

## **Senior ABS Research Managers meet with CSSM**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is one of the most important industry partners for the Centre for Statistical and Survey Methodology (CSSM). In particular, since 2004-05, the ABS and CSSM have carried out joint research within the framework of a Collaboration Agreement, which, among other things, funds a Professorial Fellow within CSSM (the first funded Chair at UoW). As part of this research partnership, the ABS and CSSM carry out an annual research planning exercise, where senior research managers from the ABS meeting with members of CSSM at Wollongong to set an agreed joint research agenda for the coming financial year. The 2008 meeting took place at UoW on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of May, with the ABS represented by Frank Yu, Jill Charker, Greg Griffiths and Bill Gross, and the CSSM by David Steel, Ray Chambers and Robert Clark. The discussions this year were very much focussed on how research carried out at CSSM could contribute towards the ABS strategic objectives in the medium term, and in particular, how this research gave the ABS the capacity to enhance and promote the emerging National Statistical Service (NSS) via joint CSSM/ABS 'iconic' projects that contributed to all four dimensions (projects, infrastructure, values and capability) of the NSS. A number of such projects were discussed over the two day meeting, with an agreement at the close to focus on four areas where current CSSM research is expected to have a major impact. These are methodologies for analysis of combined data, in particular data obtained by linking surveys, censuses and administrative databases; issues in confidentialisation of official statistics data, particularly assessment and minimisation of information loss; design and analysis of longitudinal studies in an Australian context; and methodology for small sample inference, particularly in the context of providing accurate statistics for regions and small areas.