

SSF Priority: Building Statistical Capability

A collaborative program of
work with the States and
Territories



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Overview

- Statistical capability and the SSF
- The collaborative work program
- Program logic
- How the program will work collaboratively



The State Statistical Forum

- The State Statistical Forum (SSF) is one of the key governance mechanisms through which the states and territories can progress the NSS in partnership with the ABS.
- Strategic statistical issues of importance across all jurisdictions can be identified, and collaborative work progressed with the ABS to address them.



Statistical Capability as a SSF Priority

- State and Territory governments have for many years supported initiatives, activities and projects that aim to develop and maintain statistical knowledge and skills.
- Despite this commitment, a new level of concern has emerged regarding the extent to which statistical capability is valued and supported by key stakeholders within jurisdictions.
- At the June 2013 SSF meeting, all participants agreed that development of a program of work to assist in strengthening statistical capability within jurisdictions should be a priority.



Collaboratively developing the program

Timeframe	Consultation Type	With whom	Purpose
July – Sept 2013	Targeted consultation	NT, ACT and Tasmania SSF reps	on the <u>key drivers</u> behind statistical capability being raised as a priority
Oct 2013 – Feb 2014	Broader consultation	SSF reps	on the <u>key drivers and proposal of work program</u> through a consultation paper
April 2014	Cross-jurisdictional video conference	SSF reps	to share how feedback had been incorporated and present a <u>revised work program</u> for comment
June 2014 SSF meeting	Additional comments received	ABS and SSF reps	to incorporate final thoughts and finalise the work program



The drivers...

- Loss of expertise, especially in a tight fiscal environment.
- Pigeon holing of people with statistical expertise.
- A need for consistent language to describe statistical capability.
- Competing with other forms of evidence – the value of statistics.



The drivers... (cont'd)

- There is a demand for formal training to further develop knowledge of statistical concepts and techniques.
- The need for an effective community of statisticians in jurisdictions.
- The opportunity to use the ESA initiative to build statistical capability.



The drivers... (cont'd)

- There are emerging skills being required of public servants.
- Lack of consistency e.g. guidelines, standards etc. presented challenges in developing jurisdictional strategies to build statistical capability.
- Public service cultures where fundamental statistical literacy skills are not recognised as part of core skills.



The result...

- A collaborative program of work:
 - to be jointly progressed by the ABS and jurisdictions (recognising that one size will not fit all)
 - comprising four inter-related projects
 - to be progressed across 3-4 years



The result...

- The program of work:
 1. **Project A**- Communication strategy
 2. **Project B** – Local review of existing resources and networks to build statistical capability
 3. **Project C** – Case studies
 4. **Project D** – Best practice guide to strengthening and sustaining statistical capability



The program logic...

(currently being reviewed by SSF reps)

Raising the profile and value of statistical capability to State and Territory Governments, and developing a resource to enable jurisdictionally appropriate strategies to be developed, will strengthen statistical capability across State and Territory governments.

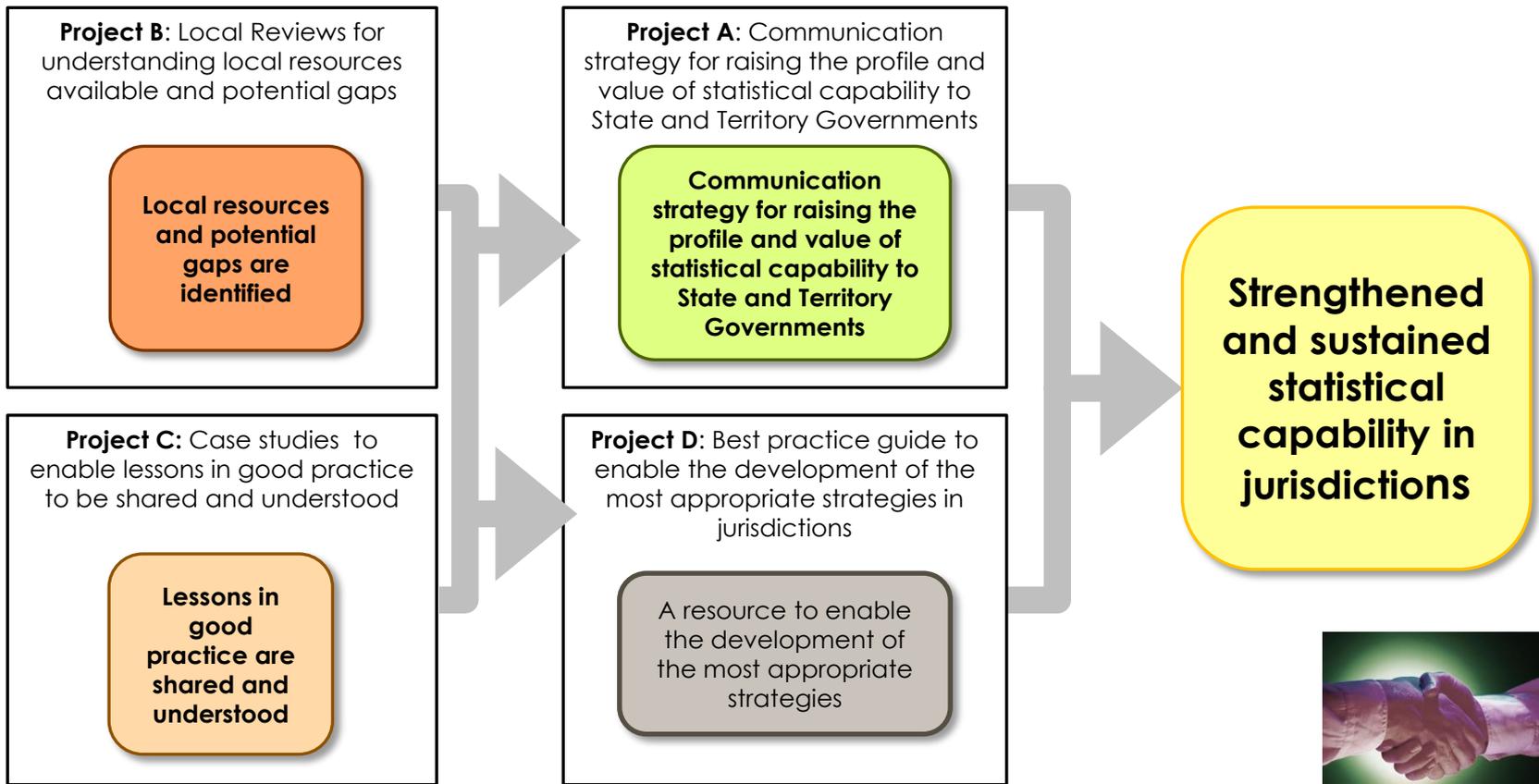
- Stepping through this logic, the key outcome we are looking to achieve through this work program is:
 - Strengthened and sustained statistical capability in jurisdictions



The program logic...

Steps being taken

Outcome



How will it work?

- ABS to co-ordinate the program and lead coordination of Projects A (Communication strategy) and D (Best practice guide)
- Projects or project elements will be selected by each jurisdiction on the basis of suitability for progression
- Progression will be based on collaboration between the State and Territory government and the relevant ABS STSS unit with the SSF representative providing oversight and guidance
- Jurisdictional participation is key



Questions?

