



NatStats Conference 08
“Working together for an informed Australian Society”
Crown Promenade, Melbourne
19 -21 November 2008
www.nss.gov.au/natstats

Issues for Discussion

1. Does AGSF have any comments on the aims or the NatStats08 draft program (Attachment A)?

Introduction

The National Statistical Service will host the inaugural **NatStats Conference 08** from 19 - 21 November 2008 at the Crown Promenade, Melbourne.

This event will bring together key stakeholders across government, business and academia to discuss strategies for measuring progress in Australian Society, and improving statistics for the nation.

Background

There have been a number of reports which have highlighted the need for greater engagement across government on statistics. **NatStats08** is one of a series of strategies to develop a collaborative approach to developing national statistics.

A Project Board has been established to oversee the direction, development and conduct of the conference. Membership includes: Denis Farrell (ABS), Roger Beale (The Allen Consulting Group), Professor Mike Salvaris (RMIT University), Dr Peter Crossman (Qld Government Statistician, Office of Economic and Statistical Research), Vince Lazzaro (ABS) and Carl Obst (Regional Director, ABS Vic Office).

Aims of NatStats08

The availability of comprehensive, high quality, shared, accessible information about Australian society is vital to ensure that decision-making is simultaneously responsive and responsible.

The conference will focus on the use of information for better monitoring of the effectiveness and efficiency of program services, improved access to and use made of the data by the wider community, and reduced overall costs for the provision of government information services.

The broad theme for NatStats08 is:

“Working together for an informed Australian Society”

The proposed objectives for the conference are to:

- raise the profile, understanding and commitment to developing national statistics
- provide an opportunity for engagement on key policy issues.
- build stronger relationships between information providers, policy makers and opinion leaders
- better utilise information resources across the nation
- provide an opportunity for policy and decision makers to show their commitment to national statistics
- highlight the major issues that need to be considered by users and producers of statistics
- provide a regional perspective for the OECD world forum to be held in Korea in 2009

The conference will be seen as a success if:

- attendees have provided input on the issues facing the nation
- there is greater coordination and collaboration amongst information providers and policy and decision makers
- there is greater understanding in the community of statistical issues

Attendance

The primary target audience for NatStats08 is senior people from across Government, business and academia. However, all those interested in statistics and policy development will be invited to attend.

NatStats08 Program

Attachment A outlines the draft program for NatStat08, including plenary and concurrent sessions. The program has been designed with policy and decision makers in mind. Senior staff from policy departments as well as overseas speakers will be invited to help elevate thinking to a national perspective. The program will be divided into three main themes:

- **Informing the Nation** – Statistics will be critical to the outcomes of the 2020 Summit and the National Reform Agenda both in terms of measuring government policy and assisting debate on the key issues. The type of statistics required and the role statistics will play in the future will be discussed to ensure the nation information resources remain relevant, timely and accurate.
- **Measuring the Progress of Australian Society** – The OECD is holding the 3rd World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy in Korea in late 2009. This theme will give a regional / national perspective on measuring progress in Australian society, and provide input into the 2009 World Forum

- **Informing the Environment Debate** – The Australian Government is committed to a decisive action on climate change. What information is required to assist with the current debate on environment? What issues will be faced in the future? What impact will these changes have on society and how can they be measured?

One of the concurrent session themes will be **Enabling Business Outcomes**. The effectiveness of information dissemination and presentation tools is critical to decision making, research and debate. This session will showcase some of the key projects which aim to improve the functionality and usefulness of national information resources.

Marketing Strategy

A NatStats08 Marketing Strategy has been developed to raise awareness amongst the statistical community. The marketing will be targeted to attract key decision makers from across government, business and academia.

The conference web site was released in early April and can be found at:
www.nss.gov.au/natstats

Attachment A: Draft Program Structure

18.00 - 19.00	Welcome Reception	Tonic - Ground Floor Crown Promenade		
DAY ONE	Thursday 20th November 2008			
08.45 - 09.00	Welcome			
09.00 - 10.30	1. Morning Session – Plenary Informing the Nation			
10.30 - 11.00	Morning Tea			
11.00 - 12.30	2A. Concurrent National Health Strategies – Measuring the Impact	2B. Concurrent Research and Innovation	2C. Concurrent Indigenous Australia	
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch			
13.30 - 15.00	3. Afternoon Session – Plenary Measuring the Progress of Australian Society			
15.00 - 15.30	Afternoon Tea			
15.30 - 17.00	4A. Concurrent Measuring Disadvantage	4B. Concurrent Measuring Progress in Australia	4C. Concurrent Applying Indicators in Policy	4D. Concurrent Enabling Business Outcomes
19.00 - 22.30	Dinner Melbourne Aquarium			
Day Two	Friday 21st November 2008			
09.00 - 10.30	5. Morning Session – Plenary Informing the Environment Debate			
10.30 - 11.00	Morning Tea			
11.00 - 12.30	6A. Concurrent Water	6B. Concurrent National Resource Management	6C. Concurrent Climate	6D Concurrent (Repeat 4D) Enabling Business Outcomes
12.30 -13.30	Lunch			
13.30 - 15.00	7. Afternoon Session – Plenary Key Outcomes from 1. Informing the Nation 2. Measuring Progress in Australian Society 3. Informing the Environment Debate			
15.00 - 15.30	Afternoon Tea			
15.30 - 16.30	8. Panel Discussion - Role of National Statistics			
16.30 - 16.45	Closing Address			