It is always the simple that produces the marvelous – Amelia Barr
Hi

It is always the simple that produces the marvelous -- Amelia Barr
Hi,  

Run sheet copied below.

- Sam Palmer
- Michelle Howe
- [47E(d)]
- [47E(d)]

9:00am  David Kalisch rehearsal  David Kalisch and Auslan interpreter

9:55am  David Kalisch and Jonathan Palmer arrive in Carver Room 11, opposite room  Marriage Survey Media Team on hand to provide media briefing if required.

9:58am  David Kalisch enters room and moves to lectern; Jonathan Palmer seated in front row  Auslan interpreter moves to the stage beside David.

10:00am  David Kalisch begins speech  Auslan interpreter present.
Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

---

10:10am Speech ends and David Kalisch invites media questions, Jonathan Palmer moves to lectern

10:25am If required, David Kalisch and Jonathan Palmer move to media room for ‘one on ones’ and agreed telephone interviews

11:00am Close

From: 47E(d)
To: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@ABS,
Cc: 47E(d)
Date: 10/11/2017 04:15 PM
Subject: Reminder: Please send media run sheet and key contact names who would need to relocate if ABS house evacuated EOM
## Meeting

**Meeting Agenda Items**

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</table>
Created briefing for DK’s speech writing, brief DK at 2pm today with SP.
Hi - just sending the draft media release and speech for Wed again so you have them.

Media Release Survey Results_AS MH.docx
AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v4.docx

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe
Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics
(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) (E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

----- Forwarded by Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS on 13/11/2017 10:36 AM -----

Hi ,

Happy to go with whatever you produce for David.

I've attached current drafts in case that helps. The speech is with Jonathan and David so could change, and media release hasn't yet gone to Sam or further up.

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe
Hi Michelle,

A few things I wanted to run past you before release day (argh)....

1. 47C 47C
2. 47C 47C
3. 47E 47E

Thanks
47

Director (a/g)

Marriage Collection Taskforce | Australian Bureau of Statistics
(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)
(E) 47E(d) (W) www.abs.gov.au

Part time: Monday & Tuesday 9.15am - 6.30pm | Wednesday & Thursday 7.30am - 2.45pm
Australia supports/opposes changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry

15 November 2017

Today the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) announced the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, revealing the majority (xx.x per cent) of eligible Australians (supported/opposed) changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry.

xx.x per cent (said they did/did not) want the law being changed.

Over the past 99 days, xxx million people participated in the voluntary survey – a total of xx.x per cent of the more than 16 million eligible Australians.

The detailed results published for national, states and territories and Federal Electoral Divisions are accompanied by an independent statement on the quality and integrity of the results, which accompanies all ABS statistical data releases.

The Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey asked the views of 16 million eligible Australians on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll on whether or not the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry.

The official statistics, including a count of responses (Yes, No and Response Not Clear) by Federal Electoral Division (FED), State/Territory and National, are available from www.marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au
### Key results

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My name is David Kalisch and I am the Australian Statistician.

I would like to welcome everyone to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

I’d like to start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of land and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

I called this media conference to announce the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey – it’s probably the only time millions of Australians will gather to hear from the Australian Statistician.

As the nation’s official statistical agency, the ABS provides trusted, relevant, objective statistics to inform important decisions. Our statistics provide quality information about our society, our population, the economy and the environment.

On August 9 2017, the Treasurer legally directed me, as Australian Statistician, to:

- Ask everyone on the electoral roll if they wish to express a view on the issue on whether the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry
- Provide results for the nation as a whole, each state and territory and every Federal Electoral Division, as well as provide information on participation in the survey, and
- Publish results by today.

Today the ABS completes all the requirements of the Treasurer’s Direction.

We have sought to enable as many people who wished to participate in the survey to do so. Together with our partner agencies across government and a number of private suppliers, we have made the process as easy as possible for the community.

We made the survey accessible for those travelling or living overseas, those in remote communities, people with disability, and those with language difficulties.

We also established processes to safeguard the integrity of the survey, to deal with any identified cases of inappropriate use of survey forms, and ensure the integrity of the collection and counting process.

And while costs are still being tallied, the ABS has been prudent with taxpayer funds and is confident the final cost for the survey will be under $100 million, many millions less than the budget provided.
I am pleased to announce that (Insert) eligible Australians have responded to this voluntary survey.

Participation was strong across all ages, with all age groups having higher than 70% participation.

[Anything else on participation?]
And now – the results of the Australian Law Marriage Postal Survey.

1. **The official result of the survey is:**

For the national result:

Yes responses – *insert* per cent

No responses – *insert* per cent

Response not clear – *insert* per cent

[Potential of absolute majority of all eligible?]

2. **At a state and territory level the results are:**

- List state and territory results

3. **By Federal Electoral Division:**

- Highest/the lowest/notable results (*TBC won’t be able to list all*)

The full results will shortly be made available on the dedicated Marriage Law Postal Survey website (marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au) and via the ABS website.

It gives me great pleasure to return these results back to the community today. Ultimately, the strong participation by the Australian public and their clear responses to the survey have delivered this quality information for the community.

In closing, I thank the ABS staff who have worked long hours with terrific energy to deliver this survey through a Taskforce led by Deputy Australian Statistician Jonathan Palmer.

This has been a superb team effort, drawing expert and dedicated staff from across the ABS to again deliver quality statistics to inform the nation.

I also recognise our entire ABS team who continued to deliver the many official statistics also expected from the ABS during these past 99 days – latest economic statistics, population numbers, a further release of quality data from the 2016 Census, and much more.

I acknowledge and thank the large number of agencies across Government and the private sector, including the Australian Electoral Commission, Department of Human Services and Australia Post, that assisted the ABS to undertake this survey.

While the Government directed the ABS to undertake this survey, they also assisted the ABS to conduct it in a timely manner, and I would like to recognise the efforts of Minister Cormann and his office.
Finally, a bouquet for the media, who gave the ABS frequent access to communicate with the public and helped increase community awareness of the survey process.

That brings a close to this morning’s announcement. Thank you for your attention and interest.

Jonathan Palmer, Deputy Australian Statistician overseeing the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, and I are available to take questions on the results and the process.
Meeting

Daily Operational Stand Up

Date & Time

Tuesday 14 November, 10:30am

Invitees

MCT Team

Meeting Agenda Items

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Data Capture and Processing

Validating data in DK's speech.
Hi

Independent firm Protiviti was engaged to provide independent assurance of the rigour and quality of survey processes and said: "The approach adopted by the ABS was considered innovative, thorough and comprehensive and has supported the transparent and rigorous management of risks to the Survey."

---

**Samantha Palmer**

General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion | **Australian Bureau of Statistics** | (P) 47E(d) 47E(d) 47E(d) 47E(d) 47C 47C 47C

samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

*It is always the simple that produces the marvellous -- Amelia Barr*
Hi - latest version of AMLPS media release attached (no data) - incorporating changes requested by Sam.

Media Release Survey Results_final no data.docx

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Independent firm Protiviti was engaged to provide independent assurance of the rigour and quality of survey processes and said: "The approach adopted by the ABS was considered innovative, thorough and comprehensive and has supported the transparent and rigorous management of risks to the Survey."

Samantha Palmer
General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion | Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) (E) samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au
Hi Sam,

Please see attached the draft media release for Wed (no data in it yet).

Can you please let us know of any changes.

[attachment "Media Release Survey Results_AS MH.docx" deleted by Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS]

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) (E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.
Australia supports/opposes changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry

Today the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) announced the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, revealing the majority (xx.x per cent) of eligible Australians (supported/opposed) changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry.

xx.x per cent (said they did/did not) want the law being changed.

All states and territories recorded a Yes/No result/The majority of States and territories recorded a Yes/No result with … detail differences in states where they appear.

Of the 150 Commonwealth Electoral Divisions x number recorded a Yes/No result.

Over the past 99 days, xxx million people participated in the voluntary survey – a total of xx.x per cent of the more than 16 million eligible Australians.

The ABS had rigorous methods to avoid fraud, identify, mitigate and manage risks and protected the integrity of all responses.

The detailed results published for national, states and territories and Federal Electoral Divisions are accompanied by a statement on the quality and integrity of the results, which accompanies all ABS statistical data releases.
The Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey asked the 16 million eligible Australians on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll whether or not the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry.

The official statistics, including a count of responses (Yes, No and Response Not Clear) by Federal Electoral Division (FED), State/Territory and National, are available from www.marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au

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Add table for electorates noting the number that had results in certain percentage ranges

Reference the location of electorate by electorate results
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And while costs are still being tallied, the ABS has been prudent with taxpayer funds and is confident the final cost for the survey will be under $100 million, many millions less than the budget provided.
I am pleased to announce that (Insert) eligible Australians have responded to this voluntary survey.

Overall, this survey achieved a response rate of (insert) per cent. This is outstanding compared to the 50 per cent response usually expected for voluntary surveys and well above other voluntary exercises conducted around the world.

Participation was strong across all ages, with all age groups having higher than 70% participation.

The survey results are accompanied by a statement on the quality and integrity of the results.
And now – the results of the Australian Law Marriage Postal Survey.

1. **The official result of the survey is:**

For the national result:

Yes responses – *insert* per cent

No responses – *insert* per cent

[Potential of absolute majority of all eligible?]

2. **At a state and territory level the results are:**

- List state and territory results

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- Highest/the lowest/notable results *(TBC won’t be able to list all)*

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Jonathan Palmer, Deputy Australian Statistician overseeing the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, and I are available to take questions on the results and the process.
Re: PLEASE READ AND ACTION: with attachment this time apologies

Re: Updated from Sam Fw: Latest AMLPS release speech

[DLMSensitive:Statistics] 

David Kalisch to: 14/11/2017 01:23 PM
Cc: Samantha Palmer, Jonathan Palmer, Michelle S Howe
This message is digitally signed.

Thanks

Have done and now

David W. Kalisch
Australian Statistician

(w) david.kalisch@abs.gov.au

Hi all we have set your accesses for the secu...

From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, David Kalisch/Staff/ABS@ABS,
To: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@ABS
Date: 14/11/2017 12:55 PM
Subject: PLEASE READ AND ACTION: with attachment this time apologies Re: Updated from Sam Fw: Latest AMLPS release speech [DLMSensitive:Statistics]

Hi all

I'll transfer latest versions there.

Many thanks for your assistance

Samantha Palmer
General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion |
Perseverance is failing nineteen times and succeeding the twentieth -- Julie Andrews

---

Samantha Palmer
Hl just sending this to you and JP so you can... 14/11/2017 11:30:52 AM
---

From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS
To: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS,
Cc: 
Date: 14/11/2017 11:30 AM
Subject: Updated from Sam Fw: Latest AMLPS release speech [DLM=Sensitive:Statistics]

HI
just sending this to you and JP so you can finalise my queries and send back to DK. Note when you do that Michelle needs it so her quotes in the MR align with David’s thanks

Samantha Palmer
General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion | Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) (M) (E)
samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

---

Perseverance is failing nineteen times and succeeding the twentieth -- Julie Andrews

---

Colleagues

The latest version of the speech for your consideration. Added in the key numbers from my perspective and some more on other ABS releases at the end.

Appreciate any comments and any QA

thanks

David W. Kalisch
Australian Statistician

[w] david.kalisch@abs.gov.au
[attachment "AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v6.docx" deleted by Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS]
Hi Sam Palmer, GM People, Culture & Communication, ABS
Sent from my iPad

On 14 Nov 2017, at 1:03 PM, Michelle S Howe <michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Sam,
Let me know if you'd rather I check with him directly.

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe
Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) (E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.
Thanks Michelle

Cheers

Director (a/g)

Marriage Collection Taskforce | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d)  (M) 47E(d)  (E) 47E(d)  (W) www.abs.gov.au

Part time: Monday & Tuesday 9.15am - 6.30pm | Wednesday & Thursday 7.30am - 2.45pm

Michelle S Howe  14/11/2017 01:32:22 PM

Hi, Just letting you know we've saved a...
Excellent - thanks Jonathan! Also - will we ge...

On 14 November 2017 at 14:49, Jonathan Palmer wrote:

It has been a very quick 98 days!
Michelle

I will give you a call in a moment to make the arrangements for the below.

Thanks

Executive Assistant to the Australian Statistician
Office of the Statistician - Coordination and Support | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P)  (E)  (W)  www.abs.gov.au

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail
Hi David,

Please see attached a briefing document with background for tomorrow's AMLPS media conference. Note Jonathan has indicated he also has the background information he requires.

Can you also please confirm a couple of things as follows:

[attachment "AMLPS media conference brief 151117.docx" deleted by 47E(d)]

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe
Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce
Australian Bureau of Statistics
(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)
(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.
From a run through, it is about five minutes from the very start until the key national results are delivered, and the total speech runs for just under 9 minutes

David W. Kalisch
Australian Statistician

(w) david.kalisch@abs.gov.au
MEDIA STRATEGY
15 November (post-survey announcement)

Background

There is intense media interest in the announcement of the marriage survey results. A ‘super pool’ has been arranged with the ABC, SBS and commercial networks to live broadcast the media conference at 10:00am on Wednesday 15 November. In addition, there has been a strong response from print journalists to attend.

The media conference will begin a speech from David Kalisch in which he will announce the results of the survey. At the conclusion of the speech, David Kalisch and Jonathan Palmer will take questions from journalists. The media team will be on hand to call a halt to questions as required. We would expect these questions to focus on the survey results, the participation rate, the performance of the ABS in conducting the survey and the process.

The Q&A adds important context to the announcement. It is an opportunity for the ABS to use the success of the survey – huge logistical task, accomplished in a tight timeframe – to demonstrate the capacity and skills of the Bureau. The outstanding participation rate is further evidence of the quality and integrity of the survey.

It also gives participating journalists direct access to the architects of the survey – the people who made it work.

Post-media conference there will continue to be requests for interviews – especially from outlets which weren’t at the media conference. There will also be interest in the breakdown of the results, particularly across states and territories and electorates.

Our advice is to agree to some media interview requests after the usual assessment around geographical spread, syndication etc. At this point we expect the interviews will again focus on the result, the high participation rate and the performance of the ABS in conducting the survey.

Through these post-announcement interviews we can broaden our messaging, especially the role of the ABS in making the survey work. It also effectively ‘bookends’ our work and provides and end point for media coverage.

Marriage Collection Taskforce | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) (E) 47E(d) (W) www.abs.gov.au

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Contact the Marriage Survey Media Line on 1800 683 051 or marriagesurveymedia@abs.gov.au
Hi Sam

The Media Release, speech and infographics are now in this folder for your viewing.

Director (a/g)

Marriage Collection Taskforce | Australian Bureau of Statistics

Part time: Monday & Tuesday 9.15am - 6.30pm | Wednesday & Thursday 7.30am - 2.45pm
Hi Sam and Jonathan,

As discussed today, please see below a summary of the media strategy for implementation following tomorrow's AMLPS announcement.

Note it refers to a media statement that we'll issue where appropriate and relevant in response to enquiries received after tomorrow. We will get a draft of this to you for approval tomorrow afternoon once we're clear of the media conference.

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe

Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d)

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey
Post-announcement media strategy 15 November 2017

15 November media conference

There is intense media interest in the announcement of the marriage survey results. The ABS expects strong attendance at its 15 November media conference, including a 'super pool' that has been arranged with the ABC, SBS and commercial networks to live broadcast the media conference at 10:00am on Wednesday 15 November. In addition, a number of print journalists are expected to attend.

David Kalisch will announce the results of the survey at the media conference. At the conclusion of his speech, David Kalisch will take questions from journalists (with Jonathan Palmer also available to answer questions if required). The AMLPS media team will wrap
up the question time after 10 minutes of questions (or earlier if the Prime Minister holds a media conference that cuts across this time). Questions are expected to focus on the survey results, the participation rate, the performance of the ABS in conducting the survey and the process.

The Q&A adds important context to the announcement. It is an opportunity for the ABS to use the success of the survey – a huge logistical task, successfully delivered a tight time frame and under budget – to demonstrate the capacity and skills of the ABS. The outstanding participation rate is further evidence of the quality and integrity of the survey.

It also gives participating journalists direct access to the architects of the survey – the people who made it work.

**15 November interviews following media conference**

Post-media conference on 15 November, there will continue to be requests for interviews, especially from outlets that wish to source direct quotes from ABS spokespeople in addition to those delivered during the media conference and Q&A (for colour, context and points of difference), and from outlets that weren’t at the media conference. There will also be interest in the breakdown of the results, particularly across states and territories and electorates, for state/territory/regional media.

The ABS will assess these interview requests in terms of geographical spread, angle, syndication etc, and seek to fulfil those that will provide additional positive coverage and reach. These interviews will again focus on the result, the high participation rate and the performance of the ABS in conducting the survey.

Through these post-announcement interviews, the ABS can broaden messaging, especially to talk in greater detail about the role of the ABS in delivering the survey. It also effectively ‘bookends’ and provides continuity of the successful media strategy and approach implemented through the survey process, providing an end point for media coverage.

**Media approach after 15 November release**

After 15 November, the ABS will no longer provide media interviews about the survey, unless they represent a significant strategic opportunity for the ABS or the Statistician (similar to the profile piece published in Fairfax publications on 12 November 2017).

The ABS will provide pre-approved responses to enquiries received after this time, including a statement where appropriate and relevant explaining that the ABS has finalised the survey and met the requirements of the Government direction, released the results and quality statement, and it’s now a matter for Government. Note this statement will be finalised and approved by close of business 15 November for use from 16 November.
Fyi wd: One last thought re the speech.
Samantha Palmer
to:
Michelle S Howe
14/11/2017 07:37 PM
Hide Details
From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS
To: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS@abs,

Sam Palmer
Sent from my iPhone

(Please excuse any typos - keyboard too tiny for my fingers)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jonathan Palmer" <jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au>
Date: 14 November 2017 at 7:34:16 pm AEDT
To: "David Kalisch" <david.kalisch@abs.gov.au>
Cc: "Samantha Palmer" <samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au>
Subject: One last thought re the speech.

David,

AMPLS results 15 November 17 v8.docx

Jonathan Palmer
Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics
P: 47E(d) | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au
Hi - not the priority but here's the speech for publishing when you have a clear minute or two!!

(See attached file: Australian Statistician speech Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey results 15November17_final for publishing.docx)

Thanks,
Michelle

---

Hi

As discussed, we would like to publish David’s speech on the Marriage Law website once he announces the results.

The final speech is here. I've included ‘Check against delivery’ at the top in case he doesn't say this version word for word. Sam will check it against what he says at the media conference and if required, we can update it afterwards.

Thanks,
Michelle

---

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The final speech is here. I've included 'Check against delivery' at the top in case he doesn't say this version word for word. Sam will check it against what he says at the media conference and if required, we can update it afterwards.

Thanks,
Michelle
The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.
My name is David Kalisch and I am the Australian Statistician.

I would like to welcome everyone to the Australian Bureau of Statistics and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, paying my respects to elders past and present.

I called this media conference to announce the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey – it’s probably the only time millions of Australians will gather to hear from the Australian Statistician.

As the nation’s official statistical agency, the ABS provides trusted, relevant, objective statistics to inform Australia’s important decisions.

ABS statistics provide quality information about our society, our population, the economy and the environment.

On August 9 2017, the Treasurer directed the ABS to:

- Ask everyone on the electoral roll if they wish to express a view on the issue on whether the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry
- The ABS was required to provide results for the nation as a whole, at the state and territory level, and for every Commonwealth Electoral Division.

The Treasurer’s Direction required the results by today, which the ABS has achieved.

The ABS worked to enable as many eligible people as possible to participate in the voluntary survey. Together with our government partners and a number of suppliers, our goal was to make the process as easy as possible without compromising the integrity of the process or the results.

The survey was simple and could be completed by those travelling or living overseas, those in remote communities, people with disability, and those who speak different languages. Only one response per eligible Australian was counted.

Today, along with the results, we also provide a statement on quality and integrity of the survey. Australians can have trust in these statistics.

So now to the final count of participation - Millions of Australians responded to this voluntary survey – and the final number was 12 million, 727 thousand, and 920 people.

Overall, this survey achieved a response rate of 79.5 per cent. This is outstanding for a voluntary survey and well above other voluntary exercises conducted around the world.
It shows how important this issue is to many Australians.

Participation was strong across all ages, with all age groups having higher than 70% participation. Participation in the survey was slightly higher at older ages and slightly lower for younger age groups, but not markedly so. It’s worth noting our youngest on the electoral role – the 18 and 19 year olds – responded strongly with around 78 per cent participating.

Participation was between 77.9 per cent and 82.4 per cent in every state and territory, except the Northern Territory where 58.4 per cent of those eligible chose to have a say.

Participation in the survey was over 70 per cent in 146 of the 150 Commonwealth electorate divisions. For the remaining four electorates, it was over 60 per cent for three and over 50 per cent for the remaining one.

With this high and consistent participation rate across ages, states and territories and Commonwealth electorates, Australians can have confidence these statistics reflect the view of the eligible population.

And now – the official results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey.

1. For the national result:
   - Yes responses – 7 million, 817 thousand and 247, representing 61.6 per cent of clear responses. That’s 61.6 per cent of clear responses were yes.
   - No responses – 4 million, 873 thousand and 987 representing 38.4 per cent of clear responses. That’s 38.4 per cent of clear responses were no.
   - A further 36,686 responses were unclear, representing 0.2 per cent of total responses

2. At a state and territory level:

   Every State and Territory recorded a majority yes result.

   Every state and territory recorded a majority yes result over 60 per cent, with the exception of NSW which recorded a majority yes result of 57.8 per cent. ACT had the highest majority yes, at 74 per cent.

3. By Commonwealth Electoral Division:
Of the 150 Commonwealth Electorates, a majority **yes** outcome was recorded for 133 electorates and a majority **no** outcome was recorded for only 17 electorates.

Results were clearly in favour of yes or no in every Commonwealth Electoral Division.

Within those 133 Electorates with a majority **yes** response, there were 95 Electorates with a majority **yes** response of at least 60 per cent.

Within those 17 Electorates with a majority **no** response, there were 6 Electorates with a majority **no** response of at least 60 per cent.

Five Electorates had a closer result, within the 49/51 range: three had a marginal **no** outcome and two of these had a marginal **yes** outcome.

The full results will shortly be made available on the dedicated Marriage Law Postal Survey website (marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au) and via the ABS website.

It gives me great pleasure to return these results back to the community today. Ultimately, the strong participation by the Australian public and their clear responses to the survey has delivered this quality information for the community.

I thank everyone who followed the instructions, and nearly everyone did – as this helped us process the forms quickly and accurately.

The ABS has been prudent with taxpayer funds. While the costs are still being tallied, I am confident the final cost for the survey will be **under $100 million**, many millions of dollars less than the available budget.

In closing, I thank the ABS staff who worked long hours with terrific energy to deliver this survey through a Taskforce led by Deputy Australian Statistician Jonathan Palmer.

This has been a superb team effort, drawing expert and dedicated staff from across the ABS.

I acknowledge and thank the large number of agencies across Government and the private sector, including the Australian Electoral Commission, Department of Human Services and Australia Post, that assisted the ABS to undertake this survey.

I also recognise our entire ABS team who continued to deliver the many official statistics continuously expected from the ABS during these past 99 days – these included the latest economic statistics, population numbers, a further release of quality data from the 2016 Census, and more.
Later this morning, the ABS will release the latest wage growth estimates, tomorrow it’s the monthly labour force estimates for October, and Friday we release overseas arrivals and departures statistics that are a key input for our population estimates.

While the Government directed the ABS to undertake this survey, they also assisted us to conduct it in a timely manner, and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Minister Cormann, his office and Department.

Finally, a bouquet for the media, who gave the ABS frequent access to communicate to the public and helped increase community awareness of the survey process. Thank you.

That brings a close to this morning’s announcement. Thank you for your attention and interest.

Jonathan Palmer, Deputy Australian Statistician and Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey Lead, and I are available to take questions on the results and the process.
The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Contact the Marriage Survey Media Line on 1800 683 051 or marriagesurveymedia@abs.gov.au

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From: Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS
To: 47E(d) 47E(d) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) 47E(d) (E) andrew.sillis@abs.gov.au (W)
Date: 08/11/2017 10:39 AM
Subject: Fw: Action: DAvid's speech draft

Here you go - might change of course, but in case it helps with reviewing media releases.

----- Forwarded by Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS on 08/11/2017 10:38 AM -----

From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS
To: 47E(d) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) 47E(d) (E) andrew.sillis@abs.gov.au (W)
Date: 08/11/2017 10:35 AM
Subject: Fw: Action: DAvid's speech draft

Hi

Cheers

Samantha Palmer
General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion
Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) 47E(d) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) 47E(d) (E)

It is always the simple that produces the marvelous -- Amelia Barr

----- Forwarded by Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS on 08/11/2017 10:35 AM -----
Hi

Samantha Palmer
General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion
Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) (M) (E)

It is always the simple that produces the marvelous -- Amelia Barr
Australian Electorate supports/opposes changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry

15 November 2017

Today the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) announced the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, revealing the majority (xx.x per cent) of eligible Australians (supported/opposed) changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry.

xx.x per cent of survey respondents (were opposed to/supported) the law being changed.

Over the past 99 days, xxx million people participated in the voluntary survey – a total of xx.x per cent of the more than 16 million eligible Australians.

The detailed results published for national, states and territories and Federal Electoral Divisions are accompanied by an independent statement on the quality and integrity of the results, which accompanies all ABS statistical data releases.

The Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey asked the views of 16 million eligible Australians on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll on whether or not the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry.

The official statistics, including a count of responses (Yes, No and Response Not Clear) by Federal Electoral Division (FED), State/Territory and National, are available from www.marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au
### Key results

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
My name is David Kalisch and as the 15th Australian Statistician I welcome everyone to the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Canberra.

I’d like to start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of land and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

I called this media conference to announce the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey – it’s probably the only time millions of Australians will gather to hear from the Australian Statistician.

As the nation’s official statistical agency, the ABS provides trusted, relevant, objective statistics to inform important decisions that affect our society, the community, the economy and the environment. And this survey fits very well with this ABS purpose.

Over the past 99 days the ABS has undertaken a huge logistical exercise to provide 16 million eligible Australians with the opportunity to have their say on whether the law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry.

On August 9, the Treasurer legally directed me to:

- Ask everyone on the electoral roll if they wish to express a view on this issue
- Provide results for the nation as a whole, each state and territory and every Federal Electoral Division, and
- Publish results by today.

Now we complete all the requirements of the Treasurer’s Direction.

At the outset, we were very pleased so many Australians updated their electoral status. Around 100,000 people enrolled for the first time and around 800,000 updated their electoral roll details before 24 August.

We are also very pleased (insert) per cent of total eligible Australians have responded to this voluntary survey.
Participation was strong across all ages, with all age groups having higher than 70% participation.

In terms of total participation, Australians should also be proud this outstanding result compares favourably with other voluntary exercises conducted around the world.

I would like to thank everyone who participated: from Thursday Island in the north, to Christmas Island in the west, Norfolk Island in the east, those stationed in Antarctica and all points in between.

I’d like to make special mention of all the Aussies overseas who completed their survey via our telephone or online options. These paperless options were also taken up by people travelling in Australia, or unable to use the post due to disability.

To assist others who do not have easy access to the post across Australia, ABS staff also visited more than 200 regional and remote communities.

We translated materials into nearly 40 languages (including Indigenous), and worked closely with stakeholders from the defence force, offshore Australian territories, Indigenous, disability, aged care and prison sectors. Many people gave us their time and we are grateful.

The survey’s results, which I am about to announce, are accompanied by an independent statement on the quality and integrity of the results. This, of course, accompanies all ABS statistical data releases.

The Australian people can have confidence these statistics reflect the view of the eligible population. We had a high participation rate. We maximised people’s opportunity to have their say. We had rigorous methods to avoid fraud. Independent assurers checked our approach and actions along the way, and observers reviewed our processing and scanning.

And now – the results of the Australian Law Marriage Postal Survey.

1. **The official result of the survey is:**

Survey participation – national; state/territory; Federal Electoral Division

Yes responses – national
No responses – national
Response not clear – national

2. **At a state and territory level the results are:**
   - List state and territory results

3. **By Federal Electoral Division:**
   - Highest/the lowest/notable results (TBC won’t be able to list all)
   - Participation rates categorised by electorate – highest/lowest.

The full results will shortly be made available on the dedicated Marriage Law Postal Survey website and via the ABS website.

In closing, I thank the ABS staff who have worked long hours with terrific energy to deliver this survey through a Taskforce led by Deputy Australian Statistician Jonathan Palmer.

This has been a superb team effort, drawing expert and dedicated staff from across the ABS to again deliver quality statistics to inform Australia’s key decisions.

I also recognise our ABS team who continued to deliver the many official statistics also expected from the ABS during this period.

Finally I acknowledge the large number of agencies across Government and the private sector, including the Australian Electoral Commission, Department of Human Services and Australia Post, that assisted the ABS to undertake this survey. Their contribution was invaluable and helped us deliver a high-quality survey and statistics.

That brings a close to this morning’s announcement. Thank you for your attention and interest.

Jonathan Palmer and I will now take questions.
Hi - couple of suggestions from me on latest version of speech.

AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v4.docx

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe
Communication Program Manager | Marriage Collection Taskforce

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(E) michelle.s.howe@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

----- Forwarded by Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS on 11/11/2017 12:07 PM -----
As discussed, the latest version

Obviously data needs to be included next week, but useful to look at earlier with an eye to what is essential.

regards

David W. Kalisch
Australian Statistician

(w) david.kalisch@abs.gov.au

[attachment "AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v4.docx" deleted by Michelle S Howe/Staff/ABS]
Thanks Sam

47C

Will get another version back to people tomorrow to have a look at before it gets locked down

David W. Kalisch
Australian Statistician

david.kalisch@abs.gov.au

Hi

Done a revisit to add a bit more clear detail - Suggest you view in final

See what you think

[attachment "AMLPS results 15 Nov 17 v5.docx" deleted by David Kalisch/Staff/ABS]

Samantha Palmer  General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion | Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) 47E(d) (M) 47E(d) (E) samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au
• DK and JP will attend
• DK speech at 10am (5minutes)
- 10 am event
- DK and JP will attend
- DK speech at 10am (5minutes)
• During/after speech - publish on website - less than 2 minutes

- 22
- 22