

Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

Country progress report 2017 and future plans

Country:

Australia

Reporter:

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Institution:

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

I. Organisation, Population and Usage of the Statistical Business Register

1. Name of the register

ABS Business Register

2. Name of the organisation responsible for holding the register

ABS

3. Position of the register unit in the organisation

Sits in the Industry Services Division

4. Number of employees in the register unit (Headcount employees)

55

5. Primary goal and use of the register

Survey frame and business demography

6. Year of establishment of the register

1970s

7. Year(s) of the main re-engineering(s) of the register

2016-19 (now!), 2002, 1998, 1985

8. Number of active enterprises* in the register at the end of 2017

*If it is difficult to use Enterprises, you can use Legal units instead.

Enterprises: (Legal units:)

9. Does the register have geographical coordinates assigned to every address or could they be obtained through other registers linked to it?

Yes

II. Progress and Developments in the Past Year

Please list main achievements (maximum 3) in the past year (2016) or the problems you have tackled. Also, please classify them according to the categories within each drop-down list.

1. Short title of work which was done

Progress with re-engineering the ABSBR

(Category)

10. IT considerations

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Substantial progress has been made on building the core infrastructure to support the future ABSBR (eg. enterprise data warehouse; metadata repositories). The next step is the integration and testing of this infrastructure, and then building the register specific processes.

2. Short title of work which was done

(Category)

Development of an API (cloud based) point of contact industry

8. Quality

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

An API (cloud based) point of contact industry coder has been developed using G-Code (sourced from Stats Canada). The coder will be deployed in mid 2018 via the ABS website and will be available for use by external agencies, including legal entity registration entities.

3. Short title of work which was done

(Category)

Profiling trials to test a decentralised profiling model

9. Planning and governance

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

A number of trials were conducted in 2017 to test if simpler profiling could be conducted by the Data Acquisition Center and more complex profiling undertaken by the same team responsible for editing the survey data. The were various learnings from the trials and this work will inform the future ABS organisational model.

III. Future plans

Please list themes/projects (maximum 3) which you plan to tackle in the current (2018) and following year(s). Also, please classify them according to the categories within each drop-down list.

1. Short title of work planned

(Category)

Re-developing the ABSBR data model

1. Roles of the SBR

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

The ABSBR data model is being redeveloped to support the transformed ABSBR, that will include a central spine approach, an expanded scope (particularly in the financial sector), and enable the adoption of new administrative data sources (to capture additional legal entities).

2. Short title of work planned

(Category)

Developing an e-form for profiling

5. Maintenance

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Profiling data are currently collected via either paper form or excel spreadsheet. An e-form will be developed in 2018 that will enable automatic loading of data to ABS systems.

3. Short title of work planned

(Category)

Migrating survey frames to the transformed ABSBR and development of an Institutional Sector Common Frame

6. Survey frame methodology

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Work to migrate survey frames to the transformed ABSR will commence in the second half of 2018. This will involve replacing the current SAS based code with frames services (standard processes) and business rules. An Institutional Sector Common Frame is also being developed for implementation in late 2019.

IV. Main challenges

Please list main challenges (maximum 3) with respect to development, maintenance and use of your statistical business register. Also, please classify them according to the categories within each drop-down list.

1. Main challenge 1

(Category)

Complexity of ABSBR transformation

10. IT considerations

Description of the challenge

There are lots of systems interdependencies in the ABS transformation, and as organisational pioneers we are developing best practice as we go.

2. Main challenge 2

(Category)

Maintaining core business in 2018 whilst we are implementing the transformed ABSBR, and bringing the team on the journey.

9. Planning and governance

Description of the challenge

There are many competing priorities and timetables are tight. Staff are critical to success of the project and they need to be active and engaged participants. We are therefore investing heavily in change management.

3. Main challenge 3

(Category)

Improving locations coverage on the ABSBR

2. Coverage

Description of the challenge

There is no single data source for locations of multi location businesses. Improving coverage on the ABSBR is a slow exercise. Efforts in 2018 will focus on confronting other internal data sources to develop a strategy.