

## **Statistical clearing house : reducing the burden of business surveys**

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The Commonwealth Government Statistical Clearinghouse (SCH) was established in 1997 to review and assess surveys of businesses conducted by or on behalf of Commonwealth government agencies. The principle objectives of the SCH are to reduce the duplication and respondent load on businesses of such surveys. This is achieved by assessing both the absolute load placed on businesses (in terms of the number of businesses selected in the survey and the expected time taken for each business to participate in the survey) and ensuring that the survey is of sufficient quality to justify the respondent load imposed.

This presentation will outline the origins of the SCH and the coverage of its activities. An overview of the assessment process will also be provided. Currently the SCH is undergoing considerable change to ensure its activities are focussed on areas where it can maximise the benefits to all stakeholders in the process, and these recent developments will be discussed.