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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS RECENT INNOVATION IN COLLECTING BUSINESS STATISTICS

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ABSTRACT

In 2002, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) underwent a major change in the way in which it collects and compiles its business statistics. This initiative (known as Business Statistics Innovation Program or BSIP) aims through the use of innovative technological, methodological, organisational and operational initiatives, to re-engineer the ABS's business statistics processes, so as to improve the quality and relevance of ABS business statistics in a manner that is most efficient for both the ABS and its providers. A key component of the BSIP project was the establishment of the Economic Statistics Data Centre (ESDC) which was designed to provide a common nationally managed environment for pre-input edit functions for all ABS business collections. This involved separate sites for dispatch and collection control, collection management and business register activities as well as smaller sites for other functions.

Key objectives for this unit were

- An ESDC that delivers appropriate service outputs
- An improvement in the total provider experience in dealing with ABS.
- Achieve major efficiency gains in ESDC functions compared to current levels.
- Improve the quality of statistical data collected and of the processes used in gathering this data.
- Create an ESDC work environment that is sustainable.

A major review of this project is scheduled for mid 2005.

This paper will discuss the specific challenges faced by the ABS and specifically, the ESDC in this implementation and will review the progress made on the above objectives.

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