

Australian Practices and co-ordination on ICT Measurement



**ITU/NBTC REGIONAL FORUM
AND TRAINING WORKSHOP ON
TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT INDICATORS**

**OCTOBER 2014
BANGKOK, THAILAND**

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As in other countries, the main agencies involved in collecting and disseminating national telecommunication/ICT indicators in Australia are:

- ◆ Australian Government Department of Communications (Ministry)
- ◆ Australian Communications Management Authority (Regulator)
- ◆ Australian Bureau of Statistics (National Statistical Office)

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Many other Government agencies can also produce significant and relevant data – for example:

- ◆ Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (state of competition in telecommunications provision)
- ◆ Australian Government Information Management Office (e-government and citizen use of e-government services)
- ◆ Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (consumer complaints)

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Each of these agencies have a specific role, responsibilities and powers, and produces its own publications and data:

- ◆ **Department of Communications has responsibility for overall policy and co-ordination**
- ◆ **This is achieved informally, by internal and inter-agency consultation and liaison mechanisms and strong networking links**

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Some principles underlying the collection and production of Australian Government telecommunications data:

- ◆ The reason that telecommunications data is collected in Australia is for domestic policy purposes
- ◆ Australian government data collections are by policy expected to be accessible to Australian citizens
- ◆ Data collections are expected to be published and to be available online and for free
- ◆ Data supplied to the ITU and other international organisations is the same as that produced and published for Australian citizens: it is based on existing publicly available sources, not specially produced or collected

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In terms of methodology and quality of Australian Government data collections and publications, the Australian Bureau of Statistics is the leading agency.

The ABS produces the central telecommunications data collections used in Australia. These are:

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The *Internet Activity Survey* (6 monthly)

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mediareleasesbyCatalogue/F2D32B785378BC9CCA25758D002B6804?Opendocument>

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The Household Use of IT Survey (every 2 years)

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/8146.0>

The Business Use of IT Survey/Selected Characteristics of Australian Businesses/Business Innovation and use of IT (major release every two years, updates annually)

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/8129.0Main+Features12011-12?OpenDocument>

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/8167.0Main%20Features62012-13?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=8167.0&issue=2012-13&num=&view=>

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- **MEDIA RELEASE**

- 7 October 2014 Embargo: 11:30 am (Canberra Time) 144/2014

- **Broadband internet downloads on the brink of one exabyte of data**

- Australians downloaded nearly one million terabytes - or one exabyte - of data via broadband in the three months to June this year, according to a report released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

- "Overall, there was a 16 per cent increase on broadband downloads in the three months to December last year," said Lesley Martin from the ABS, "but if you look solely at mobile handsets, then downloads jumped by 40 per cent."

- "Our total download volume for the three months was 996,160 terabytes via broadband, and 38,734 terabytes via mobile handset."

- "Exactly five years ago, for the three months ended June 2009, we were just about to hit 100,000 terabytes of downloads, so today's result makes a tenfold increase in just five years."

- "The increase reflects the dominance of broadband, Australia's continuing appetite for the internet and particularly the swing towards higher download speeds," said Ms Martin.

- The survey also found that two-thirds of broadband subscribers had download speeds of eight Mbps or greater, and that mobile wireless is the most prevalent internet technology in Australia, accounting for half of all connections.

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ACMA publications of interest:

<http://www.acma.gov.au/theACMA/Library/research/acma/Research-reports/communications-report-2011-12-series>

<http://www.acma.gov.au/theACMA/Library/research/acma/Research-reports/acma-research-and-publications-1>

Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman statistics:

<http://www.tio.com.au/publications/statistics>

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Departmental research of interest :

http://www.communications.gov.au/funding_and_programs/cyber_safety/cybersafety_research

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Ongoing challenges:

- ◆ Need for co-ordination – eternal vigilance required
- ◆ Financial/resourcing issues
- ◆ Capturing new developments
- ◆ Maintaining quality
- ◆ Policy complexity
- ◆ Respondent burden

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