

# Time Use Surveys - Quality

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**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
Informing Australia's important decisions



- ▶ In relations to statistics quality is generally accepted as ‘fitness for purpose’. It includes:
  - accuracy
  - relevance
  - timeliness
  - coherence
  - interpretability and
  - accessibility
- ▶ It is a balancing act - balancing cost, timeliness etc with accuracy, relevance etc

## Important

- ▶ Already decided that a TUS is the best way to address the data need
- ▶ Consulted with the data users to make sure have a good understanding of their data needs – this will impact the survey design
- ▶ Funding and resources (staff, technology etc are secured)
- ▶ Work within the parameters of your organisation

- ▶ Survey Management
- ▶ The Diary
- ▶ Survey Content
- ▶ Processing
- ▶ Disseminate
- ▶ Activity Classification

# Survey Management

- Stand alone survey or module
- Scope and coverage –
  - time of year
  - age of respondents
  - children
  - number of respondents

- Time interval
  - open
  - fixed
- Reference period –
  - length of time (one day, 2 days, typical day)
  - Type of day – work day, weekend
  - Methodology – actual day, yesterday, typical day/week
- Diary day
  - convenience day
  - designated day
- Type of instrument
  - Full diary
  - Light diary
  - Paper diary
  - Digital diary

# The diary (cont.)

- How to collect
  - CAWI
  - CATI
  - CAPI

# Survey content

- Primary and Secondary activity
- Contextual information – who with, who for etc
- Temporal location – time of day
- Background information – labour force, education, age etc



- Response rate
- Diary acceptance thresholds – number of hours, number of activities
- Coding and editing
- Imputation
- Weighting

## Disseminate

- Make sure tables and graphs are labelled and well understood
- Highlight cells in table that have high standard errors or consider suppressing
- Include methodology page to describe how the survey was collected and other details such as sample size, response rates, timing of collection etc
- Produce detailed documentation on how to use data
- Include data item list
- For microdata include instructions about file structure etc

# Activity classification

Choose relevant classification – ICATUS, HETUS

GOOD LUCK