

### **Creating statistical standards for the topics of gender identity and sexual identity**

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In 2015, Stats NZ released the statistical standard for gender identity. This statistical standard provided a comprehensive set of guidelines for the collection of gender identity statistics. It included a classification, definition of terms, question examples, operational/processing and output guidance. This standard was created to standardise gender identity collections within the NZ data system.

The statistical standard for gender identity was developed collaboratively via an across Government agency working group and topic expert advisors. Proposals were put forward for public consultation, early on within the development stage, and the resulting public submissions helped shape the final standard. Question examples were cognitively tested with target populations across different regions of New Zealand (the cities of Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch), and included in the final standard as well.

Work is currently underway to develop and release a statistical framework for sexual orientation and a statistical standard for sexual identity. This is being developed along similar lines to that of the gender identity standard. An across Government working group was established in 2017. In April/May 2018 we conducted a public consultation on our proposed framework and data collection components. This framework and statistical standard are currently going through the review and approval processes – for a release in December 2018.

This presentation provides an outline of the processes undertaken by Stats NZ in developing these statistical standards and briefly outlines new sexual orientation/gender identity (SOGI) developments currently underway within Statistics New Zealand.