

*On this day, 4 February 2004, the Government of South Australia became a foundation member of the National Statistical Service. In doing so they agreed to independently and jointly (with other members) undertake their best endeavours to ensure that the following key principles of the National Statistical Service are applied in all aspects of their statistical work.*

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## Key Principles of the National Statistical Service

### Statistical integrity

1. Be objective in data definition, analysis, interpretation and release of statistics.
2. Be open about all aspects of the statistical process:
  - set, and publicise in advance, the dates for and nature of statistical releases
  - publish methodologies used in producing statistics
  - invite and respond promptly to comment.

### Relevance

3. Consult widely with government, business and the community to ensure the statistical information produced supports debate about current and emerging issues, within available resources.

### Coherence

4. Use standard classifications, standards and frameworks. Explain deviations from the relevant international/national standards.
5. Ensure that the statistical methodology and data remain internally consistent over time. Explain reasons for any changes that occur between collection periods.

### Timeliness

6. Allow enough time to check the data for a reasonable level of accuracy and plan to release the statistics as soon as possible after their collection.
7. Where a publication date has been advertised, ensure that the statistics are released on this date.

### Accessibility

8. Ensure that important statistics are compiled from key administrative and survey data sets relating to government programs and activities.
9. Provide all Australians with ready access to quality statistics.

### Interpretability

10. Provide analyses and explanations where they help the interpretation of statistics.
11. Be open about the quality of the statistics, so that users can better understand and interpret them.

### Accuracy

12. Ensure sound statistical practices are followed for collecting, processing, storing and presenting statistical data.

### Statistical professionalism

13. Ensure necessary professional statistical skills are developed or acquired and used in the production of statistics.

### Trust of data providers

14. Place only the minimum reporting load necessary on data providers, commensurate with administrative requirements, priority statistical objectives and sound statistical practice.
15. Explain clearly to data providers how the information provided may be used.
16. Ensure compliance with privacy principles, confidentiality guarantees and other undertakings to data providers.