



Official Statistics System

Standards, Solutions & Capability business unit

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Focus of the unit

- Standards
 - Frameworks and governance
 - Collections
 - Classifications
 - Processes
 - Capability
- Solutions
 - Works across Stats NZ and OSS to determine best practice
 - » e.g. systems and processes
- Capability
 - Building stats skill and knowledge across specific audiences
 - » e.g. state sector
 - » e. g. media
 - Education initiatives
 - Research initiatives



Collection Methods

Offers expertise to the OSS Survey Developer Network

- Forum for those in the state sector interested in survey design and survey methodology
- Coordinated by Statistics NZ
- Contact: Daniel.Jephson@stats.govt.nz



Classifications & Standards

- Develops, maintains and promotes the use of standards and standard classifications across the OSS
- Achieves integration across surveys so that each area in Statistics New Zealand uses the standards and classifications that best fit their survey needs
- Researches international concepts and standards
- Liaises with external agencies including the state sector
- Contact: classifications@stats.govt.nz



Statistical Education & Research

- Aims to enhance statistical capability for Statistics NZ, state sector agencies, researchers and the wider community.
- Coordinates education and research programmes for the state sector:
 - National Certificate in Public Sector Services (Official Statistics)
 - Official Statistics Research
 - OSS Seminar Series
 - OSS Training Series



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National Certificate in Public Sector Services (Official Statistics)

[Core unit standards](#) | [Elective unit standards](#) | [Assessment](#) | [Timetables](#)

The National Certificate in Public Sector Services (Official Statistics) has been created to enhance the statistical skills of the state sector and build knowledge and confidence in employees. The qualification is on the New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) National Qualification Framework (NQF), and is facilitated by Statistics New Zealand in conjunction with Learning State.

There are four compulsory or core unit standards that will enable a candidate to interpret basic statistics, to understand how statistics influence policy development, to assess a survey sample, and to understand confidentiality, privacy and security issues surrounding data. Four distinct but related seminars have been created to address each statistical unit standard. Informal learning opportunities such as online exercises and reading material will help an employee successfully achieve the Certificate.

After gaining the Certificate, the candidate will have:

- the knowledge to critically evaluate the quality and validity of statistical information
- the ability to use statistics to inform policy development
- the facility to assess a sample survey and evaluate the associated inferences
- an awareness of best practice in the use of statistics, with reference to ethical and legal constraints.

Certificate structure

The Certificate is a 40-credit qualification which includes 24 credits of compulsory unit standards and 16 credits of elective unit standards. The Certificate is to be completed within 12 months.

Core unit standards

All core unit standards must be taken by candidates. More detail about the unit standards can be found on these pages:

[23268](#) – Interpret statistical information to form conclusions for projects in a state sector context.

[23269](#) – Evaluate and use statistical information to make policy recommendations in a



National Certificate in Public Sector Services (Official Statistics)

- Also known as the **Certificate of Official Statistics**
- NZQA recognised - level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework
- Aims to enhance the basic statistical skills of the state sector
- Purpose is to improve statistical confidence:
 - assessing statistical information
 - the ethical and legal constraints on statistics
 - using statistics to inform policy decisions



Official Statistics System

National Certificate in Public Sector Services (Official Statistics)

- Two cohorts every year- Spring and Autumn
- Currently- 43 candidates enrolled over 3 cohorts
- Currently - Learning State (ITO) provides small stipend to interested state sector staff to reduce total cost of Certificate
- Four core unit standards plus an elective component
- Contact: certificateOS@stats.govt.nz
- Also see: www.statisphere.govt.nz



Official Statistics System

Official Statistics Research

- OS Research commissions and funds statistical and methodological research on the usefulness, reliability, coverage, and availability of statistics produced within the OSS
- State sector, universities and private researchers may apply
 - Annual fund
 - Collaboration a requirement
 - Project Sponsor must be a high-level state sector manager/executive
- Sample of currently funded projects:
 - Geovisualisation and policy: Exploring the links
 - Using statistical modelling to combine existing data sources to produce more effective official statistics
- Research findings published in *Official Statistics Research Series*, on-line publication on Statisphere
- Contact: osresearch@stats.govt.nz
- Also see: www.statisphere.govt.nz



OSS Seminar Series

- One-hour forums for OSS producers and users to discuss anything re: the OSS
- At least 10 seminars a year
 - 2 in Auckland
- Covers a wide range of information about the OSS and includes research results, discussion of ideas, interactive workshops, and opinions from international experts
- Provides the opportunity for statistical analysts and other professionals from governmental and non-governmental organisations to come together to exchange ideas and opinions about the OSS
- Contact: oss@stats.govt.nz
- Also see: www.statisphere.govt.nz



OSS Training Series

- Currently being developed
- Aims to fill a gap between the Certificate of OS course, the OSS Seminars, and tertiary education courses
 - Basic
 - Intermediate
- Will involve short workshop courses developed in response to specific state sector needs
- Recent assessment of state sector needs highlighted need for training in statistical analysis and survey design methodology amongst others
- Contact: oss@stats.govt.nz



Standards, Solutions & Capability unit summary

- Produces a range of standards, runs knowledge-sharing forums and provides educational resources and opportunities to support the OSS
- Focuses internally to test concepts and implement improvements
- Has a significant external focus to improve statistical knowledge, quality and capability across the OSS