

# STATS Matter

FEBRUARY 2013

## What is Stats Matter?

Stats Matter is a long term strategy to strengthen the Tasmanian Government's statistical assets and capability to enhance decision making.

*"Access to quality data and understanding the needs of our communities are the building blocks for effective decision-making by governments. Data that is relevant, robust and reliable is at the heart of informed decision-making by government, business and communities alike."*

Lara Giddings MP  
Premier

## What will Stats Matter do?

Stats Matter will guide the production, management, reporting and use of statistical information across government. It will promote a culture where information resources are valued and used in a competent and collaborative way.

Stats Matter will support Tasmanian Government agencies in developing sound policies, delivering targeted services and enhancing performance accountability.

## Why is Stats Matter important?

In a budget constrained environment, it is important that resources are directed to where they will deliver optimum gains.

Decisions about allocating resources rely on balancing a range of factors including robust statistical evidence. Take the siting of 12 Child and Family Centers in Tasmania for example. The Child and Family Centers Steering Committee obtained key data about the population and client needs from the Kids Come First framework held in the Department of Health and Human Services and utilized geospatial capability in the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources to map the information for specific areas. This collaboration across agencies enabled the identification of the most suitable locations for opening a Centre.

Stats Matter will foster more evidence-based decisions like this by ensuring awareness of and access to quality data across government and encouraging collaboration between agencies.

## Priorities

The Strategy focuses on three priorities:

- building a high performing statistical culture;
- ensuring quality statistical data is available to government and the community; and
- strengthening the governance arrangements around important statistical data.

A multi-year strategy is envisaged to embed the culture and achieve the priorities.

## Who is sponsoring Stats Matter?

The Department of Treasury and Finance and the Department of Premier and Cabinet, as joint sponsors, are collaborating with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to develop Stats Matter.

## What needs to change?

*Better information means better decisions and better service delivery.*

Stats Matter research identified a number of barriers which limit the government's ability to use information to support policy, services and performance accountability.

Challenges identified by State agencies include:

- onerous reporting requirements;
- limited geospatial data;
- facilitating awareness of whole-of-government drivers;
- difficulty in identifying what data exists;
- ensuring technology enables collaboration and reporting;
- limited statistical capability;
- facilitating cross-agency collaboration;
- data gaps;
- limited performance evaluation; and
- promoting a culture which values data.

*The Project team is seeking support across government from those who manage or use statistics to help address the barriers and drive cultural change in the way data is produced, used managed and reported.*

## Where to from here?

*We encourage you to provide input and engage in opportunities for consultation that will arise over the coming weeks.*

The Project team is seeking input on the five major actions proposed in the Strategy:

- identify significant statistical assets for government and/or agencies
- develop and implement a whole-of-government statistical capability plan
- enrich the potential of statistical data through collaboration and connection
- publish statistical data to increase awareness and accessibility of statistical information
- endorse and adopt a suite of principles and guidelines for good statistical practices.

The Project team is also in quest of current or planned projects which may provide opportunities to progress the five major actions. For example, Stats Matter could foster collaboration to address data issues in the Criminal Justice Information Management Project.

Linking the five major actions to a variety of agency projects will help embed sound statistical practices and build a culture which values and uses data in a competent and collaborative way.

Cabinet endorsement of the Strategy and its implementation will be sought in mid-2013.

## Contact

Please contact the Office of eGovernment, Department of Premier and Cabinet for more information or to provide input to the Stats Matter Strategy:

Phone: [\(03\) 6232 7722](tel:0362327722)

Email: [egovernment@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:egovernment@dpac.tas.gov.au)