

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2009**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**

**Question No: 26**

**Hansard Ref: Written**

**Topic: Data collection/analysis**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Does the Department have enough analytical resources at its disposal? For example, the Government has cut funding to the ABS – is the Department provided with enough data collection for evidence-based policy making and evaluation?

**Answer:**

The Department sources information and data from a range of sources, including but not limited to the ABS, on which to base its policy advice. The Department has and will continue to work with the ABS with a view to ensuring that, to the extent possible, its information needs are incorporated into ABS surveys.