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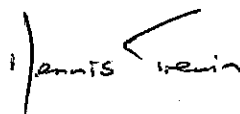
**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AND
EXTERNAL TERRITORIES: INQUIRY INTO NORFOLK ISLAND
GOVERNANCE**

At the hearings on 4 August 2005 questions were raised relating to the ABS' role on the provision of statistics for Norfolk Island. The purpose of this short submission is to clarify the ABS' role.

2 Norfolk Island is not included as part of Australia for the ABS' statistical work. The Act's Interpretation Act states "... the Commonwealth of Australia and, when used in a geographical sense, includes the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, but does not include any other external Territory". This applies to Australian statistical legislation.

3 Norfolk Island has its own statistics legislation, namely the *Norfolk Island Census and Statistics Act, 1961*. However, the Australian Census and Statistics Act was amended to extend the ambit of the Act to enable external territories to be included in the 1986 and future censuses of population and housing conducted by the ABS. It was not automatic that Norfolk Island be included in the Australian Census. Its inclusion would have to be prescribed and this has not occurred. Recent censuses in Norfolk Island have been conducted by the Norfolk Island Administration. Their last census was conducted in 2001 to correspond with the timing of the Australian Census.

4 Although the ABS does not have responsibility for other fields of statistics in Norfolk Island, it would be very willing to assist with the development of statistics identified as high priority.



Dennis Trewin

31 August 2005