Australian Bureau of Statistics

Australian Government
Department of Communications

Information and Communications Technology Statistics Review Submission Cover Sheet

Q1. Please provide contact details of the person to contact regarding this submission

Name:

Title (e.g. Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr, etc):	Dr
First name*:	Tony
Surname*:	Koppi

Postal address*:

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Q2. Do you agree to allow the Department of Communications and the ABS to publicly refer to the information provided in this submission as a statement of your, or your organisation's, views on the relevant topics?*

Note: the Department of Communications and the ABS may make public views put forward in this submission. However, the names of persons or organisations making submissions will not be published unless you have given us permission to do so.

[x] Yes
[ ] No

Q3: Are you completing this submission as a*:

[ ] Private individual not representing an organisation   Thankyou. We have no further questions.

[x] Representative of an organisation or government department   Please go to Q4

Q4: What is the name and address of your organisation?

Name of organisation:	Australian Council of Deans of ICT

Address of organisation:

[x] Same as postal address   Please go to Q5

Q5. What is your position in the organisation?

Executive Officer

Q6: Which sector best describes your organisation?
Please select a response below

[ ]	Government sector/Australian Government
[ ]	Government sector/State or Territory Government
[ ]	Government sector/Local Government
[ ]	Private sector (fewer than 20 employees)
[ ]	Private sector (20 or more employees)
[ ]	Not-for-profit organisation
[x]	Higher Education

Submission to Australian Government Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Statistics Review - February 2015

As the President of the Australian Council of Deans of Information and Communications Technology (acdict.edu.au) and Professor and Head, School of Information Systems & Accounting, Faculty of Business, Government and Law, University of Canberra, I wish to take the opportunity to make a brief submission to this Review.

ACDICT is the peak body representing all Australian universities and the many disciplines comprising ICT: Computer Science; Information Systems; Information Technology; Software Engineering; Electronic Engineering; Computer Systems Engineering; Telecommunications Engineering; and any other ICT related discipline.

Obtaining accurate and representative statistical data concerning the various ICT disciplines in higher education is currently almost impossible. Reasons for this difficulty include the grouping all the disciplines under "IT" (Information Technology being only one of several ICT disciplines) without any differentiation, and because ICT is evolving so rapidly.

Current employer demands include jobs that did not exist a few years ago, such as mobile App development, and new areas of existing disciples such as data analytics now being increasingly important in ICT. Universities revise and create new teaching subjects in ICT to meet the new industry demands. Each university, in seeking to differentiate itself, will respond differently to courses and subjects offered to ICT students. Current statistical data gathering and reporting need to reflect this dynamic market and teaching environment.

It is important that there is accurate information on the various ICT disciplines available to students, parents and careers advisors so that informed decisions could be made. Similarly, the many jobs in industry that require ICT in large part need to be clearly identified as such. Part of the lack of ICT enrolments in higher education can be attributed to poor and inaccurate information.

I recommend that appropriate dynamic data collection on the various existing and new ICT teaching components, and industry jobs requiring new and emerging ICT skills, be developed and employed. Providing accurate, representative and relevant Government data that also links university and industry needs and practices will enhance relations between the sectors.

Should you require any further comment or information, please contact me.

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