



**ACT**  
Government



# ACT INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Head of Agencies Agreement between  
the Head of Service, ACT Public Service  
and the Australian Statistician,  
Australian Bureau of Statistics

Andrew Cappie-Wood (ACT),  
Brian Pink (ABS)

20 March 2012



## INTRODUCTION

1. An ongoing and effective relationship between the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the ACT Government is important to both the Australian and ACT Government as well as the community. Promotion of the effective use of data, including data collected by the ABS and administrative data held by the ACT Government, results in better informed public policy formulation, implementation and evaluation.
2. This Information Development Plan (IDP) recognises the important role that quality statistics play in informed decision making within governments, business and the community. High-quality data is necessary for the development and evaluation of government policy outcomes.
3. This IDP builds on the first *ACT Information Development Plan, 2008-2011*<sup>1</sup> and seeks to:
  - provide a high level strategic framework for improving the management and development of statistical resources for the ACT;
  - strengthen the partnership that exists between the ACT government and the ABS for the development, management, and collection of data and provision of statistical information in the ACT; and
  - enhance the capability of ACT public service in the effective use of data for informed decision making and policy advice.

## GOALS

4. Under this IDP the ABS and the ACT Government will work together to achieve the following goals.

### **Goal One**

5. The benefits of high-quality information for the ACT are recognised, particularly, in the areas of:
  - policy development;
  - evaluation; and
  - ensuring appropriate funding arrangements.

### **Goal Two**

6. Administrative data is collected and managed in a way that provides a statistical picture of the economy, society, environment and the business of governing the Territory.

<sup>1</sup> Key outcomes progressed through the *ACT Information Development Plan, 2008-2011* are identified at [Appendix A](#).



### **Goal Three**

7. Administrative data, as well as data from other relevant sources, is used to assist with
  - policy development;
  - evaluation;
  - ensuring appropriate funding arrangements; and
  - demonstrating the efficiency of government service delivery.

### **Goal Four**

8. Statistical standards, policies and tools in the collection of administrative data, are used in order to maximise the usefulness of this data and its flexibility for use with other data sources.

### **Alignment with National Statistical Service Goals**

9. The high level goals of this IDP reflect, and are aligned with, the four goals of the National Statistical Service (NSS). The NSS goals recognise that high quality data (not just from the ABS, but from many sources – including from the ACT Government itself) is produced in an environment where:
  - data is valued;
  - there is a high level of statistical capability;
  - the right data is being collected to meet the needs of government and the community; and
  - statistics align with standards that allow meaningful comparisons with other jurisdictions.
10. In light of this alignment, this IDP also provides a framework for the ACT Government and the ABS to work as partners in fulfilling the goals of the NSS, within an ACT context.

## **GOVERNANCE**

---

11. This IDP recognises the strategic importance of the data that is collected by the ACT Government to the good management of the ACT and the nation. Implementation of this plan requires a high level governance to ensure that any resources dedicated to the collection, management and analysis of data are targeted to areas of most benefit to the ACT Government itself, as well as its responsibilities in contributing to national datasets.



### **ABS role**

12. The ABS will contribute to this IDP by developing frameworks and standards and collaborating with the ACT Government in the development, collection, co-ordination, application and dissemination of statistical information (whether from the ABS or other sources) about the ACT. The ABS will support the ACT Government in the collection and provision of high quality data.

### **ACT Government role**

13. The ACT Government will contribute to this IDP through the collection of data derived from administrative records and other sources relating to their various policy areas and the management of the Territory, including a significant amount of data that is provided to the ABS to produce statistics about the ACT and the nation as a whole. The ACT Government will work with the ABS to maximise the quality of the data it collects both for its own use and for provision to the ABS to contribute to national data sets.

### **A sound partnership**

14. The IDP will provide a framework under which the ABS and the ACT Government will work together to ensure the quality and timeliness of this data. This partnership will occur under the following governance structure.
  - Early each financial year, a high-level oversight committee<sup>2</sup> will meet to decide the strategic projects to be implemented under the plan for the upcoming year.
  - The proposed work program will be implemented by a working party that will report back to the oversight committee at the end of the year. At this time, a review of progress towards the goals will be provided along with identification of any barriers to achieving those goals. Additionally, the working party will recommend projects for the following year. Projects may take more than one year to complete.
  - Projects should fall within the high level goals of the IDP and the selection of projects to be recommended to the oversight committee should be influenced by:
    - o State Statistical Forum Themes;
    - o whole-of-government policy initiatives and statistical priorities;<sup>3</sup>
    - o national reporting requirements and priority data requirements of critical national data sets.
  - The Information Development Plan will be reviewed in 2014-15 including a detailed review of progress towards achieving the goals.

<sup>2</sup> Policy Council, consisting of ACT Government Deputy Directors-General, with representation from relevant ABS Officials.

<sup>3</sup> Current whole-of-government statistical priorities (as at 2011-12) include: service provision information, linked to 'location of residence'; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data; evidence to support Government grants/targeted assistance policies. These policies are reviewed each year.



## CONCLUSION

---

15. This IDP provides a high level strategic framework for the ABS and the ACT Government to work together for their mutual benefit. Under the IDP, the ACT Government will assist the ABS with the provision of high quality information that will contribute to the production of a range of national statistics and the ABS will assist the ACT Government with improving the quality of its administrative data to support their policy development and decision making.

Andrew Cappie-Wood  
CEO, ACT Chief Minister & Cabinet Directorate

Brian Pink  
Australian Statistician



## APPENDIX A

---

Key outcomes progressed through the *ACT Information Development Plan, 2008-2011* include:

- the Indigenous Identification in Schools project;
- whole of government consultation paper on Indigenous data;
- an ACT Government cabinet submission on data indicators for children and young people developed by the Children and Young Person's Data Monitoring Committee; and
- a framework for communication between ACT Government agencies and the ACT Office of the ABS about data needs and solutions for the ACT Government.