Essential Statistical Assets for Australia
INVESTING IN THE INFORMATION THAT COUNTS MOST

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Origin of the ESA Initiative

"The ABS should set out to identify, in a highly consultative way, the key national datasets that are the essential indicators of the state of the nation, regardless of which organisations produce them."

Allen Report (2004) – Recommendation 1: Areas of duplication and underutilisation

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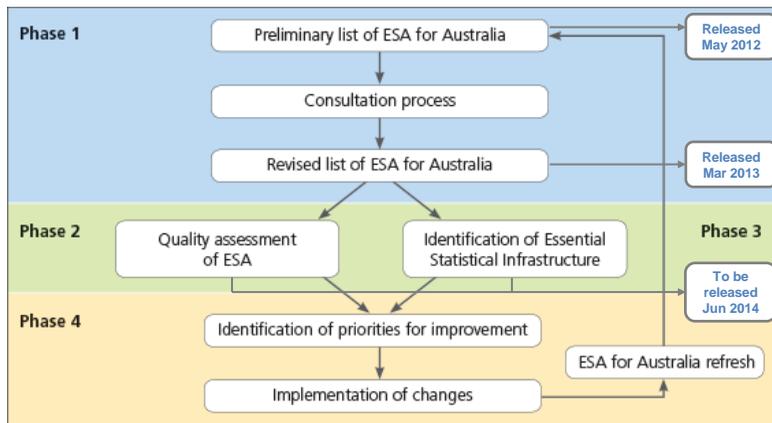# Why Identify Essential Statistical Assets?

"To guide Governments' investments in official statistics by prioritising and protecting those statistical assets that are critically important for the nation."

i. To identify where there are critical information gaps, so that these can be addressed;

ii. To ensure that information (statistics and datasets) are of sufficient quality, and;

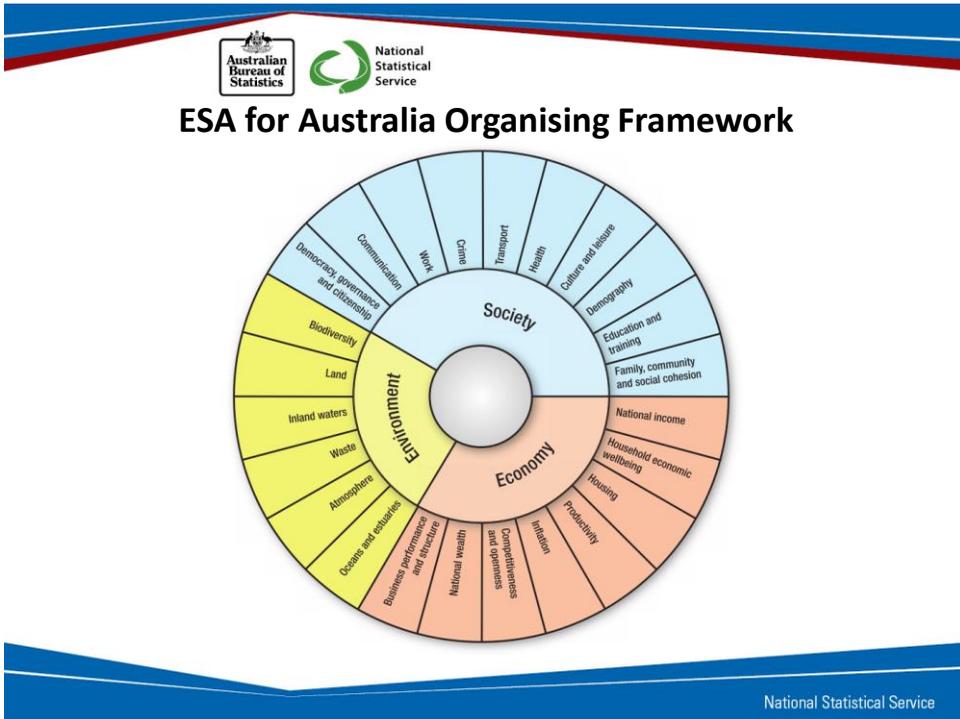iii. To ensure the efficient use of Government resources by identifying areas of duplication and underutilisation

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ESA initiative – Project phases

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ESA for Australia Organising Framework

Phase 1 – Final 2013 List

- 2013 list of ESA for Australia
  - 74 statistics
  - 178 datasets
    - 76 (43%) ABS
    - 84 (47%) non-ABS federal agencies/departments
    - 18 (10%) state/territory agencies/departments

- Identified key aspects of each statistic

ID	Pillar	Dimension	Essential statistics	Description	Datasets and Data custodians	Justification	Critical Frequency	Critical Spatial	Critical Disaggregation
ESA-357	Economy	Household economic wellbeing	Housing affordability	Includes statistics on value of residential properties for purchase and rent, and ability of householders to meet these costs.	• Residential Property Sales dataset (ABS) • Survey of Income and Housing (ABS) • Valuers-General datasets (state/territory Valuers-General Depts.)	These statistics provide information on affordable housing, which is a focus for all levels of government. Access to appropriate and affordable accommodation is a fundamental requirement for the community. Inadequate housing can have significant implications, including poor health outcomes and, as such, housing is a key element of social well-being. These data are also used to report under COAG National Affordable Housing	Quarterly	National State/Territory LGA Remoteness	Age Sex Income Income source Household Composition Lifecycle group Tenure Type Dwelling Structure Number of Bedrooms

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Phase 2 – Quality Assessments

- Will produce overarching indicators of quality for each of the 74 ESAs

- Aim to understand how well the currently produced information meets the critical needs of users, highlighting areas for investment within existing statistics

- Collaborative process between ABS and ESA data custodians

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Data Quality Framework

Seven Dimensions

- Institutional Environment

- Relevance

- Timeliness

- Accuracy

- Coherence

- Interpretability

- Accessibility

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Phase 2 – Quality Assessments

- Consistent and objective approach using quality assessment tool

Essential Statistic and Dataset and Custodians	Overall Statistic Rating	Relevance	Timeliness	Accuracy	Coherence	Accessibility	Interpretability	Institutional Environment
Essential Statistic X • Dataset (Data custodian) • Dataset (Data custodian) • Dataset (Data custodian)	🟢	🟢	🟡	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟡

Green: The quality of the statistic meets an acceptable standard and appropriate quality processes are in place.

Yellow: The quality of the statistic is reasonable, but it is lacking in some areas, and some investment needed to improve quality

Red: There are significant gaps in the quality of the statistic and significant investment is needed to improve the quality

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Phase 2 – Timelines

- October 2013 – Pilot Completed

- November 2013 – Quality consultations commence

- Early-Mid 2014 – Consultations completed and quality assessments signed off

- Mid 2014 – Release of quality assessments following ASAC endorsement

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Phase 3 – Essential Statistical Infrastructure (ESI)

- Scope is to identify Essential Statistical Infrastructure that is required in the production of official statistics

- High level draft list to be presented to ASAC in November 2013

- Will be followed by wider external consultation, targeted towards key data custodians, including AGSF members
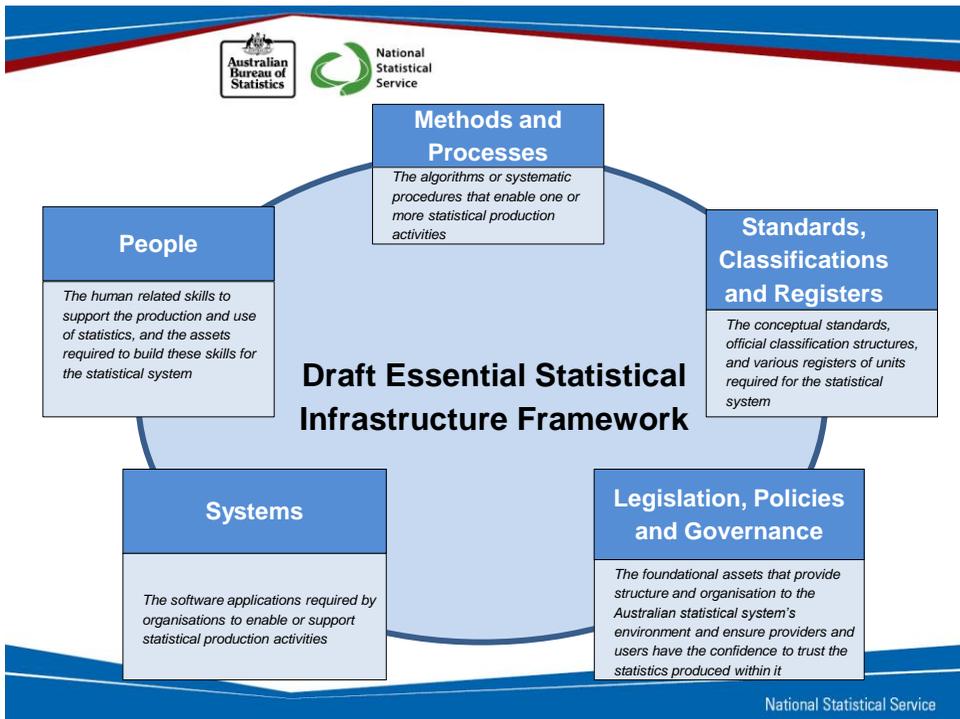
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ESI Scope and Criteria

- Focus on identifying infrastructure assets that are particular to the operation of the Australian statistical system

- Four initial criteria have been developed:

  1. Infrastructure that are critical foundational elements for a well-functioning statistical system;
  2. Infrastructure that are critical to the production of essential statistical assets within the system;
  3. Infrastructure that have broad/multi-purpose applicability;
  4. Infrastructure that expected to provide enduring benefits to the statistical system.

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Phase 4 – Identification of investment priorities

- Identifying opportunities to leverage in setting investment priorities for official statistics

- Input into consideration of ABS Forward Work Program priorities

- Data custodians retain responsibility for allocation of resources to support and invest in statistical assets

For more information

The ESA webpage on the NSS website:
www.nss.gov.au/esaforaustralia
Catalogue no. 1395.0

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Questions

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