



**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
STATISTICAL FORUM**

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1. KEY NSS INITIATIVES SINCE LAST MEETING

- **Two SES positions in statistical areas to improve engagement**
- **Release of NDN demonstration version**
- **Launch of Mesh Blocks and associated Area Coder**
- **Development of NSS strategies for Corporate Plan**
- **Some participation in National Statistical Training Institute (NSTI) Courses**
- **Some IDP activity**
- **Creation of Immigration Statistics Unit**

2. FOCUS FOR NEXT 6-12 MONTHS?

- **Development of Draft Statistical Policy**
- **Development of National Statistical Priorities**
- **Further develop functionality/content of NDN**
 - . **Meta data standards**
 - . **Privacy standards**
- **Extend reach of NSTI programs**
- **Publish revised Industry and Occupation Classifications and supporting resources**
- **Develop statement on possible ABS role in supporting data linkage**
- **Develop concept of statistical community**

3. STATISTICAL POLICY

Objective: To capture high level attention and endorsement of the importance of coherent and trusted statistics for Australia and its future (to governments and the community) and to recognise ABS' central leadership/facilitation role in the Australian statistical system.

KEY ATTRIBUTES OF COHERENT, TRUSTWORTHY STATISTICS

- **Transparency**
- **Release practices publicised**
- **Accessibility**
- **Objectivity in presentation**
- **Fitness for purpose**
- **Use of agreed standards**

THE WHO

It is a collaborative partnership between government agencies and the ABS to coordinate the national statistical system, avoid duplication, use/see information as a strategic asset, make best use of existing material and highlight quality of data.

KEY ELEMENTS OF A STATISTICAL POLICY

- **Support for the public availability of information that should be part of national statistics**
- **Recognition of ABS leadership/facilitation role**
- **The need for statistical standards**
- **Development of Statistical Capability**
- **Protection of the confidentiality of information provided by respondents**

Policy would be supported by protocols that go into more detail.

KEY REFERENCES

- **UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**
- **UK Code of Statistical Practice**

NATIONAL STATISTICAL PRIORITIES

- **Objective - NPP in 2007 Budget Round?**
- **Need to agree on process**
- **Do within clusters. Focus on major statistical initiatives**
- **Workshop for each cluster involving key stakeholders**
- **Key inputs**
 - **government priorities**
 - **IDPs**
 - **Australian Statistics Advisory Council**