

# Stats Matter Program eBulletin December 2013

As the end of the year approaches in this edition of the eBulletin we reflect on the progress made on Stats Matter in 2013 and look forward to what will happen in 2014. We also feature the first of the program's major actions and an update on the Stats Link Network.

## Looking back

Over the past 12 months the project has focused on planning, consultation and design of processes to deliver the major actions of Stats Matter. Some of the achievements of 2013 include:

- Agencies engaged in consultations on the draft Stats Matter Strategy (the Strategy).
- An implementation plan for the Strategy was developed.
- The Strategy was approved by Cabinet.
- The Stats Matter Program was launched.
- A working group was set up to scope a statistical capability plan for government.
- A new steering committee for Stats Matter was established which includes the Head of Agency for DPAC and Treasury
- Agency expertise was sought on potential content for a 'toolkit' of statistical resources.

- A set of enduring outcomes for Government was prepared for consultation with agencies
- Stats Link Network events were held on evidence-based policy (May); spatial data (August); and evaluation (December).

## Looking forwards

As we look forward to 2014, the major activities to take place include:

- Gathering input from agencies to refine a set of enduring outcomes for government.
- Identification of statistical assets to inform enduring outcomes.
- Identification of initial toolkit resources and approval processes for adding items to the toolkit.
- Commencing work on a web portal for information and resources.
- Completing work on a framework for data integration.
- Conducting more Stats Link Network events.
- Defining a process to determine needs and methods for improving statistical capability across government.

### Focus on Major Action I

The Stats Matter Strategy defines **5 major actions** designed to build Tasmanian Government statistical assets and capability.

**Major Action I** aims to *identify and manage statistical assets to strengthen government accountability*. These statistical assets can be used to guide future investment and inform priorities for common approaches across government.

The first step in Major Action I is to define a set of enduring outcomes for the business of government in Tasmania. Enduring outcomes are the end results or consequences sought from long run services and activities provided for Tasmanians. Enduring outcomes relate to ongoing activity that government is recognised for and expected to undertake, for example achievement in health, education, public safety, justice and regulation.

While agencies have individual outcomes, visible in annual reports and budget papers, there is no over-arching strategic set of outcomes to inform priorities for common approaches and guide performance and accountability of the government as a whole.

The Stats Matter team will be discussing proposed enduring outcomes with agency senior executives in early 2014.

### Stats Matter forum

On 28 August 2013, a Stats Matter Information Forum was held which provided an overview of the Strategy and the role that Agencies play in its successful implementation.

If you would like a copy of the presentations please email: [egovernment@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:egovernment@dpac.tas.gov.au).

### Interns

The UTAS / Tasmanian State Service Internship Program has proved invaluable to the Stats Matter program with two students - **Hannah Salisbury and Tom Whitton** - providing valuable research and project contributions over the past three months.

During her time with the team, Hannah investigated assessment methods used to determine statistical capability in public sector organisations at a national and international level.

Hannah's insights into these methods and how they can be applied in the Tasmanian Government context, has assisted work to develop a statistical capability plan (major action 5).

Thomas undertook a review of national and international outcomes frameworks used to inform government performance and accountability. He identified common outcomes and criteria for the development of enduring outcomes for the business of government in the Tasmanian context.

Thomas' analysis of the complex conceptual material and his research findings have been applied to develop criteria for outcomes which focus on strategic whole-of-government business and can be credibly measured over time.

We wish Hannah and Tom all the best in their future endeavours.

## Stats Link Network Update

As part of Stats Matter Major Action 4, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has established and coordinates the Stats Link Network (SLN). The Network aims to bring users and producers of statistics together to build capability and make connections.



Figure 1 audience and presenter at the Stats Link Event on Using Evidence to Optimise Results, Dec 13

Over 40 users and producers of statistics from State and Commonwealth Governments, non government organisations and the University of Tasmania gathered in early December for an SLN event on Using Evidence to Optimise Results.

## Christmas and New Year

The Office of eGovernment will be closed from 24 December and will re-open on 2 January 2014.

We wish you a happy and safe festive season.

The event, facilitated by the ABS State and Territories Statistical Services Director, Ruth McArdle, included presentations from Dr Peter Orpin, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Rural Health, University of Tasmania and Glenys Jones, Project Manager, Monitoring and Reporting Systems, Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania.

In addition to the presentations, the event provided an opportunity for participants to network with other people interested in the use and production of statistics.

The Network will continue to organise more events in 2014. If you would like to join the Network please contact on (03) 6222 5930 or email: [tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au)

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