



Modernisation strategies in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) – An Enterprise view of the future

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Abstract

As communities' demands for statistics increase, National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) are being challenged to produce new and more detailed outputs, within shorter timelines, and often with reduced resources. This paper outlines some of the strategies implemented by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to address these challenges.

The ABS is seeking to progress a transformative program of modernisation focusing on modernising the statistical production process, as well as all other lines of business. Through this modernisation, the ABS aims to ensure sustainability through greater standardisation of organisational capabilities (e.g. business processes, statistical methods, statistical information and IT systems), and expanding international collaboration. Some of the key aspects of the internal strategy are the development of an Enterprise Architecture (EA); updating corporate governance, investment and capability development frameworks; expanding functional specialisations; standardising the statistical production processes; and supporting the cultural change required for the transformation to be understood and progressed by staff and stakeholders. While the EA broadly describes the 'to be' world, the other aspects, many of which are already in practice, describe strategies which will support the ABS to achieve it. Externally, the ABS is collaborating with various NSIs and international organisations to develop and implement standardised language and organisational models, with early proofs of concept already developed using these models. These collaborations aim to share services and infrastructure, thus reducing capital investment required by individual organisations.

Keywords: Enterprise Architecture; International collaboration; modernisation.