**Gender Statistics Advisory Group**

**28 May 2014**

**Agenda Item 3: Update and feedback on ABS surveys and work program**

(i) *Do members have any questions or comments on ABS surveys or work program?*

**Introduction**

This paper provides an update on the following relevant ABS surveys and work program. Members are encouraged to provide any comments or feedback.

* Census of Population and Housing
* Labour Household Survey Program
* Family Characteristics and Transitions 2012-13
* Personal Safety Survey 2012
* Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012
* Survey of Income and Housing 2013-14 and 2015-16
* Household Expenditure Survey 2015-16
* Standards – family and gender/sex
* Future planning for ABS household surveys

**Census of Population and Housing**

*Census Sample Files*

* The Census Sample Files (CSF) for 2011 were available from December 12, 2013. The CSF will be released as Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) of Census variables. For 2011 a 1% and 5% sample will be available. The CSF is suitable for advanced users of Census data and is available as a charged product. For up-to-date information about the pricing of CURFs, refer to the Microdata prices web page. For information on how to access Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) visit the [Microdata entry page](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/89a5f3d8684682b6ca256de4002c809b/ea3125287ffe3a4cca257202007840b5!OpenDocument) or email: [microdata.access@abs.gov.au](mailto:microdata.access@abs.gov.au) .

*Census data enhancement projects*

* Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset 2006-2011 was released on 18 December as an ABS Tablebuilder product of approximately 1 million records. It provides a research tool for exploring how Australian society is changing over time. The ACLD gives insight into the pathways that lead to particular outcomes and how these pathways vary for different population groups.
* Migrants Census Data Enhancement Project. **-** The ABS has linked the 2011 Census of Population and Housing with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's Settlement Database. [*Understanding Migrant Outcomes - Enhancing the Value of Census Data, Australia, 2011*](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/3417.0Main%20Features12011?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=3417.0&issue=2011&num=&view=) (ABS cat. no. 3417.0), was published in September last year. The dataset of around one million migrant records was released on 14 February 2014 as an ABS TableBuilder product. This dataset shows the settlement outcomes of migrants who have arrived in Australia as permanent visa holders since 1 January 2000 through to Census night 2011 for analysis of entry conditions (i.e. their visa type, whether a main or secondary applicant, and onshore/offshore status).
* Other recent releases of Census data enhancement research papers include:
* Assessing the Quality of Linking School Enrolment Records to 2011 Census Data: Deterministic Linkage Methods, Dec 2013 (cat. no. 1351.0.55.045)
* Assessing the Feasibility of Linking 2011 Vocational Education and Training in Schools Data to 2011 Census Data, Dec 2013 (cat. no. 1351.0.55.044)

*ABS Census of Population and Housing 2016 Topic Review*

* The ABS was pleased to receive close to one thousand submissions during the consultation process, indicating the high level of interest in Census content. A summary of key themes from the public submissions concerning the proposed content and procedures for the 2016 Census is available in *Census of Population and Housing: Submissions Report, 2016* (cat. no. 2007.0.55.001).
* After internal consideration of the submissions, the ABS discussed our preliminary recommendations with the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (the key advisory body to the Minister and the ABS on statistical services) in November last year. After a further round of assessment, testing and reporting to Australian Statistics Advisory Council, the ABS will provide topic recommendations to Government for decision (mid-2014). The final decision on content of the 2016 Census rests with the Australian Government.
* Sue Taylor, Director, 2016 Census Data, will provide further detail about the topic review process and other Census related information in a verbal update in agenda item 3.

**Labour Household Survey Program - Recent and upcoming developments**

There continues to be a number of developments and upcoming changes to the ABS labour statistics program. Those relating to collections which allow disaggregation by sex are summarised in brief below.

***Review of content in the labour household surveys***

As advised to members at previous GSAG meetings, the ABS is planning a number of improvements to the content of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and labour supplementary surveys. Details of the changes are outlined in July 2012 in the [Information Paper: Outcomes of the Labour Household Surveys Content Review](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6107.0) (cat. no. 6107.0).

***Rebenchmarking and rebasing of Labour Force series***

The Labour Force Survey estimates are calculated in such a way as to add to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). These population benchmarks are based on the most recently released estimates of Final and Preliminary quarterly Estimated Resident Population (ERP). Since the most recently released ERP estimates lag the current time period for Labour Force estimates by nine months, population benchmarks are projected. The Labour Force estimates are currently rebenchmarked to the latest population benchmarks twice a year with the most recent update being introduced with the April 2013 estimates, resulting in revisions to Labour Force estimates from January 2011 to March 2013. Quarterly rebenchmarking of the Labour Force series will commence from October 2014. For more information, see the November 2012 issue of *Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).*

Every five years, the ERP series are revised to incorporate additional information available from the latest Census with the Labour Force population benchmarks and estimates subsequently revised. This process is called rebasing. The latest rebasing, based on the 2011 Census, incorporated revisions to key Labour Force series back 20 years to 1991. These revisions were released in the January 2014 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), in conjunction with an article outlining the main changes.

At the same time as the rebasing exercise was undertaken, Labour Force transitioned to a revised geography classification. From the January 2014 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), Labour Force data were published according to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) to Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4). Further information about changes to regional data is available in the *Information Paper: Regional Labour Force Statistics, 2014* (cat. no. 6262.0).

***Employee Earnings and Hours Survey***

The next cycle of the ABS Employee Earnings and Hours Survey is currently in progress. A review of the collection conducted in 2013 has resulted in a number of changes to items collected in the survey, namely: addition of age of employee; hours paid for managerial employees; and the additional categorisation of the rate at which employees are paid. Results are expected to be released in early 2015. The inclusion of hours paid for managerial employees will allow the derivation of hourly earnings for all employees, which will be useful for gender wage analysis.

**Family Characteristics, History and Transitions 2012-13**

The Family Characteristics, History and Transitions Survey was conducted as a topic in the Multi-Purpose Household Survey from July 2012 through June 2013. The survey collected information on household and family composition, along with demographic and labour force characteristics of persons within households and families. The History and Transitions cycle of the Family Characteristics Survey has a particular focus on the collection of information from families with children aged 0-17 years. For those families, additional information was collected about family structures, the social marital status of parents, and contact arrangements for children with a natural parent living elsewhere.

The first release of the 2012-13 results is scheduled for mid-December, 2014. First release will focus on a broad content summary and time series data where available. A Table Builder product for this dataset will be released early next year, with a data analyser tool. A small number of State and Territory Tables will be released for prioritised indicator reporting only. A CURF will not be released. The complete data item list for the survey is available on request.

Consultation has occurred around the content for the Family Characteristics Survey 2015-16. The next iteration of this survey again focuses on child support arrangements, as well as collecting core information on household and family composition. Minimal change to content is expected.

**General Social Survey 2014**

The 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) is the fourth in the series; the objectives of the survey are to provide:

* multi-dimensional indicators of relative advantage/disadvantage across the general population
* baseline comparative information to link with specialised surveys that collect data on topics in greater depth
* key indicators to facilitate reporting and monitoring on the social inclusion agenda
* measures of change over time
* alignment with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)
* national and State/Territory level estimates

The broad topics included are: demographic characteristics; health and disability; housing and mobility; education; employment; income; financial stress, resilience and exclusion; assets and liabilities; information technology; transport and mobility; family and community involvement; experiences of homelessness; crime and feelings of safety; attendance at selected cultural and leisure venues; sports attendance and participation; social networks and participation; voluntary work; visa categories; and subjective well-being and general life satisfaction measures.

GSS 2014 includes an expanded voluntary work module, with new topics on: sexual identity; discrimination; barriers to employment; parental educational attainment; long term health conditions; and time stress. The GSS is being conducted in 2014 from March through June with dissemination of results planned to commence in April 2015.

**Personal Safety Survey (PSS)**

The ABS 2012 Personal Safety Survey (PSS) was conducted from February to December 2012 with user funding from the Department of Social Services (DSS). The survey collected information about the nature and extent of violence experienced by men and women since the age of 15, including their experience of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. It also collected detailed information about men's and women's experience of current and previous partner violence, lifetime experience of stalking, physical and sexual abuse before the age of 15, sexual harassment and general feelings of safety.

Key findings from the survey are available in [Personal Safety, Australia, 2012](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4906.0Main+Features12012?OpenDocument) (cat. no. 4906.0) which was released on 11 December 2013.

The Personal Safety Survey, Australia: User Guide (cat. no. 4906.0.55.003) and [Microdata, Personal Safety, Australia, 2012](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4906.0.55.001main+features12012) (cat. no. 4906.0.55.001) were released on 13 May 2014.

There are further plans for releases from the 2012 PSS including:

* 11 June 2014: a feature article on Emotional Abuse by a partner (in an upcoming issue of [Australian Social Trends](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyReleaseDate/BE6B2842A6549A7FCA257ACC000E2A23?OpenDocument), 2014 (cat. No. 4102.0)

Mid-year releases:

* State Tables from PSS 2012 (these will be limited to around 5 tables for each State/Territory)
* release of a datacube for Sexual Harassment data from the 2012 PSS
* release of more detailed information for women's experience of violence by disability status from the 2012 PSS

The ABS has also commenced early work on the development of the 2016 PSS. DSS will again be funding this survey. The PSS 2016 will be designed to provide, where possible, information that will be comparable to the 2012 and 2005 PSS to allow for an assessment of changes over time to be made.

Key dates for the 2016 PSS development:

* Initial consultation phase (through PSS Survey Advisory Group) - June-July 2014
* Pilot test – March 2015
* Dress Rehearsal – August 2015
* Live survey – March to November 2016
* PSS 2016 Summary publication released - June 2017 (tentative)
* PSS 2016 CURF & User Guide released - September 2017 (tentative)

If you have any queries, please contact Fiona Blackshaw on 02 6252 7030 or by email: [fiona.blackshaw@abs.gov.au](mailto:fiona.blackshaw@abs.gov.au) .

**Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers**

The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers is a triennial survey which collects details about the experiences of males and females with disabilities, who are aged 65 years and older or care for older people or people with disabilities. In addition to demographic information such as age, sex, cultural background, employment, education and income, SDAC includes information about:

*People with disabilities*

* the nature and severity of their disability
* the impact of disability on their lives
* what support they need and receive and who provides that support
* social and community participation

*Older people*

* impact of ageing
* what support their need and receive and who provides the support
* social and community participation

*People who provide support and assistance*

* their experiences as careers
* the effects of the caring role on the carer

Data from the 2012 SDAC was released in November 2013 and work is continuing on a number of analytical publications which explore some key results from the survey, such as the reported unmet need for assistance with activities of daily living. A number of these publications are expected to be released over the next six months.

Consultation about the content for the 2015 SDAC was conducted during 2013, with input sought from a wide range of government and community groups. Development of the survey is underway.

**Survey of Income and Housing 2013-14**

The Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) is a special social survey which is the primary source of information on household income, housing costs and household wealth. The SIH is a biennial survey, which includes the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) every third cycle (next HES cycle is 2015-16). This 2013-14 SIH is currently in the field, with enumeration due for completion at the end of June 2014. Additional housing mobility and conditions topics are being collected in this cycle and for the first time, collection of disability status and caring for others . Estimates of economic resources (especially income and housing) are drawn from the survey for Gender Indicators.

Summary publications, data tables, user guide information and confidentialised microdata products are expected to become available from July 2015.

If members have any queries, please contact Rita Scholl on 02 6252 5347 or by email to [rita.scholl@abs.gov.au](mailto:fiona.blackshaw@abs.gov.au).

**Survey of Income and Housing & Household Expenditure Survey 2015-16**

The 2015-16 Survey of Income and Housing and Household Expenditure Survey will collect detailed household income, wealth, housing, child care and expenditure for a range of household types (by composition, tenure, sources of income etc.) to support the analysis and monitoring of the social and economic welfare of Australian households.

Content for the survey is currently being finalised and tested ahead of a dress rehearsal in October 2014. Data items for 2015-16 will largely represent those collected from the previous Household Expenditure Survey in 2009-10 and Survey of Income and Housing 2013-14 (excluding additional housing topics).

Enumeration will occur between July 2015 and June 2016, with summary results expected to become available from September 2017.

If you have any queries on this collection, please contact Dean Adams on (02) 6252 5461 or email [dean.adams@abs.gov.au](mailto:dean.adams@abs.gov.au).

**Family Standards Reviews**

The suite of Family Standards has been undergoing a minor review by the Living Conditions Section since 2012. The current standards comprise: the 'Overview of family, household and income unit’, 'Relationship in household', 'Family composition', 'Household composition', Relationship between families', 'Social marital status', 'Registered marital status' and 'Income unit composition'. The main purpose of this minor review was to align the endorsed standards to the best practices currently used in ABS household surveys.

The text of all the standards was edited to improve their readability but no major changes were made as part of this review. One change to the website version will be that the 'Relationship between families' standard will appear in full rather than as an Appendix to 'Household composition'. This arose from consultation suggesting that it was particularly useful in multifamily households. Further work will be undertaken in the future to determine whether more major changes to the standards are required.

**Gender/Sex Standard**

Work on the development of a Gender standard is due to formally commence in July 2014. The Australian Human Rights Commission has been identified as a key stakeholder and stakeholders will be approached for suggestions and comments in the third quarter this year.

Work is progressing on the review of the Sex standard.

* Stakeholders have been given the opportunity to comment on the current standard and other issues which should be considered during the review. An assessment of their feedback has been undertaken.
* An analysis of related policy documents and their influencing factors has been completed. For example, recent amendments [http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/legislation/bills/r5026\_aspassed/toc\_pdf/13090b01.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf - search=%22legislation/bills/r5026\_aspassed/0000%22](http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/legislation/bills/r5026_aspassed/toc_pdf/13090b01.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf#search=%22legislation/bills/r5026_aspassed/0000%22) to the Sex Discrimination Act and the Attorney General's Australian Government Guidelines on the recognition of Sex and Gender.
* Limited cognitive testing has been conducted on key terms and question wording.
* An initial internal draft of a discussion document outlining issues and options for the revised standard has been completed and will be circulated internally for comment in June.
* A revised draft standard will be made available for public comment during the third quarter 2014.

**Future Planning for ABS Household Surveys**

The ABS is currently undertaking a review of its Population and Social Statistics collection and data acquisition approach, with a view to increasing the efficiency, coherence and responsiveness its statistical processes and program. This review will seek to identify opportunities and capacity to produce, subject to additional funding, enhanced population and social statistics, including information relating to gender.