

# Developing statistical standards for gender identity and sexual identity

The New Zealand experience

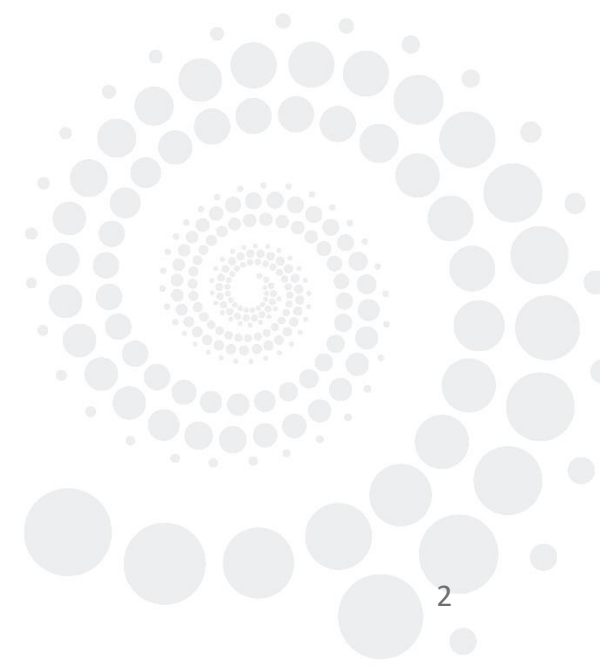
Alana Lattimore



“In 900 years of time and space, I’ve never met anyone who wasn’t important.”

— *the Eleventh Doctor (Dr Who)*

Leave no one behind.



## What is a statistical standard?

A statistical standard provides guidelines for collecting information on a particular topic. This includes defining concepts and terms used, a classification, and how information should be collected and produced.

Statistical standards are for use across the data system of New Zealand and are developed through consensus across Government.

## Components of the statistical standard for gender identity (2015)

- **Concept definition**

Gender identity is a person's internal sense of being wholly female, wholly male, or having aspects of female and/or male.

Gender identity is understood to refer to each person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond with the sex recorded at birth.

- **Operational collection considerations**

- Gender identity is self defined
- The relationship between asking sex and gender identity
- Highlighting that gender identity can change over time and/or with context
- Guidance around the age at which to ask a gender identity question

## Components of the statistical standard for gender identity cont.

- A question module  
Guidelines given to design own question. Question examples also offered.

### Example 1

What gender do you identify as?

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Gender diverse, please state: .....

## Components of the statistical standard for gender identity cont.

- **The classification of gender identity**

1. Male

- 11 Male / Tāne

2. Female

- 21 Female / Wahine

3. Gender diverse

- 30 Gender diverse not further defined / Ira tāngata kōwhiri kore

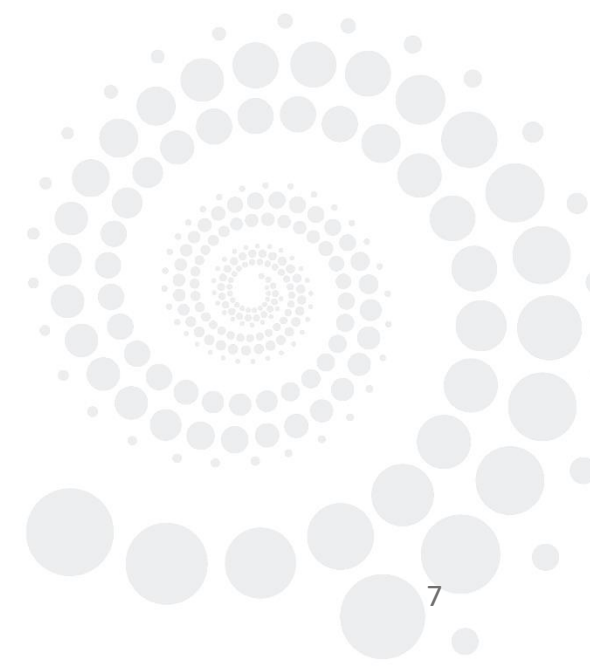
- 31 Transgender male to female / Whakawahine

- 32 Transgender female to male / Tangata ira tāne

- 39 Gender diverse not elsewhere classified / Ira tāngata kōwhiri kore

## Components of the statistical standard for gender identity cont.

- Processing methods/data coding guidelines
  - Synonym report/codefile
  - Guidance on coding multiple responses, imputation and links other coding tools available
- Output guidelines
  - Guidance on how best to output the data
  - Confidentiality requirements
  - Data output levels
- Definitions and glossary of related terms



## Statistical standard for sexual identity and a framework for sexual orientation

- This work is currently underway (release date is early 2019)
- In April/May we conducted a public consultation on the proposed framework for sexual orientation and components of the sexual identity standard.
- A topic of high public interest



## Future work at Stats NZ.

- Topics of high interest
  - Sex – a third category (indeterminate / intersex)
  - Gender identity information
  - Sexual identity information
- The statistical standards for sex and gender identity will be revised in the near future
- General Social Survey contains a sexual identity question for the first time

## Further information

Stats NZ website: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/>

Our Aria classification tool: <http://aria.stats.govt.nz>

Information on these topics: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/reports/sex-gender-and-sexual-orientation>

[Alana.Lattimore@stats.govt.nz](mailto:Alana.Lattimore@stats.govt.nz)