

Full Programme

Wednesday 24 March 2010

8.45 am

Soundings Theatre

Mihi whakatau, followed by a welcome from Hon Maurice Williamson, Minister of Statistics

9.00 am

Soundings Theatre

Opening Address

Geoff Bascand, Government Statistician

9.40 am

Soundings Theatre

Keynote Presentation

Gary Banks, Chairman of the Australian Productivity Commission

Statistics, Productivity and Structural Reform

10.50am

Soundings Theatre

Panel discussion - Making the most of Official Statistics in challenging times

Panel: Dennis Trewin AO, former Australian Statistician and an Associate Commissioner at the Australian Productivity Commission (Chair and panellist); David Smol, Chief Executive, Ministry of Economic Development; Sir Peter Gluckman, Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister; Alan Bollard, Governor, Reserve Bank of New Zealand.

The session is designed to discuss such matters as:

- the importance of official statistics to understanding the state of the economy, society and the environment, and improving outcomes for New Zealanders
 - the importance of official statistics to understanding value for money, evidence of policy effectiveness, and improving the quality of public spending
 - how to get even greater value from our investment in official statistics, and opportunities for enhancing the performance of the official statistics system.
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Concurrent Session 1

Time: 1.00 – 1.40pm

Soundings Theatre

Measuring New Zealand's Progress Using a Sustainable Development Approach: 2008

Rachael Milicich, Statistics New Zealand

Theme: Real life

In July 2009, Statistics New Zealand published the report *Measuring New Zealand's Progress Using a Sustainable Development Approach*. This report presents an overarching view of New Zealand's environmental, economic, and social progress and whether that progress was consistent with sustainable development. The selected indicators provide information about whether we are meeting our current needs, how our resources are distributed, how efficiently we are using our resources, and what impact our actions may have on the stock of resources that will be available in the future.

This presentation will provide background and context to the report, and the development process. The measurement framework, which was used to select and interpret the indicators, as well as the key findings of the report, will also be discussed.

Presenter: Rachael Milicich has worked for Statistics New Zealand for over fifteen years, mainly in the development and compilation of key macroeconomic statistics. In her current role as Manager of National Accounts, she has responsibility for the national accounts, environmental accounts, tourism satellite account and more recently sustainable development indicators. Rachael also represents New Zealand as a member of the OECD/UNECE Taskforce on Sustainable Development.

Concurrent Session 1

Time: 1.00 – 1.40pm

Oceania Room 1

Applicability of European and OECD environment-related concepts and indicators for New Zealand's agriculture and forestry

Susanne von Muenchhausen, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Theme: Where to next?

Official data and indicators for European agriculture and forestry cover a range of environmental issues, including land use impacts on soil, water, air, biodiversity, habitats and landscape. OECD, European Commission, Eurostat and the European Environment Agency are in the process of establishing a statistical framework which corresponds with societal aspirations for environmental quality. In this contribution I like to review the most relevant environmental statistics in the EU and selected member states focusing on

agriculture, forestry and other land uses. In the review, those fields of concern will be highlighted that are particularly relevant for New Zealand. Based on the review I will discuss the applicability of European and OECD statistical approaches in New Zealand.

Agriculture and forestry systems differ between Europe and New Zealand because of differences in

- natural and climatic conditions
- economic framework conditions (markets, revenues, costs, intensities etc.)
- institutional framework conditions (institutional setup, legislation etc.)
- structures of agriculture, permanent crops and forestry and
- socio-cultural realities and values.

In New Zealand as well as in Europe, however, efficient environmental policies rely on ready access to a valuable and meaningful evidence and database. Data-based analysis supports the design of regulatory and market-based instruments and they are indispensable for evaluating the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of environmental policy instruments.

The review and analysis addresses the fields 'production systems/land use', 'nutrients', 'pesticide use', 'energy use and efficiency' 'soil erosion', 'water use', 'air quality and gas emissions', 'biodiversity' and 'farm management'.

The results show that the environmental EU-statistics for agriculture and forestry encompass approaches which could support the further development of environmental statistics systems in New Zealand, aiming to provide land users, policy makers and the wider public with profound environmental information.

Author/presenter: Dr Susanne von Muenchhausen is senior researcher at the Rural Development Research Institute at University Frankfurt/Main in Germany focussing on regional economics, organic farming, agri-environmental schemes, rural development in Europe. She is currently working in New Zealand for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Concurrent Session 1

Time: 1.00 – 1.40pm

Oceania Room 2

Digital Continuity Action Plan – Collaborative Long-term Information and Data Management across the New Zealand Public Sector

Euan Cochrane, Archives New Zealand

Theme: Working smarter

With information technologies, programmes and data storage media changing rapidly, becoming obsolete or redundant, statistical information of national importance now cannot be accessed when needed. We are in danger of entering a digital dark age, no longer having

access to the public record and the data and research that government undertakes. The value of much archival data is not evident until much later when important purposes for its re-use are identified, for example Elizabethan and Georgian ships logs being accessed to provide information or historic weather conditions for global warming research.

Around two thirds of New Zealand public sector organisations have reported that they hold digital records that they can no longer access. To address this issue Archives New Zealand is leading the whole-of-public sector response to assist the public sector to overcome these complex issues surrounding storage, access and the future usability of data critical to future research and development.

Euan will expand upon the goals and actions of the Digital Continuity Action Plan.

Who will benefit?

What are the actions?

What information is covered?

How can we get involved?

Authors: Stephen Clarke and Euan Cochrane

Presenter: Euan Cochrane, Archives New Zealand

Following completion of his masters in the philosophy and logic of science, Euan started his career by joining Statistics New Zealand in what is now the Information Management team. While there he worked on developing the data archive for official statistics and developing the Statistics New Zealand concept model/metadata model. He has presented papers on "Digital Preservation at Statistics New Zealand" at the IASSIST conference 2008 at Stanford University, and on metadata preservation at the Digital Preservation Metadata Standard fair held in October 2009 in San Francisco. Euan is currently leading project as part of the digital continuity action plan to identify risks pertaining to the preservation of digital information, and is a member of the Electronic Recordkeeping Metadata Standard development committee. He has a keen interest in digital preservation, in particular the areas of preservation tools/software, metadata standards, XML and Emulation as a digital preservation strategy

Concurrent Session 2

Time: 1.40 – 2.20pm

Soundings Theatre

Getting more out of a survey – case of the Adult Literacy and Life Skills (ALL) survey

David Earle and Paul Satherley, Ministry of Education

Theme: Real life

A lot of effort can go into collecting survey data and then not much use is made of the resulting dataset, beyond reporting key statistics.

The Adult Literacy and Life Skills (2006) survey 2006 is a case where reporting and analysis of the dataset was planned from the start of the project. This ensured that resources were

assigned to producing key topic reports and deeper analyses which were relevant to a range of audiences. The results have been presented to a wide range of audiences and now a number of universities and government agencies are now working directly with the data set for their own purposes. The survey data has also been integrated with other data sources to add further value to it. One such integration has been with administrative school and tertiary education data to look at enrolments and completions. The other has been to use mesh block addresses to add variables from such as the NZ Deprivation Index and rural/urban classifications.

This presentation will cover:

- the process for planning for analysis and use
- the range of ways in which the data has and is being used
- the requirements for ensuring valid and reliable use of the dataset
- the benefits of integrating survey data with other data sources.

Authors: David Earle, Chris Lane, Elliot Lawes, Paul Satherley, Roger Smyth from the Ministry of Education.

Presenters: Paul Satherley and David Earle

Paul Satherley works in the Research Division of the Ministry of Education. He was the project manager for the ALL survey. He also authored several of the reports on the results of the survey.

David Earle works in the Tertiary Sector Performance Analysis and Reporting team of the Ministry of Education. He has advised on the outputs from the survey and authored two analytical reports using data from the survey.

Concurrent Session 2

Time: 1.40 – 2.20pm

Oceania Room 1

New developments in geospatial data visualisation and analysis at Statistics New Zealand

Rosemary Goodyear, Statistics New Zealand

Theme: Where to next?

In recent years there has been consistent demand among data users for geospatial data and mapping tools. Regional and local level information is vital for local government planners, analysts and researchers as well as many government departments who need to plan and provide services on a local level. These needs include access to digital boundaries and data at a small area level, and tools to visualise and analyse geospatial information. Statistics New Zealand is currently developing a range of products to improve access to geospatial tools and information within New Zealand.

A prerequisite for geospatial visualization and analysis is electronic boundary files. These files are required at various levels of geographic aggregation, at various levels of detail, with and without oceanic areas. Statistics New Zealand has provided public access to electronic boundary files for some time. However, there has recently been a major effort to improve the quality and range of these files, and their documentation.

Statistics New Zealand has also been developing a range of geovisualization tools, including:

- Commuterview, which was released in July 2009. This is an interactive product that maps the size and direction of commuting flows.
- Presenting New Zealand data in GeoVista, a state-of-the-art open source geovisualization application, developed at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Business Toolbox – a web-based interactive mapping tool that allows users to analyse and visualise Census data on a map for area profiling.

Our presentation will describe these developments and seek feedback from users on their needs for geospatial data, visualization, and analysis.

Authors: John Bryant, Rosemary Goodyear Martin Ralphs, Statistics New Zealand

Presenters: Rosemary Goodyear is a Senior Research Statistician at Statistics New Zealand

The new dataset in town: the New Zealand General Social Survey

Conal Smith, Statistics New Zealand

The New Zealand General Social Survey (NZGSS), the foundation survey for the Programme of Official Social Statistics (POSS), contains new and traditional measures about different aspects of New Zealanders lives and wellbeing to fill a range of information gaps and help create an informed society through official statistics. This presentation discusses the promotion and potential use of the NZGSS that addresses barriers to access to social statistics and gaps in the take-up of statistics by certain user groups. The NZGSS will achieve greater understanding of New Zealand society, social change, and the co-occurrence of good and bad outcomes. The NZGSS aligns with overseas developments in social statistics and, particularly, the novel mix of objective and subjective measures of wellbeing. The NZGSS provides some baseline social data consistent with other OECD countries which produce a measure of wellbeing and/or 'progress' in similar national surveys.

The NZGSS helps provide a robust basis for evidence-based social policy, managing for outcomes and social policy evaluation activity. It also has a much broader user base. As part of maintaining an enduring national statistical resource, the two-yearly survey collects information on a great range of topics and more regularly than the population Census. It delivers value-added tabular and Unit Record data and, in the future, will have supplements – special topic modules. The NZGSS begins to bridge gaps between researchers and decision-makers in different research settings, and operates at the interface of research,

policy and evaluation.

Authors: Bronwyn Newton, Deb Potter and Conal Smith, Statistics New Zealand

Presenter: Conal Smith is the Manager of the Social Conditions Business Unit at Statistics New Zealand.

Concurrent Session 2

Time: 1.40 – 2.20pm

Oceania Room 2

Using data to better match industry demand with tertiary education and training supply – a practical tool

Jenny Connor, Industry Training Federation

Theme: Working smarter

Under the Industry Training Act, Industry Training Organisations (ITOs) are charged with analysing the skill needs of their industry. To do this effectively, they need to understand the pattern of education provision in areas relating to their industry. More widely, ensuring there is a good match between supply of tertiary education and training and industry demand is particularly important in the context of scarce tertiary resources.

To assist with this, in 2009 the Industry Training Federation developed the *Industry Skills Toolkit*. This toolkit draws together a range of official statistics, including the Census, Business Demography, and LEED, as well as administrative data from the Tertiary Education Commission to enable users to examine the match between the supply of tertiary education and training and the demand for skills by industry.

The resources on the toolkit make official statistics accessible to ITOs and other stakeholders enabling them to quickly and easily analyse supply and demand in their sectors. This provides a robust evidence basis for consultation with stakeholders about tertiary supply and industry demand in the chosen sector.

Information in some of these data sets is classified by industry (ANZSIC 2006) while information in other data sets is classified by educational field (NZSCED). Development of the toolkit therefore required creating a set of match codes to link these two systems and thus integrate data. Comparisons can then be made between expected demand for skilled workers in a sector and the number of people currently participating in relevant education and training to indicate if the current pattern of provision is likely to meet future requirements.

This presentation will provide a practical demonstration of the tool, highlighting the data used, the way different data sources were integrated, and the reports which are automatically generated to make official and other statistics more accessible to users.

Authors: Jenny Connor and Jeremy Baker, Industry Training Federation

Presenter: Jenny Connor is Project Manager Labour Market Information at the Industry Training Federation. In this role she works with ITOs to develop and make use of labour

market information to support their Industry Skills Leadership role. Prior to joining the Industry Training Federation Jenny had roles at the Ministry of Education and the Department of Labour.

Concurrent Session 3

Time: 2.20 – 3.00pm

Soundings Theatre

The New Zealand Knowledge Economy

Simon Brown, Department of Labour

Theme: Working smarter

The Department of Labour wanted to identify industries that rely on highly skilled workers (the knowledge economy) and then track the performance and employment of these industries over time and by geographical area.

This presentation will cover how statistics from the Census, Business Demography and the GDP series were used to identify the relevant industries and monitor their growth. We were then able to produce a report showing that the knowledge-intensive (KI) industries had grown more quickly, both in terms of employment and GDP, than the broader economy in recent years.

Employment in the KI sectors increased by 28% over the period 2000 to 2008, compared to 23% growth for the whole economy. Industries such as management & consulting, computer system design and architecture & engineering saw their employment nearly double over the period.

At regional level, we found that private KI sector employment was focussed in Auckland and Wellington while public KI sector employment was much more decentralised. At sub-regional level, we found that the highest proportions of KI employment were in Auckland and Wellington cities but that there had been higher rates of growth in Christchurch, North Shore, Manakau and Hamilton cities. There had also been some high growth rates around the south island, albeit from a low base.

Territorial authorities were placed into four groups depending on the proportion of their employment in KI industries. Only Auckland and Wellington cities were in the top group, meeting the criteria for a “strong presence of private KI sector services”. The bottom group, with only a small proportion of employment in either private or public KI sectors, were mostly rural areas. This reflects the tendency of the KI sectors to be clustered in urban areas.

This report adopted a methodology developed by a UK research consultancy, Geoeconomics, and the next phase of work is likely to involve international benchmarking of New Zealand’s performance. Further information about the report is available on the Department of Labour’s website: <http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/lmr/knowledge-economy/index.asp>

Author/Presenter: Simon Brown is a Senior Analyst in the Department of Labour's Labour Market Analysis team. He has previously worked in the Office for National Statistics in the UK, producing their sub-national population projections, and in central and local government on areas such as asylum, tourism and creative industries.

Concurrent Session 3

Time: 2.20 – 3.00pm

Oceania Room 1

Improving Securities Statistics – how the development of a security-by-security database can help improve the quality of New Zealand's macroeconomic statistics

Rochelle Barrow, Reserve Bank of New Zealand

Theme: Where to next?

A security-by-security database integrates information on the stocks and flows of individual traded securities. Information is collected on the issuers and holders of securities, both debt and equity, which can be grouped by sectors of an economy. Market information, like price and dividend payments, may also be integrated.

A security-by-security database enables administrative data to be used to produce quality statistics that can improve the quality of macro-economic statistics, for example the balance of payments, international investment position, monetary statistics and even the household balance sheet. The data is administrative and collected at a fine level of detail, minimising the load placed on respondents, while maximising the value of the data collected.

In addition to the production of official statistics these types of databases can be used directly by policy analysts to aid monetary policy formulation and the assessment of financial soundness.

Author/Presenter: Rochelle Barrow is Manager of the Statistics Unit at the Reserve Bank of New Zealand.

Concurrent Session 3

Time: 2.20 – 3.00pm

Oceania Room 2

Informing the Debate on Population Ageing in New Zealand

Mansoor Khawaja and Bill Boddington, Statistics New Zealand

Theme: Real life

As the national statistical agency responsible for regularly updating and publishing demographic projections, Statistics New Zealand has been in the forefront in highlighting emerging changes in the size and structure of population, notably the greying of our population. It has ushered the key findings from a formal demographic sphere to public domain, to help an informed debate on the subject, and to assist policy planners, decision makers, administrators, and the general public, including those looking at the financial and resource implications of a growing older population for state-funded pension, health expenditure, aged care services, etc.

This paper first briefly reviews some of the principal analytical studies and reference works, involving data drawn from censuses and surveys. Under the broad banner of 'what we have learnt', it then summarises major trends, and their dynamics, covering an array of socio-demographic topics. These include recent longevity gains at older ages, the impending burgeoning of the 65 + population, from just half a million at present to over 1.3 million, the ageing of the aged, the feminization of the aged, their work patterns, participation in voluntary activities, and ethnic and regional variations in ageing.

We share many of these structural shifts with our major trading partners. In the coming decades mature societies like New Zealand are set to face increasing demands for health provisions, aged-care services, retirement housing, as well as leisure and recreational opportunities. Differences in life experiences (for example employment, housing, migration, health, partnering or savings) will increasingly make the experience of ageing rather personal, but will also result in significant inter-generational differences. These will provide challenges for policy strategists at national and local levels, as the accent shifts to providing a good quality of life for our senior citizens.

Authors: Mansoor Khawaja, Bill Boddington and Esther Hogenhout from Statistics New Zealand

Presenters: Mansoor Khawaja is the Principal Demographer and Bill Boddington is Senior Research Statistician at Statistics New Zealand

Concurrent Session 4

Time: 3.30 – 4.10pm

Soundings Theatre

Making the Official Statistics System work for you

Clare Ward, Statistics New Zealand; Bruce Bassett, Ministry of Tourism

Theme: Where to next?

The Ministry of Tourism worked extensively to develop their international and domestic travel surveys, to bring them in line with Official Statistics System Tier 1 quality standards. Having tried a market research company, they brought survey management back in house, outsourced data collection to tight specifications and developed SAS based data treatment systems.

The outcome was better data, transparency, accountability and efficiency gains, both in cost and timeliness.

They have also committed to work in partnership with the industry on data collection, with the Tourism Industry Monitor, Hotel Council Collection and Convention Activity Survey. These industry-led initiatives are supported by the Ministry, benefiting the understanding of the whole sector.

Bruce Bassett is Research Manager at the Ministry of Tourism.

Chair: Clare Ward is the Deputy Government Statistician, Organisation Direction at Statistics New Zealand. She has been in this role since late 2007. In this role Clare is responsible for providing leadership to the organisation's direction and positioning and to its leadership of the cross-government Official Statistics System.

Originally from England, Clare has a background in strategy, policy, research, programme development, monitoring, and investment management in the public sector both in New Zealand and in the UK.

In New Zealand she has held senior roles in the Tertiary Education Commission, the Ministry of Housing, and Housing New Zealand. She has also worked on contract at the Ministry of Social Development.

Concurrent Session 4

Time: 3.30 – 4.10pm

Oceania Room 1

Reuse, reinterpretation and representation of government data: the Environment Ministry experience

Todd Kriebel, Ministry for the Environment

Theme: Working smarter

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) relies on its reporting partners (government departments, regional councils and CRIs) for 63 of the 66 datasets it uses in state of the environment reporting. As a re-user, re-interpret, and re-presenter of information, open access to data is critical. Trends in transparency, public value and technology have helped to drive what is now a relatively well established national environmental reporting programme. While New Zealand's environmental reporting programme benchmarks well against comparable countries there is plenty of room for development.

As one of the first major 're-users' of government funded data, MfE is supporting whole-of-government initiatives to free up data, and see Creative Commons licensing used. To the extent that MfE is a primary source of data, MfE has adopted a 'best practice' policy to make data as freely available as possible under open licence arrangements. In terms of strategic direction, MfE is:

- supporting regional councils to improve the consistency, transparency and accessibility of their monitoring data
- working jointly with Statistics New Zealand in the establishment of an environmental domain plan
- ensuring that MfE's core work meets Official Statistics System requirements
- examining statutory and non-statutory options to strengthen environmental reporting
- seeking to fill information gaps in sector performance and evaluation.

Author/Presenter: Todd Kriebel is Director, Information, at the Ministry for the Environment (MfE). He looks after the Climate Change Reporting, LUCAS, Science, and Statistics and Geospatial teams at MfE. He joined MfE in 2007 after three years at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Todd has held a range of policy management roles in the health sector. He spent a year in the Director General's office at the World Health Organisation in 2000 in Geneva working on Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland's change programme. Todd started his career in public health in the United States and Samoa. He met his wife in Samoa and they live in Wellington with three children.

Concurrent Session 4

Time: 3.30 – 4.10pm

Oceania Room 2

The Invisible made Visible: Application of the *Non-profit Institutions Satellite Account: 2004* by the non-profit sector, government and business

James King, Office of the Community and Voluntary Sector

With Dennis Trewin, former Australian Statistician and an Associate Commissioner at the Australian Productivity Commission

Theme: Real life

The Non-profit Institutions Satellite Account:2004, released by Statistics New Zealand in August 2007, is a landmark document for Non-profit sector (the sector) in New Zealand. Essentially a reformatting of existing economic and social statistics, the Satellite Account shed light on the 'social economy' previously invisible in Official Statistics. The key findings are:

- there were 97,000 non-profit institutions identified as at October 2005
- non-profit institutions had 105,340 paid employees as at October 2005. Only 10 percent of all nonprofit institutions employed paid staff
- over one million (1,011,600) volunteers gave more than 270 million hours of unpaid labour to nonprofit institutions in 2004
- non-profit institutions contributed 2.6 percent to New Zealand's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2004
- when volunteer labour is included, non-profit institutions' contribution to GDP increases from 2.6 percent to 4.9 percent.

These findings are having an increasingly formative effect on the public discourse regarding the role of the sector in New Zealand. Government policy is increasingly taking account of the sector; the sector itself has united behind the findings, giving diverse groups a point of common unity; and business is realising the economic force of the sector and is increasingly targeted services to capture the non-profit dollar. James King, Policy Analyst for Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector, will provide case studies on the impact the Satellite Account has had. He will also explore the impact that the reformatting of existing data sources can have on perception and identity in New Zealand today.

Author/Presenter: James King is a Policy Analyst at the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS). He joined the OCVS in 2007 from Statistics New Zealand, where he helped develop the Non-profit Institutions Satellite Account: 2004. James is primarily involved in research, stakeholder engagement and policy analysis; and focuses on drawing out implications from the growing number of data sources on the non-profit sector.

4.10pm

Soundings Theatre

Panel discussion - Microdata access in national statistical offices

Panel: Arthur Grimes, Senior Fellow, Motu Economic and Public Policy Research (Chair); Felix Ritchie, Head of Microdata Analysis, UK Office for National Statistics; Philip Stevens, Chief Advisor, Economic Strategy, Ministry of Economic Development; Gary Dunnet, Manager, Business Performance and Agriculture, Statistics New Zealand.

Access to microdata - information at the level of individual survey respondents – is critical for researchers to be able to delve deeper than the usual aggregated numbers.

A panel looks at innovative uses of microdata, as well as some of the challenges in opening up access to it.

5.30pm – 7.30pm

Oceania Room

Networking Function, sponsored by



Thursday 25 March 2010

9.00am – 10.00am

Soundings Theatre

Panel discussion - Ethnicity in official statistics

Panel: Cathryn Ashley-Jones, Statistics New Zealand (Chair); Tahu Kukutai, University of Waikato; Colin James, political journalist and analyst; Paul Brown, Statistics New Zealand.

A panel will review current issues and future directions in official ethnicity statistics. Ethnicity statistics attract considerable public interest and there are contending views on how they should be measured and reported. Underlying these 'statistical' issues are deeper concerns about how the official statistics both reflect and shape public perceptions of ethnic identity and race relations in New Zealand and their role in public policy.

The panel will present a range perspectives relating to;

- practical measurement issues
- need for and use of the information
- relevance and social acceptability
- public perceptions and policy
- evolving nature of ethnic identity.

Chair: Cathryn Ashley-Jones is the Deputy Government Statistician for Social and Population Statistics. Cathryn joined Statistics New Zealand in 2004, following a role at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as advisor to the prime minister on health issues.

Cathryn began her career in economic research, working for the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research and then for Business and Economic Research Limited. At the New Zealand Treasury, Cathryn worked on projects including financial monitoring and ownership issues, and Treaty of Waitangi claim settlement policy and negotiations. Following a major restructuring of the health sector, Cathryn joined the Ministry of Health, and as Assistant General Manager she was responsible for strategic advice on long-term funding and health services policy issues. In 1998, Cathryn was awarded a Management Development Centre Fellowship and attended the Stanford University Executive Program.

Cathryn has a BSc in Mathematics and a BA (Hons) in economics.

Tahu Kukutai is a Senior Research Fellow at the Population Studies Centre at the University of Waikato. Tahu's research interests lie within the nexus of ethnic identity and inequality. She also has research interests in state practices of ethnic classification and counting, interethnic marriage, and international Maori migrations. Prior to joining academia, Tahu was a newspaper and radio journalist. Tahu has degrees in History, Demography and Sociology from the University of Waikato and Stanford University. She will receive her PhD in Sociology from Stanford in April 2010.

Colin James is a political journalist of more than 35 years experience and political columnist of the year in 2003. He writes weekly columns in the Dominion Post, the Press, the Otago Daily Times and the Waikato Times and a monthly column in Management Magazine. He is New Zealand correspondent for Oxford Analytica. He is a senior associate of the Institute of Policy Studies at Victoria University of Wellington (www.ips.ac.nz). He is managing director of The Hugo Group (www.TheHugoGroup.com), a forecasting panel with a membership of around 100 medium to large corporates and also makes presentations on the strategic environment to companies, industry associations, government departments and other groups. He is chair of Motu Economic and Public Policy Research (www.motu.org.nz). He has an honorary doctorate from Victoria University, and is a fellow of the Institute of Public Administration and a life member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery and the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union.

Paul Brown is a Principal Statistician at Statistics New Zealand.

10.00am

Soundings Theatre

Keynote Presentation

Hon Bill English, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Minister for Infrastructure

The importance of official statistics and open government to New Zealand's progress.

Concurrent Session 5

Time: 10.40 – 11.20am

Soundings Theatre

Easier Access to Statistical Data - Collaborating for a Common Approach

Michael Beahan, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Theme: Where to next?

The session will look at international collaborations in statistical architecture. The Australian Bureau of Statistics is working with a number of agencies at the moment looking to develop architectures to make data talk to each other better (metadata standards currently focussing on DDI and SDMX). Getting agreed standards adopted is critical, requiring a cross-agency approach.

Author/Presenter: Michael Beahan is currently the Branch Manager for Data Management and Classifications in the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Michael joined the ABS seven years ago and his roles in ABS to date include Standard Business Reporting and the dissemination of data from the 2006 Census. Prior to joining the ABS he worked for the then Department of Family and Community Services for 12 years, primarily in the fields of data

mining and computer modelling. Michael is a product of the Queensland education system and is a graduate of the University of Queensland where he completed a degree majoring in Mathematics and Geography.

Concurrent Session 5

Time: 10.40 – 11.20am

Oceania Room 1

Exploring the potential for new family statistics and new family transitions research drawing on the Household Labour Force Survey

Moira Wilson, Ministry of Social Development

Theme: Working smarter

One of the recommendations of the Statistics New Zealand 2007 Review of Official Family Statistics was that agencies and researchers undertake more analysis of families and the family circumstances of individuals using existing data sources.

This paper responds to that recommendation. It explores the potential for new statistics and new research on families drawing on data already collected in the Household Labour Force Survey. The paper examines the potential for new cross-sectional statistics on the structure of families with dependent children and individuals' labour force status stratified by their family type that could be useful for monitoring changes over time. It also examines the potential for new research that uses the survey data longitudinally to look at family structure transitions and labour market transitions by family type. We present results from preliminary work and discuss the limitations.

Authors: Moira Wilson, Ministry of Social Development/Statistic New Zealand, Steven Johnston, Ministry of Social Development and Roger Macky, Vertical Research Ltd

Presenter: Moira Wilson is a Principal Analyst in the Centre for Social Research and Evaluation in the Ministry of Social Development. The current research was undertaken while on secondment to the Social Conditions team at Statistics New Zealand.

Concurrent Session 5

Time: 10.40 – 11.20am

Oceania Room 2

Geo-visualisation and policy: exploring the links

Philip S. Morrison, Victoria University of Wellington

Theme: Real life

Although up to eighty percent of OSS data are geocoded (linked to specific coordinates) the connection with the geographic domain requires software that facilitates the interface. The benefits of forging this link are considerable.

The aim of this paper is to illustrate the application of contemporary geovisualisation tools to readily available data collected regularly through the quinquennial census of population and dwellings drawing on case studies including contemporary issues in the housing and local labour markets.

The paper draws on the report published in February 2010 entitled *Geovisualisation and policy: exploring the links* and funded by Official Statistics Research.

Authors: Philip S. Morrison and Mairead DeRoiste of Victoria University of Wellington and Mark Gahegan of University of Auckland.

Presenter: Philip S. Morrison of Victoria University of Wellington

Concurrent Session 6

Time: 11.20 – 12.20pm

Soundings Theatre

Building Statistical Capability in NSW Government - A Case Study

Chris Libreri, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Theme: Working smarter

This session will discuss the development of statistical capability in New South Wales under the National Statistical Service initiative. Chris Libreri the ABS Regional Director will discuss progress in achieving a whole of government approach to statistical development with the ultimate aim of making more informed decisions in that jurisdiction through the development of more effective and efficient capability.

Author/Presenter: Chris Libreri is the Regional Director New South Wales, at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Chris leads the office in delivering high quality statistics which aim to deliver the best set of official statistics for the State - through the ABS's extensive set of national outputs and complimented by relevant local products and services produced in

collaboration with other agencies. Chris is also responsible for developing the capabilities of regional office staff and NSW statisticians. He also represents the ABS on a number of statistical coordination and advisory forums with NSW and Australian Government agencies in NSW.

The Australian Health Survey - facing new challenges

Trevor Sutton, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Theme: Working smarter

The Australian Health Survey is scheduled for 2011. It is the largest and most complex health survey conducted in Australia. It will survey approximately 50,000 adults and children and includes a special focus on the Indigenous population. The Australian Health Survey builds on the existing health surveys already conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and introduces the new components of nutrition, detailed physical activity and biomedical collection.

The ABS will undertake this survey in collaboration with its funding partners the Department of Health and Ageing and the National Heart Foundation Australia. This survey will face significant delivery issues and is seeking to find innovative ways to meet the following challenges:

- A widely dispersed population from urban locations to very remote locations (including weather, access and other logistic issues)
- Sampling a relatively small and widely dispersed Indigenous population while ensuring cultural sensitivities are addressed
- Ensuring consistency and integration with existing health surveys
- Working with the existing commercial pathology collection system in Australia to maximise access to quality biomedical collection services
- Introducing new instruments for nutrition and physical activity and taking blood pressure and anthropometric measures in the home
- Ensuring strong community awareness and participation, particularly in the Indigenous community
- Developing strategies to maximise access and analysis of the resulting rich and complex data sets

The survey will deliver national results about the health status of Australians, risk factors affecting them and how they interact with the medical systems. It will deliver the first detailed nutrition data for Australia since 1995 including separate data on Indigenous Australians for the first time and provide comprehensive national physical activity data for adults and children. It will provide for the first time national estimates on key biomedical markers such as cholesterol, iodine and sodium amongst others.

While these types of surveys have been undertaken in the UK, US, Canada and New Zealand, each poses its own unique challenges in delivery. This presentation will discuss how Australia intends to tackle its local conditions.

Authors: Trevor Sutton Deputy Statistician, Social Statistics Group, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Dr Paul Jelfs, Assistant Statistician, Health Information Branch, Australian Bureau of Statistics, David Zago, Director, Health Survey Unit, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Michelle Marquardt, Director, Health and Disability Unit, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Presenter: Trevor Sutton is Deputy Australian Statistician, heading the Social Statistics Group, where he has responsibility for social statistics produced by the ABS. This includes a comprehensive programme of household surveys and data collections covering areas such as health, family and community, housing education and training, income, recreation, and crime and justice.

Trevor has held senior positions in a range of areas in the Australian Public Service, including Child Support, Taxation, Public Health and Employment and Industrial Relations. For the last two years Trevor has been the Deputy General Manager responsible for the largest reform agenda in Child Support since its inception in 1988. These reforms costing some \$550m have been far reaching and include a complete overhaul of the child support formula, significant increase in compliance activity and major service delivery improvements.

Concurrent Session 6

Time: 11.20 – 12.20pm

Oceania Room 1

Employment Outcomes of Tertiary Education (EOTE)

Theme: Where to next?

In 2008, the Ministry of Education, Department of Labour and Statistics New Zealand began to examine the feasibility of developing a new information resource for examining employment outcomes of tertiary education (EOTE). This involved linking administrative data from education agencies on participation and achievement in institution-based and workplace-based tertiary education with employment data from the Linked Employer-Employee Database (LEED). LEED holds longitudinal employment and income data on individual workers, together with information on the firms they work for. The feasibility of being able to link this data to produce robust new official statistics, and research on employment outcomes was subsequently established.

Part 1: What do students earn after their tertiary education?

David Scott, Ministry of Education

This presentation discusses the findings from one of the initial research outputs from this new data source; 'What do students earn after their tertiary education?'

This research looked at the post-study earnings for young students who last studied at a tertiary education provider in 2003. It compared the post-study earnings for degree graduates with those completing certificates or diplomas, and looked at the additional benefits of completing a postgraduate qualification, such as a masters or a doctorate. Post-

study earnings for degree graduates were compared over a range of fields of study, with new estimates on which fields earn more, and which earn less. Growth in earnings over time was also compared across different groups, including those who completed their qualification versus those that left study without completing their qualification.

Author/Presenter: David Scott is a tertiary education researcher in the New Zealand Ministry of Education, where he has worked for 9 years. His recent areas of focus have been on retention and completion, and the link between tertiary education and labour market outcomes. Prior to Education, he worked in the health sector, and has a background in social research and data analysis.

Part 2: Does workplace-based industry training improve earnings? An analysis of industry training

Sarah Crichton, Department of Labour

This presentation discusses the findings from one of the initial research outputs from this new data source 'An analysis of industry training'

In recent years, workplace-based industry training has been growing at a faster rate than other forms of tertiary education and training. Government and industry have substantially increased their investments in industry training. However there is not much information available on whether training impacts on participants' skills, productivity and labour market outcomes. In this paper, we examine the labour market outcomes of employees who left industry training during 2003–05. Our findings are based on comparing the employment and earnings patterns of participants with those of non-participants' who had very similar demographic and employment history before training started. We also examined the extent to which participants' were retained by employers and within industries.

Author/Presenter: Sarah Crichton is a senior researcher at the Department of Labour, where she has been for 8 years. Her main area of focus in recent years has been research using Statistics New Zealand's Linked Employer-Employee Database.

Concurrent Session 6

Time: 11.20 – 12.20pm

Oceania Room 2

Why Census Matters

Carol Slappendel, Statistics New Zealand

Ron Lovell, Ministry of Social Development

Balt Gregorius, New Zealand Transport Agency

Theme: Real life

The Census continues to play an integral role in the Programme of Social Statistics. The uses and users of census data are becoming much more diverse. Central Government agencies make wide-ranging use of census data for planning, research, monitoring, policy making and funding purposes in particular in health, education and transport. Local Government make extensive use of data from census (often regional or community based) to meet a wide range of needs. For example, meeting the requirements of the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) and Community Outcomes under the Local Government Act (2002).

Other users of census data include academics, researchers, the media and businesses. Community groups rely on census data to provide a quantitative base for advocacy when applying for funding initiatives. With web access to census data increasing, the public are expanding their use of data in all directions (from students researching for school projects to a mum/dad simply wanting to know the population of their local community).

This session will showcase two short presentations featuring innovative and concrete examples of how census data is being used by external users. The session will be chaired by the GM Census and a panel discussion will follow the presentations, focusing on how the 2011 Census is continuing to meet the needs of users and what is being done to address emerging information needs going forward to 2016 and beyond.

Chair: Carol Slappendel is General Manager of the 2011 Census of Population and Dwellings.

1.10pm – 2.10pm

Soundings Theatre

Panel discussion - Looking beyond GDP

Panel: David Caygill, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Official Statistics (Chair); Len Cook, former New Zealand and UK Government Statistician; Brian Pink, Australian Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics; Peter Bushnell, consultant, and member of the Advisory Committee on Official Statistics.

There is a strong emergent debate, stimulated recently by the Stiglitz Commission that argues for the development of broader measures of social and environmental progress. The panel discuss this debate, and whether gaps in existing economic statistics should be addressed, improving GDP, before we look at moving beyond it.

Concurrent Session 7

Time: 2.10 – 2.50pm

Soundings Theatre

Official Statistics and economic policy

Productivity and savings are two areas of focus for economic growth. This session will illustrate the usefulness and drawbacks, of official statistics in these areas, as well as highlight some of the policy implications.

Perspectives on Savings

Dr Grant Scobie, The Treasury

Perspectives on Productivity

Dr Bryce Wilkinson, Capital Economics Ltd

Theme: Real life

Concurrent Session 7

Time: 2.10 – 2.50pm

Oceania Room 1

Publishing of Tax Statistics – Filling the Gap

Michael Slyuzberg, Inland Revenue

Theme: Working smarter

The use of administrative data can be one of the most effective ways of producing statistics. This is especially important for smaller countries, such as New Zealand, with limited ability to

provide sample surveys for generating detailed statistics. Administrative data in this situation becomes an efficient alternative data source.

Tax statistics forms an important part of administrative data. Our research shows that there is a significant and stable demand on a wide range of tax data from government departments, tax practitioners and research institutions across New Zealand. The main driving force for this demand is the users' desire to access reliable and consistent data allowing in-depth analysis, modelling, forecasting, policy development and decision support on both national and sub-national (small geographic areas, industry groups, socio-demographic groups, etc.) levels.

In order to meet increasing customer demand, improve the role of the Department in the Official Statistics System, support evidence-based policy decisions, endorse consistency and quality of reporting and increase transparency and visibility in the community, IRD has made a decision to start publishing tax statistics on its website.

The presentation is focussing on the developed approach to publishing tax statistics and the core principles of the implemented procedure, such as:

- Strict protection of taxpayer secrecy;
- Selecting variables based on the thorough analysis of customer demand;
- Including only data that is consistent, allows robust time series analysis, easily interpreted and not misleading;
- Including only high quality data that meets Official Statistics System criteria;
- Not duplicating already available statistics and clearly explaining any deviations from tax statistics published by other sources;
- Providing sufficient metadata for each variable within the data set so that each variable can be understood and the statistics can be used effectively;
- Reflecting international best practice.

Authors: Gail Kelly and Michael Slyuzberg, Inland Revenue

Presenter: Dr Michael Slyuzberg has more than 30 years of experience in statistics, data analysis, research, management and strategic consulting. Since January 2004 he has worked at Inland Revenue, currently as a Principal Advisor Statistics within National Research Unit (Corporate Strategy). Michael represents IRD in the Official Statistics System (OSS) Officials Committee, and is a member of the International Association for Official Statistics and New Zealand Statistical Association.

The whole is greater than the sum of the parts: Cross agency collaboration in evaluating large scale policy initiatives

Valmai Copeland, Inland Revenue

Theme: Working smarter

In response to Government's desire for evidence based evaluation of policy initiatives Inland Revenue has taken part in a number of complex, multi-party evaluations over recent years. In this paper we will describe the challenges and advances that have occurred in producing statistics about KiwiSaver and Working for Families as part of collaborative, across government evaluations.

In the course of the evaluations gaps in available information were identified and a range of solutions found to these. Information from the official statistics systems, administrative and operational data and commissioned surveys and qualitative research has been melded to fill these gaps and allow insights not possible from considering each data source in isolation.

The Working for Families evaluation has implemented a large scale database of family-based data by linking administrative data from Inland Revenue and the Ministry of Social Development supplemented by commissioned surveys.

The KiwiSaver evaluation identified deficiencies in statistics on retirement savings and net wealth available for the purposes of the evaluation. A group of agencies has collaborated with Statistics New Zealand to enhance SoFIE, a unique longitudinal data source, to enable the evaluation to determine the impact of KiwiSaver on savings rates and net wealth. Both evaluations are linking responses to commissioned surveys to administrative data.

The two evaluations are different stages of completion; Working for Families evaluation work will be largely complete by the end of 2009 and KiwiSaver is mid-way through its research programme (due for completion in 2013). This paper will discuss these two real-life evaluation examples from the perspectives of both completed research and lessons learned as well as work-in-progress and expectations of future use of official statistics.

Authors/Presenters: Katherine Meerman and Valmai Copeland are senior evaluators in the Corporate Strategy area of Inland Revenue. They have each spent several years working on the evaluation of billion dollar, cross departmental policies (Working for Families and KiwiSaver).

Concurrent Session 7

Time: 2.10 – 2.50pm

Oceania Room 2

Does the current New Zealand case definition of serious non-fatal injuries miss a material number of serious injury cases?

Colin Cryer, Dunedin School of Medicine, Otago University

Theme: Real life

Background: There has been some recent debate about whether the operational definition of serious injury used in the specifications of the New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy (NZIPS) indicators captures all cases of interest of serious injury that are recorded in the Ministry of Health's National Minimum Data Set of hospital discharges. The project aimed to review the current and alternative definitions of serious non-fatal injury, and to obtain agreement amongst key stakeholders in confirming the existing definition, or identifying a new definition that can be applied consistently across all relevant indicators.

Research question: Does the case definition of serious non-fatal injury, used in the specifications of the NZIPS serious injury outcome indicators, miss a material number of serious injury cases of interest?

Methods: A combination of empirical methods and consultation with stakeholders were used. The frequency and nature of additional cases of serious injury captured by using alternative methods of case selection were investigated. The pros and cons of each method of case selection were assessed. Results were presented to a stakeholder group, where agreement on the most appropriate case definition was sought.

Outcome: Recommendations to the Injury Information Manager (IIM), the NZIPS secretariat, and other stakeholders regarding the quality of existing serious injury indicators, as well as changes to the common case definition for the NZIPS serious non-fatal injury outcome indicators for each of the NZIPS priority areas of assault, self-harm, work-related injury, falls, motor vehicle traffic crashes, and drowning.

Authors: Colin Cryer, Pauline Gulliver, John Langley, Gabrielle Davie, Ari Samaranayaka from the Injury Prevention Research Unit, Dunedin School of Medicine, University of Otago.

Presenter: Colin Cryer is the surveillance 'area coordinator' at the Injury Prevention Research Unit, University of Otago, New Zealand. He trained in statistics originally, and taught biostatistics at the Wellington School of Medicine during the 1980s. His current research is aimed at improving the validity of injury indicators and surveillance methods. With John Langley and other colleagues, in 2004 they developed valid national indicators for monitoring progress in injury prevention within New Zealand. These were accepted, and are being used, by the government. They continue to produce chartbooks based on these indicators for the whole population, as well as for children and for Maori.

Concurrent Session 8

Time: 2.50 – 3.30pm

Soundings Theatre

Costs of raising children in New Zealand

Iris Claus, Inland Revenue

Theme: Where to next?

This paper estimates the costs of raising children in New Zealand to help inform a review by the government of the formula that New Zealand uses to determine the amount a parent has to pay under the child support scheme administered by Inland Revenue.

Two methodologies are applied. The first approach, which uses household economic survey (HES) data, estimates what parents actually spend on their children at different income levels (the expenditure approach). The second approach calculates how much it costs couple households to meet the non-discretionary needs of a child (the basket of goods approach). Using retail prices from the consumer price index (CPI) a basket of goods and services considered appropriate for a given living standard is priced. The two approaches produce broadly similar estimates of the costs of raising children. Moreover, the results from the expenditure approach show that the average costs of children varies with the age of children, households' income level and the number of children in a household.

The paper then assesses how a new formula that takes into account the estimated costs of children and the tax benefits would affect current child support payments.

Authors: Iris Claus, Paul Kilford, Geoff Leggett and Xin Wang, Inland Revenue.

Presenter: Iris Claus is a Senior Research Economist in the Policy Advice Division at Inland Revenue and a Research Associate of the Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis at the Australian National University. Her research interests are in the economic effects of taxation, financial intermediation, open economy macroeconomics and general equilibrium modelling. Iris is a member of the Asian Economic Panel and on the editorial boards of Asian Economic Papers and the Journal of Economic Surveys. She previously held positions at the New Zealand Treasury, the Reserve Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of Canada.

Concurrent Session 8

Time: 2.50 – 3.30pm

Oceania Room 1

Using islands of data for town and country planning

Kelvin Norgrove and Tony Batistich, Strateg.Ease Ltd

Theme: Working smarter

Beyond the government departments working at a national or regional scale, local government and consultants deal with a myriad of projects that require focused local area studies. Town and country planning is concerned with the particulars of people and land-use activities 'on the ground'. Analysis of local areas (whether combinations of census area units or meshblocks) often relies on a patchwork of data drawn from different spatial scales and sources. Such studies regularly enter the courts through resource consent and other local authority decision making processes.

How inaccurate is accurate? In a GIS based world it can be highly accurate. But in New Zealand we have not yet taken the steps towards consistency, quality, time frames that can take advantage of improvements in the capability of geospatial data management since the pioneering days of the early 90s. We have come a long way, but we still have a tortuous geospatial journey to travel. We are still crossing fords and taking back roads rather than highways to good information.

The authors will use recent projects undertaken in the Coromandel and Auckland to show many of the deficiencies that exist between spatial compatibility, access to accurate and relevant data, and the lengths required to fill in the blanks. This raises questions about the extent to which results can be or should be attributed to sources of official statistics. It also begs suggestions for ways to make it easier to use official statistics in conjunction with other data sources at the local scale.

Authors/Presenters: Kelvin Norgrove, Tony Batistich, Strateg.Ease Ltd

Kelvin has extensive experience working for public and private sector clients in the areas of resource management, strategic planning and economic development. His projects at the local and regional levels rely on combining multiple data sources from Statistics NZ, other central agencies, local authorities, and original research.

Tony is a Geospatial Strategist and GIS Analysis Specialist. He was previously GIS Manager at the Auckland Regional Council where he developed a detailed understanding of the key demographic, economic, business, land use, zoning and land capacity databases that are pertinent to local and regional scale analysis. He developed the concept for the Auckland Local Government Geospatial Information strategy group (ALGGi) and was the chair of the Business Management team which provided the direction for this successful collaborative approach to collaboration in GIS and data standards and acquisition.

Concurrent Session 8

Time: 2.50 – 3.30pm

Oceania Room 2

The use of the official statistics in health workforce modelling

Nikolai Minko, District Health Board New Zealand

Theme: Real life

Health workforce forecasting models include two major components which are the workforce demand and supply. The demand component has a close relationship with current population demography and socio-economic status and their projections to the near future. Identifying the current medical/surgical patients, calculating the patient event to population ratio for each socio-demographic group and projecting this ratio into the future is a simple tool to assess the possible future demand for the medical/surgical service, in terms of recent utilisation patterns.

The supply component at first glance does not depend on the population socio-demography, but the simple question “where does the workforce come from” shows the linkage. Supply components of the workforce forecasting model include current workforce stock, inflow into the workforce and outflow from the workforce. This information is also available from the national statistical collections.

Thus, collaborative analysis of the official statistical information with specific health sector data helps to produce robust forecasting models for the future demand of health services and the required health workforce supply to cover the demand. Using this methodology and data, thirty medical and surgical specialities demand and supply were identified in 2006 and projected out to 2026.

Authors: Nikolai Minko, Michael Rains and Paul Bridgford from District Health Boards NZ.

Presenter: Nikolai Minko is a Senior Analyst in the District Health Boards New Zealand. His current area of interest is health workforce demand and supply analysis and forecasting future health sector workforce needs. He has extensive experience in data analysis, statistics and mathematical and economical modelling.

3.50 pm

Soundings Theatre

Panel discussion - Where to next – a panel discusses key themes and areas of future work identified during the preceding two days

Panel: Dallas Welch, Deputy Government Statistician, Statistics New Zealand (Chair); Paul Reynolds, Chief Executive, Ministry for the Environment; Leith Comer, Chief Executive, Te Puni Kokiri; Karen Sewell, Chief Executive, Ministry of Education; David Caygill, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Official Statistics

The panel will discuss the contribution that official statistics must make to understanding the state of the economy, society and the environment, and improving outcomes for New Zealanders. They will also look at how to achieve even greater value from our investment in official statistics across government, and opportunities for enhancing the performance of the official statistics system.

Chair: Dallas Welch is the Deputy Government Statistician for Macro-Economic and Environment Statistics. She joined Statistics New Zealand in 1983, progressing from an assistant research officer in Price Index Development to Deputy Government Statistician of Industry and Labour Statistics in 2006–07. Dallas was Acting Government Statistician from March to May 2007.

Prior to this role, Dallas has been Deputy Government Statistician of Social and Population Statistics, Acting General Manager of Corporate Services, and General Manager at Statistics New Zealand Christchurch. Other roles include General Manager of the Transition Programme, Group Manager of Information and Technology Services, and Acting General Manager of Statistical and Methodology Services.

Dallas has a MCom (Hons) in Economics and a teaching diploma (with distinction). She is a member of the New Zealand Association of Economists and the Population Association of New Zealand.

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