



Building capability in the Government Sector

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Australian Bureau of Statistics

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statistics for informed

decision making

Outline

- Evidence based policy



- Bridging the gap between policy and research in the Govt Sector



Established as the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, with the passing of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the ABS is Australia's official national statistical agency.

The ABS Mission Statement

“We assist and encourage informed decision making, research and discussion within governments and the community, by leading a high quality, objective and responsible national statistical service”



Australian Statistician,
Brian Pink
January, 2008

Evidence-based policy (EBP)

*“Evidence-based policy is at the heart of
being a reformist government”*

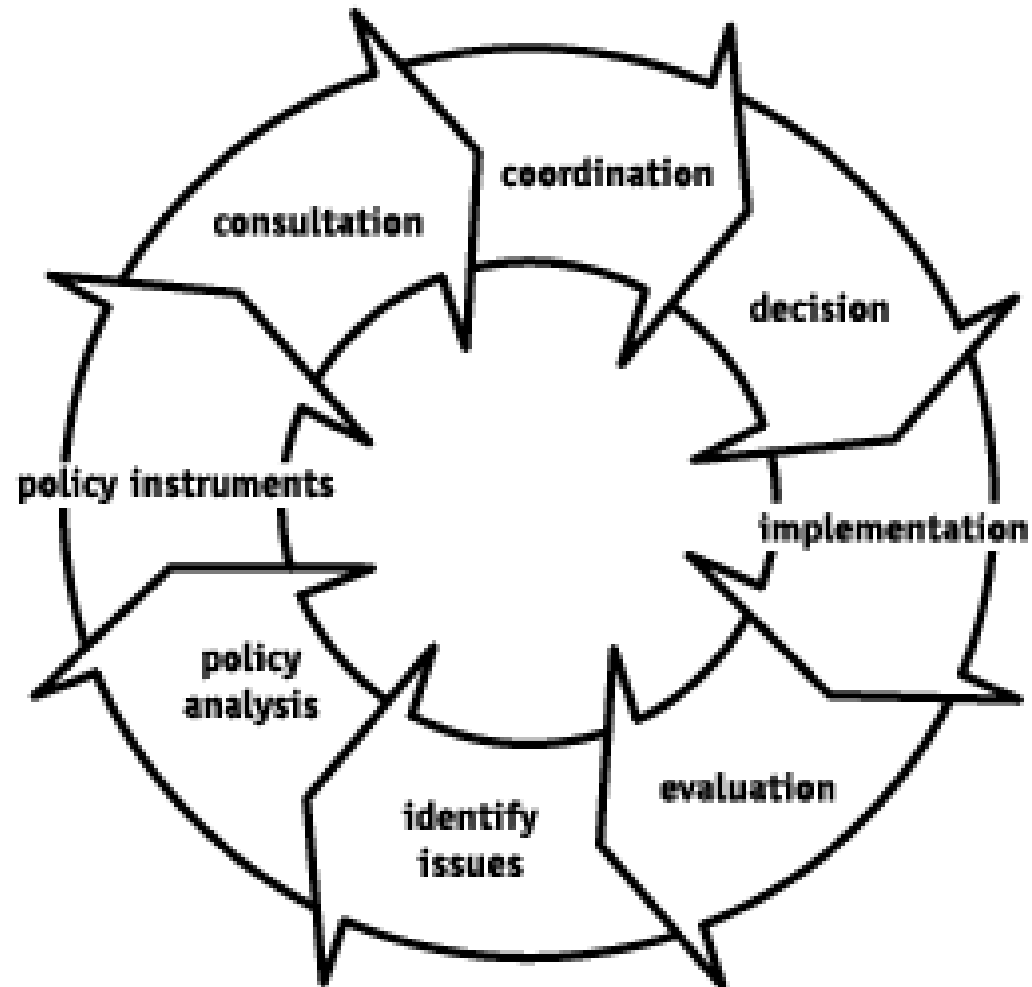
Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia, 2007-2010

What is EBP?

...a 'rigorous approach that gathers, critically appraises and uses high quality research evidence to inform policy making and professional practice.'

Davies, P. (2004)

An Australian policy cycle model



Althaus, Bridgman & Davis The Australian Policy Handbook 4th ed 2007

Phases where EBP makes a difference

Phase 1: Issue identification

.....

Phase 2: Policy analysis
Policy instruments
Consultation
Coordination

.....

Phase 3: Decision

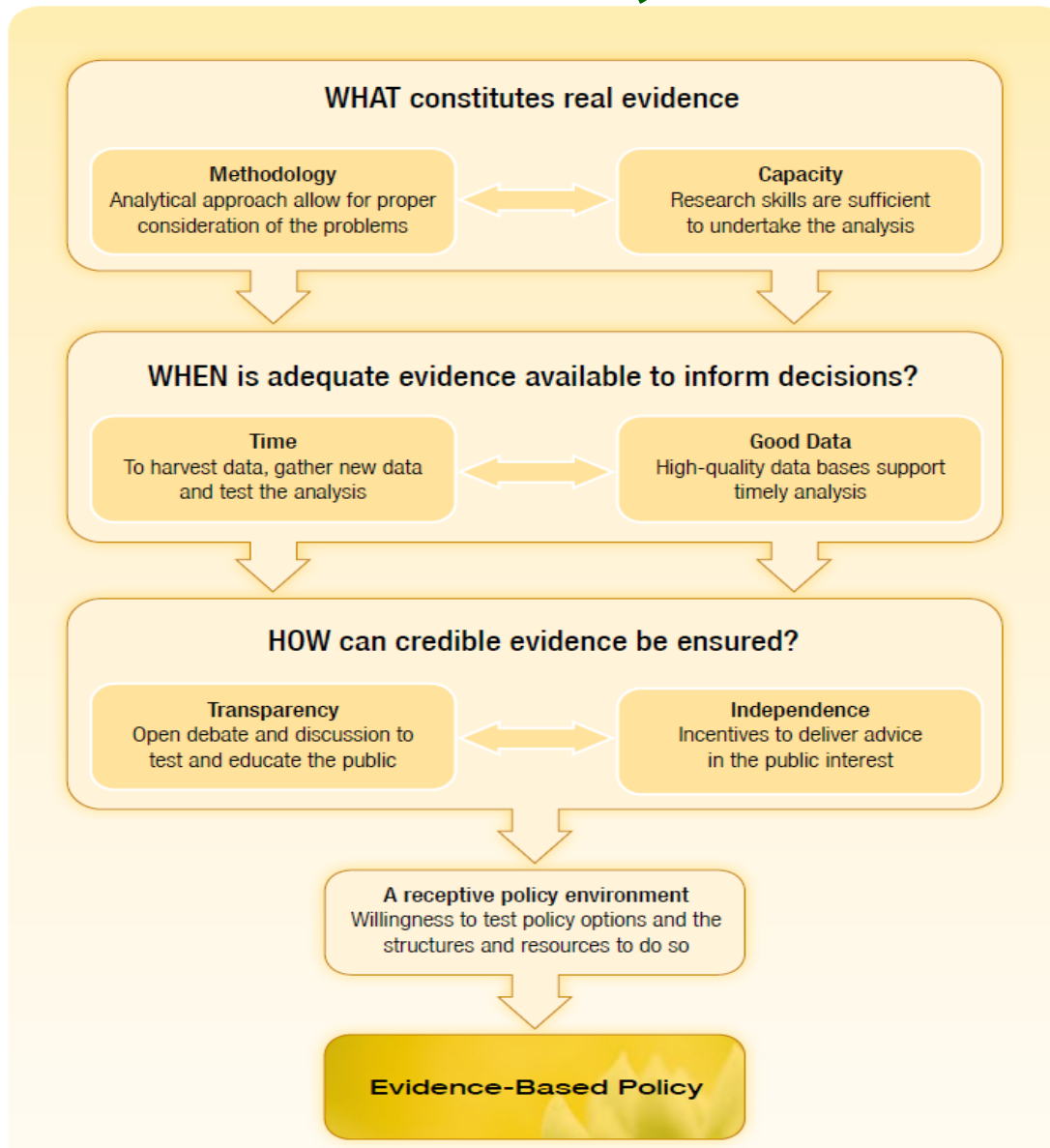
.....

Phase 4: Implementation

.....

Phase 5: Evaluation

EBP – What, When and How



*Garry Banks Challenges of
Evidence-based Policy-Making
APSC 2009*

Capability on data

- **Improving access to statistical information**
 - Open access
 - Visibility
- **Data awareness through**
 - Regular newsletters about statistical developments, training etc.
 - Social media



Microdata Entry Page

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| List of expected and available Microdata |
| ABS/Universities Australia Agreement |
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Microdata. Special data for special research

The Microdata web pages provide comprehensive information about microdata produced by the ABS. Click on the links to the left to find out what datasets are available and how been used. Click on the links below to find out about the modes of access to microdata and to apply for access.

CURF

Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are files of responses to ABS surveys containing very detailed data while also protecting the individuals.

RADL

Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) is a secure online data query service that interrogates the CURF data. This service is for approved clients.

ABSDL

ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL) is the data analysis solution for high-end data users who want to extract full value from ABS microdata. This service is available from all ABS sites around Australia.

TableBuilder

Coming soon! Survey TableBuilder an online tool for creating tables and graphs from ABS survey data. This tool has been developed to unit record data.

Apply for access

Apply for access to CURFs and Survey TableBuilder datasets.

What's new

Over the coming months you will notice further changes to the Microdata pages. These changes are being made to incorporate information about ABS' future Survey Table Builder stay tuned!

Information Consultancy Service

Customised solutions to users
with complex or specific
statistical needs.



If all else fails

- Public/User funded surveys
- User funded questions
- User funded augmentation of sample sizes

Building statistical literacy/capability

- The ability to understand the world described in numbers; or
- The ability to describe the world in numbers

Statistical literacy/capability matrix

| | Basic literacy | Intermediate | Advanced |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------|
| School Students (both primary and secondary) | • | • | |
| Tertiary Students (including University and Vocational Education students and teachers/lecturers) | | • | • |
| Opinion Leaders (including journalists) | • | • | • |
| Decision Makers (including politicians, political advisors and government employees) | • | • | • |
| General Community (including small business/community groups) | • | | |



Federal Government

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Federal Government: Information for Policy and Decision Makers

This page has been developed to assist Federal Government Policy and Decision Makers to access a range of information, products and services that will be of specific interest to them.



[Understanding statistics](#)

A range of guides and training materials available to help you find, understand and use ABS data and information.



[Using Statistics for Evidence Policy](#)

A guide to help policy makers use statistics to make informed decisions.



[National Statistical Service](#)

Working towards an informed Australian society.



[ABS training courses](#)

The ABS provides a range of training in understanding and using statistics. Check out what training courses are available in your State or Territory.



[Accessing ABS CURFs](#)

Provides information about CURF Microdata, the list of available CURFs, and how to apply for access.



[ABS background information](#)

How to access ABS statistics, subscribe to ABS publications, cite ABS sources, and more.



[Services to help you](#)

The ABS is committed to assisting clients with their statistical needs. Find out what services are available to assist you.



[Subscribe](#)

Subscribe to our free email notification service, or RSS feeds to receive news about latest releases, or updates on specific topics.



[Contact us](#)

Having trouble finding the data you need? Contact the ABS National Information and Referral Service (NIRS) for assistance.

1500.0 - A guide for using statistics for evidence based policy, 2010

LATEST ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 20/10/2010 **First Issue**

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The National Statistical Service (NSS) is the community of government agencies and their statistical activities.



Government agencies at all levels and across all jurisdictions hold vast statistical resources.

Working together for an informed Australia

[Advanced Search](#)

Resources

This page contains links to various NSS resources.

Data Management Practice

Good data management practice is one of the foundation stones for building a solid statistical resource for Australia. [DATAfitness](#) helps you understand how exercising good data management practices can keep your data healthy.

Metadata is data that describes your data. Read these [case studies](#) to find out how some businesses are achieving real advantages.

[A Good Practice Guide to Sharing your Data with Others](#) provides a non-technical introduction to data sharing and describes the key components of data sharing arrangements and agreements. The guide also provides a basic framework for data sharing agreements.

Managing data quality is another important element of good data management practice. [Data Quality Online](#) assists data suppliers, collectors and users to prepare data quality statements using the [ABS Data Quality Framework](#). These help data users to make informed decisions about the fitness for use of data by clearly communicating key characteristics which may impact on its quality.

Directory of Statistical Resources

The [Statistical Collections Directory](#) provides a useful on-line tool to assist policy, research and decision makers identify and access reference information about government statistical collections.

Information Development Plans

The [Information Development Plans](#) link to published Information Development Plans on various fields of statistics.

NSS Key Principles

The [NSS Key Principles](#) provide a framework for agencies to use when designing data collections and systems, looking at the requirements of management information systems, and in considering the evaluation of programs.

NSS Handbook

The [NSS Handbook](#) provides detailed information covering the statistical cycle from planning statistical activities to disseminating and evaluating statistical information.

NSS Initiatives

[NSS Initiatives](#) provides examples of an extensive range of exciting initiatives to improve the quality of Statistics in Australia.

NSS QuickFind



Statistical Language!
Learning modules for adults

[View All](#) [Pause](#) [Play](#)

Working together for an informed Australia

[Advanced Search](#)

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View All Pause Play

The Statistical Cycle



Other References

Data Management

Statistical Infrastructure

Confidentiality and Privacy

Statistical Capabilities

Managing Statistical Risk

Glossary

NSS QuickFind



Sample Size Calculator



Statistical Clearing House



The Handbook



DATAFitness



Data Quality Online



NatStats 2010

National Statistical Training Institute

- Turning Data Into Information
- Analysing Survey Data Made Simple
- Making Quality Informed Decisions
- Basic Survey Design
- Principles of Questionnaire Design
- Introduction to Labour Statistics
- Understanding Demographic Data
- Valuing Australia's Environment
- Using ABS Datacubes in SuperTable
- ABS Website Made Simple (ABS WMS)

Outposted Officers

- Promoting wider awareness, understanding and use of ABS statistics
- Promoting national standards and classifications.
- Ensuring that ABS understands emerging policy issues and related statistical requirements
- Currently there are 6 Commonwealth & 19 State outpostings

Methodology advice

Statistical Clearing House

Statistical consultancy services

Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Interact with our data



[Google Motion Charts House Price Index](#)

Google Motion Chart demonstrating House Price Indexes - Eight Capital Cities Median House Prices (unstratified) from March Quarter 2002 onwards.



[Google Motion Charts Australian Population Projections](#)

Google Motion Chart demonstrating Australian Population Projections for Years 2006 to 2056



[Australian Historical Population](#)

A concept that demonstrates the growth of Australia's Population by states and territories from 1788



[Animated Population Pyramid](#)

A population pyramid is a graph showing the age and sex distribution of a population. It is a useful tool in revealing information about a population's history and future possibilities. The ABS animated population pyramid shows the change of population distribution over time.



[Calculator - What Can I Buy, Then and Now?](#)

A fun tool that demonstrates the change in purchasing power of an amount of money between two chosen dates. The difference shown between the user's input value and what the Calculator outputs demonstrates the effect of inflation over time.



[Tourist Accommodation - Room Occupancy Rate, Australia](#)

An interactive tool that allows you to compare the Room Occupancy rates of the Hotels, Motels and Serviced Apartments with 15 or more rooms in each state of Australia.

To view these visualisations, the free plug-in '[Adobe Flash Player](#)' will need to be installed on your computer.

Thank You