

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration  
**Inquiry into the implementation of the National Health Reform Agreement**

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

27 February 2013

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Further to the comments made by the ABS during its appearance before the Committee on 21 February 2013, the ABS wishes to provide a supplementary submission. This supplementary submission contains the letters sent by the Australian Statistician to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport (formerly the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government). The content of these letters has been referenced in a number of the submissions received by the inquiry.

As the Committee will note, the letter sent to the Secretary of the Treasury every June is required under Section 7 of the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009* and provides the Statistician's determination of the population for 31 December of the previous year (eg. 31 December 2011). The Statistician also takes the opportunity to advise of the latest estimate for the earlier year (eg. 31 December 2010).

The letter also fulfils obligations under Sections 4A, 8 and 10 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* and provides the Secretary of the Treasury with the latest estimates for 31 December of the previous year (eg. 31 December 2011) and the earlier year (eg. 31 December 2010).

The letter sent to the Secretary of the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport every June provides the latest estimates for 31 December of the previous year (eg. 31 December 2011) and the earlier year (eg. 31 December 2010), according to Sections 4A, 8 and 10 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*.

These letters do not provide measures of population growth. The ABS is neither required nor requested to provide such measures under either the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009* or the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*.

All estimates contained in these letters are published in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (ABS cat. no. 3101.0).

Documents contained within this submission

1. Correspondence dated 14 June 2012 – Correspondence from the ABS (Brian Pink) to the Treasury (Martin Parkinson).
2. Correspondence dated 23 June 2011 – Correspondence from the ABS (Brian Pink) to the Treasury (Martin Parkinson).
3. Correspondence dated 14 June 2012 – Correspondence from the ABS (Brian Pink) to the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport (Glenys Beauchamp).
4. Correspondence dated 23 June 2011 – Correspondence from the ABS (Brian Pink) to the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government (Glenys Beauchamp).