

Annual Report 2015-16

Our Role

The Statistical Clearing House (SCH) works with Survey Managers to reduce the burden placed by the Commonwealth Government on business respondents by eliminating duplication and ensuring that the design and conduct of surveys are fit-for-purpose given the survey objectives. All surveys that are directed to 50 or more businesses and are conducted by, or on behalf of, a Commonwealth Government agency are subject to clearance by the SCH.

The SCH ensures that business surveys conducted by the Commonwealth Government follow sound statistical methodologies and practices. We do this by reviewing, and advising on, the following areas of survey design:

- sample design methodology,
- collection methods,
- layout and design of the questionnaire,
- questionnaire testing,
- follow-up procedures to improve response rates, and
- appropriate use and interpretation of data based on the data quality.

2015-16 SCH Review Activity

During 2015-16 the SCH received 144 surveys for review, of which 71 were approved through a full review, and 13 were granted fast track approval as the burden on Australian businesses was assessed to be low. A further 36 did not require our review and approval and 5 were cancelled. There are also 19 surveys under review that cross over the 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial years.

Table 1: Surveys submitted to the SCH

Financial year	Surveys reviewed*	Surveys not requiring review**	Cancelled surveys	Total surveys submitted
2015-16	90	49	5	144
2014-15	68	32	4	104
2013-14	72	45	7	124
2012-13	82	42	5	129

* includes surveys under review.

** includes fast track approvals.

Our Network

The SCH maintains a network of Statistical Liaison Officers (SLOs) in many Commonwealth Government departments and agencies. SLOs act as a communication point between the SCH and your survey areas.

Contact us to discuss how your organisation can benefit from having an SLO.

Contact Us

For more information about us and to access our online resources, please visit www.sch.abs.gov.au.

If you would like to discuss your next survey and how we can assist, email us at statistical.clearing.house@abs.gov.au or call us on (02) 6252 5285.