

Mr Paul Cheung  
Director  
Statistics Division/DESA  
United Nations  
2 United Nations Plaza  
DC2-1670 NEW YORK NY 10017  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Mr Cheung,



I would like to congratulate you for leading a successful celebration on the first World Statistics Day. The initiative was well received in Australia and I am happy to inform you that celebrations were held across the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and many statistical organisations around Australia.

In the ABS, seminars, presentations, and networking functions were held to mark this special occasion. Some highlights included presentations by:

- Professor Glenn Withers from Australian Universities who spoke about the importance of statistics for policy making;
- Professor Harvey Goldstein who reported on the "Royal Statistical Society's 10 year literacy campaign"; and
- Professor Richard Weller, who discussed the use of statistics in his latest publication "Boom Town 2050 Scenarios for a Rapidly Growing City".

The ABS also used the opportunity to thank the statistical community and providers of data for their contribution to national statistics.

Our Minister, the Honourable Bill Shorten, Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation welcomed World Statistics Day and said that "Statistics are vital for the Australian and State Governments to make informed policy decisions. In this country, the Australian Bureau of Statistics collects information about issues of importance ranging from annual car sales to how people identify their religion," and added "Without statistics we could only use unreliable anecdotal evidence to make decisions that affect the lives of millions of our citizens."

Once again I would like to congratulate you on a successful World Statistics Day and the Australian Bureau of Statistics looks forward to being involved in future international activities which recognise the importance of service, professionalism and integrity in the production of official statistics.

Yours sincerely



Brian Pink  
Australian Statistician

8 November 2010