

# The ABS and libraries – informing the nation

## ABS sponsors Library and Information Week 2006

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is pleased to be a sponsor of Library and Information Week 2006. This indicates our continuing support of libraries and our partnership with you in disseminating official statistics to the community.

### ABS Library and Extension Services

The ABS has its own library – the Castles Library – named in honour of Ian Castles, a former Australian Statistician (1986 to 1994). As well as providing library services to ABS staff, the Library instigates or contributes to numerous knowledge management, information management, information literacy and other strategic initiatives across the ABS.

The Castles Library is part of the overall Library and Extension Services program at the ABS, responsible for both internal and external client servicing, including the well-known and successful partnership with Australian libraries – the Library Extension Program (LEP). LEP member libraries are selected from the group of eligible libraries, which includes the National Library of Australia, the State reference libraries, parliamentary, university, TAFE and public libraries across Australia. Libraries interested in being LEP members should contact the LEP co-ordinator in their state or territory. <http://www.abs.gov.au> > Education Resources > Library Extension Program.

### LEP Excellence Award

Because the ABS values the role of LEP libraries in raising their clients' awareness, understanding and use of ABS information, we created the LEP Excellence Award. This award acknowledges LEP libraries for excellence in connecting their clients to ABS information. The prize is a trophy and \$1500 worth of ABS products and services of the winning library's choice.



*Leanne Vincent, campus librarian, receiving the 2005 Award from Dennis Trewin, Australian Statistician*

Entries close on July 31 each year, so do start thinking about your entries for 2006! Why not use Library and Information Week or the 2006 Census as an opportunity to showcase ABS information in your library and enter for the Award?



To find out more about the Award, about last year's winning entry, or to download an entry form, go to <http://www.abs.gov.au> > 'Services We Provide' > 'Library Extension Program' > 'LEP Excellence Award' and 'Promotional Matters'.

### 2006 Census @ your library

On 8 August 2006 the ABS will be conducting the five-yearly 'stocktake' of Australia – the Census of Population and Housing. The Census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the ABS and one of national significance. Find out more about the 2006 Census (and the Census of previous years) by selecting the 'Census' link on the ABS website <http://www.abs.gov.au>.

Libraries can keep their clients informed about the Census through displays and information sessions. E-mail the ABS at [library@abs.gov.au](mailto:library@abs.gov.au) for Census promotional material to use in your library. The May issue of the *LEP newsletter*, also available on the ABS website, is full ideas for raising Census awareness in your communities.

### Free statistics on the ABS website

All statistics on the ABS website, <http://www.abs.gov.au>, can now be accessed and downloaded free of charge. The new policy was announced by the treasurer, The Honorable Peter Costello MP, as an ABS Centenary tribute to the people of Australia in December 2005.

In announcing free statistics, the treasurer said the Government recognised the importance of access to official statistics in providing a reliable and up-to-date view of Australian society, the economy and the environment. Free statistics on the web ensures decision-makers within the Australian government and state/territory governments, business and the community have readily available statistical information with which to make informed decisions. The change means that all publications, spreadsheets, datacubes and Census data on the ABS website are now available free to any member of the public with access to the internet.

Visit the ABS website, and especially the 'Statistics' link, to download publications, time series spreadsheets, census data – and much more!

In addition to free statistics on the web, the ABS continues to provide a range of printed publications freely to LEP libraries and on a paid basis to other organisations and individuals. ■



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