Getting commitment to a new editing strategy

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Context: Statistics New Zealand

- 2004: strategy to streamline and standardise business processes, methods, and systems.

- Since: standardisation important initiative.

The Household Economic Survey is currently migrating to the Household Processing Platform.

Need:

- Support from HES staff to ensure goals are met
- Management support
Household Economic Survey (HES)

-One of three survey vehicles in the Household Survey program.
-HES income + expenditure
-HES Income is used to support policy development and decision making by government agencies
  - Unit record datasets are key outputs
-Internal clients include the Prices team (CPI)
Aim and problems

- REDUCE MANUAL EDITING

- Current system, micro-editing completed by:
  
  - Statistical Processors
  - Statistical Analysts
  - HES Team
  - Prices Team
  - Statistical Analysts

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How: review

- Reviewed current editing process.

- Observed level of editing and methods used by statistical processors to resolve edit failures.

- Interviewed statistical analysts to determine their involvement in editing tasks.

- Drafted recommendations for an editing strategy.
How: workshops

1. Kaizen problem solving workshop
   - Discussed editing process in detail
   - Identified root causes

2. Roles and responsibilities for the editing process:
   - Within the HES team and with Prices team.

Outlier detection in Banff demonstrated to the HES team to get buy-in.
How: Methodological Standard for Editing and Imputation

- Standard used to guide production of the strategy.
  - Provide users with fit-for-purpose, plausible data and outputs by the most effective and efficient means.
  - Ensure all users are well informed about the quality of the data and statistical outputs.
  - Continuously improve our end-to-end business process and overall data quality.

- A HES editing strategy was drafted.
Outcome

- Agreement from the HES team.
- Statistical Methods will provide training to staff undertaking E&I where needed.
- Evaluation of the strategy will take place at the end of HES 15/16.
Challenges and lessons learnt

- Introducing changes in the editing culture where there is strong emphasis on perfection is hard.

- Staff need to understand the connection between work and the goals of the organisation.

- It is important to understand the root causes for the need to do editing.