Objectives

- High integrity statistics
  - High response rate
  - No fraud
  - Good coverage, based on the AEC electoral roll
- Manage the impact on ABS

Output

- Counts of people by region
- Quality statement

Timing

- Result by 15 November 2017

Legal Advice

- [Redacted]
- In-post AGS staff member for a couple of weeks

- Luise McCulloch to seek advice and support from Treasury
Resources

- Funding
- Partners
  - Australian Electoral Commission
- Property

Public Attitudes

- Manage and monitor

Public relations campaign

- Seek exemption from Government approval for an advertising campaign

Methodology

- Voluntary participation
- Collected under the Census & Statistics Act
- AEC’s electoral roll as the frame
  - Will need to ensure and communicate quality
- Question design
- Testing
- Special strategies

Where to from here?
Hi David

I've done a note for you to email to all staff (via Danielle) if you're OK with the below. We haven't seen the direction yet BTW.

Subject: Message from the Statistician re same sex marriage collection

Colleagues

The Government has made an announcement regarding its intention to hold a postal plebiscite to seek the views of all Australians.

The Treasurer has directed the ABS to run a national collection to provide statistics about the Australian voting population's perspective on same sex marriage

The collection will be conducted by the ABS under the Census and Statistics Act

The collection will be based on the electoral role

The ABS has formed a taskforce to deliver the project and statistical outputs by the Government’s deadline mid-November

I will provide more detail as soon as we are able.

Kind regards

David W Kalisch
It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default -- JK Rowling (author)
HI

Here you go - pl send immediately - requested by 47C

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

It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default -- JK Rowling (author)
Australian politics live: Same sex-marriage and the eligibility of MPs with dual citizenship are dominating the day’s agenda. Malcolm Turnbull has announced $122 million will be spent on a voluntary postal vote on same-sex marriage run by the Australian Bureau of Statistics if a fresh plebiscite push fails as expected in the Senate. The Coalition joint party room endorsed a plan for a November 25 plebiscite. But if the plebiscite bill fails, a postal vote will be held, with a return of ballot paper date of early November. Meanwhile Labor says it’s open to referring the eligibility of One Nation’s Malcolm Roberts to the High Court.

26 MINUTES AGO | 12.35pmPM encourages ‘yes vote’

Malcolm Turnbull says “strong leaders carry out their promises, weak leaders break them”. “I’m a strong leader. I made that promise again and again. The important thing is every Australian gets there say. Every Australian, as Mathias said, every Australian on the electoral roll will get a ballot paper as long as they are on the electoral roll and they will fill that in and have their say and their vote will be counted.” The PM says all Australians should be able to marry and he and wife Lucy will be voting ‘yes’ in a postal plebiscite. “I’d encourage others to do so.”

“There are arguments against having a plebiscite, I understand that. But the weakest argument of all is that the Australian people are not capable of having a respectful discussion on this issue.

“Do we think so little of our fellow Australians and our ability to debate important matters of public interest that we say, ‘You’re not able to have a respectful discussion about the definition of marriage’, which is a very significant, important, fundamental element in our law and culture. Australians are able and have demonstrated that they can have a respectful discussion.”

AN HOUR AGO | 12.15pmPostal vote to cost $122m

Acting Special Minister of State Mathias Cormann confirms the postal plebiscite will cost
$122 million, down from $160m for the original plebiscite proposal.

Here’s some more detail about how it will work: “The Treasurer will be directing the Australian statistician to ask to request on a voluntary basis information, statistical information, from all Australians on the electoral law as to their views on whether or not the law in relation to same-sex marriage should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry.

“Incidentally, there is a precedent in Australia for an Australian government asking Australians for their opinion in relation to a matter of public policy, namely the Whitlam Government in 1974, conducted a phone survey of 60,000 randomly selected Australians through the ABS as to what their view was in relation to Australia’s national anthem and at the end of that process, 51.4 per cent of Australians so survey by the ABS opted for the Australian national anthem to be changed to Advance Australia Fair.

“This is essentially the same process using the same constitutional head of power, using the relevant legislation underpinning the operations of the ABS and the Australian statistician … The ABS has the power to expend funds in relation to its functions under its legislation.

“As the Finance Minister, I have the power to make the relevant appropriation to the ABS. I pause here, under the appropriations act, the current appropriations act passed by the parliament, there is what’s called a finance minister’s advance, a longstanding arrangement that’s been in place under governments of both political persuasion, where I’m able to make appropriations under circumstances of up to $295 million.

“That is more than enough to be able to fund the postal plebiscite should the Senate not support the government’s preferred scenario, the government’s preferred option of a compulsory attendance plebiscite.

“There will be an arrangement between the ABS and the Australian Electoral Commission under those provisions in the ABS legislation for the Electoral Commission officers to be seconded to th

**AN HOUR AGO | 12.05pm ‘All Australians to have their say’**

Malcolm Turnbull declares integrity and trust are “fundamental to political leadership” as he confirms the government will set up a postal vote if the Senate rejects the original, compulsory-attendance plebiscite. “We all remember Julia Gillard’s, ‘There will be no carbon tax under the government I lead’, and how she broke that promise and what followed. Now, we’ve made a very clear commitment here and we are sticking with it,” the Prime Minister says at a press conference with Mathias Cormann. “If there’s a ‘yes’ vote recorded in the postal vote then we will facilitate the introduction of a private member’s bill to legalise same-sex marriage. And if there is a no vote, we will not.”

**AN HOUR AGO | 11.45am Plebiscite dates set**

The Turnbull government has found a way to dodge one of the biggest legal threats against its postal vote on same sex marriage, asking the Australian Bureau of Statistics to conduct the
survey rather than relying on electoral law. Coalition MPs were told on Tuesday morning that the government will commission the ABS to run the postal vote to ensure Australians have their say on the issue amid legal threats from marriage equality advocates who oppose the public vote.

The party room meeting heard that the Whitlam government used a similar approach with the ABS to get the views of Australians on the national song, suggesting it could be done without being defeated in the courts.

The government’s first option is to hold a compulsory plebiscite on November 25 but this option appears likely to be defeated in the Senate as soon as this week, given Labor, the Greens, the Nick Xenophon Team and independent Derryn Hinch intend to vote against it.

The second option is the optional postal vote to be conducted by the ABS, with ballot papers sent out on September 12. The last date for receiving the completed ballot papers would be November 7, with the result to be declared by November 15.

This would clear the way for a vote in parliament in the final fortnight of parliament, which starts on November 27.

Former prime minister Tony Abbott told the Tuesday party room meeting that he did not favour the postal vote and wanted to stick to the compulsory plebiscite, a view also expressed by Kevin Andrews but not by any others who spoke at the meeting. Mr Abbott raised a similar concern at the Liberal meeting on Monday afternoon, when he said the postal vote was “not what we promised” to the Australian people at the 2013 federal election.

Finance Minister Mathias Cormann responded to Mr Abbott in the Liberal meeting by saying the promise of a “people’s vote” had not specified the way the vote would be conducted.

Senator Cormann told the meeting that he had checked the records and at no stage had Mr Abbott or Mr Turnbull told voters the popular vote had to be done by a compulsory plebiscite at polling booths.

The plan to use the ABS to run the ballot raises questions about how it would be conducted — given the future over the census last year — but side-steps the legal threats raised by marriage equality advocates.

The Human Rights Law Centre has legal advice saying the postal vote could be challenged in court, but the advice assumes the government would use Section 7 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act and use the Australian Electoral Commission to conduct the vote.

_The Australian_ has been told the ABS vote would be funded from the “discretionary funding” with the finance portfolio, avoiding the need for a bill to be put to parliament to authorise the spending. This is another question that could give rise to a court challenge.
As requested

QB17-000013 SameSex Marriage 8 August.docx

Regards,

Director
Parliamentary and Partnerships | People, Culture and Communication Division | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) (M) (W) www.abs.gov.au
SAME SEX MARRIAGE

TOP LINES:

• The Government has announced that the Treasurer will direct the ABS to run a national collection to provide statistics about Australian voters’ perspective on same sex marriage if the Parliament rejects the legislation to have a compulsory plebiscite.

• The Australian Statistician is able to conduct the collection under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* to ensure secrecy of the data and protect Australians’ privacy.

• The ABS will not retain any identifiers collected if a collection proceeds.

COALITION ACTION:

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

• The ABS will be directed to undertake a statistical collection to identify Australian voters’ perspectives on same sex marriage.

• The ABS can access and use the Australian electoral roll to undertake statistical collections.

• The ABS can access the expertise of the AEC to deliver a quality statistical collection.

BACKGROUND:

• The ABS has formed a taskforce to deliver the project and statistical outputs by the Government’s deadline mid-November. ABS will second staff from the AEC to assist them.

• Details about costs and processes are being worked through now (not yet available)

• The ABS is working through the details of the statistical collection process.
Attendees

- Duncan Young
- Lily V.
- Jonathan Palmer
- Jeff Pope, Dep AEC
- Linda Powell, Finance
- Paul Pirani, CLO
- Andrew Gavin, FAS
- Sam Palmer
- DK

Notes

- Statistician’s direction
  - 47E
  - 47E

- Announcement is being made
  - ABS
  - Statistical collection of Australian voters perspectives on same sex marriage – Jonathan read out ABS’s announcement document
  - All Australians on the electoral roll will be able to voluntarily participate

- Legislation about prescribed matters
  - 47C
  - 47C
  - 47C

- Wanting to do it by electorate, so needs to be based by electoral roll
  - 47C
  - 47C
  - 47C

- Results to be known no later than 15 November
  - 47F

- Direction – yes, no division by state
  - 47E
  - 47E
AEC have already done some high level planning and timelines working towards 15 November.

- Clock starts tomorrow from direction
- Voluntary plebiscite
  - 15.92mil on electoral roll
  - Run contact centre, use DHS call centre arrangements
  - Start manufacturing process for all the envelopes (need to do today).

- Assumed we would deliver Antarctic voters (100ish), BLV operation (1500ish), defense personnel
- TIS services
- AUs Post engagement will be critical
Handling return mail

Don’t have permanent centre in NT or Hobart, but one in every other capital centre.

Reconciliation

Rules will need to be clear on what counts and yes and what counts as no and on what basis.

How many staff?

Planning to seek exemption

Areas where these processing areas / staff are insufficient? Didn’t have an alternative strategy.

122mil for total estimated costs

Bernadette Omara – Sam Palmer correspondent at AEC

DHS seems to be the logical partner for both AEC and ABS, to manage roll updates as well as ABS enquiries. Should have one phone number for both.

Will need three stages of campaign

- Update roll (AEC)
- Complete the survey (ABS)
- Reminder to complete the Survey (ABS)

What does success look like?

- High transparency, need to be clear on number of people on roll, who responded, what they said

Need to do public monitoring etc.

State elections? QLD will be soon, and then TAS end of year.

Can AEC give ABS someone?
• Need a well approved MOU between ABS and AEC in the next two days **
• Need to set up governance arrangement with you guys involved
• Finance have an issues register
• Get together tomorrow (Wednesday) to show AEC what ABS’s planned process might look like.
• Construct of how this looks feels and operates will be important to get right.
• Risk around public perceptions of privacy
• Also need costings
• ABS to send the AEC and Linda the all staff email to notify them about what’s happening.
• And AEC have a lot of printers.
• AEC to let ABS know about campaign agency.
• Need to ensure both Ministers are kept in the loop. AEC special minister.
• Meeting tomorrow at 3pm ish. At ABS.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Kalisch</td>
<td>08/08/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Palmer</td>
<td>08/08/2017</td>
<td>Responsible Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luise McCulloch</td>
<td>08/08/2017</td>
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<td>Lily Viertmann</td>
<td>08/08/2017</td>
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<td>Samantha Palmer</td>
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<td>Gillian Nicoll</td>
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<td>Jenny Teleford</td>
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<td>Linda Powell</td>
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<td>Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Hamilton</td>
<td>08/08/2017</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hi. This all looks accurate.

Kind regards,

Director

Policy and Legislation Section | Risk, Planning and Policy Branch | Australian Bureau of Statistics

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.
Hi, I have reviewed the content you provided. There are no errors of fact in the attached document.

There are a couple of points that are worth noting:

- [ ]
- [ ]

Happy to discuss further if required.

Kind regards,

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

----- Forwarded by on 08/08/2017 03:11 PM -----

Can you do this fact check for please and reply cc in me, and Secretariat WDB.

Regards,

Director

Parliamentary and Partnerships | People, Culture and Communication Division | Australian Bureau of Statistics

----- Forwarded by on 08/08/2017 02:53 PM -----

Specifically the below?

Thanks

Assistant Adviser – Media
The Hon Michael McCormack MP
The Nationals’ Member for Riverina | Minister for Small Business
From: [mailto:].@abs.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 8 August 2017 1:12 PM
To: ; ; Palmer, Samantha; Kalisch, David; ; ; ;
Cc: ;
Subject: New ABS QTB on Sam Sex Marriage Collection [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

As requested

Regards,

Director

Parliamentary and Partnerships | People, Culture and Communication Division | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) (M) (E) @abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au
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FYI: All Staff message from the Australian Statistician re same sex marriage collection

Tim Montgomery to: 47F

47C

Tim Montgomery
Program Manager A/g
Technology Applications Branch | Technology Services Division | Australian Bureau of Statistics

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----- Forwarded by Tim Montgomery/Staff/ABS on 08/08/2017 03:28 PM -----

From: David Kalisch/Staff/ABS
To: SES,
Date: 08/08/2017 02:19 PM
Subject: FYI: All Staff message from the Australian Statistician re same sex marriage collection

Colleagues

I wish to advise that the below message will be sent to all staff via email in a few moments.

Regards

David W. Kalisch
Australian Statistician

47F (w) david.kalisch@abs.gov.au

Colleagues

If the Parliament rejects the legislation to have a compulsory plebiscite, the Government has announced that the Treasurer will direct the ABS to run a national collection to provide statistics about the Australian voters’ views on whether the law should be changed to allow same sex couples to marry.

If it occurs, the collection will be conducted by the ABS under the Census and Statistics Act.

Any collection would be based on the electoral role as the ABS can access and use the Australian electoral roll to undertake statistical collections. AEC staff would assist the
Statistician in this task.

The ABS has formed a taskforce to deliver the project and statistical outputs (if required) by the Government's deadline mid-November.

I will provide more detail on this matter if this proceeds.

Kind regards

David W. Kalisch
thanks - this text "to run a national collection to provide statistics about Australian voters’ perspective on same sex marriage"

I'll get some TPs further developed for you David

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

It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default -- JK Rowling (author)
As requested earlier today, I attach some suggested talking points.

Nigel

Same sex marriage plebiscite - talking points – 8 August 2017

- 47E
- 47E
- 47E

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[attachment "Same sex marriage plebiscite talking points 8 August.docx" deleted by Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS]
- Output
  - Counts by electoral division
  - Participation rates by electoral division
  - Quality statements re. the electoral roll? – it’s voluntary and it will capture a sample of people. Need to define our role and purpose. Quality statements won’t be needed about the quality of the electoral roll – just define our sample.
  - Quality statements about ABS processes, response rates, etc.
- Overseas people
- Reminder SMSs
- Output
  - Html format table on the website, excel downloadable
• No Statistician’s direction received yet
• Public knowledge now that the ABS will be involved with a plebiscite of some kind
• DK meeting with Minister at 5pm
  • JP discussed briefly with earlier, brief update on everything
  • Question is being provided as part of the direction.
  • Need to write up two or three options about how to implement the collection.
• ABS to meet with Minister
Hi David,

I appreciate the message you sent to ABS staff today regarding the government's plans to use the ABS to run a postal poll on marriage equality as soon as possible.

Thanks for your time,

Despatch Team Leader
Despatch & Collection Unit | Data Acquisition and Provider Management Branch

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) (E) 47F

(W) www.abs.gov.au
It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default -- JK Rowling (author)
Present, David, deputies, Sam and Duncan

Status update from JP

- Suppliers are key to delivery in time frame, have not been approached.
- 47E
- 47E
- 47E
- 47E

Dispatch

- 47E

Compile

- 47C
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Andrew Gately" <Andrew.Gately@aec.gov.au>
To: "jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au" <jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au>
Cc: "Jeff Pope" <Jeff.Pope@aec.gov.au>, "Paul Pirani" <Paul.Pirani@aec.gov.au>, "Bernadette O'Meara" <Bernadette.OMeara@aec.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Print contracts [DLM=Sensitive]
Hi Jonathan,

In the meantime please feel free to call me with any questions.

Regards
Andrew

Andrew Gately | First Assistant Commissioner
National Executive
Australian Electoral Commission

From: Andrew Gately <Andrew.Gately@aec.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 August 2017 3:56 PM
To: Andrew Gately
Subject: FW: Print contracts [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Andrew,
When you’re free, please let me know – I just have a couple of questions as to further work required.

Thanks,

47C

From: 47C
Sent: Tuesday, 8 August 2017 3:43 PM
To: 47C <47C47C47C47C47C47C47C47C47C47C47C>
Cc: 47C <47C47C47C47C47C47C47C47C47C47C47C> Paul Pirani <Paul.Pirani@aec.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Print contracts [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi 47C

47C

47C | Director
Electoral Integrity Unit | Roll Management Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: | 47C | M: 47C

47C | Director
Commercial Law and Procurement Section | Legal & Procurement Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: | 47C
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• Media / comms strategy early on.
  o List of key stakeholders
• Risk register
• Web presence
  o Same sex tab like the Census “same sex marriage collection”
• Costing exercise
• Special strategies for people whom the postal service doesn’t work
• Need an online self-service change of address (possibly hosted by AEC?)
• Supplier engagement –
• Team establishment
  o Comms
  o Tsd
  o Aec
  o Ags / legal
  o Procurement
  o Treasury
  o Finance section
  o IT security + physical
  o Agile coach
  o contact centre
  o Web publishing
• Team location
• Behavioural economics CSIRO
Hi,

thanks for the call today and noting that [47C] and [47C] are both away. We discussed:

Kind regards
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

It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default -- JK Rowling (author)
47, 47D
Hi Sam

Thanks for your time earlier.

I'll follow up with Michelle tomorrow, as required.

Cheers

Samantha Palmer
General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion | Australian Bureau of Statistics | (P) 61 2 6215 2222 | (M) samantha.palmer@abs.gov.au | (E) www.abs.gov.au

It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default  -- JK Rowling (author)
Thanks
Linda

Linda Powell
First Assistant Secretary
Governance and Public Management
Department of Finance

Finance Australian Business Number (ABN): 61 970 632 495
Finance Web Site: www.finance.gov.au

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copies of this transmission together with any attachments. If responding to this email, please send to the appropriate person using the suffix .gov.au.
Minute to the Minister
Gillian Nicoll to: David Kalisch
09/08/2017 08:14 AM
This message is digitally signed.

History: This message has been replied to.

David

Gillian

----- Forwarded by Gillian Nicoll/Staff/ABS on 09/08/2017 07:54 AM -----

From: Denise Carlton/Staff/ABS
To: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, Gillian Nicoll/Staff/ABS@ABS,
Date: 08/08/2017 06:39 PM
Subject: National Anthem Poll
The 1974 public opinion poll

In February 1974 the Australian Bureau of Statistics held a public opinion poll to determine the relative popularity of the three 'unofficial' Australian songs: *Advance Australia Fair*, *Waltzing Matilda* and *Song*.
of Australia. Just over half of the 60 000 people sampled preferred Advance Australia Fair (51.4 per cent), followed by Waltzing Matilda (19.6 per cent). Using this result Prime Minister Whitlam announced to Parliament on 8 April 1974 that Advance Australia Fair had been chosen by the people of Australia as the new national anthem (but God Save the Queen would be retained for all regal occasions).

In 1976 the incoming government of Malcolm Fraser reinstated God Save the Queen as the 'national anthem' to be played on all regal and vice-regal occasions but provided that for civilian events, any of the four songs could be used.

The 1977 plebiscite

Another poll to select a tune for a national song was conducted in May 1977. Fuelled by debate in 1976 over an appropriate song to represent Australia at the Montreal Olympic Games, the Fraser government requested the Australian Electoral Office hold a direct national poll in conjunction with a set of constitutional referenda. Over 7 million of the 8.4 million people on the electoral roll chose to vote. Again, Advance Australia Fair was the preferred song, followed by Waltzing Matilda, God Save the Queen and Song of Australia.

Even after the plebiscite, a further seven years and a change of government passed before Advance Australia Fair was proclaimed as Australia's national anthem.

Denise Carlton
Program Manager, Population Statistics
Business Change Manager, Administrative and Linked Data
Gender Diversity Champion

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(E) denise.carlton@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The Australian Bureau of Statistics acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and elders, both past and present.
Thanks Paul. That is just what I was after. Much appreciated.

Jonathan Palmer
Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics
P: | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au

Paul Schubert
09/08/2017 09:06:03 AM
Jonathan,

I'll write this up more formally in a one-pager as requested.

Cheers,
Paul.

Paul Schubert
Program Manager
Statistical Methodology Branch | Methodology Division | Transformation Group | Australian Bureau of Statistics
(P) (M) (F)
(E) paul.schubert@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

The Australian Bureau of Statistics acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and elders, both past and present.
The Australian Bureau of Statistics acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and elders, both past and present.
Thanks

Appreciate your speediness

---

Jonathan Palmer
Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics
P: | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au

Colleagues

I suspect this is the first of many urgent queries today.

Grateful of your advice asap

Thanks

Linda
Finance Australian Business Number (ABN):  61 970 632 495
Finance Web Site:  www.finance.gov.au

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If responding to this email, please send to the appropriate person using the suffix .gov.au.
Update on Same Sex Marriage QTB

Hi,

A few updates on the Same Sex Marriage QTB

Regards,

Director

Parliamentary and Partnerships | People, Culture and Communication Division | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) www.abs.gov.au
47C
Hi thanks - [47F] is debriefing me from your call - sorry I missed you (was on blower to Duncan).

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle Howe
Program Manager
Communication and Partnerships Branch | People, Culture & Communication Division
Australian Bureau of Statistics

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

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

It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default -- JK Rowling (author)

David,

We have a small window (maybe closed already?) to influence the language. [47C]
Jonathan Palmer
Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics
P:  | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au
Jonathan Palmer
Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics
P:  | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au

----- Forwarded by Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS on 09/08/2017 09:58 AM -----

From: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS
To: Duncan Young/Staff/ABS,
Date: 09/08/2017 09:53 AM
Subject: RE: urgent: advice needed

Thanks. I will reply

Jonathan Palmer
Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics
P:  | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au

Duncan Young
JP, not sure if you’d want me to reply directly....

From: Duncan Young/Staff/ABS
To: Jonathan Palmer <jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au>,
Date: 09/08/2017 09:51 AM
Subject: RE: urgent: advice needed

JP, not sure if you’d want me to reply directly....

"Powell, Linda"

UNCLASSIFIED Jonathan, are you able to cl...
Jonathan,

Cheers,
Paul.

Paul Schubert
Program Manager
Statistical Methodology Branch | Methodology Division | Transformation Group | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) Paul Schubert@abs.gov.au (M) (F) (W) www.abs.gov.au

The Australian Bureau of Statistics acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and elders, both past and present.

Jonathan Palmer
09/08/2017 09:16:48 AM

Thanks Paul. That is just what I was after. M...
Thanks Paul. That is just what I was after. Much appreciated.

Jonathan Palmer
Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics
P: [redacted] | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au
For Official Use Only

Thanks Jonathan
Kim has just called me and indicated he is very happy to take a call from you but also
suggests JP

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

For Official Use Only
From: Jonathan Palmer <jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au>
Date: Wednesday, 09 Aug 2017, 10:02 am
To: Jeff Pope <Jeff.Pope@aec.gov.au>
Cc: Andrew Gately <Andrew.Gately@aec.gov.au>, Bernadette O'Meara <Bernadette.OMeara@aec.gov.au>, Duncan Young <duncan.young@abs.gov.au>, "Bernadette O'Meara"

Subject: Re: DHS Call Centre [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks Jeff. I will give him a call.
Hi Jonathan

I have spoken to Kim Terrell at DHS this morning [47C]. Grateful if you could give him a call as he has a number of threshold questions for the ABS.

[47C] We will look into that as soon as possible.

Regards

JP

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

For Official Use Only
RE: urgent: advice needed [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
Powell, Linda  to: Jonathan Palmer  
09/08/2017 10:14 AM

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Jonathan Palmer [mailto:jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 August 2017 9:59 AM
To: Powell, Linda <duncan.young@abs.gov.au>; jeff.pope@aec.gov.au;  
Cc: Duncan Young <duncan.young@abs.gov.au>; jeff.pope@aec.gov.au;  
Subject: RE: urgent: advice needed

UNCLASSIFIED

Jonathan Palmer  
Deputy Australian Statistician  
Census & Enabling Services Group  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
P:  | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au  | W: www.abs.gov.au

"Powell, Linda" ---09/08/2017 09:24:03 AM---UNCLASSIFIED Jonathan,  

From: "Powell, Linda"  
To: Jonathan Palmer <jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au>,  
Cc: "jeff.pope@aec.gov.au" <jeff.pope@aec.gov.au>,  
Duncan Young <duncan.young@abs.gov.au>  
Date: 09/08/2017 09:24 AM  
Subject: RE: urgent: advice needed [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
From: Jonathan Palmer [mailto:jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 August 2017 9:16 AM
To: Powell, Linda
Cc: jeff.pope@aec.gov.au;
Duncan Young <duncan.young@abs.gov.au>
Subject: Re: urgent: advice needed

Jonathan Palmer
Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics
P: E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au

"Powell, Linda" ---09/08/2017 09:00:09 AM---UNCLASSIFIED Colleagues

Colleagues

I suspect this is the first of many urgent queries today.

Grateful of your advice asap

Thanks

Linda

Linda Powell
First Assistant Secretary
Governance and Public Management
Department of Finance
IMPORTANT:

This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited.
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Sorry guys,

Question time starts at 2pm according to Parliamentary TV.

Regards,

Steve Hamilton
Chief Information Officer
Technology and Security Division| Census and Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics

Hi All, I've asked Tim Montgomery to be the B...
Hi All,

I've asked Tim Montgomery to be the Band 1 liaison point and he reached out to Duncan yesterday.

Regards,

Steve Hamilton
Chief Information Officer
Technology and Security Division| Census and Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics

Jonathan Palmer	We will get things really fired up today! Some...	09/08/2017 09:19:42 AM
From: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS
To: David Kalisch/Staff/ABS@ABS, Luise Mcculloch/Staff/ABS@ABS, Gillian Nicoli/Staff/ABS@ABS, Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, Lily Viertmann/Staff/ABS@ABS, Steve Hamilton/Staff/ABS@ABS, 47C
Cc: 47C
Date: 09/08/2017 09:19 AM
Subject: Marriage Collection Taskforce: Getting started

We will get things really fired up today! Some initial arrangements:

- The Taskforce will be operated along agile lines (backlog, multi-functional team, stand-ups..) - an agile coach will be on the team
- and will provide admin support/ secretariat. They will ensure that records are kept in the right place
- I propose a MC stand-up once a day (usually at the end) - at least initially. Today's will be at 5pm
- The Taskforce day will have a stand-up each morning at 8:30am. First topic will be media coverage summary

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- prepare a brief to government (Duncan has already drafted most.
- identify what is on the critical path (many candidates: comms, key suppliers (print, campaign, scan..) that must be tackled in the next few days
- initial contact with key suppliers
- brief of MO
- enrol team members,

Will let you know when we have a team location.

I will be the media spokesperson for the ABS 47C
We will schedule a Town Hall on Friday to inform staff (30 minutes)

The team will initially have:

- Duncan
- AEC person
- someone from comms
- someone from IT
- an IT person

suggestions welcome!

Jonathan Palmer
Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics
P:  | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au  | W: www.abs.gov.au
For-Official-Use-Only

Basics

Jeff Pope 09/08/2017 10:40 AM

Jeff.Pope@aec.gov.au

Send

To: Jonathan Palmer <jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au>, "Powell, Linda"<jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au>, Duncan Young <duncan.young@abs.gov.au>

cc: 47F

47F

47F

47F

57F

57F

57F

57F

Subject: RE: urgent: advice needed [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Protective Mark: For-Official-Use-Only

Categories: 11. Logistics Materials and Data Capture\Data Capture

UNOFFICIAL

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

UNOFFICIAL

From: Jonathan Palmer <jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au>
Date: Wednesday, 09 Aug 2017, 9:58 am
To: Powell, Linda <jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au>
Cc: Duncan Young <duncan.young@abs.gov.au>, Jeff Pope <Jeff.Pope@aec.gov.au>,

Subject: RE: urgent: advice needed

47C
From: "Powell, Linda" <powell.linda@abs.gov.au>
To: Jonathan Palmer <jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au>,
Cc: "jeff.pope@aec.gov.au" <jeff.pope@aec.gov.au>,
Duncan Young <duncan.young@abs.gov.au>

Date: 09/08/2017 09:24 AM
Subject: RE: urgent: advice needed [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

---

Jonathan Palmer
Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics

P: | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au

---

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Jonathan Palmer [mailto:jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 August 2017 9:16 AM
To: Powell, Linda <powell.linda@abs.gov.au>
Cc: jeff.pope@aec.gov.au; Duncan Young <duncan.young@abs.gov.au>

Subject: Re: urgent: advice needed

---
Colleagues

I suspect this is the first of many urgent queries today.

Grateful of your advice asap

Thanks

Linda

Linda Powell
First Assistant Secretary
Governance and Public Management
Department of Finance

Finance Australian Business Number (ABN): 61 970 632 495
Finance Web Site: www.finance.gov.au

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Finance Australian Business Number (ABN):  61 970 632 495
Finance Web Site:  www.finance.gov.au

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Thank you Sam, I really appreciate your response.

Will look forward to your advice re: the APSC guidelines once you’ve had a chance to consider.

Cheers

Assistant Director

Governance and Engagement | Data Integration Branch | Australian Bureau of Statistics

Samantha Palmer

Hi

Thanks for your email.

Our purpose as the ABS is to inform Australia’s important decisions and this is clearly an important policy decision which it appears Government is likely to direct us to provide statistics to inform them.

On the second question, ABS continues to provide free confidential EAP support which is available to staff and their immediate family. For support, advice or to make an appointment, call the EAP on 1300 360 364, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There's a knowledge document with more information on ABS services. I've used EAP myself on a number of occasions and recommend it.

Thanks again

Cheers

Samantha Palmer

General Manager of People, Culture and Communication Division; Diversity and Inclusion Champion | Australian Bureau of Statistics

www.abs.gov.au
Hi  

Thanks for your email.

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Thanks again  

Cheers  

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  

It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default -- JK Rowling (author)

Hello Sam

I sent the below email to Michael but received an out of office notification. Can you recommend the best contact for these questions while Michael is away?

Many thanks

Assistant Director  
Governance and Engagement | Data Integration Branch | Australian Bureau of Statistics
Good morning Michael,

I have a couple of questions following on from yesterday's announcement regarding the plebiscite on marriage equality.

1. In light of the recently released APSC restrictions on public commentary by APS employees (see: http://www.apsc.gov.au/publications-and-media/current-publications/making-public-comment), will this have implications for ABS staff who wish to support the campaign for marriage equality?

2. What support, if any, will the ABS provide to staff during this period?

I look forward to your responses and would be very happy to chat should you wish to discuss.

Warmly,

Assistant Director

Governance and Engagement | Data Integration Branch | Australian Bureau of Statistics
Dear David

Best wishes

Begin forwarded message:

From: Phillip Gould <phillip.gould@abs.gov.au>
Subject: Same sex marriage national collection
Date: 8 August 2017 5:57:45 PM AEST
To: "" <""
Cc: <""

Media:

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-08-08/same-sex-marriage-pm-moves-to-hold-postal-plebiscite-vote/8784822


Note from David to Staff:

Colleagues

If the Parliament rejects the legislation to have a compulsory plebiscite, the Government has announced that the Treasurer will direct the ABS to run a national collection to provide statistics about the Australian voters’ views on whether the law should be changed to allow same sex couples to marry.

If it occurs, the collection will be conducted by the ABS under the Census and Statistics Act.

Any collection would be based on the electoral roll as the ABS can access and use the Australian electoral roll to undertake statistical collections. AEC staff would assist the Statistician in this task.

The ABS has formed a taskforce to deliver the project and statistical outputs (if required) by the Government’s deadline mid-November.

I will provide more detail on this matter if this proceeds.
Postal Collection from 1974:

The 1974 public opinion poll
In February 1974 the Australian Bureau of Statistics held a public opinion poll to determine the relative popularity of the three 'unofficial' Australian songs: Advance Australia Fair, Waltzing Matilda and Song of Australia. Just over half of the 60 000 people sampled preferred Advance Australia Fair (51.4 per cent), followed by Waltzing Matilda (19.6 per cent). Using this result Prime Minister Whitlam announced to Parliament on 8 April 1974 that Advance Australia Fair had been chosen by the people of Australia as the new national anthem (but God Save the Queen would be retained for all regal occasions).

In 1976 the incoming government of Malcolm Fraser reinstated God Save the Queen as the 'national anthem' to be played on all regal and vice-regal occasions but provided that for civilian events, any of the four songs could be used.
Re: FOR APPROVAL: Draft newspoint re All staff town hall this Friday

Samantha Palmer to

From: Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS
To: 
Cc: 

Hi

thanks - you might want to make it clear it's only 30 mins long and given it's got David's face on it can you pl run it past him as well ta

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

It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default -- JK Rowling (author)

Jonathan and Sam see draft NewsPoint belo...

From: Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS, Samantha Palmer/Staff/ABS@ABS.
To: 
Cc: 

Date: 09/08/2017 11:04 AM
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Draft newspoint re All staff town hall this Friday

Jonathan and Sam

see draft NewsPoint below for your approval.

Message from the AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN

A special All Staff Town Hall will be held this Friday 11 August at 2:00pm (Canberra time) in the Knibbs Auditorium.

Jonathan Palmer will provide an update on the Government’s proposal that the ABS run a national collection to provide statistics about Australian voters’ perspective on same sex marriage if the Parliament rejects the legislation to have a compulsory plebiscite.

I encourage all staff to attend this Town Hall and look forward to seeing you there (or via the broadcast recording if you cannot make it in person).
Canberra Office staff are encouraged to attend the session in Knibbs Auditorium.

To view from your NGD laptop, go to

from your 'NGD home screen'
(include "corp" in user name, eg corp\blogjo)
or refer to these instructions for other options to connect to live broadcasts.

Live captioning will be available during the broadcast and a recording will be made available to staff within the following week.

10 August 2017
We will get things really fired up today! Some initial arrangements:

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- and will provide admin support/ secretariat. They will ensure that records are kept in the right place
I propose a MC stand-up once a day (usually at the end) - at least initially. **Today's will be at 5pm**
- The Taskforce day will have a stand-up each morning at 8:30am. First topic will be media coverage summary

**Today's immediate priorities:**
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- brief of MO
- enrol team members.

Will let you know when we have a team location.

I will be the media spokesperson for the ABS

We will schedule a Town Hall on Friday to inform staff (30 minutes)

The team will initially have:

- Duncan
- AEC person
- someone from comms
- someone form IT
- an IT person

Suggestions welcome!

Jonathan Palmer
Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics
P: | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au
David, For your approval.

----- Forwarded by Jonathan Palmer/Staff/ABS on 09/08/2017 11:19 AM ----- 

Jonathan Palmer
Deputy Australian Statistician
Census & Enabling Services Group
Australian Bureau of Statistics
P: | E: jonathan.palmer@abs.gov.au | W: www.abs.gov.au

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10 August 2017
Hi All

A bit more background on plebiscite taskforce, and request for security rep on the MDT.

I've asked IT Sec ELs if they are interested, or if we have an energetic & enthusiastic APS6 who could cover ICT and protective security elements.

Cheers

Director IT Security, IT Security Advisor
IT Security Section | Technology and Security Division | Australian Bureau of Statistics
(P) (M) (E) (W) www.abs.gov.au

FYI - it looks like Steve is looking for IT security rep.
I didn't realise that he was following up - sorry for any confusion / double up.
Regardless, we'll still need an IT security rep.

Cheers,

Assistant Director (a/g)
Policy and Legislation Section | Risk, Planning and Policy Branch | Australian Bureau of Statistics
(P) (E) (W) www.abs.gov.au

Hi All,

I've asked Tim Montgomery to be the Band 1 liaison point and he reached out to Duncan yesterday.
We will get things really fired up today! Some initial arrangements:

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