



AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Annual Report
2004–05

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AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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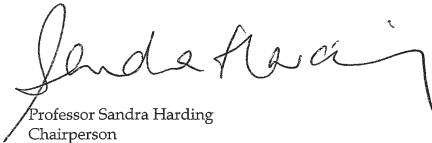
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The Hon. Chris Pearce, MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council for the year ended 30 June 2005.

The Annual Report outlines the work undertaken by the Council and is submitted to you for presentation to Parliament under sub-section 24(2) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*.

The Annual Report is dated on the day I approved the finalised text for printing.



Professor Sandra Harding
Chairperson

5 September 2005

Australian Statistics Advisory Council

Mission

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

FOREWORD

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) establishes its work program in response to current and emerging statistical priorities of users, and within the context of the ABS mission statement, organisational objectives and overall strategic directions. The statistical demands of the Australian, state and territory governments, and the community as a whole, are broad ranging and increasing in both volume and complexity. As Australia's national statistical agency, the ABS has a responsibility to respond to these demands in the context of its mission and resource constraints. The role of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) is to provide guidance on the directions and priorities of the ABS work program to the Australian Government, through the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, and to the Australian Statistician.

I wish to congratulate the ABS on reaching its centenary as Australia's national statistical agency. It is a great achievement.

The ABS received additional funding in the 2005–06 Federal Budget process through the development of a proposal to 'upgrade official statistics'. Council members were very pleased with this outcome, and it emphasised the support the Australian Government is of high quality statistical information. The ABS expressed thanks to Council at the May 2005 meeting for the guidance it provided to the ABS throughout the development of the proposal. However, even with the additional funding, the list of 'priority' spending proposals facing the ABS is well beyond available funds, and choices will have to be made. ASAC welcomes the challenge of assisting the ABS to decide its statistical priorities for the future.

Throughout 2004–05, ASAC has provided advice to the ABS on a range of key economic and social issues including: content for the 2006 Census of Population and Housing; issues surrounding the 2006 Census data enhancement project; developments in environment statistics, children and youth statistics, and crime and justice statistics; and future directions for ABS electronic dissemination. These issues are discussed in more detail in chapter 2.

I would like to welcome the newly appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, the Hon. Chris Pearce, MP, and thank his predecessor, the Hon. Ross Cameron, MP, for his support of ASAC.

ASAC now consists of a full complement of 22 part-time members, with the appointment of thirteen new members and the reappointment of three existing members. I would like to welcome:

Professor Graeme Hugo, University of Adelaide

Professor Tony Barnes, Northern Territory Treasury

Dr James Moody, CSIRO

Mr Roger Beale, The Allen Consulting Group

Ms Leith Bouilly, Bouilly Pastoral Company

Ms Elaine Henry, The Smith Family

Mr David Parker, Australian Government – The Treasury

Mr Michael Potter, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr Leigh Purnell, Australian Industry Group

Mr John Spasojevic, Commonwealth Grants Commission

Mr Vin Martin, Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance

Mr David Smith, Western Australia Department of Treasury and Finance

Mr Greg Philp, Tasmanian Department of Treasury and Finance.

My sincere appreciation is extended to non-returning Council members, Dr Steven Kates, Ms Betty Hounslow, Dr Martin Parkinson, Ms Anne Nolan, Mr Chris Lock, Mr Haydn Lowe, Mr Peter Jones and Mr George Tomlins for their contribution to ASAC over their combined 36 years of service. Dr Kates and Ms Hounslow have been particularly long serving members (14 years and 7 years respectively), and I wish to acknowledge their dedication and support to the ABS throughout their tenure.

I would like to convey my appreciation to Mr Dennis Trewin, the Australian Statistician, and his team for their positive approach to working with ASAC and to the advice we provided. Thanks also goes to the ASAC Secretariat, without whose excellent support ASAC simply could not function in an effective manner.

I trust you find the report informative.

Professor Sandra Harding
Chairperson

CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
	Foreword	v
1	Introduction	1
2	Summary of Activities for 2004–05	2
3	The Year Ahead – 2005–06	9
 Appendixes		
1	Membership of Council and Attendance at Meetings	10
2	Agendas for ASAC Meetings	16
3	Involvement of ASAC Members in Other ABS Activities/User Groups	18
4	Operation of ASAC	19
5	Freedom of Information Statement	20

Note: In this Report, after the first reference, the Australian Statistics Advisory Council is referred to as ASAC or the Council, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics is referred to as the ABS.

Chapter 1 Introduction

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council was established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*.

Under subsection 18(1) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* the Council is to advise the Minister and the Australian Statistician on:

- “(a) the improvement, extension and co-ordination 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; and*
- (c) any other matters relating generally to those statistical services.”*

The Act enables the Minister or the Australian Statistician to seek the advice of Council on these matters. The Council also offers advice on these matters to the Minister or the Australian Statistician when it considers it appropriate to do so.

The Act provides that Council shall consist of a part-time Chair, the Australian Statistician (ex officio), and between ten and twenty two part-time members, including one nominee from each State Premier or Chief Minister Departments. The Chair and members are appointed by the responsible Minister for periods of five years and up to three years respectively, and are eligible for reappointment. The membership of Council as at 30 June 2005 is detailed at Appendix 1.

Subsection 24(2) of the Act provides that: “the Council shall, as soon as practicable after 30 June in each year, prepare and submit to the Minister, for presentation to the Parliament, a report relating to matters connected with the operation of this Act”.

The Council generally meet twice a year. Where appropriate, experts in a particular field are invited to attend for relevant agenda items. In addition to the meetings, Council has a web-based discussion forum which enables regular interaction between members.

Chapter 2 Summary of Activities for 2004–05

The Council held two meetings during 2004–05 – on 22 November 2004 and on 31 May 2005. Detailed agendas for the meetings are provided at Appendix 2.

Key issues considered by Council during the year included:

- The ABS in the 21st Century – Strategic Positioning and the ABS' response
- ABS Forward Work Program 2005–06 to 2007–08
- ABS Corporate Plan
- 2006 Census of Population and Housing
- ABS Electronic Dissemination Strategy
- Developments in Environment and Energy Statistics
- Developments in Children and Youth Statistics
- Developments in Crime and Justice Statistics

The ABS in the 21st Century – Strategic Positioning and the ABS' response

In the second half of 2004 the ABS commissioned an external review of its strategic directions. The review, *ABS' in the 21st Century – Strategic Positioning*, was undertaken by the Allen Consulting Group and discussed by Council at the November 2004 meeting. The ABS' response to the review was tabled at the May 2005 meeting for Council's consideration.

Council recognised there are many key challenges facing the ABS, especially in creating a National Statistical System that is responsive to unknown future needs.

Relationship management was identified as a key area for the ABS. Council indicated the ABS needed to focus on how it approaches the statistical needs of all users. In particular, some of the ABS' responses to the review were too focussed on relationships with the Australian Government.

Statistical leadership was acknowledged as a key area for the ABS. Council supported the role of outposted ABS officers in supporting agencies on statistical matters. Council also acknowledged its support for the formation of a Statistical Leadership Unit. Council indicated the ABS should ensure the unit does not try to spread itself too thinly over many activities, and that it is funded sufficiently.

Council noted there are many organisations working in the field of statistics and, as such, there is a greater role for the ABS to collaborate with these groups to provide leadership especially in terms of technical expertise to ensure consistency in standards and frameworks.

It was suggested ASAC could work with the ABS to define its statistical leadership image.

The Council and the ABS agreed to consider further how best to be involved in, and advise on, the ABS planning process including priority setting.

This work is providing the impetus for ASAC to reflect on its effectiveness as a whole in advising the ABS, and this will be pursued further in 2005–06.

ABS Forward Work Program 2005–06 to 2007–08

Council was advised in May 2005 that additional funding received in the 2005 Federal Budget would be used to: address critical statistical areas which have become increasingly at risk; to implement new international standards; and for statistical work programs to support new government policies, such as the longitudinal study of the food industry. The funding provided will also allow the ABS greater flexibility to undertake extra work. A list of potential new or extended projects was provided for Council's consideration and feedback on priority.

One of the most positive outcomes of the additional funding is that the ABS has the ability to take the first step in making ABS data more freely available to the community from 1 July 2005, with the range of free data extended towards the end of 2005. This initiative was greatly supported by ASAC members.

ABS Corporate Plan

In May 2005 Council considered the review of the ABS Corporate Plan. Council heard that a reference group of ABS staff progressed a number of suggestions for changes to the current ABS Corporate Plan including:

- amending the ABS mission statement to emphasise the ABS leadership role and include material to explain the National Statistical Service concept further
- incorporating a role statement to further explain the mission statement
- adding 'service' to the ABS values statement to acknowledge explicitly the ABS' service ethos
- making changes to the objectives and strategies in the plan to ensure ABS priorities reflect what is required of the organisation as it embarks on its next century.

A number of suggestions were offered on what the ABS Corporate Plan could encompass. Council also emphasised the importance of using the process as a tool for ensuring staff are aligned with the Plan.

All ASAC members have had the opportunity to be involved in providing detailed input into the revised Plan. Their many contributions are welcomed by the ABS and will influence the ABS directions described in the Plan.

2006 Census of Population and Housing

In 2004–05 significant effort has been committed to planning Australia's fifteenth national Census of Population and Housing, to be conducted on 8 August 2006. Council contributed by providing advice on a number of developments throughout the year.

A decision was made by the ABS to include four new topics in the 2006 Census, incorporating questions on: the number of children ever born; the need for assistance (disability); unpaid work; and household access to the Internet. Council welcomed the addition of these topics as being reflective of current community needs.

Discussions took place at both ASAC meetings held during 2004–05 on the proposal to enhance census data. At the November 2004 meeting Council was advised that focus group testing had been conducted by external consultants to assess the public reaction to a number of different data linking scenarios. Council heard that testing ascertained some concern regarding census to census linking, however the issue of linking census data to other data sources, such as health records, attracted a greater deal of concern. At the same time Council noted the significant privacy concerns the retention of name and address and data linking would create, and cautioned the ABS on the need to be 'up front' and very transparent with what the ABS is proposing to do. Council also noted the proposal is consistent with the coordination and leadership roles of the ABS and indicated the quality of the census must remain paramount. Council emphasised the importance of obtaining public reaction well before the 2006 Census was conducted.

At the May 2005 meeting, Council was asked to comment on *Discussion Paper: Enhancing the Population Census: Developing a Longitudinal View* (cat. no. 2060.0). Council heard in this proposal that name and address information would not be used to create a Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset (SLCD); instead statistical matching methods involving variables such as gender, date of birth, and Mesh Block, would be used from the 2006 Census onwards. Other parts of the proposal outlined the use of census data in combination with other datasets such as ABS household surveys and birth and death register data. The ABS informed Council that a submission process has been established, public seminars were being held, and existing ABS statistical user groups, as well as groups with a strong privacy interest, were being consulted.

Council noted it was important the ABS be clear as to whether the concerns expressed about this proposal related to concerns about this particular instance of linking because it involved the Census of Population and Housing, or whether the concerns were more general regarding the role the ABS should play in linking data from different sources. If it is the latter, then this has implications for the role the ABS would be able to play in the statistical work being undertaken in the Government sector.

Council was also informed that a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) had been commissioned by the ABS and would be provided to Council for consideration by the end of June 2005. The PIA was released on the ABS web site on 27 June 2005 and provided a broad view, not just of the Information Privacy Principles or legislation, but why privacy is an issue. The PIA discussed authorised and unauthorised access, and the potential for legislative change.

The ABS emphasised to Council that it would not put the census at risk by pursuing the census data enhancement project and that a decision on the final outcome of the proposal will be made by the Australian Statistician in the latter half of 2005. Well thought through positions, both for and against the proposal, were expressed by Council. These have contributed to the decision-making process on this very important proposal. It was suggested an effective 'exit' strategy may be required if parts of the media pursued negative issues.

ASAC supported the decision made by the ABS to recast the range of products and services for the 2006 Census. Most electronic products (including CDATE 2006) will only be available on the ABS web site. A range of new Internet based products will be developed which will make it easier for users of varying levels of sophistication to obtain the data they require. While the range of census publications will be reduced, the range of data that will be made available as standard census output will be expanded. It is proposed all profile tables that were released for the 2001 Census will be made available for the 2006 Census.

ABS Electronic Dissemination Strategy

At the May 2005 meeting the ABS presented a paper on its Electronic Dissemination Strategy, explaining to Council the ultimate goal was to increase users and informed use of statistics. This would be achieved by reducing or eliminating the price barriers for accessing statistics on the ABS web site, and improving the content and presentation of statistics to facilitate communication.

Council was very supportive of the ABS' directions in electronic dissemination, in particular, the plan to provide information on the ABS web site free of charge. Council cautioned additional resources may be needed when access to all web site information was free, as there would invariably be many more inquiries from the public seeking to better understand the information. It is also important to ensure the system is capable of handling the peak 11.30 am downloads.

Members called for improvements to the ABS web site search engine, SPEED, and the long Uniform Resource Locator (URL) descriptions. Council recognised that while the web site's layered approach was helpful for new users, it has the potential to frustrate those experienced.

Developments in Environment and Energy Statistics

At the November 2004 meeting the ABS invited Mr Philip Glyde, from the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH), to lead a discussion on the major requirements in environment statistics from the perspective of a major user. The ABS also reported on developments in its Environment and Energy Statistics program including the formation of the Centre for Environment and Energy Statistics.

Council strongly agreed with the assessment on the need for increased regional data, and noted the need for the ABS and the DEH to work closely with state and territory governments to improve access to, and uniting of, data holdings. Council highlighted the need for integrated environment, economic and social data. In terms of the work currently being undertaken by the ABS, Council expressed encouragement on the trial of surveys based on land parcels.

Council accepted ABS assurances that the Centre for Environment and Energy Statistics would be considering state and territory issues as well as Australian government issues, and that it would have representatives from the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and the Productivity Commission on the governing board to ensure appropriate attention is given to energy issues.

Developments in Children and Youth Statistics

The ABS' National Statistical Unit on Children and Youth was established in 2003 in recognition of the increasing policy focus and discussion at Australian, state and territory levels of government on issues relating to children and youth, and in response to the need for a statistical evidence base to support government policy development for these specific population groups. The work program of the Unit has focussed on developing relationships with key external stakeholders in order to increase our understanding of the key issues of concern in this area and the range of activities underway in Australia to develop the information base.

In considering the strategic direction, policy context, work program and governance arrangements, Council expressed support for the National Children and Youth Statistics Unit. It noted the opportunity the Unit had to play in coordination and statistical leadership. In particular, Council urged the ABS to provide more assistance in data collection and in assisting in the analysis of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, while encouraging the ABS to take more of a leadership role in the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children. As part of its leadership role in the field, Council suggested the Unit could develop a directory of statistical sources for children and youth statistics.

Council raised the prospect of an annual Children and Youth Data Conference.

Developments in Crime and Justice Statistics

At the May 2005 meeting, the Crime and Justice Information Development Plan was presented to Council for comment on the 12 information development priorities. Each of the priorities relate to the safety of the Australian community including community confidence in law and order, and the efficient and effective administration of the criminal justice system. The 12 priorities listed were:

1. To improve data comparability across administrative collections.
2. To improve quality and integration of national crime and safety survey data.
3. To improve data to better understand the impacts of crime and justice in relation to progress and wellbeing.
4. To improve crime and justice statistics about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
5. To develop measures of recidivism.
6. To develop statistics on juvenile contact with the crime and justice system.
7. To develop statistics on family violence.
8. To improve fraud and electronic crime data.
9. To develop an information base on substance use as it relates to crime and justice.
10. To develop statistics on health, including mental health, as it relates to crime and justice.
11. To improve statistics on cultural diversity as it relates to crime and justice.
12. To improve spatial data on crime and justice.

Wide support was given for the listed priorities. Council suggested the two areas could be considered lower priority were Priority 5 (To develop measures of recidivism) and Priority 11 (To improve statistics on cultural diversity as it relates to crime and justice).

Reflecting on the Allen Consulting Group review, Council suggested there is an opportunity for the ABS to provide leadership in such a complex field as crime and justice. For instance, the ABS could assist the states and territories in developing their own data by promoting standards and frameworks.

Council thanked the ABS for the effort it had already undertaken in relation to crime statistics, in particular work on electronic crime.

Chapter 3 The Year Ahead – 2005–06

The ABS is well positioned to continue its strong contribution to Australia as it enters its second century. Council believes that achieving the strategies articulated in the new ABS Corporate Plan (to be launched in early December 2005) will build on the ABS' already strong reputation as one of the world's leading statistical agencies.

With the formation of the ABS Statistical Leadership Unit in the coming year, Council will have the opportunity to assist the ABS in defining its statistical leadership image, providing clarification on what statistical leadership entails, and the role the Statistical Leadership Unit could play as a whole.

Expected changes to the ABS planning framework and cycle have the potential to improve Council's ability to influence ABS planning decisions. The changes would also improve the alignment of ABS planning processes with government budgetary processes and allow the ABS to extend its ability to collaborate with other agencies on funding decisions.

Council will continue to provide advice on developments in Australia's fifteenth national Census of Population and Housing, to be conducted on 8 August 2006, to ensure the output from the 2006 Census reflects the current information needs of Australians.

ASAC will also provide advice across the broad range of the ABS work program and anticipates continuing and strengthening this role throughout 2005–06.

APPENDIX 1

MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Membership of Council at 30 June 2005 and Date of Initial Appointment

Member	Date first appointed
<i>Professor Sandra Harding</i> Deputy Vice Chancellor International and Development Queensland University of Technology	1 March 2002
<i>Mr Dennis Trewin</i> Australian Statistician (ex officio)	5 July 2000
<i>Professor Tony Barnes</i> Director Economic and Social Analysis Northern Territory Treasury	1 October 2004
<i>Mr Roger Beale</i> Senior Associate The Allen Consulting Group	15 May 2005
<i>Ms Leith Bouilly</i> Director Bouilly Pastoral Co. Pty Ltd	15 May 2005
<i>Dr Peter Crossman</i> Assistant Under Treasurer and Queensland Government Statistician Office of Economic and Statistical Research Queensland Treasury	11 March 1999
<i>Dr Peter Dawkins</i> Deputy Secretary Economic Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance	1 April 1999(a)
<i>Mr Clem Doherty</i> Chairman Like Minded Individuals Pty Ltd	1 May 1997(b)

Membership of Council at 30 June 2005 and Date of Initial Appointment

– continued

Member	Date first appointed
<i>Dr Adam Graycar</i> Director Cabinet Office South Australia	1 December 2003
<i>Ms Elaine Henry</i> Chief Executive Officer The Smith Family	15 May 2005
<i>Mr Peter Horn</i> Director Fiscal Strategy New South Wales Treasury	1 May 2003
<i>Professor Graeme Hugo</i> Professor of Geography The University of Adelaide	15 May 2005
<i>Mr Wayne Jackson</i> Deputy Secretary Department of Family and Community Services	1 March 2002
<i>Mr Vin Martin</i> Director Economic, Social and Environmental Group Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance	1 October 2004
<i>Dr James Moody</i> Director Divisional Business Strategy CSIRO Land and Water	15 May 2005
<i>Mr David Parker</i> Alternate Executive Director Macroeconomic Group Department of the Treasury	15 May 2005
<i>Mr Greg Philp</i> Assistant Director Economic Policy Branch Department of Treasury and Finance Tasmania	1 June 2005

Membership of Council at 30 June 2005 and Date of Initial Appointment

– continued

Member	Date first appointed
<i>Mr Michael Potter</i> Director Economics and Taxation Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	15 May 2005
<i>Mr Leigh Purnell</i> Executive Director (International) Australian Industry Group	15 May 2005
<i>Mr David Smith</i> Executive Director (Economic) Department of Treasury and Finance Western Australia	28 January 2005
<i>Mr John Spasojevic</i> Secretary Commonwealth Grants Commission	15 May 2005
<i>Professor Fiona Stanley AC</i> Director Telethon Institute for Child Health Research	1 April 2003
<i>Ms Louise Sylvan</i> Deputy Chair Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	1 March 2002

- (a) Membership expired at 30 March 2002, however attended subsequent Council meetings as an observer until formally reappointed 1 April 2003.
- (b) Membership expired at 30 April 2000, however attended subsequent Council meetings as an observer until formally reappointed 1 March 2002.

Changes in Membership since 30 June 2004

5 August 2004	Mr Peter Jones resigned
1 October 2004	Appointment of Professor Tony Barnes
1 October 2004	Appointment of Mr Vin Martin
3 November 2004	Ms Anne Nolan resigned
8 January 2005	Mr Haydn Lowe resigned
28 January 2005	Appointment of Mr David Smith
28 February 2005	Dr Steven Kates' term of appointment expired
28 February 2005	Ms Betty Hounslow's term of appointment expired
28 February 2005	Dr Martin Parkinson's term of appointment expired
29 April 2005	Mr George Tomlins resigned
15 May 2005	Appointment of Mr Roger Beale
15 May 2005	Appointment of Ms Leith Bouilly
15 May 2005	Appointment of Ms Elaine Henry
15 May 2005	Appointment of Professor Graeme Hugo
15 May 2005	Appointment of Dr James Moody
15 May 2005	Appointment of Mr David Parker
15 May 2005	Appointment of Mr Michael Potter
15 May 2005	Appointment of Mr Leigh Purnell
15 May 2005	Appointment of Mr John Spasojevic
31 May 2005	Mr Chris Lock's term of appointment expired
1 June 2005	Appointment of Mr Greg Philp
15 May 2005	Reappointment of Mr Clem Doherty
15 May 2005	Reappointment of Mr Wayne Jackson
15 May 2005	Reappointment of Ms Louise Sylvan

Meetings of Council 2004–05

29 November 2004

31 May 2005

Attendance at Meetings

		Attendance
Chairperson	Professor Sandra Harding	2
Australian Statistician	Mr Dennis Trewin	2
State and Territory Representatives		
South Australia	Dr Adam Graycar	2
Queensland	Dr Peter Crossman	2
New South Wales	Mr Peter Horn	2
Northern Territory	Mr Peter Jones	0
	Professor Tony Barnes	2
Victoria	Mr Vin Martin	2
Tasmania	Mr Chris Lock	2
	Mr Greg Philp(a)	1
Western Australia	Ms Anne Nolan	0
	Mr David Smith(b)	2
Australian Capital Territory	Mr George Tomlins	0
Other Members		
	Mr Rojer Beale(c)	0
	Ms Leith Bouilly(c)	1
	Dr Peter Dawkins	1
	Mr Clem Doherty	2
	Dr David Gruen(d)	2
	Ms Betty Hounslow(e)	2
	Professor Graeme Hugo	0
	Mr Wayne Jackson	2
	Ms Elaine Henry(c)	0
	Dr Steven Kates(e)	2
	Mr Haydn Lowe	0
	Dr James Moody(c)	1
	Dr Martin Parkinson	0
	Mr Michael Potter(c)	1
	Mr Leigh Purnell(c)	1
	Mr John Spasojevic(c)	1
	Professor Fiona Stanley	0
	Ms Louise Sylvan	2

- (a) Attended as an observer at the May 2005 meeting before formally being appointed on 1 June 2005 as the representative of the Tasmanian Government.
- (b) Attended as the Western Australia government representative pending formal appointment on 28 January 2005.
- (c) Appointed on 15 May 2005.
- (d) Attended as proxy for Dr Martin Parkinson at the November 2004 meeting and for Mr David Parker at the May 2005 meeting.
- (e) Attended as an observer at the May 2005 meeting.

APPENDIX 2

AGENDAS FOR ASAC MEETINGS

29 November 2004 Meeting – Agenda

1. **Summary record of previous meeting**
Paper: Summary record of 25 May 2004 meeting
2. **Chairperson's Report**
Verbal report
3. **Statistician's Report**
Verbal report
4. **2006 Census Developments**
Paper: Update on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing
5. **ABS Forward Work Program**
Paper: a) Strategic Review Outcome
 b) Forward Work Program
6. **Environment Statistics**
Paper: Developments in Environment Statistics
7. **Children and Youth Statistics**
Paper: Developments in Children and Youth Statistics
8. **Statistical Coordination**
Paper: ABS Support to Statistical Coordination

31 May 2005 Meeting – Agenda

1. **Summary record of previous meeting**
Paper: Summary record of 29 November 2004 meeting
2. **Chairperson's report**
Verbal report
3. **Statistician's Report**
Report tabled at meeting
4. **Response to The Allen Consulting Group Strategic Review**
Paper: ABS response to recommendations of The Allen Consulting Group Strategic Review
5. **ABS Forward Work Program**
Paper: a) Status of the New Policy Proposal
 b) ABS' Planning Framework
 c) Forward Work Program Green Book
6. **ABS Corporate Plan**
Paper: Redrafting the ABS Corporate Plan
7. **Data Enhancement Project**
Paper: Status Report on the Data Enhancement Project
8. **Crime and Justice Information Development Plan**
Paper: Update on the Crime and Justice Information Development Plan
9. **Electronic Dissemination**
Paper: Future Directions for Electronic Dissemination

APPENDIX 3

INVOLVEMENT OF ASAC MEMBERS IN OTHER ABS ACTIVITIES/USER GROUPS

ASAC Member	Committee / Group / Activity
Dr Peter Crossman	State Statistical Forum National Data Network Interim Governing Board Rural and Regional Statistics Advisory Group Queensland State Statistical Consultative Committee
Mr Peter Horn	New South Wales Statistical Coordination and User Forum Economic Statistics User Group ABS@NSW Government Implementation Steering Committee State Statistical Forum
Professor Tony Barnes	Northern Territory Statistical Liaison Committee Northern Territory Statistical Priorities Advisory Committee ABS Indigenous Enumeration Strategy Reference Group
Dr Steven Kates	Economic Statistics User Group
Mr Vin Martin	Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum Economic Statistics User Group
Mr Chris Lock	Tasmanian Statistical Policy Committee
Dr Adam Graycar	South Australian Statistical Policy Group South Australian Government Agencies Statistical Committee National Data Network Interim Governing Board Statistics Program South Australia
Mr Clem Doherty	Information and Communication Technology Reference Group
Mr Michael Potter	Economic Statistics User Group Labour Statistics Advisory Group
Mr Wayne Jackson	Australian Government Statistical Forum
Prof. Fiona Stanley AC	National Data Network Interim Governing Board
Mr David Smith	Western Australia Statistical Policy Committee
Professor Graeme Hugo	Rural and Regional Statistics Advisory Group

APPENDIX 4

OPERATION OF ASAC

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council was established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*.

The Chairperson of the Council receives an annual fee, set by the Remuneration Tribunal, and members are reimbursed their travel costs, where applicable. Apart from the Chairperson, no members receive remuneration for serving on the Council. Direct expenditure on ASAC during 2004–05 was \$61,123. These costs are met from the ABS budget.

Secretariat services for ASAC are provided by the ABS. The office of ASAC Secretary is held by the Assistant Statistician, Policy Secretariat Branch, ABS. Secretariat support provided by the ABS includes organising and recording meetings, administering membership and the members' online Discussion Forum, and the preparation of Council's Annual Report. The cost of these services was estimated to be \$77,994 during 2004–05.

APPENDIX 5

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

Below is a statement, as required by section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, about the structure of ASAC and how members of the public can obtain access to information held by it.

Establishment, organisation and functions

For information regarding the establishment, organisation and function of ASAC see Chapter 1.

Powers

As an advisory body, ASAC has no decision-making or other powers directly affecting members of the public. It does not administer any enactments or schemes.

Arrangements for outside participation

ASAC members are appointed by the Minister responsible for the ABS so that a broad range of views and interests are reflected in the advice that it offers to the Minister and the Australian Statistician. For membership details see Appendix 1.

Persons or bodies outside the Australian Government administration may participate in the Council's policy formulation by making representations to the Minister or the Chairperson on matters of concern to them.

Categories of documents

The ASAC Annual Report, which is tabled in Parliament, is available from all ABS offices. Files are maintained which contain documents relating to: the administration of the Council; papers discussed at Council meetings; summary records of proceedings of meetings; and correspondence relating to the activities of the Council.

Freedom of information procedures and initial contact points

All inquiries concerning access to documents, including inquiries under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, may be directed on weekdays, between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm, to the Secretary, Australian Statistics Advisory Council, c/- Australian Bureau of Statistics, 45 Benjamin Way, Belconnen, ACT 2617 – telephone (02) 6252 5533.

