



ABS House  
45 Benjamin Way  
Belconnen ACT 2617

Locked Bag 10  
Belconnen ACT 2616  
Telephone 02 6252 5000

## SENATE ESTIMATES OPENING STATEMENT

Date: 4 March 2020

Presenter: Dr David Gruen

Position: Australian Statistician

Location: Parliament House, Canberra

Good evening. It is a privilege to appear before this Committee for the first time in my capacity as the 16th Australian Statistician and leader of one of Australia's most trusted and important public institutions.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge my predecessor, David Kalisch, who led the ABS through many achievements as well as some difficult times over the past five years. His leadership positioned the ABS well to face the future with confidence.

As head of Australia's pre-eminent statistical agency, I will be a strong advocate for the power of data and statistics to illuminate and inform individuals, businesses and governments.

I am pleased to be joining the ABS at a time when the importance of data is being increasingly recognised and the government is seeking to generate more public value for all Australians from the data held by government. The ABS also has a role driving improved data capability across the Australian Public Service.

Underpinning all this is trust. Building community trust in the use of data by government is a long term pursuit. The ABS will continue to champion the safe use of data; and provide the foundation on which others can rely to demonstrate the highest professional data standards.

