

World Statistics Day

[Wednesday 20 October 2010 - World Statistics Day: ABS Celebrations around Australia](#)

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Central Office Celebrations

Central Office and ACT Office held an Open Seminar with Denis Farrell introducing the guest speaker **Professor Glenn Withers** from Australian Universities who spoke about the importance of statistics for policy making. Brian Pink, Australian Statistician, released the Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey (CTASS) full results; as well as the final NatStats 2010 Conference Recommendations and A guide for using statistics for Evidence Based Policy developed by the Statistical Literacy Unit. Sixty five ABS staff members attended the seminar which was broadcasted live and can be watched through the ABS Broadcasting Centre.

New South Wales Office Celebrations

New South Wales World Statistics Day celebrations were largely an ABS affair. A competition for staff was ran, named "Pictures tell an interesting statistic" which called for entrants to represent statistical information in an interesting, graphical way. A prize was awarded for the entry which best told a statistical story visually. **Cathy Bates**, Director Outposted to the NSW Treasury and Department of Premier and Cabinet, gave a brief presentation to staff on the rationale behind WSD and what it meant for the ABS. **Paul Doran**, Head Person of Client Services (NSW) also gave a brief presentation on the power of statistical information and how ABS data is used by influential external bodies such as the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) by highlighting their use of statistics produced by staff within NSW office. After the presentations staff celebrated with a morning tea for the 60 people who attended the event.

Queensland Office Celebrations

In **Queensland**, the inaugural World Statistics Day celebrations were jointly hosted by the Qld STSS team, Qld Government (The Office of Economic and Statistical Research) and the Qld Branch of the Statistical Society of Australia Inc. Our Regional Director, **AJ Lanyon** represented the ABS, and spoke about recent results from the Community Trust in ABS Statistics survey, recommendations from the NatStats 2010 conference and statistical literacy. Thanks to **Helen Johnson**, President of the Qld Statistics Society of Australia Inc. (SSAI), who invited two guest speakers who both spoke on the themes of international and national statistical literacy and education. **Professor Harvey**

Goldstein reported on the “Royal Statistical Society’s 10 year literacy campaign.” Professor Goldstein is professor of social statistics in the Centre for Multilevel Modelling at the University of Bristol. He is a chartered statistician, has been editor of the Royal Statistical Society's Journal, Series A, a member of the Society's Council and was awarded the Society's Guy Medal in silver in 1998. He was elected a member of the International Statistical Institute in 1987, and a fellow of the British Academy in 1996. **Professor Helen MacGillivray** spoke on “national and international developments in statistics education.” Professor MacGillivray is President of the International Association of Statistics Education, Director of the QUT Maths Access Centre and an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Senior Fellow. The event was well supported with a cross section of attendees from both the public and private sector and Statistical Society members. **Christine Sergi**, Director, Statistical Capability Development Branch and Phillip O'Connor, Director, National Centre for Education and Training Statistics and a number of Qld STSS staff embraced the invaluable networking opportunities the event provided.

Western Australia Office Celebrations

Western Australia ABS Office hosted a **Statistics Western Australia Network (SWAN)** meeting that day. SWAN is a consultative group comprising of external representatives WA state government departments. Two guest speakers addressed the forum **Winthrop Professor Richard Weller**, who uses a lot of ABS statistics when promoting his area of expertise, urban architecture based on his latest publication, "Boom Town 2050 Scenarios For A Rapidly Growing City" and **Dr Paul Jelfs**, Head Person, Social Statistics Division, Health Information Branch. Eighty people attended. WA branch organised a special cake for afternoon tea! On Friday 22 October 2010, the Executive will be hosting a World Stats Day Soiree in our Social Club, Samplers.

Northern Territory Office Celebrations

The **Northern Territory** WSD event ran from 9 am to 11 am and was comprised of the following activities: Census POP info sessions for external clients only (inclusive of 1/2 hr Q&A session); a presentation by Regional Director **Tom Joseph** on the principles on world statistics day, some key finding from CTASS and a brief rundown on NatStats 2010; a presentation by **Tarrant Moore** (key client from NT Treasury) on his attendance at NatStats 2010, key themes, outcomes for NT government and others. The Census POP session was used as a 'draw' as there is a lot of interest in the proposed census outputs.

Victorian Office Celebrations

World Statistics Day was celebrated in the **Victorian Office** with excitement, cake and of course stats! The lead up to World Statistics day saw Victorian staff take part in a statistical quiz, the multiple choice questions were taken from statistical releases from around the world and included such questions as 'What percentage of households in South Africa had access to a flush toilet in

2007?' and 'How many people were employed as actors in the United States in 2009?'.The winner of the quiz was **Joel Cramer** from the population survey operations branch. The Office held a celebratory morning tea. This event was well attended by ABS staff and a range of invited guests from the Victorian State Government, including our Victorian Statistical Advisory Forum chair - **Mary Cavar** of the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance. Regional Director **Lane Masterton** addressed staff and guests, speaking about the impact of statistics throughout history and the importance of celebrating our achievements before the ceremonial first cut into the World Statistics Day cake. Slideshows show-casing interesting statistics and excerpts from census questionnaires from around the world were displayed throughout the event, providing attendees with a tour through the different ways that the world can be described through statistics and the work of our international colleagues.

South Australia and Tasmania Office Celebrations

South Australia ABS Office, **Karen McGuigan** ran a session for external clients on International Trade in Services and the **Tasmanian Office** held an inaugural meeting of the steering committee who will be responsible for driving the future format and content of the Tasmanian Statistical Advisory Committee, this new group will be comprised of people who are 'data champions' within their particular Tasmanian Government agency.

Pictures for these events are located in the [World Statistics Day photo gallery](#).