report, 36–46  
 role of ABS, 12

occupational health and safety see workplace health and safety

OECD see Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

offences committed by ex–staff member, 9, 43

- Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, 73
  - offices (ABS)
    - locations and contact details, iv
    - responsibilities, 12
    - security *see* security of premises and systems
  - official statistics, 10, 36–7
    - trust in, 37, 43, 76
    - see also* administrative data
  - Ombudsman, 73
  - online forms, 8–9, 45, 62
  - openness of processes *see* engagement
  - opportunities
    - agricultural statistics, 24
    - data integration, 34
    - social and health data integration, 22
  - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
    - OECD.Stat software, 45
    - projects, 5, 55
    - working groups, 54
  - organisational structure, 15–17
  - organisational transformation program *see* business transformation (ABS)
  - outcome and program structure, 15
    - entity resource statement and resources for outcomes, 18–19
    - see also* performance
  - outcomes sought, 3
  - outposted officers, 37, 60–1
  - outputs *see* publications and products
  - Overseas Arrival and Departure Card
    - processing, 65
- P**
- Pacific region *see* Asia and the Pacific region
  - Palmer, Jonathan, 10
  - Papua New Guinea, 49, 66
  - Parkinson, Martin, 73
  - parliamentary committees
    - submissions to, 74
    - use of ABS data, 36–7
  - parliamentary scrutiny of ABS, 73
  - Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, 12
  - partnerships, 5–6, 7, 9, 37
    - agricultural statistical system, 20–2
    - mental health data, 20–2
    - with universities, 44
    - see also* engagement
  - pay (ABS employees) *see* remuneration
  - Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index, 48, 54
  - People Capability Framework, 92
  - People Plan, 79 *see also* human resources management
  - performance
    - ABS at a glance, 11
    - complaints resolution, 41–2
    - customer service, 41–3, 61
    - financial position, 18–19
    - Objectives and KPIs, 36–46
    - program achievements *see* program reports
  - performance management (staff), 92 *see also* human resources management
  - Personal Income Tax and Migrants Integrated Dataset, 33, 58
  - personal information confidentiality *see* confidentiality of data; privacy; security of premises and systems
  - Personal Safety Survey, 54
  - Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
    - administrative data, 21, 58
  - plans and planning
    - Agency Multicultural Plan, 81–2
    - Corporate Plan, 12
    - Forward Work Program, 70
    - fraud control plan, 71
    - People Plan, 79
    - planning cycle, 70
    - reconciliation plan, 80
    - work health and safety, 84
    - workforce planning, 64, 65, 79, 92
    - workplace diversity, 79–82
  - policy and decision making
    - Objective 1, 36–7
    - Policy Visualisation Network, 44

- Population, Labour and Social Statistics Group (ABS), 16
  - Population and Place program, 50–1
  - Population Clock web service, 61
  - population statistics, 50–1, 62 *see also* Census of Population and Housing
  - Portfolio Budget Statements, ABS outcome and program structure, 15
  - portfolio membership, 12
  - in-posted officers, 7, 61
  - preschool education, 55
  - Prices program, 48–9
  - privacy, 7, 40, 73 *see also* confidentiality of data; security of premises and systems
  - Privacy Act 1988*, 40, 73
  - Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012*, 73
  - procurement, 75
  - producer price indexes, 26–7, 48
  - Productivity Commission, 7
  - Program Management Office, 59–60
  - program reports
    - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics, 51
    - Agriculture and Rural Environment Statistics, 52
    - Analytical Services, 62–3
    - Census, 49–50
    - Corporate Services, 65–6 *see also* corporate governance; human resources management
    - Crime and Justice Statistics, 56
    - Customer Services, 61
    - Data Acquisition and Collection, 62
    - Data Standards and Methods, 63–4
    - Education Statistics, 55
    - Environment Statistics and Integration, 53–4
    - Health and Disability, 52–3
    - Industry and Productivity Statistics, 58–9
    - Information Infrastructure, 59
    - Innovation and Technology, 53
    - International and Government Financial Accounts, 50
    - International Relations, 66
    - Labour Statistics, 48
    - Macroeconomic Indicators, 56–7
    - National Accounts, 47
    - National Statistical Service Leadership, 60–1
    - Population and Place, 50–1
    - Prices, 48–9
    - Program Management Office, 59–60
    - Social Conditions, 54–5
    - statistical data integration conducted by the ABS, 57–8
    - Statistical Services, 64
    - Technology Services, 65
  - program structure, 15
  - property management, 65
  - Protective Security Management Committee, 70 *see also* security of premises and systems
  - provider cooperation and support (Objective 3), 40–3
  - providers/respondents
    - burden, 23, 41, 52
    - correspondence, 41–2
    - response rates, 40
  - Provisional Improvement Notices, 85
  - Public Governance, Accountability and Performance Act 2013*, iii, 100
  - public relations consultancies, 76
  - public sector accounts, 50
  - public sentiment about ABS, 37, 43, 76
  - Public Service Act 1999*, section 24(1)
    - determinations, 89, 90
  - publications and products
    - citations/attributions, 11, 36–7
    - from integrated datasets, 21–2, 32–4
    - number of publications in 2014–15, 38
    - released, 11, 39, 61
    - see also* websites
  - purchasing, 75 *see also* consultancy services
- Q**
- quality assessments, 39
  - quality declarations, 38

## R

recognition and reward scheme, 91  
Reconciliation Action Plan, 80  
recruitment, 80, 81, 83  
red tape reduction, 8–9  
Regional Directors, 16–17  
regional leadership and collaboration *see*  
Asia and the Pacific region; international  
engagement; leadership and  
coordination role (ABS)  
regional office contact details, iv  
Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages,  
10, 51  
Rehabilitation Management System, 87  
remuneration, 90–1  
research and development activity *see*  
Innovation and Technology program  
Reserve Bank of Australia, 28  
Residential Property Price Index, 48–9  
resource statement and resources for  
outcomes, 18–19 *see also* financial  
position  
respondents *see* providers/respondents  
retail scanner data, 8  
retail trade, 26, 49  
reviews, 4, 6, 72–3  
Labour Force Survey, 38, 48, 72–3  
National Agricultural Statistics Review,  
23–5  
risk management, 6, 70–1  
framework and guidelines, 70  
role  
ABS, 12  
ASAC, 14  
*Run that Town* application, number of  
downloads, 11  
rural and regional statistics, 52, 61  
Rural Environment and Agricultural  
Commodity Survey, 52

## S

safety *see* workplace health and safety  
salary arrangements, 90–1  
satellite imagery in measurement of crop  
yields, 8  
schooling, 55  
seconded officers *see* in-posted officers;  
outposted officers  
secrecy *see* privacy  
section 24(1) determinations, 89, 90  
security of premises and systems, 65, 71  
assessments and reviews of, 72  
unauthorised disclosure of information,  
9, 43  
*see also* privacy  
Senior Executive Service (SES)  
number, 78–9  
remuneration, 90–1  
section 24(1) determinations, 90  
senior management committees, 68–70  
Senior Management Group, 69  
sensitive information controls *see*  
confidentiality of data; security of  
premises and systems  
service based producer price indexes, 26–7  
service delivery charter, 42–3 *see also* surveys  
charter  
small business participation in procurement  
market, 75  
Social Conditions program, 54–5  
social media, 11, 39  
social security information, 7  
software (intangible assets), 74  
Solomon Islands, 49, 66  
spatial data and statistics, 46, 50–1, 63  
Special Data Dissemination Standards (IMF),  
ABS observance of, 38  
sport and recreation, 55  
staff *see* human resources management  
stakeholder engagement *see* engagement  
Standard Business Reporting for tax and  
financial reporting, 9

- standards, 63–4
    - Indigenous Status Standard, 51
    - international, 38, 46, 59
    - metadata, 45, 59
  - .Stat product, 45, 61
  - State Statistical Forum, 37, 44
  - states and territories
    - ABS regional offices, iv
    - forums, 37, 44
    - statistical services, 12, 13, 16–17
    - user and advisory groups, 37, 44
  - Statistical and information infrastructure (Objective 6), 45–6
  - statistical assets see Essential Statistical Assets for Australia
  - Statistical Business Transformation Program see business transformation (ABS)
  - statistical capability development, 43–4, 49 see also training and development of ABS staff
  - Statistical capability development improved within Australia, Asia and Pacific region (Objective 5), 43–4
  - Statistical Capability Framework, 43–4
  - Statistical Clearing House, 60, 64
  - statistical data integration see data integration
  - statistical governance, 14, 37, 44 see also advisory groups for ABS
  - statistical information management, 45, 59, 63–4
  - statistical infrastructure, 45–6, 59
    - funding for, 2, 60
  - Statistical Instrument Design and Development Unit, 9
  - statistical literacy, 43–4
  - statistical products and services see publications and products
  - Statistical Services program, 64
  - Statistician see Australian Statistician
  - Statistician's Workbench, 45
  - Statistics (Arrangements with States) Act 1956*, 13
  - Statistics Institute of Asia and the Pacific, 44
  - Strategic Partnerships and Projects Division, 5
  - strategic planning see Corporate Plan
  - Strategies, Services and Technology Group (ABS), 17
  - superannuation data, 27, 56
  - SuperStar 2 product, 45
  - Survey Management Centre of Excellence, 9
  - Survey of Consumer Sales – Communications Services, 26
  - Survey of Consumer Sales – Energy Retailing, 26
  - Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 53
  - Survey of Education and Work, 55
  - Survey of Income and Housing, 54
  - Survey of International Trade in Services, 27
  - surveys
    - online forms, 8–9, 45, 62
    - response rates, 40
  - surveys charter, 41, 42 see also service delivery charter
  - System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Applications and Extensions, 54
- ## T
- TableBuilder products, 61, 63
  - taxonomies, 63–4
  - technology and innovation see information and communications technology statistics; Innovation and Technology program
  - Technology Services program, 65
  - telecommunications industry see information and communications technology statistics
  - telephone inquiry service see National Information and Referral Service
  - teleworking, 84
  - territories see states and territories
  - Timor-Leste, 49, 66
  - Torres Strait Islander population see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
  - tourism statistics, 58–9
  - trade data coverage, 27
  - Trade in Services, 50

training and development of ABS staff, 66, 82–3, 85, 92

training and statistical literacy initiatives by ABS see statistical capability development

transactions data, 27, 38, 46, 49

transformation program see business transformation (ABS)

transport statistics, 58

Treasury, 63

tribunals, 73

trust in ABS statistics, 37, 43, 76

Trust in official statistics (Objective 4), 37, 43

Twitter, 11, 39

## U

unauthorised disclosure of information, 9, 43  
review of controls, 72

United Nations Compilation Guide for the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services, 46

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 44, 66

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 46, 55

United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, 46

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, 54

United Nations Statistical Commission, 66

United Nations Statistical Division, 46, 63

United Nations Statistics Institute of Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), 44

United Nations System of Environmental and Economic Accounting Applications and Extensions, 54

universities, engagement with, 44

use of ABS data, 36–7, 39

user and advisory groups, 14, 37, 44, 61  
see also engagement

## V

value of the ABS, 6

videoconferencing, 94

vision, 12

visualisation techniques, 44

vital statistics, 44, 51

vocational education and training, and census data, 33, 55

## W

Wage Price Index, 48

wages (ABS employees) see remuneration

Walter, Emily, 91

web-forms see online forms

websites (ABS)  
address, iv  
performance against service standards, 42–3  
user forum, 61  
visits and downloads, 11, 39

Western Australian Building Commission, 57

whole-of-government initiatives, 7, 65

‘wicked problems’, 29

work program, 70 see also program reports

workers’ compensation claims, 86–88

workflow management, 45

workforce planning (ABS), 64, 65, 79, 92

workforce statistics  
ABS see human resources management  
Australian see Labour Statistics program

workplace diversity, 79–82

workplace health and safety, 84–86

World Health Organisation, International Classification of Diseases revision, 53

