

“New Zealand’s Official Statistics System”

*Vince Galvin, Deputy Government Statistician,
Statistics New Zealand*

*ISA 12th East Asian Statistical Conference
Tokyo - November 2008*

Guiding frameworks

- The United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics provide the basic framework for official statistics in member countries
- The work of Statistics New Zealand and of other government agencies who produce official statistics is guided by the Statistics Act as well as by other legislation
 - Statistics Act charges Government Statistician to lead a coordinated system
- The Cabinet agreed 'Top Down Review of the Official Statistics System (2003)' set the current framework and strategy for the OSS

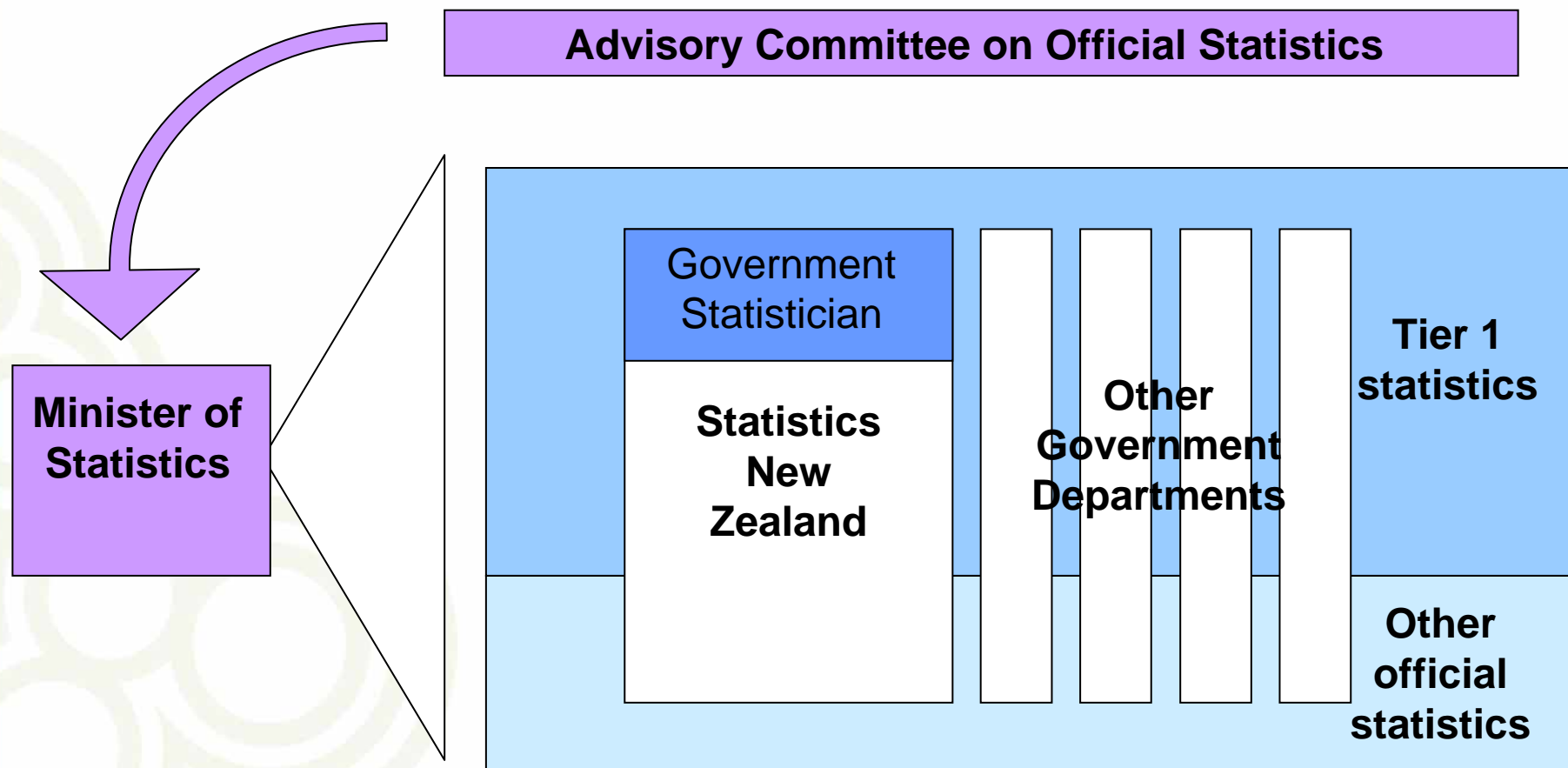
2003 review focused on 11 elements designed to create a stronger system

- Stronger governance and leadership
- Greater focus on the most important statistics and standards expected of these
- Improved access to a wider range of data by a wider range of users
- Improved management of the burden on respondents
- Long-term protection (archiving) of key datasets and increased research to support statistical development

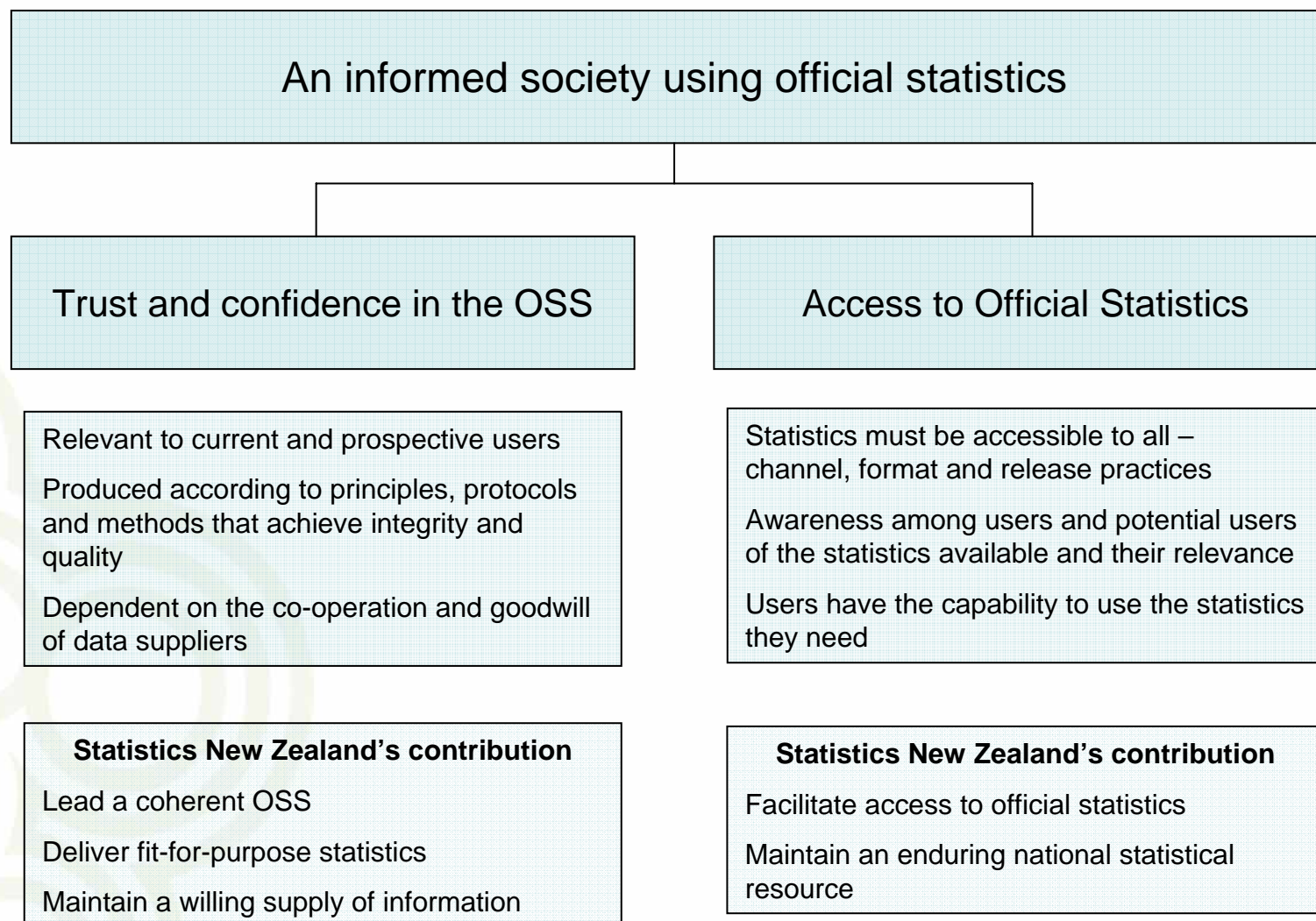
New Zealand model

- National statistics office (Statistics New Zealand)
- Partnership across government agencies through the OSS
- Independent advice to the Minister of Statistics (ACOS)
- On an international scale NZ's system is similar to that of Australia and around the norm in terms of centralised v decentralised

What is the Official Statistics System?



Outcomes sought from the OSS



Governance of the OSS

Body	Description of Role
1. Minister	Minister responsible for Vote Statistics and through this the OSS.
2. Advisory Committee on Official Statistics (ACOS)	Provides advice to the Minister. Represents the interests of the wider statistical community, including users, producers, and suppliers of statistical data to ensure that official statistics, specifically Tier 1, are developed to meet the needs of users and producers.
3. Government Statistician/CE of Statistics New Zealand	Leadership of the OSS through policy advice, co-ordination, review, the development of standards, protocols and policies, and a programme of statistical research
4. Chief Executives of producer agencies	Contribute to achieving outcomes of trust, accessibility and value for money. Production and dissemination of Tier 1 statistics in accordance with principles and protocols.
5. Officials committee	Key point of liaison across agencies. Key role in providing advice and overseeing progress.

Tier 1 statistics

- A set of key official statistics that are **performance** measures of NZ
- Identification based on purpose - not who produces them
- Meet agreed criteria
- Initial list developed by CEs for consideration by the Minister
- Carry obligation to abide by Principles and Protocols

Supporting protocols

1. Quality
2. Frameworks, standards and classifications
3. Respondent management
4. Confidentiality, privacy and security
5. Release practices
6. Management, documentation and preservation of statistical records

Initial focus on access and respondents

Access

- Single point of access to Tier 1 survey and administrative data
- Cross-government portal – Statisphere
- Release practices

Respondent management

- Notification process for all surveys
- Burden management process for large surveys

Increasing focus on prioritisation

Domain plans

- Plans identifying information needs and priorities are agreed across agencies and consulted on with sector stakeholders
- Plans completed for agriculture, energy, family statistics
- Underway for economic, environment, crime and justice, housing, and culture and identity statistics
- Priorities across domains are more challenging

Advisory committees

- Strengthened advisory committee processes for economic statistics, programme of official social statistics, Maori statistics
- Environmental statistics processes are less unified
- ACOS provides some across-domain perspective

Concluding Remarks

- Suggested Key Challenges
 - Find issues of common interest
 - Identify where there are feasible significant gains
 - Look for opportunities to “stand alongside” other agencies
 - Make good use of credible advocates outside the Government system