

# Standards for Official Statistics

## The Code of Practice for Statistics

The Standards for Official Statistics apply the Code framework of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value (TQV) to describe the standards and practices required to ensure statistics serve the public good. They should be applied by the teams and statistical leaders responsible for producing official statistics ('producers').

### 1 Show integrity [T]

Producers must act with integrity, working and communicating in honest, objective and professional ways, and challenging misuse of statistics

### 2 Lead responsibly [T]

Producers must lead responsibly and make impartial decisions about statistics, under the direction and authority of the Chief Statistician/Head of Profession for Statistics

### 3 Be transparent [T]

Producers must release statistics in a transparent way, at a standard time (usually 9.30am), and pre-announce the date and timing of the release

### 4 Manage data responsibly [T]

Producers must manage data and statistics safely and securely and be open about how data will be used and protected

### 5 Prioritise quality [Q]

Producers must support a quality culture that promotes good practice and encourages learning and improvement, under the direction of the Chief Statistician/Head of Profession for Statistics

### 6 Be rigorous [Q]

Producers must use suitable data sources and sound methods, and assure the quality of the statistics across the production and release processes

### 7 Be open about quality [Q]

Producers must prominently explain the quality of the statistics, including strengths and limitations, and communicate the uncertainty in estimates

### 8 Be relevant [V]

Producers must put users at the centre of decision making about the statistics, listening and responding to feedback, and be transparent about statistical planning

### 9 Be clear [V]

Producers must clearly present the statistics to support appropriate interpretation, collaborating with other producers and experts to develop fuller insight for key topics

### 10 Be accessible [V]

Producers must ensure statistics are accessible and freely available to all

