Managing risks to statistics – a journey towards high performance
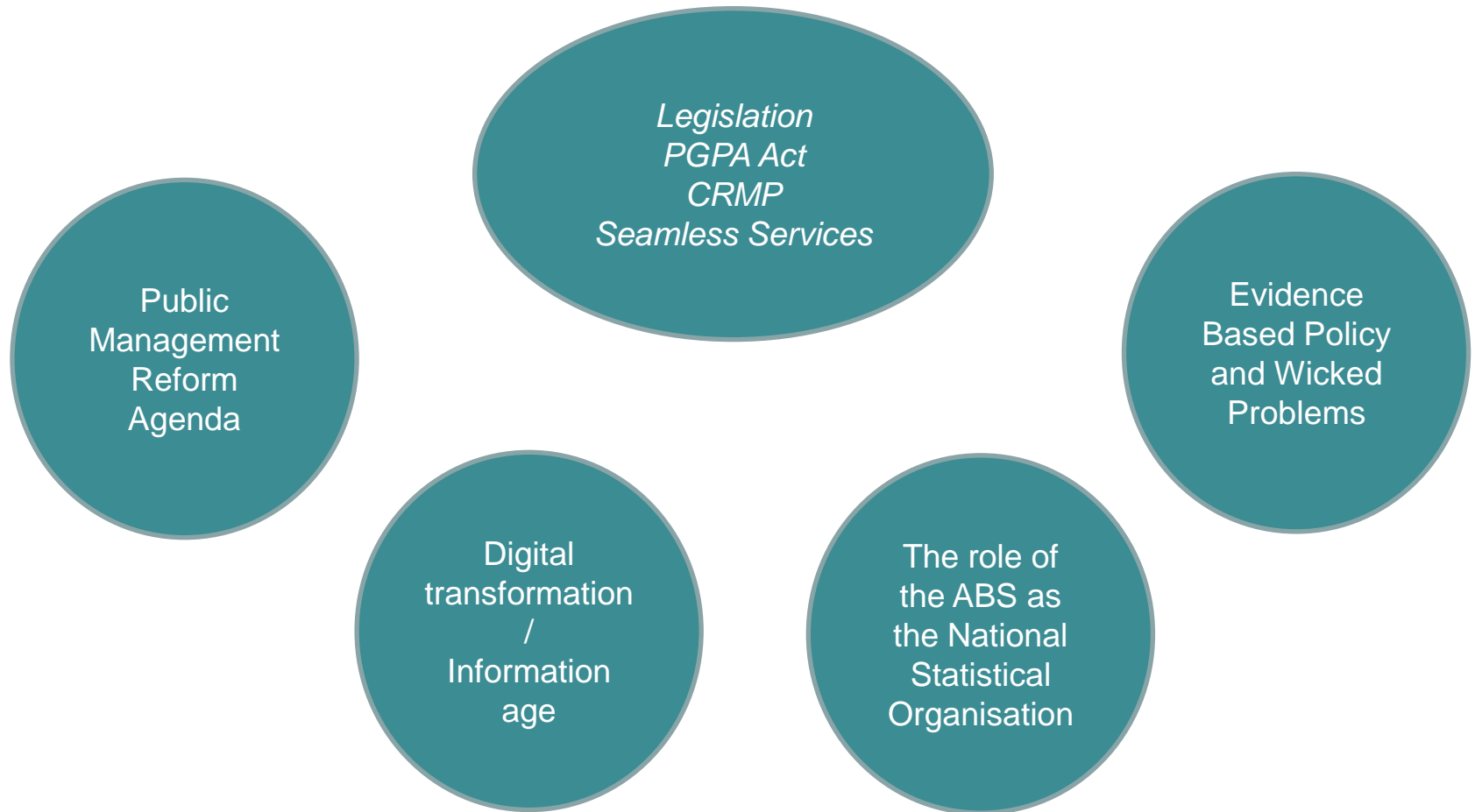
Presented by: Phillip Wise
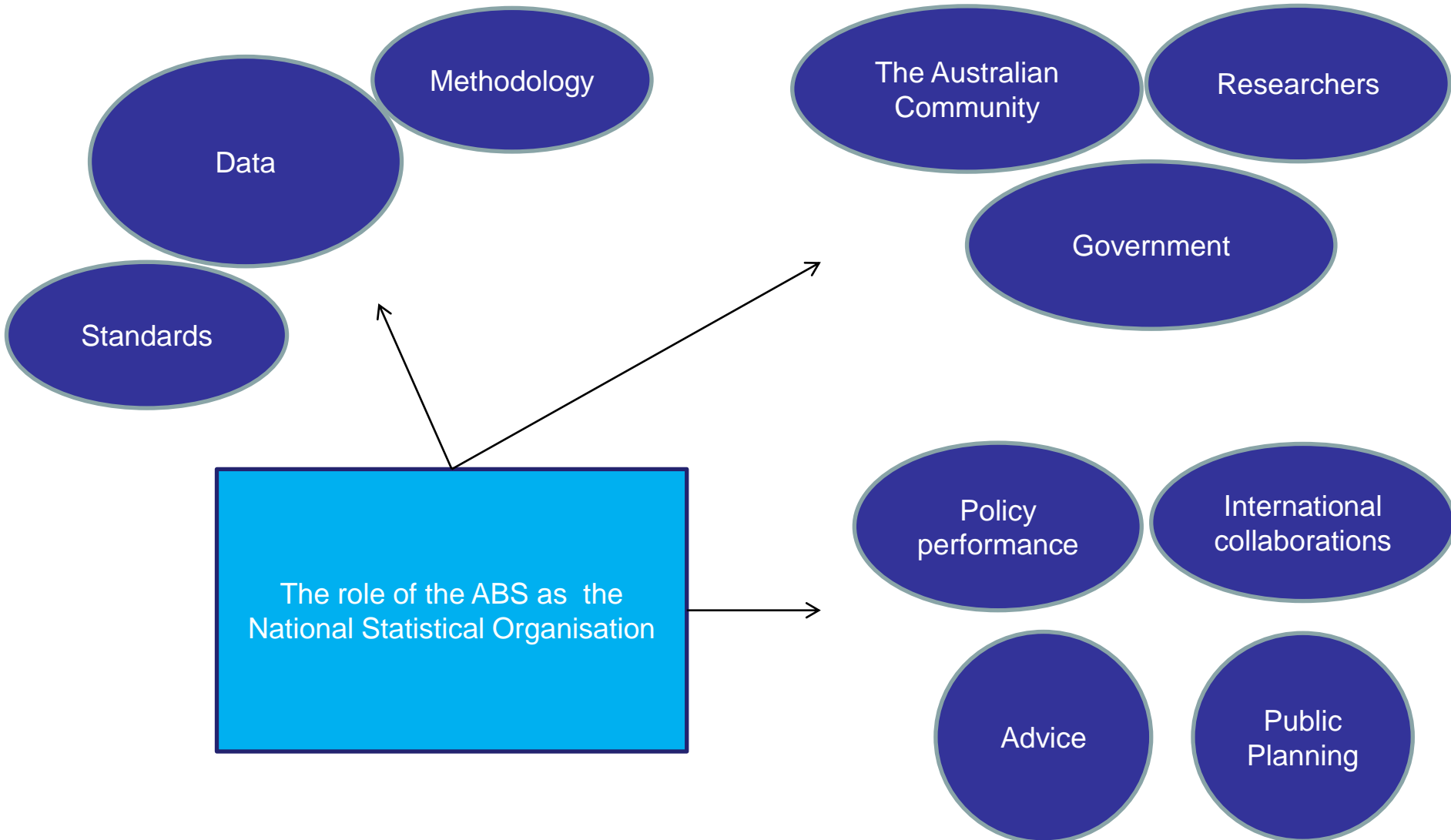
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National context

Legislation
PGPA Act
CRMP
Seamless Services

Public Management Reform Agenda

Evidence Based Policy and Wicked Problems

Digital transformation / Information age

The role of the ABS as the National Statistical Organisation

The role of the ABS

For more information, visit ww.abs.gov.au and click 'About us'

Methodology

Data

Standards

The Australian Community

Researchers

Government

The role of the ABS as the National Statistical Organisation

Policy performance

International collaborations

Advice

Public Planning

Where did we start?

Perceptions

- Highly respected statistical organisation
- Conservative risk appetite
- Centralised decision making in senior management
- Tendency to seek perfect solutions
- Slow to adapt to change
- Feedback: less responsive than expected

→ *Good, but room for improvement*

New Vision: **unleashing the power of statistics for a better Australia**

Drivers of change

Findings

APSC Capability Review

Technical Review of Labour Force

Government investment

Engage more with stakeholders to understand needs

Have clear accountability for risk but collaborate and share responsibility for management

Adopt a more contemporary approach to risk management

Be more responsive to change

Implement measurement studies to understand statistical impacts

So what is new?

- Retained conservative risk appetite for major economic indicators /// Articulated enabling appetite for other areas

- Focus on fitness-for-purpose rather than risk mitigation
  take opportunities / fall forwards / responsibly manage risk

- Clearer accountability, more collaboration to manage risk

- Prioritisation of stakeholder engagement

and in our statistical areas …

- Statistical risk /// Define quality by user expectations

- Using business process mapping and understanding of risks to inform placement of quality gates

- Understanding user needs and the impact on them of statistical failure

- Review and document risk management processes

- Building capability and succession planning

Process

- Articulate organisational priorities around statistical objectives and fit-for-purpose risk management plans

- Identify sources of potential risk

- Explicitly agree on statistical risk measurement strategy, adjustment methods, and implementation plan

- Communication, monitoring and reporting

Role of impact methodology

Menu of statistical impact measurement options	Menu of statistical impact adjustment options	Menu of statistical impact implementation options
• parallel run • parallel estimation • embedded field experiments (a variation of parallel run) • non-embedded field experiments (via pilot tests) • Sensitivity analysis • Historical modelling	• backcasting • bridging • "business provisions" type adjustment • Prior corrections (via seasonal adjustment process)	• phase-in • flip-in

Job not done yet …

- Still on transformation journey
- Continue to develop the preferred culture
- Finish the planning in priority areas
- Roll it through statistical areas
- Establish business intelligence tools for risk
- Maintain engagement as a priority

Summary and key points

- Fit-for-purpose risk management – understand risk appetite

- Stakeholder engagement – manage expectations, effective communication

- Understanding statistical objectives and user defined quality

- Accountabilities and responsibilities for managing risk

Questions and discussion

Contact:

Phillip Wise – phillip.wise@abs.gov.au

Or methodology@abs.gov.au