



NatStats
CONFERENCE 08
Melbourne November 19-21

- 470 registrations
- Enrico Giovannini – OECD Chief Statistician
- 9 exhibitors
- PSMA major sponsors and Space Time Research Welcome Reception sponsors



Conference themes:

- Informing the Nation
- Measuring the Progress of Society
- Environmental Information for Informed Decisions

Information Platforms Showcase Sessions

Community Indicators Workshop



Current issues

- COAG
- 2020 Summit
- OECD World Forum – Measuring Progress of Societies
- Budget cuts vs evidence based policy
- National Statistical Service (NSS)



- **Keynote Speakers:**

Professor Glyn Davis Uni of Melbourne

Dr David Gruen Treasury

John Lenders, Treasurer of Victoria

Enrico Giovannini, Chief Statistician, OECD

Dr Martin Parkinson Dept of Climate Change

James Bradfield Moody, CSIRO

Ben Rimmer, Dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet



David Gruen

- Importance of statistics in driving policy
- Great Depression - driving with a shattered windscreen and a badly fogged rear view mirror.
- Impact of household surveys developed by the ABS in the 1980s allowed much finer analysis
- development of key indicators that measure the progress of societies
- Importance of COAG indeveloping policy
- Importance of making better use of data already collected – admin data
- Importance of sharing data
- Central Data Repository



Enrico Giovannini

- Trust in statistical organisations
- Importance of measuring more than just economic measures
- Social, environmental and economic factors
- Importance of information sharing
- Australia's leading work in OECD Measuring Progress of Societies
- More than one number – a suite of indicators
- Third World Forum in Korea in 2009



Dr Martin Parkinson

- Importance of statistics in developing environmental policy
- Debate involves more than just scientists
- Environment impacts on social and economic policy
- Major issues – climate adaptation, water, development of framework for collecting and disseminating data
- Importance of support for the ABS to play leadership role



Panel Discussion Statistics in the 21st Century

- Statistical Literacy
- Measuring what the community wants
- What to drop if there is a choice
- Paths for statisticians
- Future role of IT
- Collection issues
- Better use of administrative data



Statistical Declaration:

We, the participants at the NatStats 08 conference in Melbourne in November 2008, representing a wide range of interests and perspectives in government, community, business and universities, have agreed on the following declaration to guide the development of a national statistics strategy for Australia in the 21st century:

Statistics are vital to the health and progress of Australia's economy, society and environment. They are a critical element of our democracy.



- **Statistical Declaration:**

- importance of information for decision making
- treatment of information as an asset
- legislated role of an independent ABS
- recognition that there are significant data gaps
- protection of individual respondent information
- development of partnerships/ collaborations for better information outcomes



• **Conference Outcomes:**

- High level keynote speakers
- Some media reporting of the conference.
- Positive feedback from sponsors, exhibition stands and delegates
- Statistical Declaration – where to from now
- Engagement across government and the community
- Awareness of important role of information
- Community Indicators Workshop 2009
- Greater awareness of the NSS
- NatStats10