



Corporate Plan **2026-27**



© Commonwealth of Australia



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license. In all cases the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) must be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication. Please see the ABS website copyright statement for further details.

Further information

For any enquiries about the content of this Plan, please contact:

Enterprise Planning and Reporting Section
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2616
Telephone: 1300 135 070
Email: corporatereporting@abs.gov.au

The Corporate Plan 2026–27 can be found at

<https://www.abs.gov.au/about/our-organisation/corporate-reporting/abs-corporate-plan/2026-27>





The Australian Bureau of Statistics acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia where we work, learn and live. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to their cultures and Elders, past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

'Our Story. Our Future.' was created by proud Wiradjuri, Wotjobaluk, Yuin and Gumbayngirr artist Luke Penrith and Maluililgal people, Badu Island artist Naseli Tamwoy.



Contents

Introduction and overview	5
Message from the Australian Statistician	6
Corporate plan summary	7
About the ABS	8
Operating context	9
Environment	10
Capability	13
Risk oversight and management	15
Collaboration and cooperation	19
Modernisation agenda	22
Key activities	23
Key activity 1: Produce high-quality statistics and insights	24
Key activity 2: Exercise leadership in strengthening Australia's data capabilities	29
Key activity 3: Strengthen relationships and reduce load on data providers	31
Performance information	33
Key activity 1: Produce high-quality statistics and insights	34
Key activity 2: Exercise leadership in strengthening Australia's data capabilities	38
Key activity 3: Strengthen relationships and reduce load on data providers	40
Appendices	42
APPENDIX A: Forward work program	43
APPENDIX B: Changes to forward work program	52
APPENDIX C: Changes to performance measures	55
APPENDIX D: List of requirements	57



Introduction and overview



Message from the Australian Statistician



The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has been the nation's source of independent, reliable data and insights for more than 120 years. We tell the story of Australia, its economy, its people, and the trends shaping our future. In a world with troubling levels of mis and disinformation, we defend the integrity, independence and quality of statistics we produce. These principles are important for the people, businesses and governments that look to the ABS to provide trusted information on which to base important decisions.

Over the four years covered by this Corporate Plan, the ABS will:

- continue to deliver the nation's key economic, social, business, population and environmental indicators, including the 19th Census of Population and Housing
- adapt and modernise how we operate to deliver these insights
- partner with agencies across government to provide needed data and enhance shared data infrastructure
- strengthen and grow our integrated data assets, and
- help raise data capability across the Australian Public Service.

Australians expect to interact with government via digital channels that are easy, quick and safe to use. We are responding to these expectations by updating how we collect, analyse and share data. Through our modernisation programs, we are strengthening the ABS's statistical and data infrastructure. These investments are enabling faster, more detailed and relevant insights, and delivering systems that are more efficient, agile, and secure. We have begun shaping the next phase of our modernisation program, which will build on our new platforms and capabilities delivered through recent investments by the Australian Government, and includes the adoption of updated international standards and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

We continue to enhance our integrated data assets, improving access, and ensuring they remain safe, secure and trusted. The Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA) and the Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment (BLADE) are increasingly being accessed to generate the empirical evidence on which policy can be based across a wide range of topics including the economy, labour market, education pathways, health outcomes and social wellbeing.

Through the APS Data Profession, we continue to help raise data skills across government and support a more professional, confident and capable APS workforce by enhancing training and building communities of practice. This work strengthens the foundations for data-driven government decision making and helps Australia harness the full value of its data.

As the accountable authority of the ABS, I am pleased to present the ABS Corporate Plan 2026–27, which covers the financial years 2026–27 to 2029–30, in accordance with section 35(1)(b) of the [Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013](#) (PGPA Act). As our primary planning document, it gives an overview of ABS' operating environment, key priorities, challenges, activities, statistical outputs and how we will measure our success.

I look forward to reporting to the Australian Parliament and the public on our performance in delivering on this Plan in the ABS Annual Report 2026–27.

Dr David Gruen AO
Australian Statistician



Corporate plan summary

The diagram presents a schematic view of how the ABS delivers its key activities. It shows how the ABS's purpose and intended outcome are achieved through key activities, supported by a modernisation agenda and enterprise capability shifts. These elements operate within the organisation's operating environment and risk settings and are underpinned by capability and performance measures.

The ABS Corporate Plan



About the ABS

We are Australia's national statistical agency and an official source of independent, reliable information. We tell the real story of Australia, its economy and its people by bringing life and meaning to numbers.

Our purpose

To inform Australia's important decisions by delivering relevant, trusted and objective data, statistics and insights.

Our role

The ABS is Australia's national statistical agency, an independent statutory authority in the Treasury portfolio. We provide trusted statistics on a wide range of economic, social, population and environmental matters of importance to Australia.

We lead the use of public data for statistical purposes and work to improve the Australian Government's data and statistical capabilities. We work in partnership with other government agencies and organisations to expand the range and quality of statistical data, and information available to governments and the community.

The ABS advises official bodies on producing and using data and statistics, formulates standards, works with states and territories, and liaises internationally with other national statistical organisations.

Our legislation

Our main functions, duties and powers are set out in the:

- [Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975](#), which establishes the ABS as an independent statutory authority and legislates its main function as the central statistical authority for the Australian Government and a provider of services to state and territory governments.
- [Census and Statistics Act 1905](#), which empowers the Australian Statistician to collect and publish statistical information on a broad range of demographic, economic, environmental and social topics, and has strong provisions to maintain the confidentiality of information collected under the Act.

In addition, the [Census and Statistics \(Information Release and Access\) Determination 2018](#) enables the Australian Statistician to release information collected under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* when specific conditions are met.

The ABS must comply with the governance and accountability system defined by the [Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013](#).

The ABS must also comply with a range of legislation, including but not limited to:

- [Public Service Act 1999](#)
- [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#)
- [Privacy Act 1988](#)
- [Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013](#)
- [National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022](#)
- [Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022](#)



Operating context



Environment

We operate in an environment of rapid technological, economic and social change. Demand for trusted, timely and relevant data continues to grow, creating new opportunities for the ABS to demonstrate leadership in the data landscape. While pressures on data collection, capability, systems, funding and public trust present challenges, they also drive innovation in how we deliver on our purpose of informing Australia's important decisions.

Modernising IT systems and infrastructure

The ABS operates in a complex digital environment, where ageing systems and a large portfolio of legacy technology continue to support many critical business and statistical functions, creating growing sustainability, cost and cyber security challenges. The ABS has made significant progress in the areas of cloud adoption, establishing whole-of-government integrated data and digital platforms and modernising data acquisition, process and analysis and dissemination functions. Through government funded modernisation programs the ABS has taken the next critical steps to deliver a more sustainable digital first model for ABS surveys and built core enterprise capabilities. The ABS has onboarded a few surveys to these capabilities as test cases for wider reuse in statistical production. Despite significant progress, the ABS still has a large portfolio of legacy ICT that continues to underpin most of our core functions. These legacy systems increasingly add costs and cyber risk to ABS business operations.

The ABS' IT strategy is anchored around a 10-year modernisation plan that will replace legacy ICT and ensure secure, modern and reliable ICT services, while ensuring the ABS takes more advantage of the data we collect and how modern technology can support more efficient operations.

To address this, the ABS is focused on enterprise-led modernisation, aligned to enterprise priorities and the [Data and Digital Government Strategy](#). This includes modernising not only legacy ICT systems and infrastructure, but also the business services and processes that depend on them. This ensures new technology is supported by capability uplift and translates into more contemporary, efficient business operations that meet evolving user needs.

The ABS will continue to focus on providing mature digital services and products and simplifying and consolidating on our strategic enterprise platforms. This includes the Scaled Analytical Data Environment (SADE) as the core enterprise data and analytics platform; Secure Environment for Analysing Data (SEAD) and DataLab as whole of government platforms enabling secure access to microdata; a platform for whole of government data integration functions through the Australian National Data Integration Infrastructure (ANDII); and contemporary channels and services for our data users and data providers. Together, these initiatives reduce systemic risk and complexity while providing a resilient, secure and adaptable digital foundation to support future data needs and productivity.

Geopolitical instability, financial sustainability and productivity pressures

The ABS operates in a demanding environment shaped by geopolitical instability, environment and climate-related risks, persistent productivity challenges and ongoing fiscal constraints. These pressures contribute to demand for timely, high-quality statistics and reinforce the importance of our role in supporting national decision-making.

The ABS is sharpening its focus on high-impact priorities, strengthening evidence that informs productivity, economic, environmental and climate policy, and improving longer-term financial sustainability through modernisation, data reuse, and greater use of administrative and linked data. For example, we have partnered with the [Australian Climate Service](#) and have developed capability to better understand community vulnerability to climate change. This positions the ABS to continue to deliver trusted, policy-relevant statistics that support informed decision-making in periods of uncertainty.



AI and the future data landscape

The data environment is becoming more complex. Rapid advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) are fundamentally reshaping business operations, data analytics and dissemination, and the use and consumption of technology, offering opportunities to improve productivity, scalability and insights, while introducing heightened governance, security and ethical risks.

The ABS is collaborating with national statistical offices around the world to explore AI from three perspectives. Firstly, for organisational use to lift productivity, automate processes and reduce risks. The Whole of Australian Government Occupation Coding Service is one example where the ABS is already using AI. Secondly, to update our dissemination practices to ensure our information is AI accessible, and thirdly, to measure the impact of AI on the Australian economy.

The ABS is committed to the use of AI with effective governance and security controls to safeguard statistical integrity, and to ensure transparency and public trust. To support this, we are using established governance processes and forums to ensure potential business uses of AI are safe, ethical and consistent with government policy. The Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer provides enterprise leadership for the strategic, responsible and value driven adoption of AI across the ABS. The Artificial Intelligence Accountable Official provides formal governance and risk oversight for AI use cases, ensuring compliance with APS AI governance requirements. The Chief Information Security Officer ensures AI systems are secure and resilient by design, including the management of cyber and information security risks.

Privacy and cyber security

As the trusted custodian of large volumes of sensitive, high-value statistical and administrative data, the ABS plays a central role in protecting privacy and security across the national data system. Rapid digitisation, expanded use of linked and cloud-based data, and the growing volume and sophistication of cyber threats, are driving a need to strengthen our security posture and how we safeguard information.

The ABS is building on its long-standing commitment to privacy, confidentiality and security. This includes a continued shift towards a proactive, holistic, security-by-design approach. Through strong security and confidentiality frameworks, sustained investment driving cyber resilience, alignment with the [Australian Cyber Security Strategy 2023-2030](#), and continued uplift against the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) Essentials for Enterprise IT, the ABS safeguards its data assets, maintains provider trust, and ensures the ongoing delivery of trusted statistics.

Evolving user demands

Governments, businesses and the community increasingly expect faster, more granular and accessible data, alongside continued assurance of quality and objectivity, independence and relevance. Interest is growing in data to support national priorities such as productivity, renewable energy investment, data centres and digitisation, as well as a deeper understanding of complex areas including the non-market sector. Measuring productivity, particularly in health, education and public administration remains internationally challenging, with no simple solutions.

By adopting a user-centred approach, making the most of new technologies and integrated data sources and applying modern methods, the ABS is well-placed to deliver timely, high-value economic and social insights that reflect the modern economy.

A changing data collection environment

The environment for collecting high-quality statistical information is changing significantly. Survey fatigue, declining trust in institutions, increased exposure to external disruptions such as natural disasters, and increased private-sector data requests are contributing to lower survey response rates, placing pressure on data quality, cost and timeliness. At the same time, people increasingly expect government services to be simple, secure, accessible and available through digital channels that are responsive to their needs and circumstances.

The ABS is responding by modernising its data collection approaches to ensure they remain effective, trusted and sustainable. This includes adopting user centred design practices and developing a Provider Experience Strategy, expanding the use of digital collection channels, improving the accessibility and flexibility of collection methods, increasing data reuse, replacing surveys with administrative data, redesigning samples, and enhancing engagement with data providers to highlight the value of participation.



Data and digital skills in demand

Demand for advanced data, statistical and digital skills continue to grow, presenting risks to workforce capability. The use of legacy technologies is adding further pressure due to limited availability of people with the required expertise and skills in the current market. The ABS is responding by investing in capability uplift through targeted upskilling, internal mobility and leadership development. An internal talent marketplace supports skill diversification and flexible deployment, while short-term or specialist needs are met through flexible workforce models. Modern job design, digital tools and standardised platforms enhance productivity and scalability. This ensures the ABS workforce remains adaptable, skilled and ready to meet emerging needs.



Capability

Our organisational capability is the combination of our people, culture, processes, systems and knowledge. Our organisational capabilities directly contribute to our ability to deliver our purpose.

Building a future ready ABS

The environment in which the ABS operates is changing rapidly, and we must change with it. Through the next phase of our modernisation, we are strengthening organisational capability by investing in our people, culture, processes, systems and knowledge. We have begun shaping the next phase of our modernisation. This work enhances our data capability, sharpens our client focus, modernises technology and evolves leadership to ensure the ABS can meet emerging challenges. This includes the use of AI to drive a future ready ABS.

Five capability shifts to build a future ready ABS

SHIFT	DATA	CLIENTS	WORKFORCE	TECHNOLOGY	LEADERSHIP
BEING MORE	- Solutions focused - Diverse in the types of data we use - Re-users of data.	- Proactive - Client-centric (both providers and data users) - Partnering to design solutions - Providing higher value to core clients.	- Solutions focused - Highly collaborative - Comfortable with ambiguity - Diverse in ways of working and thinking - Multi-skilled in how we collect data.	- Modern, flexible and secure in how we provision our internal solutions - Responsive to the needs of our external users.	- A collaborative and integrated leadership team - Outwardly focused and internally supportive.

Data

The ABS's mature data capability enables the end-to-end delivery of trusted statistics and insights. This capability supports the ABS to undertake its core activities and deliver its purpose as Australia's national statistical agency.

We source, protect, analyse and disseminate high-quality data by combining established statistical expertise with direct survey collection, alternative data sources and modern data practices to produce timely, relevant outputs that meet the needs of governments, businesses and the community. This capability is aligned with the Australian Government's Data and Digital Government Strategy and guided by the ABS Data Strategy.

Delivery of these activities is supported by modern data infrastructure, effective and consistently applied governance, and robust privacy, security and ethical standards, enabling safe and scalable data integration, advanced analytics and responsible data sharing across government. The ABS leverages contemporary technologies, including cloud computing and artificial intelligence, to improve efficiency and enhance data accessibility. Through collaboration with government, academia and industry, we co-design outputs and unlock greater value from public and private sector data to strengthen the national evidence base.

Clients

The ABS puts clients at the centre of how we design, collect and deliver statistics. We work proactively with clients to understand their needs, roles, decision contexts, enabling fit-for-purpose engagement and effective management of the end-to-end client experience for both data providers and data users.

Through consistent, predictable and responsive engagement, we build trust and confidence while reducing burden, protecting data and demonstrating the value and integrity of our work. This partnership-based approach strengthens the relevance, quality and trustworthiness of ABS statistics and increases willingness to share data.

The ABS is outward-looking and connected, aligning with international best practice and anticipating emerging client needs. By partnering with clients to design solutions and deliver timely, high-quality insights through modern digital tools and accessible tailored services, we provide reliable evidence to support informed decisions and more resilient outcomes.

Workforce

The ABS is building a skilled, agile and sustainable workforce to meet major shifts in modernisation, digital uplift and growing data and technology demands, while responding to the evolving needs of our clients and users.

Guided by the ABS Workforce Strategy, we are uplifting core data, digital and enabling capabilities through structured learning pathways, targeted contemporary training and investment in coding, data science, analytics and AI skills. Clear career pathways, internal mobility, talent pipelines and active succession planning are being strengthened to support capability growth, protect core delivery and prepare the organisation for emerging roles. By aligning workforce planning with enterprise priorities and budget, the ABS ensures the right mix of capability, capacity and diversity to deliver outcomes.

United by purpose, strengthened by diverse perspectives, the ABS workforce continues to learn, adapt and innovate responsibly, upholding statistical excellence, public trust and impact in a data-driven, technology-enabled environment.

Technology

The ABS has a strong and evolving technology capability that enables the secure, reliable and scalable delivery of statistics, data products and services. This capability underpins the ABS's ability to operate effectively in a changing data and digital environment and to respond to the needs of data providers, data users and ABS employees.

Guided by the ABS ICT Strategy, the ABS is strengthening its digital foundation as part of a multi-year modernisation journey. This includes sustained investment in modern, cloud-based platforms and contemporary technologies, improving the flexibility and resilience of core systems, and progressively transitioning away from legacy technologies that present the greatest operational or security risk.

A security-by-design approach, aligned with whole-of-government standards, underpins our technology environment, strengthening cyber security and protecting systems, data, and public trust.

Supported by a skilled and digitally capable workforce, we use automation and emerging technologies to improve efficiency and effectiveness across production environments, enabling simple, secure and reliable digital services that support the delivery of high-quality statistics.

Leadership

The ABS is strengthening leadership capability across the organisation to support its role as a trusted leader in data. Our leaders bring diverse perspectives, deep statistical expertise and strong digital, governance and delivery capabilities. Together, they operate as a cohesive, enterprise-focused cohort to drive shared accountability, resilience and impact.

ABS leaders engage outwardly, build connections and spend time outside the ABS to bring new perspectives into the organisation. They are supported to take considered risks that drive innovation and continuous improvement. This capability enables ABS leaders to contribute collaboratively to whole-of-government decision-making and shape priorities for data, digital investment and governance, reinforcing the ABS's role in strengthening Australia's data capabilities.

ABS leaders model inclusive and respectful behaviours, promote wellbeing, enable workforce mobility, lead change effectively and uphold APS employment and workforce principles in every decision. Through this approach, the ABS is equipping its leadership to deliver trusted data, influence system-wide capability and support informed decisions for Australia.



By strengthening capabilities across data, clients, workforce, technology and leadership, the ABS is building an agile and resilient organisation, equipped to operate with impact in a rapidly evolving environment. These integrated investments ensure the ABS remains trusted, future-ready and capable of leading Australia's data system, delivering high-quality insights that support confident decision-making and enduring public value.

Capability – APS Strategic Commissioning Framework

In alignment with the [APS Strategic Commissioning Framework](#), we are committed to ensuring our core work is undertaken by APS staff. We have set a target to keep the amount of core work outsourced to less than 1% of our Full-Time Equivalent workforce. This target reflects our commitment to maintaining our core work in-house and harnessing APS expertise and knowledge.

Risk oversight and management

Our risk management approach is founded on the principle of continuous improvement. We operate in a complex environment where public trust, data security and integrity, digital reliability and capability, and operational excellence are essential to deliver our purpose. We recognise that innovation and transformation are essential to meet evolving data needs and operational efficiency, and we support calculated risk-taking where it enables delivery of relevant, timely and high-quality statistics.

Risk management framework

The ABS manages risk in accordance with the [Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013](#) (PGPA Act) and the [Commonwealth Risk Management Policy](#). We implement this through the Australian Statistician's expectations for risk management and our ABS Risk Management Policy and Framework.

The ABS Risk Management Framework outlines how we manage risks to achieve better outcomes for the Australian community. It helps us establish and maintain appropriate systems and controls for risk oversight and management and provides guidance to our people on managing and engaging with risk.

During 2026–27, we will continue to implement a refreshed approach to risk management that fosters a positive risk culture to empower our people to identify and manage risk. We will continue to embed consistent risk practices across all program areas, with clear alignment to the ABS Risk Management Framework. Each program area will continue to identify, assess and manage risks relevant to its operations, contributing to a cohesive and comprehensive risk management strategy across the organisation.

Governance

The Australian Statistician holds overarching responsibility for the ABS Risk Management Framework and chairs the ABS Executive Board, which monitors our enterprise risk and determines our risk appetite and tolerance. The Executive Board encourages a balanced and proportionate approach to risk-taking, while applying informed risk management practices to uphold integrity and protect the organisation's reputation.

The Chief Risk Officer supports the ABS Executive Board by reviewing enterprise risk and ensuring the effectiveness of our management of risk. The ABS Audit and Risk Committee gives independent advice to the Australian Statistician on the appropriateness of the ABS Risk Management Framework and internal controls. The Operations and Risk Committee enables greater senior oversight of key organisational risks and gives strategic advice to the ABS Executive Board on frameworks for enterprise risk, information management systems, property, security and financial management.

Our enterprise risk management function supports the Australian Statistician and ABS Executive Board. This includes reporting on enterprise risk and guiding business units and transformation programs to proportionately manage their risks.



Enterprise risks

The ABS has eight enterprise risks that reflect our current strategic and operating environment. Our enterprise risks are subject to in-depth review on an ongoing basis as the risk profile for each enterprise risk continues to evolve.

Enterprise risk	Management strategies	Risk appetite statement
Statistical quality and integrity 		
The ABS fails to meet the expectations of key data users and produces substandard statistics, undermining our role as a national statistical authority.	We safeguard the quality and integrity of the statistics we produce through robust standards and quality assurance across all stages of statistical production. Internal and external oversight supports confidence, accountability and continuous improvement as we manage increasing complexity, innovation and change.	We have a low appetite for risks that could compromise the quality and integrity of our statistical outputs, recognising that public trust and confidence are central to our purpose. We have a high appetite for engaging with the risk associated with innovation in statistical methods and data sources, though these activities must be rigorously monitored and transparently communicated.
Privacy and information security 		
The ABS fails to protect public data and is vulnerable to internal or external threats.	We protect privacy and secure information through privacy-by-design, strong policies and controls, and central oversight aligned with legislative and government requirements. Strengthened enterprise risk visibility, specialist internal capability, independent legal assurance and external partnerships support effective threat management.	Attempts to compromise ABS systems and information could severely damage public trust and compromise our social licence to collect, analyse and share data. This is an increasingly challenging aspect of our business in which there is very low appetite for risk taking by the ABS. The ABS has a very low appetite for risks related to breaches of privacy, confidentiality, integrity, or security of data- particularly deliberate misuse or exploitation by insiders or malicious actors. Data sharing must be secure and underpinned by privacy-by-design, robust controls and ongoing assurance.
Data quality and provider participation 		
Declining survey participation rates and poor stakeholder management limits the ABS' access to critical data sources.	We support data quality and participation through centralised production capability, careful survey and collection design, strong stakeholder engagement and secure data handling. We prioritise reducing provider burden, improving digital services and modernising systems to sustain participation and protect data quality.	We have a medium appetite for risk associated with external engagement which reflects our appetite for innovation and reducing provider burden while maintaining the ABS's social licence and reputation. We have a low appetite for risks that erode stakeholder trust, particularly those arising from privacy concerns, poor provider experience, or perceived lack of value in our surveys.



Enterprise risk	Management strategies	Risk appetite statement
Critical program delivery		
The ABS fails to successfully deliver a critical program adversely affecting trust with government and strategic goals.	We support effective delivery of critical programs through strong program governance and Portfolio-level prioritisation. Active management of scope, phasing and risk help balance delivery pressures, safeguard benefits and maintain confidence in outcomes.	The ABS has a high appetite for the risk required for innovative and adaptive approaches to enable strategic delivery of our critical programs, but only where rigorous governance, prioritisation, and contingency planning to safeguard outcomes and public trust is in place. We maintain a low appetite for risks that could result in critical program failure or reputational damage.
IT system capability and continuity		
The ABS fails to keep critical IT services operating or secure, preventing the publication of key statistics or causing a material outage of external services.	We maintain IT capability and continuity through central governance, systematic risk assessment, incident and change management, and compliance with government security standards. Ongoing investment in modern platforms, skilled internal capability and business continuity planning supports delivery of critical statistical outputs.	We have a low appetite for risks that could disrupt core statistical outputs, compromise data security, or reduce system availability during critical periods. The ABS accepts some risk in modernising legacy systems and adopting new technologies, recognising the need for digital transformation. We have a high appetite for risks relating to innovation that can improve user experience, but only where risk that could disrupt statistical outputs and compromise data is effectively managed.
Financial sustainability		
The ABS fails to effectively manage its financial processes, assets, projects, investments and is unable to maintain a sustainable financial position.	We manage financial sustainability through strong financial governance, clear delegations and central oversight. Regular reporting supports informed decision-making, while disciplined oversight of budgets is applied to maintain financial sustainability.	We have a medium appetite for financial risks in response to unforeseen external changes where the uncertainty is measurable and understood. We have a low appetite for financial risks including poor fiscal practices including overcommitment of funds, delayed receivables, inadequate budgeting, inappropriate spending of public money and inaccurate financial reporting.



Enterprise risk	Management strategies	Risk appetite statement
Health, safety and wellbeing		
The ABS fails to create a safe working environment.	We manage health, safety and wellbeing through a comprehensive WHS management system, regular assurance, and strong professional capability. Mandatory training and external validation support a positive safety culture and drive continuous improvement amid increasing organisational and environmental complexity.	The ABS has a very low appetite for risks to staff health, safety, and wellbeing, including injury of staff or contractors engaged in field work. We also have a very low appetite for risk of harm to members of the public caused by staff or contractors
People capability		
The ABS is unable to effectively manage the capability and capacity of the workforce to deliver on legislative obligations and strategic objectives.	We manage people capability through strong governance, centralised workforce planning and targeted capability development. A strong employer value proposition supports attraction, retention and future-ready skills, while strengthening leadership and change capability to meet evolving organisational needs.	We have a high appetite for taking calculated risks in pursuing innovative and proactive approaches to attract and retain talent and build workforce capability. This does not mean we accept a high risk of failing to maintain suitable capability, rather it reflects our willingness to explore strategies to strengthen capability for the future. This risk must be balanced with strong controls to safeguard staff wellbeing and critical capability.

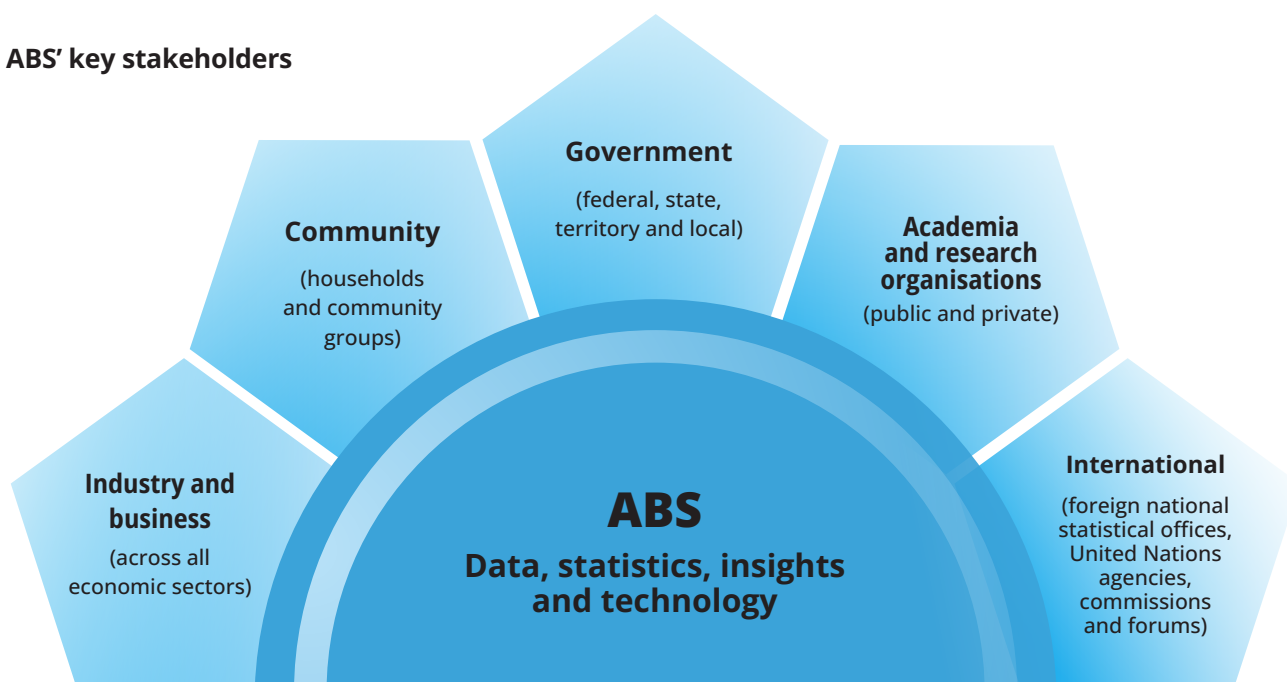


Collaboration and cooperation

Trusted and effective relationships with our key stakeholders enable the ABS to deliver the data and insights that shape Australia's important decisions.

We work collaboratively with a broad network of partners across Australia and around the world.

ABS' key stakeholders



Industry and business

The ABS engages with industry and businesses across all sectors to collect high-quality information on economic activity, labour, investment, innovation and industry performance that underpins informed economic decision-making and supports Australia's prosperity. Businesses are central to the ABS statistical system as both essential data providers and users of ABS outputs and effective collaboration ensures that data, statistics and insights remain relevant, timely and fit for purpose in a rapidly evolving economy.

A cornerstone of ABS collaboration with business is its partnership with the Australian Taxation Office to maintain and use the Australian Business Register, which provides a comprehensive and current list of economically active businesses. The register underpins industry statistics, productivity analysis and economic measurement, ensuring representative coverage of Australia's business population.

The ABS also works directly with industry groups, peak bodies and large organisations to ensure statistical concepts, classifications and outputs reflect contemporary business practices and economic structures. This engagement supports the development and interpretation of key outputs, including business indicators, capital expenditure statistics and industry performance measures, and helps ensure ABS products remain relevant to business decision-making.

Through modernisation programs such as Big Data, Timely Insights, the ABS collaborates with private-sector data providers to unlock new data sources and deliver faster, more detailed economic insights. These initiatives strengthen Australia's business statistics, while improving the security, resilience and timeliness of ABS statistical systems.

By promoting data capability and statistical literacy, the ABS also supports businesses and industry stakeholders to confidently use the statistics we produce to understand market conditions, benchmark performance and support informed decision-making and planning, contributing to a strong and well-functioning economy.



Community

The ABS works collaboratively with households and community organisations to ensure our statistics continue to reflect contemporary economic and social conditions and meet user needs. We engage with communities throughout the design, review and delivery of key data collections, including planned and ongoing engagement to support major household surveys such as the Monthly Population Survey. This engagement includes consulting with respondents, community groups and data users on survey content, collection methods and respondent experience, to reduce burden and strengthen data quality.

We undertake public consultations when reviewing classifications, Census topics and statistical products, ensuring community perspectives inform decision-making.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

The ABS will continue to collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including through the ABS Round Table for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics, to support culturally safe data collection and ensure statistical programs reflect Indigenous priorities, values and diversity. These collaborations will be supported by transparent communication, strong privacy protections and a commitment to returning value to the community through accessible and meaningful insights.

In partnership with all jurisdictions, and led by the National Indigenous Australians Agency, the ABS is committed to strengthening Indigenous data governance through implementation of the Framework for Governance of Indigenous Data. As co-chair of the Data Policy Partnership with the Coalition of Peaks, the ABS is supporting improved data outcomes in line with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. We will also continue our commitment to reconciliation through the development of the 2027–29 Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan, which will contribute to strengthening cultural capability and safety in the workplace, and improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

Government

The ABS works in close partnership with governments at all levels, local, state and territory, and the Australian Government, as well as internationally, to deliver trusted, objective data and insights in a dynamic data environment. Through strong relationships with policy agencies, service delivery bodies and data custodians, the ABS integrates survey and administrative data into high-value statistical assets that inform decision-making across government, industry, business, academia and the community.

These collaborations support evidence-based policy design, effective implementation and rigorous evaluation, improving economic performance and community outcomes. For the 2026 Census of Population and Housing, the ABS partnered with Services Australia to enable households to subscribe and access the Census online via myGov. The ABS also partners with the Department of the Treasury and portfolio agencies, Reserve Bank of Australia, Productivity Commission and Commonwealth Grants Commission to provide core economic, labour, population and social statistics that inform fiscal, monetary and structural policy decisions. The ABS collaborates with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to produce national health statistics using administrative and survey data to support health policy, service planning and population health monitoring, and with the Department of Education to deliver high-quality statistics on early childhood, schooling, vocational education and training, and higher education.

Over the next three years, the ABS will partner with Australian Government agencies to deliver key national data initiatives. This includes partnering with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to deliver the 2027 National Health Survey and the 2028 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, to inform policy, strengthen program design, and improve outcomes for Australians. Strong relationships with state, territory and local governments support place-based analysis, regional decision-making and whole-of-government initiatives through nationally consistent statistics.



Academia and research organisations

The ABS is a key enabler for Australia's research community and partners with academia and research organisations to accelerate innovation and ensure statistics remain fit for future decision-making. These collaborations help the ABS anticipate emerging data needs and embed leading research into statistical practice.

Working with universities, the ABS is co-developing national research infrastructure to support long-term insight. As a core partner in the Social Science Research Infrastructure Network (SSRIN), alongside the University of Queensland, Monash University and the Australian National University, the ABS is integrating social and administrative data to enable research on health, ageing and social outcomes.

Academic partnerships also drive operational innovation. Ongoing collaboration with the Queensland University of Technology supports the continued development of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard, enhancing automation and scalability to better support future population growth and urbanisation.

Looking ahead, the ABS will continue to enhance integrated data assets such as BLADE and PLIDA with university partners, supporting richer longitudinal and cross-sector analysis. Partnerships with institutions such as the University of Adelaide further strengthen life-course and justice data initiatives, informing early-intervention and equity-focused policy.

Together, these collaborations position the ABS as a cornerstone of Australia's data and research infrastructure, delivering trusted evidence for the decisions that matter.

International engagements

The ABS plans international collaborations to fulfil its legislated purpose of delivering trusted, high-quality statistics and facilitating effective statistical liaison between Australia and international partners. Targeted engagement with global organisations and National Statistical Offices (NSOs) ensures international activities are aligned to ABS priorities and deliver clear value to Australia.

Active participation in United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Conference of European Statistics (CES) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (OECD-CSSP) forums enable the ABS to influence and adopt international standards, strengthening the quality, relevance and comparability of Australian statistics and supporting informed decision-making and public trust.

For many years, longer than three decades in one case, with funding and support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the ABS has supported Australia's broader national and regional objectives by strengthening statistical capability, data governance and stewardship across Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Fiji and the Pacific. Looking ahead, the ABS will continue to work collaboratively across the Indo-Pacific region, for example through its partnership with the PNG NSO, to strengthen statistical capability in National Accounts and Prices programs. This work will focus on enhancing data quality, with particular emphasis on accuracy, timeliness, and coherence across datasets.

International collaboration delivers the dual benefits of building sustainable statistical systems in partner countries, while strengthening ABS capability, reinforcing Australia's role as a trusted regional partner and influential contributor to the global statistical system.



Modernisation agenda



The ABS has a long history of modernising and adapting as society, data and technology change. We have made significant progress in modernising how we collect, manage and share data and we will continue this momentum in the years ahead. The pace of technological change, the growth of new data sources and rising expectations for secure, accessible digital services mean that continued modernisation is essential to our long-term success.

Our role in the national data ecosystem has also grown. The ABS now plays a central role in supporting how data is sourced, integrated, governed and shared across government. We contribute to national data governance frameworks, such as the [Framework for Governance of Indigenous Data](#) and support the responsible use of data to inform policy, research and service delivery. This broader role reflects both our expertise and the increasing importance of quality data in national decision-making.

Modernisation is entwined with our core business. We continue to refine our methods, invest in workforce capability, improve how we engage with clients and users, and upgrade our technology platforms to support high-quality outcomes. The ABS uses our 10-year digital investment plan, along with reusing capabilities that have been built through our modernisation programs to guide where we invest and innovate and informed by what we have learnt from our modernisation efforts. This approach supports consistent decision-making and enables us to plan and work together effectively across the organisation.

The improvements we are making strengthen the foundations that support our three key activities and ensure we can deliver our purpose. Through our modernisation agenda, we will continue to evolve as a modern national statistical office – one that is innovative, secure, client-centred and equipped to deliver the data and insights Australia needs.

The key part of this work is a long-term (10-year) digital investment plan that supports the progressive replacement of ageing systems, strengthens cyber security, and delivers modern, reusable platforms for data acquisition, processing and dissemination. This includes improving customer experience across ABS products and services, supporting staff to work effectively in modern digital and cloud-based environments, and transitioning from manual, legacy systems and processes to secure and scalable cloud-based solutions. This approach aligns with Australian Government expectations to deliver simple, secure and connected public services.

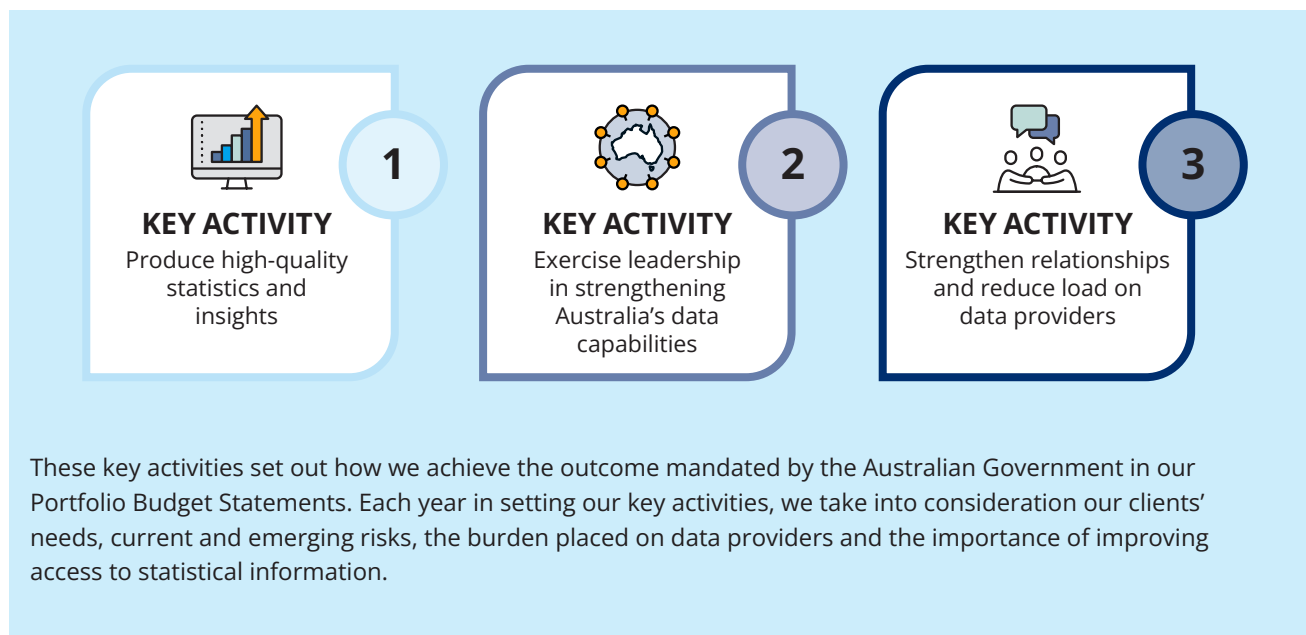
Modernisation also ensures the ABS is ready to responsibly adopt emerging technologies, including AI, as they mature. By strengthening our foundations, we position the organisation to use new tools at scale to improve efficiency and insight while maintaining transparency, privacy and public trust.

Work is underway for the next phase of modernisation, making significant reuse of what has already been delivered, along with the use of AI to drive modernisation efficiency. We will deliver widespread migration of our statistical collections to efficient, secure tools in the cloud. The ABS is also working to implement recently agreed updates to international classifications and standards that will enable us to measure the modern economy, including how it is impacted by AI, and the value of data and digital industries. This will close crucial information gaps for policymakers and maintain statistical comparability with comparable countries.



Key activities

We achieve our purpose through three key activities:



Key activity 1: Produce high-quality statistics and insights

As Australia's national statistical agency, we collect and analyse a suite of social, economic, business, population and environmental data to offer valuable statistics and insights to inform Australia's important decisions.

Our data and statistics underpin fiscal and monetary policy, inform decision making and the delivery of programs and services essential to the wellbeing of Australians, and contribute to informed public discussion. To maintain this role, we continue to strengthen both the quality of our collections and the systems and methods that support them.

The ABS Forward Work Program outlines our planned statistical releases and data developments over the next four years. During 2026–27, we will continue to deliver a range of statistics and products to meet the needs of government, businesses and the community.



Major ABS programs and projects

The table below shows the major ABS programs and projects we are focussing on over the duration of this Plan, to support our objective of producing high-quality statistics and insights.

Enterprise Shifts	Programs and Projects	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30
 DATA	Census 2026 (including the Post Enumeration Survey) Collects Australia's demographic characteristics for statistical analysis and insights to support decision-making in government, business and community sectors.	●	●	●	
	Census 2031 Collects Australia's demographic characteristics for statistical analysis and insights to support decision-making in government, business and community sectors.	●	●	●	●
	Statistical Releases Refer to the Forward Work Program.	●	●	●	●
	Occupation Standard Classification for Australia (OSCA) (previously known as Updating Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations) Implementing OSCA across ABS collections and maintaining the classification to enable a common understanding of Australia's current and future workforce.	●	●		
	Advancing Economic Statistics for the Contemporary Economy Adoption of the updated 2025 System of National Accounts and 7th Edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual across key economic statistics.	●	●	●	●
 CLIENTS	Addressing Labour Market Data Gaps Strengthening labour market evidence by expanding data on employment outcomes, job quality, unpaid care and First Nations employment.	●	●		
	Competition Review / Merger Reform Integrating survey and new administrative data into the Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment (BLADE) to strengthen analysis of competition, business dynamism and economic performance.	●	●	●	
	Agriculture Statistics Modernisation Replacing large agricultural surveys with data from government, industry and commercial sources, improving regional detail and timeliness while reducing provider burden and cost.	●	●		
	Life Course Data Initiative Deliver the Life Course Dataset, supporting communities, researchers and policy makers to produce and publish relevant data, statistics and insights.	●	●		
	National Veterans' Data Asset Delivering this data asset using Person Level Integrated Data Asset infrastructure to provide longitudinal deidentified data for critical research and analysis to support improving health and wellbeing outcomes for veterans and their families.	●	●	●	●
 TECHNOLOGY	Big Data Timely Insights – Phase 2 Transitioning key data assets to a secure cloud environment, allowing the ABS to reduce risks it currently faces to the production and accuracy of Australia's key economic statistics.	●	●		

● Planning ● Executing ● Closing



2026 and 2031 Census of Population and Housing

The Census is one of Australia's most important national exercises. It provides the most comprehensive picture of Australia's population, informing decisions about hospitals, schools, transport, housing, infrastructure and community services. Delivering a secure and trusted Census is central to our role as Australia's national statistical agency.

On 11 August 2026, we conducted the 19th Census. The 2026 Census introduced a new pathway via myGov, supporting a seamless and accessible experience for the public. It also collected data on a new topic of Sexual Orientation and Gender (for people aged 16 years and older) for the first time. These changes reflect evolving data needs and provide important insights to support policy development, planning and service delivery across Australia.

Following collection, we undertake processing, quality assurance and validation activities required to produce high-quality Census data. From June 2027, we will release the first results from the 2026 Census, along with findings from the Post Enumeration Survey and rebased population estimates.

The ABS conducts the Census every five years, as required under the [Census and Statistics Act 1905](#). Planning for the 2031 Census has begun. Early planning ensures we can continue to innovate, respond to emerging data needs and maintain the high standards expected of Australia's largest statistical collection.

Economic and industry statistics

We continue to enhance the quality, coverage and timeliness of Australia's economic and industry statistics, supported by modernised systems, stronger partnerships and increased use of administrative and transactional data. This includes delivering key initiatives to modernise statistical production and data assets, including:

- Big Data Timely Insights Phase 2 Program:
 - delivered core statistical processing systems required to produce the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on a monthly basis from November 2025. The program will complete the build of all additional CPI tools in 2026–27, enabling the ABS to move away from the legacy CPI system.
 - will onboard four business collections (Quarterly Business Indicators Survey, the Survey of Capital Expenditure, and Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Surveys) to secure cloud-based tools through a planned, staged approach by June 2027. This will enable more efficient statistical production, move away from legacy systems, and provide a repeatable pattern for onboarding additional collections in the future.
 - deliver a cloud-based Business Characteristics Asset by June 2030, providing near real-time insights on business formation and resilience, including new information on small businesses. The new asset will replace the legacy business register and support more flexible, targeted and high-quality insights. The asset will support improved understanding of business behaviour and economic resilience and will underpin a range of new statistical products and analytical capabilities.
- delivering modernised agricultural statistics with improved access to data while reducing provider burden. In partnership with the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences and others across the sector, we are also developing new microdata to support research on agriculture and regional communities and strengthening data sharing and custodianship across the agricultural sector.



Measuring the modern economy

Australia's economic statistics are built on internationally agreed standards and frameworks that are updated from time to time to capture changes in the economy. With new industries and the expansion of digital services and emerging technologies, our statistical foundations must evolve to ensure Australia's economic statistics reflect the contemporary economy. We continue to support the development and adoption of statistical standards and infrastructure to enable the production of high-quality statistics that are internationally comparable.

The ABS is preparing to implement the 2025 System of National Accounts and the 7th Edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual. This work will provide a more complete picture of the economy by capturing industries and activities that are currently under-represented and ensure Australia maintains international comparability as other countries adopt these new standards.

The ABS released a new Occupation Standard Classification for Australia (OSCA) in 2024. We are now working with experts across government, industry, education and training to ensure OSCA remains relevant, accurate and aligned to evolving labour market dynamics and international standards. This will involve identifying new and emerging occupations, retiring obsolete roles, and refining skill levels, titles and task descriptions. This update is part of the [OSCA maintenance strategy](#) to ensure it reflects a modern Australian labour market and stakeholder expectations and will be released in 2027.

Population, labour and social statistics

We are expanding the breadth and depth of Australia's population, labour and social statistics to reflect contemporary issues and support policy needs across government. This includes:

- addressing labour market data gaps identified in the Employment White Paper to support a more dynamic and inclusive labour market. This includes improved data on disadvantaged groups, unpaid care, job quality and mobility, non-binary Australians, and annual employment insights for First Nations peoples. This will be enabled by integrating survey and administrative data and modernising key labour collections.
- delivering insights from the annual digital-first General Social Survey, supporting Treasury's [Measuring What Matters](#) national wellbeing framework.
- delivering the 2027 National Health Survey (NHS), in partnership with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. The NHS provides high quality national statistics on long-term health conditions, mental wellbeing, and health risk factors. The data will build on previous Australia wide Health Surveys that are used across multiple levels of the health system by diverse stakeholders across Australia. This initiative helps to better understand the health and wellbeing of Australians and informs how Australia's health system is designed for the future.
- delivering the 2028 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC), in partnership with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. This follows from previous SDAC surveys, collecting important information from people with disability, people over 65 and carers to assess performance and impact of national programs and initiatives. Insights from the survey will inform the design of future initiatives to meet the needs of Australians.



Integrated data assets

We are committed to enhancing the value of Australia's data by partnering across government and the private sector. By building data integration capabilities that link public and private datasets, we enable policy-relevant research and new insights into Australia's communities, economy and environment. Reusing existing data reduces the amount and frequency of information we need from surveys, lowering burden for households and businesses and ensuring public funds are used effectively.

Our integrated data assets bring together information from multiple sources and are widely used to inform policy, evaluate programs and support research that benefits the public. The Person-Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA) combines 37 datasets on healthcare, education, government payments, personal income tax and population. The Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment (BLADE) links 41 datasets on tax, trade, intellectual property and ABS survey data to support analysis of business performance, innovation and productivity.

To respond to evolving research needs, we collaborate with government and private sector partners to develop and maintain these assets. This includes:

- piloting the Life Course Data Initiative (LCDI) in partnership with the Australian Capital Territory Government, South Australian Government and Adelaide University's BetterStart. The LCDI is creating an evidence base by bringing together cross-jurisdictional data from a range of early childhood, health and community services, to generate insights that can better inform long term policy responses to address disadvantage, particularly for children aged 0-14 years. The LCDI is also helping communities across Australia find and access data and build capability in using and interpreting data for local decision making. Products to be released in 2026-27 will include an experimental indicator of child disadvantage which incorporates measures relevant to social, economic and educational wellbeing, research outputs from LCDI partners, and insights into child residential mobility.
- establishing the National Veterans' Data Asset, a recommendation from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. This initiative will be delivered in partnership with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Department of Defence and the National Suicide Prevention Office. By reusing the Person Level Integrated Data Asset infrastructure, it will allow deidentified longitudinal data to be brought together efficiently for critical research and analysis to support improving health and wellbeing outcomes for veterans and their families.
- developing the Criminal Justice Data Asset (CJDA), in partnership with Department of Social Services and state and territory governments. The CJDA will draw together data from the administrative systems of state and territory criminal justice agencies – including data about police recorded offenders, criminal court defendants and adult prisoners under the authority of corrective services.
- supporting the Treasury Competition Review Taskforce through integration of new administrative and survey datasets into BLADE. The review will support Treasury's analysis of competition laws, policies and institutions to ensure they are suitable for the modern economy, focusing on reforms that boost productivity and increase wages.



Key activity 2:

Exercise leadership in strengthening Australia's data capabilities

We are at the forefront of data innovation – responding to today's challenges and partnering to deliver rich, new information solutions, technologies and capability for Australia's future.

Through cross-sector collaboration, stewardship and technical leadership, we contribute to the uplift of Australia's data capabilities and support a more connected, secure and effective national data system.

We are also strengthening our internal data science and analytics capability by modernising analytical tools and methods, improving coding and data engineering practices, and expanding supported access to contemporary technologies such as R, Python and GitLab. This includes developing enterprise standards for coding, testing and change management, delivering foundational data science training for staff, and coordinating uplift across major ABS programs to ensure consistent, modern and efficient analytical workflows.

Major ABS programs and projects

The table below shows the major ABS programs and projects we are focussing on over the duration of this Plan, to support our objective of exercising leadership in Australia's data landscape.

Enterprise Shifts	Programs and Projects	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30
 DATA	ABS Data Integration Projects Supporting public interest research by providing access to integrated data assets through approved projects.	●	●	●	●
 TECHNOLOGY	Whole of Government Data Coding Service Implementing a shared coding capability to modernise classification processes, support consistent national data standards and strengthen opportunities for data linkage and analysis.	●	●	●	●
 LEADERSHIP	APS Data Profession Builds and sustains APS wide data capability through workforce development, strengthened stewardship, modern learning pathways and an emerging Indigenous Data Profession.	●	●	●	●

 Planning  Executing  Closing



Data platforms and capabilities

We deliver and operate core data platforms and capabilities that support high-quality statistics, insights and evidence-based decision-making. Our key capabilities include:

- Secure Environment for Analysing Data (SEAD): A protected analytical environment that enables secure collaboration on sensitive data.
- Australian National Data Integration Infrastructure (ANDII): A secure platform that links and integrates government datasets to support research, evaluation and policy development.
- Whole of Australian Government Coding Service: A new coding service that makes classifying data to the latest standard occupation classification easier, faster and cheaper. In 2026–27, we will continue to mature this service for ABS-wide adoption and external use with Australia's industry classification.

Data integration projects

Researchers access our data assets through the secure ABS DataLab. Government, research and not-for-profit sectors use this data to generate insights about the economy and the community, including to evaluate the impact of Government policies. There are currently 353 active projects accessing ABS integrated data in the DataLab. For 2026–27, approved ABS and collaborative projects supported through DataLab include:

- Analysis of the cost structures and profitability of community pharmacies, supporting evaluation of the next Community Pharmacy Agreement and reforms aimed at improving value for consumers and taxpayers.
- Research into business dynamism exploring the drivers of firm entry, growth and exit, and how these processes contribute to productivity growth and economic performance.
- Analysis of the full costs and impacts of orthopedic trauma, examining hospital treatment, follow-on healthcare use, changes in earning capacity and demand for community supports to better understand the broader impacts of serious injuries.
- Evaluation of programs that build education and work capacity for people with disability assessing the impacts of early intervention, employment supports and re-skilling initiatives on education, income, wellbeing and long-term economic participation.
- Analysis of how tax settings, housing investment and emerging technologies shape economic transitions, examining how speculative investment affects entrepreneurship and how firms adjust their workforce as artificial intelligence technologies become more widely adopted.

APS data capability

The ABS leads the APS Data Profession, an initiative which enhances data capability across the APS to attract, develop and retain skilled data professionals. This work supports the delivery of the [APS Data, Digital and Cyber Workforce Plan 2025–30](#).

We will continue to focus on uplifting APS data literacy, embedding data leadership, and expanding the professional workforce by:

- Strengthening engagement through the Members Community Platform (MCP), which connects more than 18,600 members across Commonwealth, state and territory governments. Open to anyone with an interest in data, the MCP offers a space to test ideas, share knowledge and connect with experts through Communities of Practice.
- Leading the APS-wide Data Graduate Recruitment Program, placing over 170 data graduates across 34 agencies in 2026.
- Building data capability through leadership and literacy programs, including a refreshed Data for SES Leaders course offering and self-paced Introduction to Data in Government modules available on APS Learn. The EL2 Data Driven Leadership course is being redeveloped and will be launched in 2027.
- Celebrating excellence by sharing case studies from the APS Data Awards, which recognise outstanding data driven initiatives across the APS that deliver real impact for government and the Australian public.



- Defining data skills, roles and career pathways with clear tools and guidance. This includes updated data role descriptions, curated training offerings and practical guidance to support data graduates.

The ABS contributes to strengthening data capability across Australia through engagement with professional and academic organisations, including the Statistical Society of Australia and the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute, to support capability development and promote consistent statistical standards across government and research sectors.

In addition, the ABS is modernising its data science and analytics capability by adopting contemporary tools such as R and Python, improving flexibility, interoperability and workforce capability to support innovation and future statistical needs.

Key activity 3: Strengthen relationships and reduce load on data providers

We are changing the way we collect information so we can continue to produce high quality statistics while making it easier for people and businesses.

We work closely with all levels of government, academia, business and the not-for-profit sector and generate statistical information that informs and assesses the effectiveness of economic, social and environmental policies. We consult regularly with key clients and users of ABS data to ensure our statistical products remain relevant and valued.

Our outposted officer network facilitates access to statistics, develops statistical capability and strengthens statistical coordination with federal, state and territory government host agencies, supporting the use of data in decision-making.

Major ABS programs and projects

The table below shows the major ABS programs and projects we are focussing on over the duration of this Plan, to support our objective of strengthening relationships and reducing provider burden.

Enterprise Shifts	Programs and Projects	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30
	Data Acquisition Modernisation Modernising data collection through secure, people centred digital services that improve efficiency, reduce provider burden and strengthen the quality and sustainability of ABS operations.	●	●		
TECHNOLOGY					
		● Planning	● Executing	● Closing	



Modernised data acquisition

The ABS is modernising the way it collects information so we can continue to produce timely, accurate and representative statistics while reducing the burden on people and businesses. Our focus is on delivering secure, digital-first services that make it easier for households and businesses to share information in a way that suits them, while ensuring our systems remain resilient, efficient and sustainable.

Through our Data Acquisition Modernisation Program, we are responding to long-term declines in survey response rates, reducing reliance on outdated systems and stabilising the costs of collecting data. This work is strengthening the foundations needed to continue delivering statistics of national importance, including Australia's employment and unemployment figures.

By March 2027, we will:

- improve the digital experience of key surveys including the Labour Force Survey, the Monthly Population Household Surveys, the Wage Price Index, the Building Activity Survey and the Employee Earnings and Hours Survey, to support higher online take-up, stabilise response rates and ensure the continued delivery of timely and representative statistics.
- enhance our contact centre to provide a better experience for the community, businesses and our staff, through modern tools, streamlined workflows and more responsive support.
- replace legacy IT systems by transitioning platforms and processes to a secure and scalable cloud environment, reducing cyber security risks and improving the sustainability of our collection operations.
- modernise systems and processes for our field workforce to automate work allocation, remuneration and timesheet management, improving efficiency and reducing risks associated with manual processes.
- develop a consistent source of auxiliary data linked to the ABS Address Register to support more efficient sample design, digital-first survey operations and improved estimation methods.



Performance information



The Commonwealth Performance Framework, established under the [Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013](#), encompasses a cycle of performance planning, monitoring and reporting. The Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) and Corporate Plan are our key forward planning publications and outline how we will measure and assess our performance. The Annual Report is our primary reporting publication and provides the assessment of our performance and achievements.

The ABS Enterprise Performance Framework outlines our approach to meeting our legislative requirements, the Commonwealth Performance Framework and other guidance material.

We regularly review our performance measures to ensure they reflect our purpose and remain relevant and appropriate. The changes made to performance information for this Corporate Plan are detailed in *APPENDIX C – Changes to performance measures*.

Key activity 1: Produce high-quality statistics and insights

Performance measure 1.1:

Trust in ABS statistics – level of trust in the ABS and its statistics

ABS data informs important decisions made by government, business, and the community. It underpins sound fiscal and monetary policy decisions and informs the delivery of programs and services vital to the health and wellbeing of the people of Australia. ABS data also supports a functioning democracy, contributing to fair electoral boundaries and informed community debate.

It is imperative that the ABS maintains a high level of trust in both the institution and the statistics that are produced to ensure survey response rates are maintained and ensure ABS statistics continue to be the preferred source of data for Australia's important decisions.

Method 1	Targets	Years measured
Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey (CTASS)	At least 85% level of trust in the ABS At least 85% level of trust in ABS statistics	Not measured in this Corporate Plan period
Type	Quantitative / Output	
Methodology	The CTASS assesses trust among members of the general community and informed users and is conducted every five years by an independent third-party provider. The CTASS was last conducted in 2025, with results showing 90% of the general community and 100% of informed users trust the ABS as an organisation. Further 89% of the general community and 100% of informed users trust ABS statistics. These results were reported in the 2024–25 Annual Report. The next survey will be conducted in 2030 with results reported in the 2030–31 Annual Report.	
Target rationale	The CTASS is conducted every 5 years, prior to the Census of Population and Housing to gauge public sentiment as distinct to awareness of the Census. This frequency will be maintained. The next survey collection will be undertaken in 2030. As a result, this method will not be assessed in the 2026–27 Corporate Plan period.	



Method 2	Target	Years measured
Number of statistics released on the ABS website are free of significant errors	100% of statistics released on the ABS website are free of significant errors	2026–27 to 2029–30
Type	Quantitative / Output	
Methodology	The measure is expressed as a proportion of statistical releases published on the ABS website that are deemed to be of national or state importance. A significant error is one that is either identified by our staff or by users that could mislead important or large groups of users regarding the value of a statistical indicator of national or state importance, resulting in a high impact on the quality of decisions made using the data.	
Target rationale	We have a low appetite for risks that could compromise the quality and integrity of our statistical outputs, recognising that public trust and confidence are central to our purpose. Stringent controls and validation processes are in place to ensure all published statistics are of the highest standard and free from significant errors.	

Performance measure 1.2:

International compliance – ABS statistics meet the standards for National and International Accounts, Labour Force, Unemployment, Consumer Price Index and Estimated Resident Population

The assurance that the ABS consistently meets international standards set by an independent body, in this instance the International Monetary Fund (IMF), results in a high degree of trust in the quality and impartiality of ABS statistics, along with the ability to confidently compare Australia's results to international comparators.

Meeting the standards also reflects the timeliness with which the ABS produces specific statistics. The use of ABS statistics to inform important government, business, and household decisions is demonstrated through the regular use by government of these statistics.

Method	Target	Years measured
Compliance with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) ¹	The IMF assesses the ABS to be 100% compliant with SDDS for in-scope collections	2026–27 to 2029–30
Type	Quantitative / Output	
Methodology	The annual SDDS assessment is made on a calendar year basis and is typically available on the IMF website in the first or second quarter of the following calendar year. During this process, the IMF assesses us on our compliance with the SDDS for in-scope collections.	
Target rationale	The target is aligned with our overarching performance measure published in the 2026–27 Portfolio Budget Statements: High-quality statistics and insights are produced to inform decision making by governments, business and the community.	
Alignment to Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) 2026-27 performance measure – Program 1.1		

¹ Special Data Dissemination Standard: [Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board](#).



Performance measure 1.3:

Conduct the Census – implementation of the Census to deliver trusted data

Information from the Census of Population and Housing (the Census) helps governments, businesses and not for profit organisations across the country make informed decisions. The Census improves the accuracy of population estimates for Australia in each state, territory, and local government area. It informs decisions on electoral boundaries and underpins funding to states, territories and local governments. It informs decisions for services and infrastructure such as roads, childcare, hospitals and schools for every community in Australia. The Census is also a vital tool for a myriad of investment decisions made by businesses across all sectors of the economy and is used by community groups to inform support for some of the most vulnerable people in Australia.

Methods	Targets	Years measured
1. Response rate to the 2026 Census 2. Independent survey of user sentiment toward the 2026 Census 3. Validation of the quality of 2026 Census data by the Statistical Independent Assurance Panel	1. 95% response rate 2. 80% of the community support the Census 3. 2026 data is of a comparable quality to previous Censuses	2026–27
Completion of the release of data on all prescribed 2026 Census topics	Data is publicly released on all prescribed 2026 Census topics	2027–28
Complete public consultation on 2031 Census topics	Publish the proposed 2031 Census topics on the ABS website	2028–29
Finalise the proposed 2031 Census topics	Regulations are updated to define the 2031 Census topics	2029–30

Type	Qualitative / Quantitative / Output
Methodology	The Census is the biggest and most comprehensive data collection by the ABS, collecting detailed information on every person and household in Australia. The successful completion of the major phases of the Census demonstrates our capability to conduct a large-scale data collection, ensuring high-quality and reliable statistics that inform critical decisions for Australia's future.
Target rationale	The Census is a five-year project. Each year, there are different major milestones. For this reason, each year of the Census cycle will have different targets, to represent the key milestones for that phase of the Census cycle.
Changes from previous year	In the 2025–26 Corporate Plan, the 2028–29 method and target focused on finalising the proposed 2031 Census topics and publishing proposed 2031 Census topics on the ABS website. The method and target have been changed to completing the public consultation on 2031 Census topics and publishing the proposed 2031 Census topics on the ABS website to reflect current planning.



Performance measure 1.4:

Access to ABS data and statistics – access to data products and services

Measurement of access to ABS data and statistics indicates demand for ABS data. There are five key channels for media, academics, government, and the public to access ABS data. The increasing use of these data sources indicate continued trust in ABS data by stakeholders and the public.

Measurement of the use of these channels allows the ABS to assess how different groups interact with ABS data. Different users come to the ABS for a variety of reasons; the information they seek to address their needs can be as simple as a single number, or as complex as statistical analysis.

Method	Targets	Years measured
Composite index of channel access: • Calls to API service • Number of DataLab sessions • Number of invoices for customised data services • Count of ABS website sessions • Registered users of TableBuilder	1% increase on previous year result 1% increase on previous year result 1% decrease on previous year result Maintain previous year result	2026–27 2027–28 2028–29 2029–30
Type	Quantitative / Output	
Methodology	An index that combines channel access, with each channel having the same weight. Access (as measured by a raw count) for each channel is converted into a composite index that can be compared to the benchmark (previous) year. The change (increase or decrease) in the composite index value for the combined channels will be reported as the actual result against the target. The results are interpreted as the percentage change against the benchmark year. For each of the 5 channels, the count for the current year is divided by the count in the previous (benchmark) year. The composite index is calculated by taking the average of the 5 channels and multiplying by 100. Individual channel results may fluctuate.	
Target rationale	From 2025–26 the annual target has been set based on the previous year's actual result. Increases or decreases of the target are made with consideration of expected changes in our operating environment, such as the release of 2026 Census data, leading to shifts in the demand and access to our data.	



Key activity 2:

Exercise leadership in strengthening Australia's data capabilities

Performance measure 2.1:

Adoption of secure data infrastructure – providing secure data management and data sharing capabilities to support the Australian Government and state and territory governments

The Secure Environment for Analysing Data (SEAD) was designed to meet demand for secure cloud-based data access services across the Australian Government, facilitating policy and research outcomes. Measuring the adoption of SEAD services provides insight into how the ABS supports capability uplift across other official bodies by enabling them to make better use of their data.

Method	Targets	Years measured
Total Secure Environment for Analysing Data (SEAD) agreements to date	Total of 16 agreements to date	2026–27
	Total of 18 agreements to date	2027–28
	Total of 20 agreements to date	2028–29
	Total of 22 agreements to date	2029–30
Type	Quantitative / Output	
Methodology	SEAD provides government agencies (both federal and state level) with a secure, self-contained environment called a 'SEADpod', operating independently within our DataLab cloud infrastructure. Agencies can adopt a SEADpod and manage their data, users, projects and outputs via self-service features, maintaining control in accordance with their own legislative, policy and risk requirements. We maintain and develop the underlying system. A SEAD agreement either external to the ABS (Memorandum of Understanding) or internal within the ABS (Service Level Agreement)) covers the provisioning of one SEADpod, unless otherwise specified. Terms are clearly outlined within the agreements.	
Target rationale	The adoption of SEADpods is expected to maintain a steady growth of 2 agreements per year.	



Performance measure 2.2:

Engagement with the APS Data Profession – enhancing our engagement with Australian Public Servants who use data for informed decision-making

The ABS leads the APS Data Profession, with the Australian Statistician serving as Head of Profession. The Data Profession strengthens data capability of the APS data workforce through defining data capabilities, creating career pathways and development opportunities. It also focuses on enabling the APS to attract, develop and retain the data capabilities needed to capitalise on the rapid growth in the availability and use of data.

Methods	Target	Years measured
1. Number of Member Community Platform (MCP) members 2. Number of interactions with the MCP	5% increase on previous year result	2026–27 to 2029–30
Type	Quantitative / Effectiveness	
Methodology	Members of the Data Profession have exclusive access to the ABS' Members Community Platform (MCP). The MCP allows data professionals to connect, collaborate, ask questions, engage in discussions, find events and share learning resources to increase data capabilities. This delivers on the APS Data Professional Strategy ² by establishing a community for knowledge sharing, best practices and targeted training. The number of members of and interactions with the MCP demonstrates the engagement and positive cultural shift required to shape the capabilities and effectiveness of the APS.	
Target rationale	The uptake and engagement with the MCP over the Corporate Plan period are expected to maintain a steady growth of 5% each year. Results are benchmarked to the previous financial year.	

² https://www.apsc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/aps_data_professional_strategy_0.pdf



Key activity 3:

Strengthen relationships and reduce load on data providers

Performance measure 3.1:

Efficiency of statistical operations – improving data collection and processing methods

The ABS pursues innovative solutions to make the collection of statistical information more efficient for the agency, as well as less burdensome for data providers. Multiple initiatives are currently being pursued. One of these, the Whole of Australian Government Coding service, will deliver efficiencies through automated and standardised coding, reducing the inputs required to produce its diverse suite of high-quality statistical products.

Method	Targets	Years measured
Use of Whole of Australian Government Coding Service to improve efficiency of statistical operations	\$4 million saving compared to the 2021 Census coding of occupation, industry, education, and other in scope topics.	2026–27
	The 2025–26 Corporate Plan advised that a target would be outlined in 2026–27. This target has not been set, as the onboarding strategy for the Whole of Australian Government Coding Service is still under development. A target will be included in the 2027–28 Corporate Plan.	2027–28
	The target has been removed as described above. A target will be included in the 2027–28 Corporate Plan.	2028–29
	The target will be included in the 2027–28 Corporate Plan.	2029–30
Type	Quantitative / Efficiency	
Methodology	The Whole of Australian Government Coding Service is being used across a range of our statistical collections to improve the efficiency of statistical operations for, and coherence between, Australia's occupation data assets. The service will reduce time and effort spent on data processing and enhance the quality and usability of data collections.	
Target rationale	The Whole of Australian Government Coding Service will be implemented across a range of ABS statistical collections, beginning with Causes of Death and the 2026 Census. The target in 2026–27 for Census has been set to align with the expected realisation of benefits associated with using the Coding service.	
Changes from previous year	The 2025–26 Corporate Plan advised that a target for 2027–28 would be set in this plan. This has not occurred, as described above. The 2025–26 Corporate Plan also included a forward target for 2028–29: "All occupation, industry, religious affiliation, language spoken at home, ancestry, education and country of birth statistics collected by the ABS are coded using the Whole of Australian Government Coding Service." This target has been removed while the onboarding approach is being finalised. Targets will be included in the 2027–28 Corporate Plan.	



Performance measure 3.2:

Data collection effort and respondent experience – improve data collection methods and the experience for business and households

The principal objective of the ABS for providers is to impose the lowest possible burden while continuing to provide government and the community with high-quality statistics. We frequently review data collection methods to ensure we collect information efficiently and are increasing the use of administrative data, including data collected by government and businesses, to reduce the need to conduct surveys.

This performance measure demonstrates the ABS' priority to reduce provider burden and deliver on the commitment made to the Government to reduce total hours of respondent burden.

Method 1	Targets ³	Years measured
Total time taken for survey respondents to complete business surveys	5% decrease on benchmark	2026–27
	10% decrease on benchmark	2027–28
	12% decrease on benchmark	2028–29
	14% decrease on benchmark	2029–30
Type	Quantitative / Efficiency	
Methodology	This method allows us to evaluate burden placed on businesses to acquire the data needed to fulfil statistical production requirements. 'Total time taken' provides a general measure of the burden experienced by respondents, is consistent with other National Statistical Offices' measurement of provider burden and can be tracked over time.	
Target rationale	A new baseline has been set in 2025–26. The new methodology for ensuring consistency in reporting time taken will make the performance figures incomparable to the previous benchmark set in the 2020–21 Corporate Plan. Targets for 2026–27 and 2027–28 have been set in line with the expected performance levels. A smaller incremental target for 2028–29 and 2029–30 has been set based on the likely level of investment we will be able to make to reduce provider burden, given broader priorities and commitments.	
Method 2	Targets	Years measured
Percentage of households responding online	50% of households complete the Monthly Population Survey online	2026–27
	55% of households complete the Monthly Population Survey online	2027–28
	65% of households complete the Monthly Population Survey online	2028–29
	65% of households complete the Monthly Population Survey online	2029–30
Type	Quantitative / Efficiency	
Methodology	Measures the proportion of households completing the Monthly Population Survey (MPS) online, as opposed to other methods. Uptake of the online forms for the MPS provides an indication of the success of our initiatives to modernise data acquisition processes and improve respondent experience through a digital first approach to collect data from Australians.	
Target rationale	Targets are aligned to commitments made in the Data Acquisition Modernisation investment process, to support uptake of online completion of the MPS. They reflect the figures as per the program benefits baseline measures and final benefits realisation outcomes. It is expected that the proportion of households responding online will rise from 2026–27 to 2028–29 following the uplift to online data collection platforms for the MPS in June 2026. Given no further changes to the Data Acquisition Modernisation Program in 2029–30, the target is unchanged from the previous year.	

³ Results of 2025–26 are set as the benchmark.



Appendices



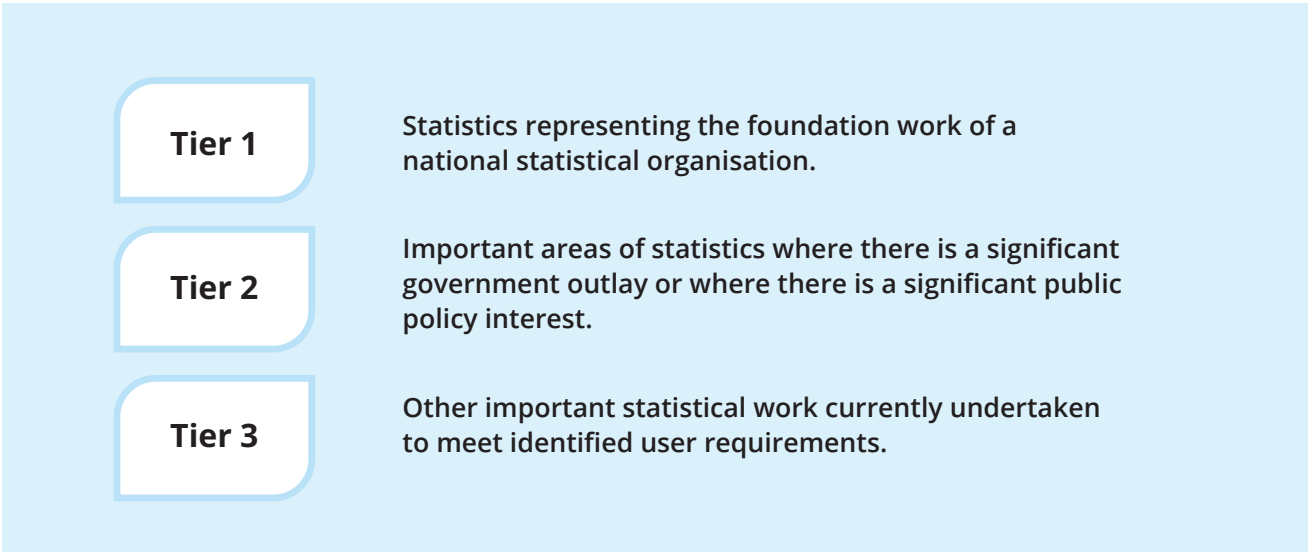
APPENDIX A:

Forward work program

The Forward Work Program (FWP) outlines the schedule of statistical releases over the next four years. It is developed through consultation with Australian Government and state and territory governments, key users of statistics and a diverse range of non-government organisations such as community groups and industry bodies.

We review and make changes to the FWP to respond to new priorities and ensure it continues to appropriately measure the Australian economy, environment and society.

Statistical releases are classified into 3 tiers to help with prioritising resources.



Economy

Release	Tier	Year of Release				Release frequency
		2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	
Business indicators						
Business Indicators, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Finance						
Assets and Liabilities of Australian Securitisers	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Household Income and Wealth, Australia ⁴ <i>Survey: Survey of Income and Housing</i>	T1	✓		✓		Two-yearly
Lending Indicators	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Monthly Household Spending Indicator	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Monthly
Government						
Government Finance Statistics:						
• Annual	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
• Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Taxation Revenue, Australia	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
International trade						
Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Foreign Currency Exposure, Australia	T2	✓				Four-yearly
International Investment Position, Australia: Supplementary Statistics	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
International Trade:						
• in Goods	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Monthly
• International Trade Price Indexes, Australia <i>See Price indexes and inflation sub-section below</i>						
• Supplementary Information, Calendar Year	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
• Supplementary Information, Financial Year	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly

4 Household Income and Wealth, Australia, initially scheduled for release in 2027–28 in the ABS Corporate Plan 2025–26, has been revised to 2026–27 in this Plan.



Release	Tier	Year of Release				Release frequency
		2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	
National accounts						
Australian Defence Industry Account, experimental estimates	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Australian National Accounts:						
• Finance and Wealth	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
• Input-Output Tables ⁵	T1	✓		✓		Two-yearly
• National Income, Expenditure and Product	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
• State Accounts	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
• Supply Use Tables	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Australian System of National Accounts	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Modellers’ Database	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Tourism Satellite Account:						
• Australia	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
• Quarterly tourism labour statistics, Australia, experimental estimates	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Price indexes and inflation						
Consumer Price Index, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Monthly
International Trade Price Indexes, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Producer Price Indexes, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Selected Living Cost Indexes, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Total Value of Dwellings	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Wage Price Index, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly

⁵ The Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables will move from a yearly to a two-yearly publication following the 2026–27 release.



Labour

Release	Tier	Year of Release				Release frequency
		2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	
Earnings and working conditions						
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Six-monthly
Labour hire workers	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia	T1		✓		✓	Two-yearly
Industrial Disputes, Australia	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Personal Income in Australia	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Work-Related Injuries	T3	✓				Four-yearly
Employment and unemployment						
Labour Force:						
• Australia ⁶	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Monthly
• Microdata: Longitudinal, Australia ⁷	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Monthly
• Status of Families ⁸	T2		✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Labour Force Supplementary Program ⁹						
• Job mobility						
• Potential workers						
• Underemployed workers						
• Barriers and incentives to labour force participation	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
• Employee earnings						
• Trade union membership						
• Working arrangements						
Public Sector Employment and Earnings	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia ¹⁰	T2			✓		Three-yearly
Labour accounts						
Labour Account, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Jobs						
Job Vacancies, Australia	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Jobs in Australia	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Multiple job-holders	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly

6 The Payroll Jobs release ceased in 2025–26. The Monthly Employee Earnings Indicator now includes a measure of employee jobs.

7 Labour Force, Australia has moved from a monthly and quarterly to a monthly only release. Additional detailed labour information (e.g. industry, occupation and retrenchments) previously collected on a quarterly basis, will now be collected monthly as part of [modernising the Labour Force Survey](#).

8 The Longitudinal Labour Force, Australia is released into the ABS DataLab

9 Labour Force Status of Families will not be released in 2026–27 due to the Monthly Population Survey modernisation program.

10 Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia, Characteristics of Employment, Australia, and Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation have been combined in the Labour Force Supplementary Program, as part of [modernising the Labour Force Survey](#).



Industry

Release	Tier	Year of Release				Release frequency
		2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	
Australian Agriculture:						
• Broadacre Crops	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
• Horticulture	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
• Livestock	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Livestock Products, Australia	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Building and construction						
Building Activity, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Building Approvals, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Monthly
Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Engineering Construction Activity, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Energy						
Energy Account, Australia	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Industry overview						
Australian Industry	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Estimates of Industry Level KLEMS Multifactor Productivity	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Estimates of Industry Multifactor Productivity	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Mining						
Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Technology and innovation						
Characteristics of Australian Business	T2		✓		✓	Two-yearly
Research and Experimental Development:						
• Businesses, Australia	T2		✓		✓	Two-yearly
• Higher Education Organisations, Australia	T2		✓		✓	Two-yearly
• Government and Private Non-Profit Organisations, Australia	T2		✓		✓	Two-yearly
Tourism and transport						
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Monthly



People

Release	Tier	Year of Release				Release frequency
		2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples						
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Life Expectancy	T2			✓		Five-yearly
Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population	T2				✓	Five-yearly
Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians ¹¹	T2		✓	✓		Five-yearly
Housing Statistics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples	T2		✓			Five-yearly
Crime and justice						
Corrective services, Australia	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Crime victimisation	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Criminal courts, Australia	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Federal Defendants, Australia	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Legal Assistance	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Personal Fraud	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Personal Safety, Australia	T3	✓				Four-yearly
Prisoners in Australia	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Recorded Crime – Offenders	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Recorded Crime – Victims	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Education						
Preschool Education	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Preschool Attendance	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Schools	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Housing						
Estimating Homelessness: Census	T1		✓			Five-yearly
Housing Occupancy and Costs Survey: Survey of Income and Housing	T1		✓		✓	Two-yearly

¹¹ The preliminary 2026 Census-based estimates will be available in the Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians release in 2027–28. The final 2026 Census-based projections will be released in 2028–29.



Release	Tier	Year of Release				Release frequency
		2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	
People and communities						
Cultural and creative activities	T3	✓				Four-yearly
Gender Indicators	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
How Australians Use Their Time ¹² <i>Survey: Time Use Survey</i>	T1				✓	Five-yearly
Marriages and Divorces	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Migrant Settlement Outcomes	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Participation in Selected Cultural Activities	T3	✓				Irregular
Permanent migrants in Australia	T2		✓			Five-yearly
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia ¹³	T2		✓			Five-yearly
Temporary Visa Holders in Australia	T2		✓			Five-yearly
Population						
2026 Census overcount and undercount ¹⁴	T1	✓				Five-yearly
Australia's Population by Country of Birth	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Births, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Deaths, Australia	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Historical Population	T3				✓	Five-yearly
Household and Family Projections, Australia	T3			✓		Five-yearly
Life Expectancy	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Overseas Migration	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Census of Population and Housing ¹⁵	T1	✓	✓			Five-yearly
Population Projections, Australia	T2			✓		Five-yearly
National, State and Territory Population	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Regional Population	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Regional Population by age and sex	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly

12 How Australians Use Their Time has moved from a two-yearly to a five-yearly release.

13 Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia, initially scheduled for release in 2028–29 in the ABS Corporate Plan 2025–26, has been revised to 2027–28 in this Plan.

14 The 2026 Census overcount and undercount is known to respondents as the Post Census Review.

15 The 2026 Census of Population and Housing data will be released in a staged approach by topic across 2026–27 and 2027–28. Topics include income and work, transport, health, disability and carers, location and many more.



Health

Release	Tier	Year of Release				Release frequency
		2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	
Causes of death						
Causes of Death, Australia	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Provisional Mortality Statistics ¹⁶	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Quarterly
Disability						
Disability, Ageing and Carers	T2			✓		Six-yearly
Health conditions and risks						
National Health Survey	T2			✓		Three-yearly
Food and nutrition						
Apparent Consumption of Selected Foodstuffs, Australia	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Health services						
Patient Experiences	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly

Environment

Release	Tier	Year of Release				Release frequency
		2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	
National Ecosystem Accounts, experimental estimates	T3	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
National Land Account, experimental estimates	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Water Account, Australia	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly

Wellbeing

Release	Tier	Year of Release				Release frequency
		2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	
Measuring What Matters	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly

¹⁶ Provisional Mortality Statistics has moved from a two-monthly to a quarterly release.



Data assets

The ABS builds and maintains integrated data assets for research in the public interest. Data integration involves combining de-identified data from two or more sources at the unit level (person, business, location) in a secure environment. Approved users can gain access to these assets through DataLab and Tablebuilder.

Release	Tier	Year of Release				Release frequency ¹⁷
		2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	
Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset ¹⁸ (ACLD)	T2			✓		Five-yearly
Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset ¹⁹ (ACMID)	T2		✓			Five-yearly
Australian Census Temporary Entrants Integrated Dataset ²⁰ (ACTEID)	T2		✓			Five-yearly
Business Longitudinal Analytical Data Environment ²¹ (BLADE)	T1					Continuously
Criminal Justice Data Asset (CJDA)	T2		✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Life Course Data Initiative (LCDI)	T1	✓				Irregular
Linked Employer-Employee Database ²² (LEED)	T1	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly
Location Data Geographics Engine ²³ (LODGE)	T1					Continuously
Longitudinally Linked Employer-Employee Database ²⁴ (L-LEED)	T1					Continuously
National Veterans' Data Asset (NVDA)	T1			✓	✓	Quarterly
Person-Level Integrated Data Asset ²⁵ (PLIDA)	T1					Continuously
Vocational Education and Training National Data Asset (VNDA)	T2	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yearly

¹⁷ Indicates when data is updated within the asset.

¹⁸ ACLD initially scheduled for release in 2027–28 in the ABS Corporate Plan 2025–26, has been revised to 2028–29 in this Plan.

¹⁹ Released as Permanent Migrants in Australia.

²⁰ Released as Temporary Visa Holders in Australia. ACTEID has been upgraded from T3 to T2 to align with the Temporary Visa Holders in Australia release rating.

²¹ Released into ABS DataLab and available as microdata through Tablebuilder: Businesses in Australia.

²² Released as Jobs in Australia, Personal Income in Australia and available as microdata through Tablebuilder: Jobs and Income of Employed Persons. Not available in DataLab.

²³ Released into ABS DataLab.

²⁴ Released into ABS DataLab.

²⁵ Released into ABS DataLab and available as microdata through Tablebuilder: People in Australia. The Disability Reform Ministerial Council (DRMC) has agreed to a changed delivery model for the National Disability Data Asset (NDDA). The Person-Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA) and National Health Data Hub (NHDH) will be used to deliver disability insights.



APPENDIX B:

Changes to forward work program

We have made changes to the list and schedule of statistical releases over the next four years based on the operational priorities and stakeholder expectations. A summary of changes is outlined below.

Statistical release	Changes made	Rationale
Economy		
Monthly Business Turnover Indicator	Publication ceased in November 2025	Experimental publication developed in 2021 to provide insights into economic activity following the COVID-19 pandemic. Several alternative measures of business activity by industry are available on the ABS website.
Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of results	Not currently scheduled	The timing of the next Household Expenditure Survey is to be confirmed.
Household Income and Wealth, Australia	Schedule correction	Initially scheduled for release in 2027–28 in the 2025–26 FWP, this has been revised to 2026–27 in this FWP.
Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables	Frequency change from yearly to two-yearly	The ABS has produced Input-Output (I-O) tables annually since the early 2000s. I-O tables primarily provide detailed structural information on production activity. Because these structures tend to change slowly, the frequency of I-O tables was reviewed in consultation with users.
Consumer Price Index, Australia	Standalone quarterly publication ceased in October 2025	The ABS now publishes a complete monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) as the primary measure of headline inflation. Quarterly CPI data tables are included in every third month of the monthly CPI release.
Consumer Price Index, Australia – Monthly Indicator	Publication ceased in October 2025	The ABS now publishes a complete monthly CPI.
Labour		
Labour Force, Australia	Frequency change from monthly and quarterly to monthly only	Additional detailed labour information previously collected on a quarterly basis, will now be collected monthly as part of modernising the Labour Force Survey.
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed	Publication ceased in April 2026	The ABS will consolidate detailed Labour Force estimates into the headline Labour Force, Australia publication. This change is part of modernising the Labour Force Survey.
Labour Force Status of Families	Not scheduled for release in 2026–27	Labour Force Status of Families will not be released in 2026–27 due to the Monthly Population Survey modernisation program. From 2027–28 onwards it will continue as a yearly release.



Monthly Employee Earnings Indicator	Publication ceased from August 2026	Stakeholder feedback indicates that post-pandemic the release provided limited additional value relative to other ABS labour market and earnings measures. Ceasing the release enables the labour statistics program to focus on the outputs most valued by users.
Labour Force Supplementary Program	Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia, Characteristics of Employment, Australia, and Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation have been combined in the Labour Force Supplementary Program	Priority data is now collected in the Labour Supplementary Survey as part of modernising the Labour Force Survey.
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia	Frequency change from two-yearly to three-yearly	Change in frequency to align user needs with operational capacity.
Payroll Jobs	Publication ceased in July 2025	Stakeholder feedback indicates that post-pandemic the release provided limited additional value relative to other ABS labour market and earnings measures. Ceasing the release enables the labour statistics program to focus on the outputs most valued by users.
Industry		
Retail Trade, Australia	Publication ceased in July 2025	Enhancements to the Monthly Household Spending Indicator provide users with a more comprehensive measure of household consumption. This has eliminated the need for businesses to respond to the Retail Business Survey.
People		
Crime victimisation	Publication name change from Crime victimisation, Australia to Crime victimisation	N/a
Legal Assistance	Publication name change from Legal Assistance Services to Legal Assistance	N/a
Education and Work, Australia	Publication ceased in November 2025	Following an ABS review of education statistics, data series that are assessed as priorities will be collected in the modernised Labour Force Survey and Multipurpose Household Survey Program.
Qualifications and Work	Publication ceased in April 2024	Given available resources, the ABS is looking to develop a potential new Education and Skills survey that better aligns with contemporary data priorities.
Work-Related Training and Adult Learning Survey, Australia	Publication ceased in April 2026	Given available resources, the ABS is looking to develop a potential new Education and Skills survey that better aligns with contemporary data priorities.
How Australians Use Their Time Survey: Time Use Survey	Frequency change from two-yearly to five-yearly	Given the relative stability of time use patterns and international guidance recommending less frequent collection, a five year survey cycle supports tracking policy relevant change while ensuring efficient use of resources.
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia	Schedule correction	Initially scheduled for release in 2028–29 in the 2025–26 FWP, this has been revised to 2027–28 in this FWP.



Health

Provisional Mortality Statistics	Frequency change from two-monthly to quarterly	From July 2025, the frequency of release was changed reflecting evolving user needs. The ABS publishes information on deaths from acute respiratory infections (such as COVID-19) monthly.
Intergenerational Health and Mental Health Study: National Nutrition and Physical Activity	Publication ceased in September 2025	One-off user funded release in 2025–26. The Intergenerational Health and Mental Health Study is complete.
Intergenerational Health and Mental Health Study: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity	Publication ceased in October 2025	One-off user funded release in 2025–26. The Intergenerational Health and Mental Health Study is complete.

Environment

No changes

Wellbeing

No changes

Data Assets

Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (ACLD)	Schedule correction	Initially scheduled for release in 2027–28 in the 2025–26 FWP, this has been revised to 2028–29 in this FWP.
Australian Census Temporary Entrants Integrated Dataset (ACTEID)	Tier change from T3 to T2	To align with the Temporary Visa Holders in Australia tier rating.
National Disability Data Asset (NDDA)	The Disability Reform Ministerial Council (DRMC) has agreed to a changed delivery model for the National Disability Data Asset (NDDA).	The NDDA will be released through the Person-Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA) and the National Health Data Hub (NHDH) to deliver disability insights.
Location Data Geographics Engine (LODGE)	New data asset	The LODGE is a new data asset developed from PLIDA infrastructure, incorporating integrated spatial data.
National Veterans' Data Asset (NVDA)	New data asset	The NVDA is a new data asset that will be developed from PLIDA infrastructure.



APPENDIX C:

Changes to performance measures

We have made minor changes to our performance measures to improve the way we measure our performance. A summary of changes is outlined below.

Summary of changes to performance measures

2025–26 Corporate Plan performance measure and method	2026–27 Corporate Plan performance measure and method	Changes made	Rationale
Key activities			
Key activity 1 – Produce high-quality statistics and insights			
1.1 Trust in ABS statistics	1.1 Trust in ABS statistics	Retained	Not applicable
Method 1: Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey (CTASS)	Method 1: Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey (CTASS)	Retained	Not applicable
Method 2: Number of statistics released on the ABS website are free of significant errors	Method 2: Number of statistics released on the ABS website are free of significant errors	Retained	Not applicable
1.2 International compliance	1.2 International compliance	Retained	Not applicable
Compliance with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)	Compliance with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)	Retained	Not applicable
1.3 Conduct the Census	1.3 Conduct the Census	Retained	Not applicable
Successful completion of the 2025 Census Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE)	1. Response rate to the 2026 Census 2. Independent survey of user sentiment toward the 2026 Census 3. Validation of the quality of 2026 Census data by the Statistical Independent Assurance Panel	Amended	The 2026–27 method reflects phases of the Census.
Completion of the release of data on all 2026 Census topics	Completion of the release of data on all 2026 Census topics	Retained	Not applicable
Finalise the proposed 2031 Census topics	Complete public consultation on 2031 Census topics	Amended	Method and Target are updated to reflect major phases of the Census cycle.
Not applicable	Finalise the proposed 2031 Census topics	New	Method reflects the major phases of the Census cycle. New method and target introduced to reflect 2031 Census activity to be undertaken in 2029–30.



2025–26 Corporate Plan performance measure and method	2026–27 Corporate Plan performance measure and method	Changes made	Rationale
1.4 Access to ABS data and statistics	1.4 Access to ABS data and statistics	Retained	Not applicable
Composite index of channel access: • Calls to API service • Number of DataLab sessions • Number of invoices for customised data services • Count of ABS website sessions • Registered users of TableBuilder	Composite index of channel access: • Calls to API service • Number of DataLab sessions • Number of invoices for customised data services • Count of ABS website sessions • Registered users of TableBuilder	Retained	Not applicable
Key activity 2: Exercise leadership in strengthening Australia's data capabilities			
2.1 Adoption of secure data infrastructure	2.1 Adoption of secure data infrastructure	Retained	Not applicable
Number of agreements for Secure Environment for Analysing Data (SEAD) services	Total Secure Environment for Analysing Data (SEAD) agreements to date	Amended	The wording of the method amended to clarify that the method is counting the total number of agreements since roll-out of the SEAD service.
2.2 Engagement with the APS Data Profession	2.2 Engagement with the APS Data Profession	Retained	Not applicable
1. Number of Member Community Platform (MCP) members	1. Number of Member Community Platform (MCP) members	Retained	Not applicable
2. Number of interactions with the MCP	2. Number of interactions with the MCP	Retained	Not applicable
Key activity 3: Strengthen relationships and reduce load on data providers			
3.1 Efficiency of statistical operations	3.1 Efficiency of statistical operations	Retained	Not applicable
Use of Whole of Australian Government Coding Service to improve the efficiency of statistical operations	Use of Whole of Australian Government Coding Service to improve the efficiency of statistical operations	Amended	The targets for 2027–28 to 2029–30 are not set and will be outlined in the 2027–28 Corporate Plan after the completion of the onboarding strategy for the Whole of Australian Government coding service.
3.2 Data collection effort and respondent experience	3.2 Data collection effort and respondent experience	Retained	Not applicable
Method 1: Total time taken for survey respondents to complete business surveys	Method 1: Total time taken for survey respondents to complete business surveys	Retained	Not applicable
Method 2: Percentage of households responding online	Method 2: Percentage of households responding online	Retained	Not applicable



APPENDIX D:

List of requirements

This Corporate Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*.

The below table details the requirements met and page reference(s).

Requirement	Page(s)
Introduction - a statement that the plan is prepared for paragraph 35(1)(b) of the Act - the reporting period for which the plan is prepared - the reporting periods covered by the plan.	6
Purpose The purposes of the entity.	8
Operating context - the environment in which the entity will operate - the strategies and plans the entity will implement to have the capability it needs to undertake its key activities and achieve its purposes - a summary of the risk oversight and management systems of the entity, the key risks that the entity will manage and how those risks will be managed - details of any organisation or body that will make a significant contribution towards achieving the entity's purposes through cooperation with the entity, including how that cooperation will help achieve those purposes - how any subsidiary of the entity will contribute to achieving the entity's purposes.	10-21
Key activities For the entire period covered by the plan, the key activities that the entity will undertake to achieve its purposes.	24-32
Performance Details of how the entity's performance in achieving the entity's purposes will be measured and assessed through: - specified performance measures for the entity that meet the requirements of section 16EA - specified targets for each of those performance measures for which it is reasonably practicable to set a target.	34-41



