



## **ESSENTIAL STATISTICS FOR AUSTRALIA**

*Identifying the statistical assets that are critically important to the nation*

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## Presentation outline

- Background
- Rationale for Essential Statistics for Australia initiative
- Official Statistics Framework
- Framework for identifying Essential Statistics and Datasets
- Next Steps
- Discussion issues



## 6 Functions of Bureau

- (1) The functions of the Bureau are as follows:
  - (a) to constitute the central statistical authority for the Australian Government and, by arrangements with the Governments of the States, provide statistical services for those Governments;
  - (b) to collect, compile, analyse and disseminate statistics and related information;
  - (c) to ensure co-ordination of the operations of official bodies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and related information, with particular regard to:
    - (i) the avoidance of duplication in the collection by official bodies of information for statistical purposes;
    - (ii) the attainment of compatibility between, and the integration of, statistics compiled by official bodies; and
    - (iii) the maximum possible utilization, for statistical purposes, of information, and means of collection of information, available to official bodies;
  - (d) to formulate, and ensure compliance with, standards for the carrying out by official bodies of operations for statistical purposes;
  - (e) to provide advice and assistance to official bodies in relation to statistics; and
  - (f) to provide liaison between Australia, on the one hand, and other countries and international organizations, on the other hand, in relation to statistical matters.



# Genesis of Nationally Important Statistics and Datasets

*“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*



## Early discussions at ASAC and SSF...

- ASAC - November 2010
  - ABS presented a rationale for identifying critical statistics and data sets,
  - ASAC endorsed use of MAP Framework to present plural supply of statistics
  - ABS asked to progress the identification of key national datasets
  - Agreed focus should be on National datasets or official statistics produced by government
- SSF - June 2011
  - Members discussed and endorsed the development and identification of critical statistics including collaboration with states and territories simultaneously, given they are data custodians of a range of statistical assets that contribute to strategic national datasets and require elevated attention



# Rationale for identifying Nationally Important Statistics and Datasets

*"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

# Framework of Official Statistics

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

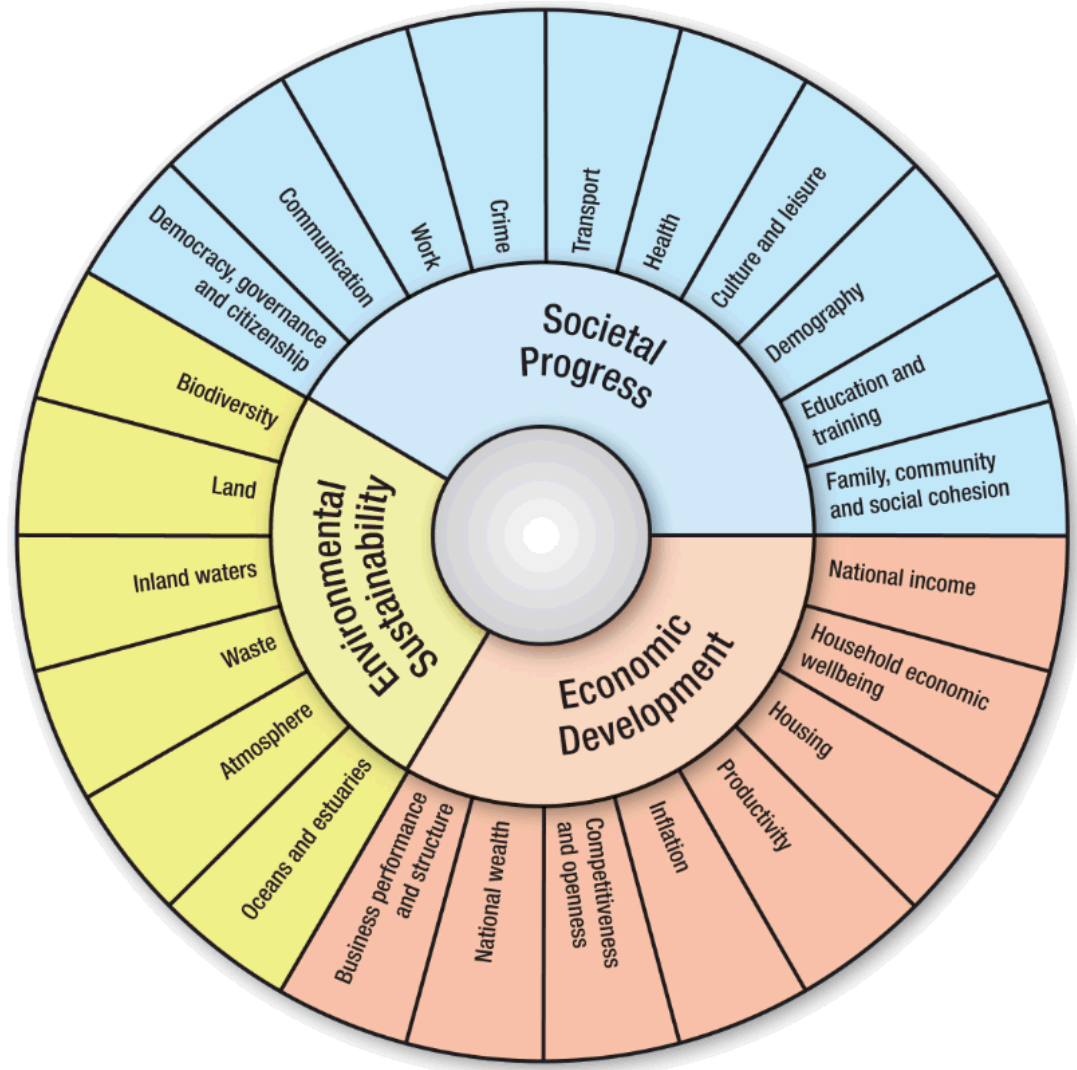


# Defining Essential Statistics

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



# Essential Statistics for Australia Framework





## What will ESA produce?

- i. A high level list that separates the essential statistics from the plethora of other official **statistics** generated by governments. This includes the identification of statistics considered essential that do not currently exist (but are considered the responsibility of government to provide*
- ii. Identification of the **datasets** that underpin those statistics that are considered essential. This includes the identification of the essential input/source datasets where required.*
- iii. A comprehensive **quality assessment** of the essential statistics and datasets identified that will inform on the fitness for purpose of the statistical assets in meeting the needs of users.*



# Defining Essential Datasets

- A National Dataset includes any ongoing collection of official administrative data or datasets collected for statistical purposes.
- Includes Commonwealth and State and Territory official data
- “Essential” datasets are a sub-set of National Datasets that must be given more importance, higher priority and trust
- Assigning an “Essential” status to a dataset will ensure that the value of the data is recognised and developed as a strategic asset
- Key input datasets also need to be identified as this may be where investments would yield the greatest benefit (eg improving indigenous status identification in health data)

# Essential Statistics for Australia - *Economy*

Pillar	Dimension	Essential Statistics	Datasets	Custodian
Economy	Business Performance and Structure	Changes in Private sector income from sales, gross operating profits and Inventories held	Quarterly Business Indicators	ABS
Economy	Household Economic Wellbeing	Household economic and subjective well-being, labour market dynamics and family dynamics (longitudinal)	Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey	FAHCSIA
Economy	Housing	Homeless assistance indicators; Public/Social Housing supply	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) data collection; National Housing Assistance Data Repository	AIHW
Economy	Inflation	LPI	Labour Price Collection	ABS
Economy	National Income	Sources and Uses of Income; Net Saving; Expenditure on Consumption, Capital and Imports	National Accounts	ABS
Economy	National Income and National Wealth	Current Account Balance; Flows of Funds between Australian and ROW; Exports and Imports of Goods and Services	Balance of Payments and International Investment Position	ABS
Economy	National Wealth	Capital Accumulation, Financial Position	National Accounts	ABS
Economy	Productivity	Multifactor productivity for the market sector	National Accounts	ABS

# Essential Statistics for Australia - *Environment*

Pillar	Dimension	Essential Statistics	Datasets	Custodian
Environment	Atmosphere	Net Greenhouse Gas emissions at a disaggregated level	Aust Greenhouse Emissions Information System	DCCEE
Environment	Biodiversity	Threatened Fauna Species	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act list of threatened Fauna	SEWPAC
Environment	Inland Waters	Household Water Conservation	Water Use and Conservation Survey: Labour Force Survey Supplement	ABS
Environment	Land	Protected terrestrial land and marine parks	Collaborative Australia Protected Area Database (CAPAD)	SEWPAC
Environment	Waste	Household Recycling	Waste Management and Transport Use	ABS

# Essential Statistics for Australia - *Society*

Pillar	Dimension	Essential Statistics	Datasets	Custodian
Society	Communication	Internet Access and Use, from ISP Providers perspective	Internet Activity Survey	ABS
Society	Crime and Justice	Perceptions of Safety	Personal Safety Survey	ABS
Society	Culture and Recreation	Sport Participation	MPHS - Participation in Sport & Physical Recreation	ABS
Society	Demography	Benchmark statistics of population structure and household composition	Census of Population & Housing	ABS
Society	Education and Training	Literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy achievement of year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students in national testing	NAPLAN Results	MCEECDYA
Society	Family, Community and Social Cohesion	Impact of disability on the community	Disability, Ageing & Carers (Survey of)	ABS
Society	Health	Mortality rates by major causes of death	Causes of Death	ABS
Society	Transport	Fuel Consumption and emissions; transport use patterns	Motor Vehicle Use (Survey of)	ABS
Society	Work	Unemployment; Underemployment; Participation Rate	Labour Force Survey	ABS

# Essential Statistics for Australia - Datasets

Dataset	Custodian	Type of Dataset	Key Source Datasets (Custodian)	Essential statistic	Pillar	Dimension	Main published outputs/summaries	Current Frequency
Australian Health Survey	ABS	Survey	-	Use of medical services, risk factors, disease prevalence, biomedical and nutrition info (addition of extra modules to address identified Information Gaps)	Society	Health	ABS National Health Survey: Summary of Results (cat. no. 4364.0)	3 Yearly
Causes of Death	ABS	Collection - admin	State and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages	Mortality rates by major causes of death	Society	Health	ABS Causes of Death, Australia (cat. no. 3303.0)	Annual (data is collected from the RBDMs monthly)
Census of Population & Housing	ABS	Census	-	Benchmark statistics of population structure and household composition; SEIFA	Society	Demography	Multiple	5 yearly
National Accounts	ABS	Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Investment (Survey of)</li> <li>• Annual Intergrated Collection (ABS)</li> <li>• Business Indicators Survey</li> <li>• Consumer Price Index</li> <li>• Producer Prices (Survey of)</li> <li>• Labour Price Index</li> <li>• International Trade in Services (Survey of)</li> <li>• Employment and Earnings (Survey of)</li> <li>• Retail Activity;</li> <li>• Labour Force Survey (ABS)</li> <li>• Agricultural Census (ABS)</li> <li>• Household Expenditure Survey (ABS)</li> <li>• Financial Information (Survey of)</li> </ul>	<p>Sources and Uses of Income; Net Saving; Expenditure on Consumption, Capital and Imports</p> <p>Capital Accumulation, Financial Position</p> <p>Multifactor productivity for the market sector</p>	<p>Economy</p> <p>Economy</p> <p>Economy</p>	<p>National Income</p> <p>National Wealth</p> <p>Productivity</p>	Australian System of National Accounts (5204.0)	Annual



# Next Steps

- ABS is currently finalising a preliminary list, based on intelligence gathered from existing engagement networks, to support discussions with stakeholders ***(Due by end of 2011)***
- A highly consultative process to facilitate both the input and broader ownership of the ESA initiative by key stakeholders (Government and non-Government) is being established including:
  - Release of public information paper with the preliminary list inviting comment and feedback from the broader ABS user group community ***(planned by end of 2011)***
  - Discussion at relevant existing ABS User Groups ***(Jan-April 2012)***
  - Identification of other Government led fora at Commonwealth **and** state and territory level ***(Jan-April 2012)***





# Next Steps

- Following the consultation process, a revised list will be prepared for consideration by ASAC (**May 2012**)
- For those statistics (and their datasets) identified as essential, a quality assessment phase to be undertaken to provide a 'health check or scorecard' on the status of the essential statistics assets (**May-Nov 2012**)



# Issues for discussion

1. As a key partner in this process how can AGSF members promote and gain acceptance of this framework within their organisations? How can ABS best support AGSF to progress this?
2. Can AGSF members suggest key opportunities within your organisations that could be utilised to achieve the outcomes from developing a set of Essential Statistics for Australia?