



Official Statistics System

Overview of the Official Statistics System

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Purpose

- To provide an **overview** of the Official Statistics System (OSS)
- To highlight **issues** of interest to government agencies



Official Statistics System

Why are official statistics important?

- Independent, quality statistics are a cornerstone of a modern, healthy democratic state
- They are essential to good government and public confidence in good government
- They underpin billions of dollars of government expenditure



Official Statistics System

What do we get from official statistics?

- Provide information:
 - about New Zealand – who we are, where we live and what we do
 - to underpin decisions by governments, businesses, communities and citizens (on policy and investment)
 - that informs debate and research (help us to understand and forecast)



Official Statistics System

The Official Statistics System (OSS)



Official Statistics System

What is the Official Statistics System?

- All statistics produced by government departments (and some government agencies) are official statistics
- The OSS is made up of policies, practices and processes, underlying data sources, and people involved in producing and disseminating official statistics



Guiding frameworks

- The **United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics** provide the basic framework for official statistics in member countries
- The work of Statistics New Zealand and of other government agencies who produce official statistics is guided by the **Statistics Act** as well as by **other legislation**
- The Cabinet's agreed **2003 Top Down Review of the Official Statistics System** set the current framework and strategy for the OSS



Official Statistics System

New Zealand model

- National statistics office (Statistics New Zealand)
- Partnership across government agencies through the OSS
- Advisory Committee on Official Statistics (ACOS) gives independent advice to the Minister of Statistics
- On an international scale NZ's system is similar to that of Australia and around the norm in terms of centralised v decentralised



Governance of the OSS

1. Minister
2. Advisory Committee on Official Statistics (ACOS)
3. Government Statistician/CE of Statistics New Zealand
4. Chief executives of producer agencies
5. OSS Officials Committee



Official Statistics System

Key elements of the system



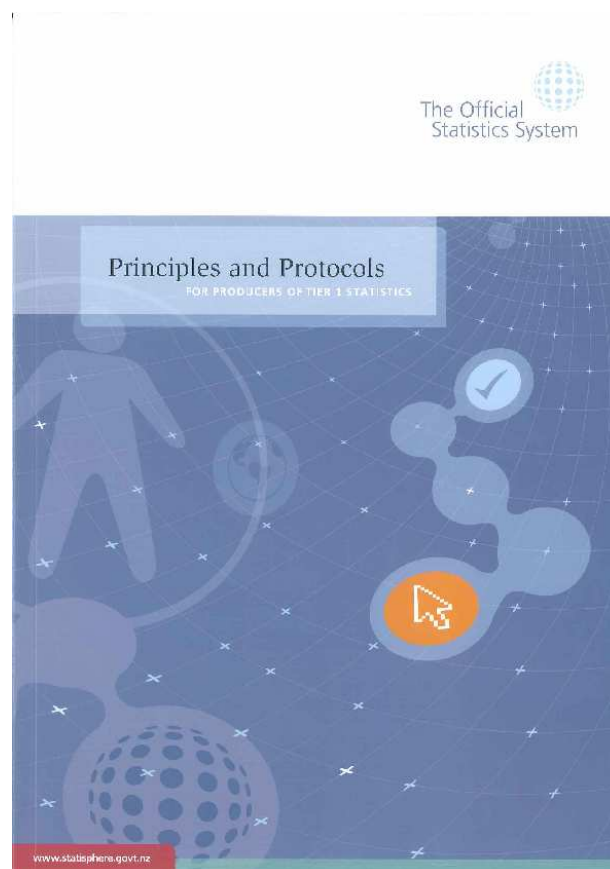
Tier 1 statistics

- A set of key official statistics that are **performance measures** of NZ
- Identification based on **purpose** not who produces them
- Meet agreed criteria
- Includes economy, health, education, justice, employment and environment



Official Statistics System

Principles and Protocols





Principles underpinning the OSS

1. Relevance
2. Integrity
3. Quality
4. Coherence
5. Accessibility
6. Efficiency
7. Protecting respondent information
8. Minimising respondent load
9. Maximising existing data sources
10. International participation



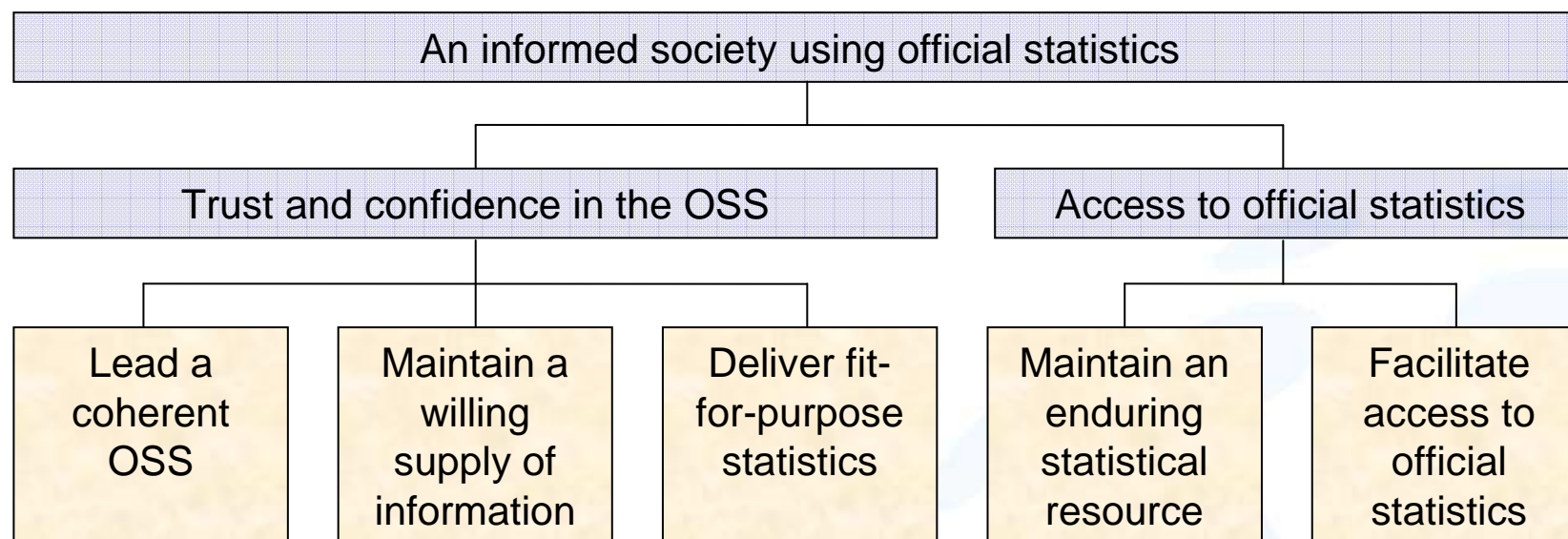
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Outcomes sought from the OSS





Outcomes sought from the OSS





Official Statistics System

Issues for government agencies

- Trust and confidence
- Access and use
- Value for money
- Partnership
- Relevance
- Coherence and efficiency



Official Statistics System

The OSS in summary

- An **efficient coordinated system** across all government departments

that is

- producing a sustainable set of **quality** and **relevant** statistics that describe New Zealand's economy, society and environment

that are

- **used** by government, business, communities and citizens to inform debate, research and decision-making.



Official Statistics System

For more information:

www.statisphere.govt.nz