Measuring Governance in Australia: development of a new domain of social statistics

Gemma Van Halderen*
Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, Australia – g.vanhalderen@abs.gov.au

Joanne Baker
Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, Australia – joanne.baker@abs.gov.au

Mell Plumb
Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, Australia – mell.plumb@abs.gov.au

Over a decade ago, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) first released Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP). MAP presented a comprehensive set of indicators from across the domains of economy, society and environment to provide insights on how life and wellbeing in Australia was improving and at what rate. In 2011-12, the ABS led a national consultation to ensure MAP remains relevant to today's society - that we are measuring what matters to Australians. The consultation led to the development of a refreshed progress framework, including:

- Aspirations - each domain and theme now has an aspirational statement built from voices of the consultation.
- Governance domain - inclusion of governance as a domain in its own right (in addition to society, economy and environment).

This presentation will look at the ABS experience in developing a set of governance statistics from the aspirations of Australians, in particular:

- Why measure Governance?
- Measuring Governance in Australia
- What is the ABS doing in this space?
- Measuring progress in Governance.