



ESSENTIAL STATISTICAL ASSETS FOR AUSTRALIA

Identifying the statistical assets that are critically important to the nation

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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."

- To identify where there are critical information gaps, so that these can be addressed;
- To ensure that information (statistics and datasets) are of sufficient quality, and;
- To ensure the efficient use of Government resources by identifying areas of duplication and underutilisation

Defining Essential Statistical Assets

- “Essential Statistical Assets” are defined as a sub-set of official statistical assets that for their roles and importance should be given priority for ensuring high quality and trust
- Satisfy a set of criteria:
 - i. **Application in public policy and service delivery**
 - ii. **Importance to key national progress measurement**
 - iii. **Domestic electoral or legislative requirement**
 - iv. **International reporting obligation and/or critical for international comparability**

Framework of Official Statistics

	Essential Statistical Assets for Australia	Other Statistics
Exist	Meet quality standards	Self select to meet standards
	Don't yet meet quality standards (Investment priority)	All other existing statistics
Don't Exist	Statistical Gap (Investment priority)	Statistical Gap

ESA for Australia Initiative – Project Phases

- **Phase 1** – Identification of the Essential Statistical Assets
- **Phase 2** – Assessing the quality of the existing Statistical Assets
- **Phase 3** – Discussing and determining the priorities for future investment

Structure of the Preliminary List

- 79 Statistics
 - 6 Cross-cutting, 28 Economy, 7 Environment, 38 Social
 - 27 National Custodians; 10 sets of State and Territory custodians
- Sorted into four categories:
 - i. Category A: Definitely in
 - ii. Category B: Probably in
 - iii. Category C: Possibly in
 - iv. Category D: Possibly out

Essential Statistical Assets for Australia – Definitely ins

Economic Development

- Average Weekly Earnings
- Household Income and Expenditure Statistics (incl. Supplementary Household Income and Income Distribution)
- Gross Domestic Product; Sources and uses of income; Expenditure on consumption, capital and imports
- National Balance Sheet - Economic Wealth by Sector
- Consumer Price Index (CPI), including the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI)
- Multifactor productivity for the market sector
- Balance of Payments and International Investment Position

Environmental Sustainability

- Net greenhouse gas emissions
- Number of threatened species and ecological communities
- Size of protected terrestrial land and marine parks
- Energy supply and use
- Water supply and use
- Land Statistics (Land use, land accounting, land ownership and land management practices)

Societal Progress

- Mortality and Life Expectancy statistics
- Labour Force Statistics (incl. employment status, hours worked)
- Estimated Resident Population
- Interstate and International Migration
- Health risk factor statistics
- Multidimensional social disadvantage

ESA List Components

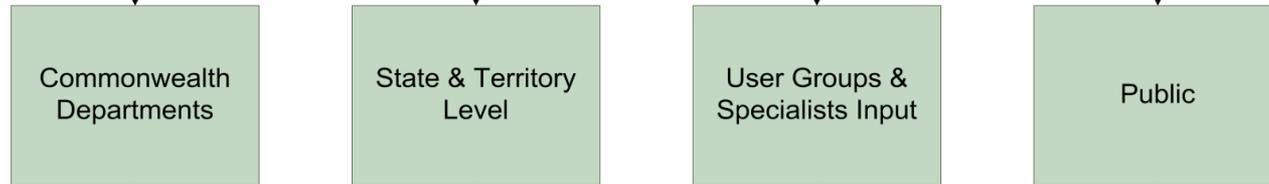
Essential Statistic	The defined statistic (or set of interrelated statistics) including, where required, additional descriptors to clarify the scope of the statistic identified.
Datasets	<p>The key currently existing datasets that inform each statistic (if applicable).</p> <p>(Note – Source datasets that are used to compile the final dataset for a statistic are not identified in the list).</p>
Custodian	For each existing dataset identified, the likely custodian(s) of the dataset are identified.
Justification	The justification provides a short, concise statement that sets out how each statistic relates to the criteria.
Critical frequency	The minimum required frequency for the statistic(s) to be reported.
Critical spatial	The lowest level of spatial disaggregation required for the statistic.
Critical disaggregations	The minimum disaggregations required meet reporting obligations and to maximise its utility.

Next Steps for 2012 – Phase 1

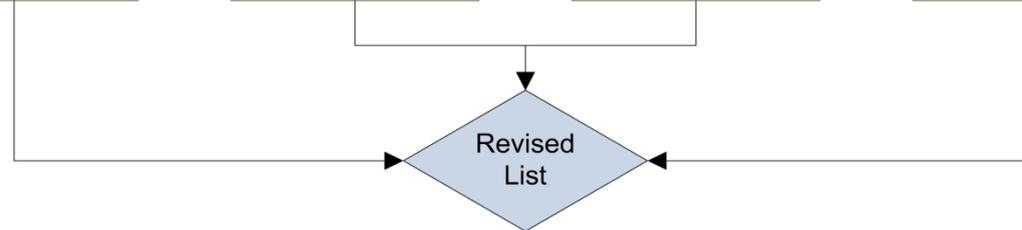
March-April



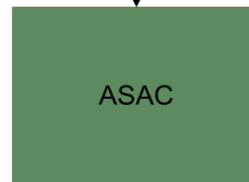
**May -
September**



**September -
October**



November



Consultation Questions

- Do you think this is a useful initiative?
- Are the criteria adequate in identifying what is essential?
- Are there any essential statistics you feel we have omitted? If so, why?
- What are your views on the statistics identified in the “possibly in” and “possibly out” categories?
- Are there any statistics you feel we should remove from the list? If so, why?

Opportunities to contribute

- Existing user group forums
- Direct stakeholder engagement
- Written submissions



Contact Us

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