Event Report

1. Event Summary

The event was designed as an introduction to the data available through the Australian Bureau of Statistics and aimed at both HDR students and staff. The workshop was presented by Mr Kynan Waterford, an experienced trainer from the State and Territory statistical services team, whose role is to promote statistical capability amongst key users of statistics. He was accompanied by ABS colleagues Jo Marie Moore and Terri Hendy. Following a short period of technical difficulties with the video-conferencing facility, Kynan commenced a presentation highlighting:

- The role of the ABS – how it collects data and protects from political interference: census and other administrative data sets held by ABS;
- a demonstration of locating and accessing reports via the ABS web site and
- a focus on geographical issues in relation to data collecting and collections.

The presentation was interspersed with short ‘True or false’ trivia questions to keep the audience entertained, and questions were responded to during the presentation itself.

2. Audience

The audience comprised a balance of staff and HDR students and comprised those who had not previously been aware of ABS data and those who were currently seeking to access and explore data further. While all academic groups were represented, a significant proportion of attendees were from schools and elements within the business school, particularly at the gold coast campus, where researchers from tourism, sport and service innovation were strongly represented.
3. Participant Feedback
As with all GSBRC events, participants were invited to provide feedback on the event, both by email and via hard copy feedback sheets for Nathan participants that were collected at the end of the workshop. A reminder email for feedback, together with a copy of the feedback sheet, was sent to all participants following the event.

Ten participants chose to provide feedback on the hard copy sheets.

Five rated the information session as very useful; 4 as slightly useful and 1 Not at all useful.

In relation to aspects that were most useful
The majority of participants noted the overview of ABS and the data that was available and introduction to the web site as most useful.
Two respondents said that the trivia questions and the introduction to ABS as least useful

Participants were also invited to provide other comments in relation to this topic. Comments included suggestions for follow up sessions:
- Special information session on business data/statistics
- Search strategies for specific topics of interest eg. labour force, health
- Hands-on access to super tables
- A more detailed session on case studies or sample uses of the datasets and creation of own tables
- Australian Business databases were also suggested as a topic for a future GSBRC session

Participants were also invited to identify how they found out about the workshop. Five respondents identified email notification; two were advised through their research centre; one via the GSBRC web site and one respondent found out about the session from their supervisor
Appendix A

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK – COMMENTS COLLATED FROM FEEDBACK SHEETS

What aspects were most useful?
- All nice to have a run through
- Comprehensive information and publications provided by ABS
- Presentation abs web site a wealth of information
- Statistics in Australia
- Knowing which databases exist, which variables are produced and how they can be accessed
- Overall understanding of background to ABS data
- A really good overview of ABS information
- Types of data collected available – super tables
- Overview of ABS webs site, general info
- Good basic intro

What aspects were least useful
- Introduction of ABS
- Trivia questions

Other comments
- Depending on the data requested, is there a possibility to organise special information sessions on business data/ statistics?
- Specific search strategies for topics of interest
- May be useful to have a session dedicated to people who need hands on access in creating own super tables – I have had some difficulty with finding specific data – it might not be available or I am looking in the wrong area
- Data specific information ie labour force, health – separate lectures
- The part about geography could have been briefer
- A more detailed session on case/ sample uses of the website and data sets

Recommendation
- Oz business databases/ Gartner and or others
- More documents introduce ABS and databases
- Research methods training
- Specific targeted data
- I would have loved to have a closer look at the downloads area (how to research data) and creation of our own tables also a few case studies taking us through the process (just to learn methods

General comments
- Great broad introduction to ABS
- The workshop is useful
- Well organised event well prepared materials, easy to understand, high level professional presentation good hospitality