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Forbes, S. D.; Harraway, J. A.; Chipperfield, James O.; Tam, Siu-Ming

Raising the capability of producers and users of official statistics.

MacGillivray, Helen (ed.) et al., Topics from Australian conferences on teaching statistics. OZCOTS 2008–2012. New York, NY: Springer (ISBN 978-1-4939-0602-4/hbk; 978-1-4939-0603-1/ebook). Springer Proceedings in Mathematics & Statistics 81, 247-265 (2014).

Summary: In both Australia and New Zealand, the National Statistics Offices have developed strong partnerships with academics to raise statistical capability. Both offices recognise the importance of good methodology to underpin official statistics. However, the main target group for Statistics New Zealand (SNZ) has been external users of official statistics, but that for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has been its own statistical methodologists (producers) and advancing research. This chapter outlines sets of initiatives from both agencies. SNZ has actively focussed on raising the statistical capability of key groups of users, including schools, small businesses, government, the media and Māori. It has established a network of academics in official statistics whose members are involved in the design, implementation, delivery and assessment of courses for qualification as well as presenting short (1- or 2-day) courses. The ABS places strong emphasis on the recruitment, training and grooming of young methodologists to become leaders in their chosen field of research, and their focus is on collaboration with the university sector and academics to help with this and to foster ABS research. Other initiatives undertaken in both organisations are also briefly mentioned, including the CensusAtSchool project.

Classification: K48 K78 K88 A40 B60

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