# Strategic View on the Future of Statistical Classifications

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### Background

Data and statistics have overlaps in concepts, definitions, classifications and metadata Limited integration of the many standards, manuals and frameworks hampers responsiveness to emerging user demands Real-world change is not easily incorporated into the traditional hierarchical structure of statistical classifications

Changes for code patterns, revision cycles, best practice principles and new technology needs to be considered

Need to reconsider the purpose of the classifications and better understand user needs

## Understanding the future

- It is not solely about new tools, platforms, AI or web services
- Understanding what a classification represents in the 21<sup>st</sup> century data world
- Moving away from one size fits-all hierarchies
- Developed country need has to be secondary to developing country need
- Reducing complexity
- Delivering the same with reduced cost, time and process including the use of artificial intelligence
- Keeping up with the real world and user demand
- Working collaboratively with users

## Technical vision

- Advance the use of innovative technologies and approaches for crossreferencing and navigating between the various international statistical standards, manuals and classifications
- Implement new methodologies for managing and describing data, and the categories to which they are classified through greater uptake of semantic web technology
- Allow digital integration with well-established library and other vocabularies, taxonomies and ontologies, to improve cross-disciplinary search capabilities of digitized documents
- Reduce cost, resource and time for undertaking revisions of classifications and standards
- Be more responsive, dynamic and relevant

#### Case Study: New Zealand: Occupation - Background

- Occupations classified to ANZSCO since 2006 a joint Australian and New Zealand classification updated 2008, 2013 and 2019 (skills only)
- ANZSCO is significantly dated as the labour market has changed significantly
- Over last 20+ years the national and user contexts have changed:
  - > ANZSCO is no longer representative of the New Zealand labour market
  - Australia and New Zealand have differing need and priorities
  - Joint classifications reviews are challenging and require substantial resourcing
  - Classification hierarchy no longer relevant or appropriate
- Exampled by:
  - Growth of digital skills occupations and skill changes generally
  - Technology changes
  - Sectoral differences between the two countries e.g aged care, agriculture
  - Differences in employment and contract legislation and practices
  - Skilled migration differences

#### Case Study: New Zealand: Occupation - Challenges

- Difficulty of maintaining a joint classification including:
  - undertaking consultation with stakeholders in two countries
  - agreement on actions within and between the statistical agencies
  - competing strategic drivers and needs both within the statistical agencies and across the national data systems, including legislative and political drivers
  - conflicting or competing survey timelines, including different census cycles that result in conflicts in the availability of current and comparable census data
  - tendency for revisions to align with Australian funding and timing; historically they are not initiated by New Zealand
  - restricting ability to make changes to address New Zealand-specific data needs, particularly in relation to te ao Māori
  - competing skill needs and technology/process differences

#### Case Study: New Zealand: Occupation - Other Issues

- NZ and Australia are similar in occupations and skills but not identical
- > Value of joint classifications has diminished due to technological changes
- Unique NZ occupations not covered and stakeholders wanting a more New Zealand oriented classification
- Limited te ao Māori/Kaupapa Māori occupations
- In 2021 and 2022 Australian commenced targeted updates of ANZSCO NZ did not join
- In 2023 Australian got \$24m to comprehensively revise ANZSCO and NZ couldn't join
- Maintain alignment between the two countries whilst moving to national classifications
- NOL and OSCA released in November and December 2024 respectively

#### Case Study: New Zealand: Occupation - Modernising

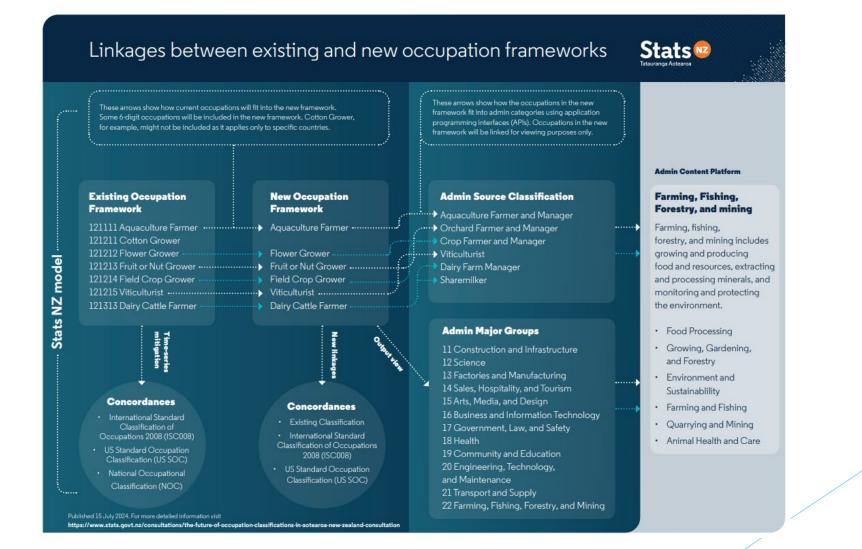
- Move from hierarchy (ANZSCO) to flat list (National Occupation List NOL)
- Benefits and opportunities of developing a new flat list means:
  - A list that is vastly more responsive, flexible, and much quicker, easier, and cost effective to update
  - > A better reflection of New Zealand's labour market as prescribed by users/industry
  - Easier alignment to ensure international comparability and continue to enable close comparisons across New Zealand and Australian labour markets
  - Leveraging technology to integrate other data/information sources to improve content - Ariā (Stats NZ) to Tahatū (Tertiary Education Commission) Careers platform
  - > The flat list approach also allows for standardised or sectoral output views
  - User driven approach and fixed version release cycle

#### Case Study: New Zealand: Occupation - Benefits

#### Key benefits are:

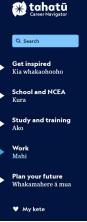
- more visibility of New Zealand content and kaupapa Māori occupations
- increased adaptability and flexibility to reflect a user-driven approach including customised views and outputs
- minimal duplication and more frequent change and use of emerging technology
- better representation of important sectors in the New Zealand economy and labour market and occupations relevant to small businesses
- greater visibility of occupations that are on Immigration NZ's Green List
- better data to inform current policy and decision-making on skill gaps and growing skill needs across the labour market
- improved submission and feedback processes

#### Case Study: New Zealand: Occupation - Base Model



#### Case Study: New Zealand: Old and New





#### Orchard farmer and manager Kaipāmu me te kaiwhakahaere uru huarākau

Home > Work > Explore career ideas > Growing, gardening and forestry

#### Also known as

Fruit or nut grower, orchardist, orchard operations manager, fruit production manager, pipfruit grower, citrus grower, berry grower

Orchard farmers and managers plan and manage fruit and nut production in orchards.

Aria

Save to kete

### Conclusion

- Traditional methods for development, revision, maintenance and implementation no longer work
- Dynamic and real-time change can be implemented whilst maintaining continuity
- Revision cycles are not the way forward any more because of resource constraints for national statistical offices
- Working more collaboratively with users and having regular conversations with them is better than formal consultation processes
- Technology is our friend and it is about reducing the 'human' component
- Classifications aren't disappearing they are just rebranding and adapting to a 21<sup>st</sup> century social media world

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