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Yulu-Burri-Ba Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health acknowledges the Quandamooka people as the traditional custodians of the lands and seas where we work. Yulu-Burri-Ba also pays respects to Elders, past, present and future.

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UNDERSTANDING CRIME TRENDS IN AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES

When people hear the word crime, they often picture serious incidents that make headlines. In day-to-day life, though, the crimes that affect most Australian communities are usually more ordinary and more preventable. They include things like theft from cars, break-ins, scams, shoplifting, property damage and online fraud.

Understanding those patterns matters because crime prevention works best when communities focus on the risks they are actually likely to face.



LOCAL CONDITIONS LOCAL RISKS.

Crime trends can vary from one suburb, town or region to another.



A busy metropolitan area may deal with more theft from vehicles, retail crime or fraud.



A regional town may be more affected by break-ins, machinery theft or offences linked to limited lighting and large distances between properties.



Coastal areas may see seasonal changes when visitor numbers rise.



That does not mean one place is unsafe and another is safe. It means local conditions shape local risks.

THE RISE OF DIGITAL CRIME

Technology has changed crime in a major way. Traditional property crime still exists, but online crime is now part of everyday life

Australians are increasingly targeted through

- Fake parcel notifications
- Impersonation messages
- Remote access scams
- Investment fraud
- Romance scams



In many cases, the offender is never physically near the victim. That means crime awareness today must include digital awareness as well as neighbourhood awareness.



OPPORTUNITIES CRIME

One of the most common features of community crime is opportunism. Many offences happen because a person sees an easy chance.



A handbag left on a car seat



An unlocked garage



Tools visible in a ute tray

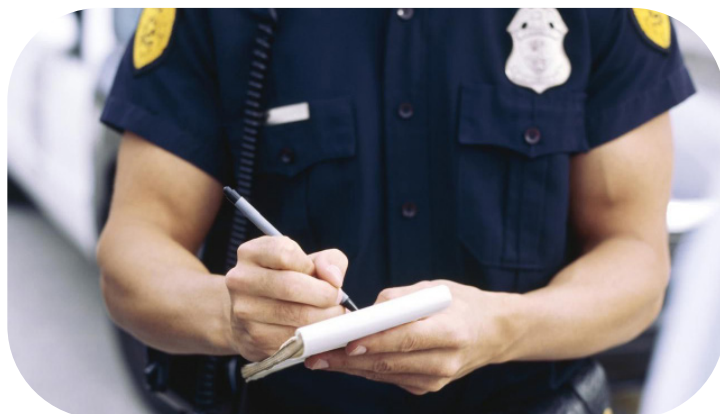


A social media post showing a family is away for the weekend can all create opportunity

That is why crime prevention advice often sounds simple:

- ✓ Lock doors
- ✓ Secure vehicles
- ✓ Improve lighting
- ✓ Avoid advertising when a home is empty

These steps may be basic, but they remove the easy opportunities many offenders look for.





PERCEPTION VS REALITY

It is also important to separate perception from reality. Public concern about crime can rise quickly after a high-profile incident or a series of posts on local social media pages.

- ✓ Sometimes those concerns reflect a genuine pattern.
- ✗ Sometimes they create the impression that crime is everywhere, even when official reporting data shows a more mixed picture.



This is why reliable information matters. Community awareness should be informed, not driven only by rumour or fear.



WHY REPORTING MATTERS

Reporting plays a big role in understanding trends. Police and community safety organisations rely on reports to identify

- ✓ **Hotspots**
- ✓ **Repeat offending patterns**
- ✓ **Emerging issues**



If people do not report theft, fraud or suspicious activity, the picture becomes less accurate. Even incidents that seem minor can help show whether a certain street, shopping area or type of offence is becoming a problem.



COMMUNITIES ROLE IN CRIME PREVENTION

Another factor is that crime prevention is not just about police response.



Local councils



Businesses



Schools



Sporting clubs



Residents

- ✓ **Better street lighting**
- ✓ **Secure public amenities**
- ✓ **Clear sightlines**
- ✓ **Youth engagement programs**
- ✓ **Active local communication**



Prevention is often strongest where communities are connected and practical.



CHANGING CONDITIONS & RISK AWARENESS

Seasonal and economic factors can also influence crime:



Holiday periods can create more opportunities for burglary when homes are left unattended.



Cost-of-living pressure can increase some forms of low-level property crime and fraud.



Major weather events may also affect crime patterns, particularly when damaged homes or evacuated areas become more vulnerable.



Awareness does not mean making excuses for crime — it means understanding when risks may increase.



A BALANCED APPROACH TO SAFETY

For everyday residents, the most effective approach is balanced awareness:

- ✓ Know what types of crime are common in your area.
- ✓ Follow local police updates and trusted safety advice.
- ✓ Use common-sense security habits at home, in public and online.
- ✓ Report incidents properly rather than relying only on community gossip pages.



Most communities are not defined by crime, but all communities benefit when people stay informed and prepared.

CONCLUSION



Crime trends are never completely static. They shift with technology, local conditions and social behaviour. The goal is not to alarm people. It is to help them understand that awareness is one of the strongest tools any community has.

When residents know what to look for and how to respond, they are in a much better position to protect themselves, support their neighbours and make their local area safer.



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CONNECTION TO THE POLICE

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SAFETY



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SAFE & CONFIDENTIAL

Your identity is protected at all times



HELP STOP CRIME

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MAKE A REAL IMPACT

Even small details can help solve serious crimes

WHAT YOU CAN REPORT

- ✓ People wanted by police
- ✓ Unsolved crimes
- ✓ Planned criminal activity
- ✓ Suspicious or unusual behaviour



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HOW IT WORKS

01

Share Information
Call or report online

02

Stay Anonymous
No personal details required

03

Police Investigate
Your tip is sent to law enforcement

04

Help Keep Community Safe
Your information makes a difference



**IN AN EMERGENCY,
CALL 000 IMMEDIATELY**

Crime Stoppers is not for emergency situations. Always call Triple Zero (000) in an emergency.

DON'T JUST POST IT. REPORT IT.



SIMPLE WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR RISK OF THEFT

Small habits. Big protection.



Most theft is not sophisticated. In many cases, it happens because somebody spots an easy opportunity and takes it. That is why some of the best crime prevention advice can seem almost too simple: lock the car, take your wallet with you, close the garage, pick up the parcel, and avoid leaving expensive items in plain view.

These habits are not dramatic, but they work. In communities across Australia, reducing theft risk often comes down to making property harder to access and less attractive to steal.



VEHICLE SAFETY

Cars are one of the most common targets for opportunistic theft. A vehicle does not have to be stolen for the incident to be costly. Theft from inside the car can be just as disruptive.

Common items stolen:

- Bags • Wallets
- Tools & shopping
- Phones & laptops
- Even loose change

- ✓ Always lock your vehicle
- ✓ Close all windows
- ✓ Remove valuables from sight
- ✓ Park in a garage or well-lit area



HOME SECURITY BASICS

Homes are another major focus, but protection doesn't have to be expensive.

Start with the basics:

- ✓ Lock all doors and windows properly
- ✓ Ensure gates close securely
- ✓ Trim shrubs for clear visibility
- ✓ Install motion-sensor lighting



A well-maintained and visible home is less appealing to offenders.



PARCEL THEFT

With online shopping increasing, parcel theft has become more common.

Reduce your risk:

- ✓ Use parcel lockers
- ✓ Request signature on delivery
- ✓ Deliver to workplace or secure location
- ✓ Ask a trusted neighbour to collect parcels



PREVENTION TODAY | PROTECTION TOMORROW | **SAFER COMMUNITIES FOR ALL**



SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS

Social media can unintentionally increase risk.

Be mindful of:

- Posting real-time travel updates
- Sharing holiday plans publicly
- Showing high-value purchases

- ✓ Adjust privacy settings
- ✓ Post after returning home
- ✓ Limit sensitive details



PERSONAL THEFT

Theft can happen anywhere—cafés, gyms, transport, parks.

Common situations:

- Phone left on table
- Wallet in open spaces
- Bag on chair

- ✓ Keep items close and within sight
- ✓ Use zipped bags
- ✓ Stay alert in public spaces



BIKES, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

These are frequent targets and require proper security.

- ✓ Use strong, high-quality locks
- ✓ Lock frame to a fixed object
- ✓ Record serial numbers
- ✓ Keep photos & receipts



COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Communities play a big role in prevention.

Be aware of:

- Suspicious activity
- Unknown people checking properties
- Open garages or unattended areas

- ✓ Report concerns
- ✓ Stay observant
- ✓ Support neighbours



BUSINESS PROTECTION

Businesses benefit from simple security improvements.



VISIBILITY



SECURITY



STAFF



TRAINING

- ✓ Clear visibility inside store
- ✓ Secure cash handling
- ✓ Staff presence
- ✓ Monitor entrances
- ✓ Staff training



THEFT PREVENTION IS NOT ABOUT FEAR—IT'S ABOUT AWARENESS.

Small actions like locking up, staying alert, and reducing visibility can make a big difference.

THE HARDER THE TARGET, THE LESS ATTRACTIVE IT BECOMES.



LOCK UP



STAY ALERT



SECURE YOUR PROPERTY



LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER



AFP



KEEPING AUSTRALIANS SAFE EVERY DAY

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) is Australia's national law enforcement agency.

They work across Australia and internationally to protect lives, communities, and national interests.



KEY RESPONSIBILITIES



COUNTER TERRORISM

Preventing and responding to terrorism threats.



CYBERCRIME PROTECTION

Combating online scams, fraud and cyber threats.



SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

Targeting criminal networks and illegal trafficking.



CHILD PROTECTION

Removing children from harm and targeting offenders.



AIRPORT SECURITY

Keeping travellers and airports safe.



FRAUD & CORRUPTION

Protecting public funds and national integrity.

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POLICE ASSISTANCE:

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PREVENT

crime before it happens

2

DETECT

criminal activity quickly

3

INVESTIGATE

serious offences

4

PROTECT

communities nationwide

5

WORK GLOBALLY

with international partners

MAKING A REAL IMPACT

The AFP continues to disrupt organised crime, fraud, terrorism, cybercrime and trafficking across Australia. We are committed to keeping Australia safe now and into the future.

- ✓ Disrupting criminal networks
- ✓ Combating cybercrime and scams
- ✓ Securing borders and airports
- ✓ Supporting national security
- ✓ Protecting children and vulnerable people



**STRONG COMMUNITIES
NEED STRONG PROTECTION**

The AFP is proud to serve the Australian community with professionalism, integrity and courage. Together, we can build a safer Australia.



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NATIONAL SECURITY | COMMUNITY | SAFETY | JUSTICE

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SCAMS IN AUSTRALIA

HOW CRIMINALS TARGET INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES

For many people, the word scam still brings to mind an obvious fake email full of spelling mistakes and wild promises. Today's scams are often much more convincing than that. They can look professional, sound urgent and arrive through everyday channels such as text message, email, social media, phone calls or online marketplaces.

Criminals are good at exploiting trust, pressure and distraction, which is why scam awareness has become an essential part of community safety in Australia.



01

IMPERSONATION SCAMS

A common tactic is impersonation. A scammer may pretend to be from a bank, government agency, delivery company, phone provider or technical support service.

The message might claim:

- Suspicious activity on your account
- A delivery problem
- An unpaid fine
- A tax issue requiring urgent action

The goal is to trigger panic so the person reacts without thinking. Once that happens, they may click a link, share a code or provide personal information.



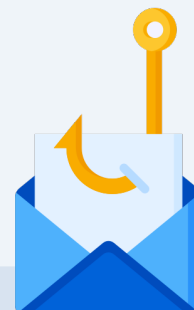
02

PHISHING SCAMS

Phishing remains one of the most common scam methods. Fraudulent emails, messages or websites are designed to collect:

- Login credentials
- Bank/card details
- Identity information

These scams often look legitimate. Branding appears real, wording feels familiar, and even web addresses can look convincing at a glance. Victims believe they are logging into a trusted platform while unknowingly handing data to criminals.



03

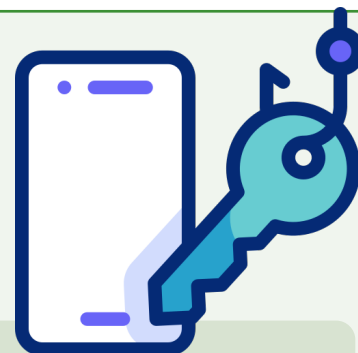
PHONE SCAMS

Phone scams feel more personal and can be very effective.

Common examples include:

- Fake bank alerts
- "Technical support" warnings
- Calls pretending to be law enforcement

A major warning sign is urgency. Scammers often demand: Immediate action • Secrecy • Unusual payment methods (gift cards, crypto, transfers)



STOP. THINK. VERIFY.

A genuine organisation will understand if you take time to check.

04

BUSINESS TARGETING

Businesses are frequent targets and can suffer major financial losses.



Common scam types:

- Invoice scams
- Payment redirection scams
- Business email compromise

Example: A scammer impersonates a supplier and sends new bank details. Without verification, payments are redirected to criminals.

Always confirm payment changes through a trusted contact method.

05

INVESTMENT SCAMS

Investment scams promise: High returns with Low risk



They often use:

- Professional-looking websites
- Fake testimonials
- Social media ads

Some include fake trading platforms showing false profits. Once money is sent, recovery is extremely difficult.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

06

EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION

Scammers frequently exploit emotions:



- ✓ **Romance scams** > build trust, then request money
- ✓ **Job scams** > target job seekers
- ✓ **Charity scams** > appear after disasters
- ✓ **Marketplace scams** > fake payments & delivery tricks

The pattern is consistent:

Build trust > Create urgency > Request money or information

07

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

One of the best defenses is to slow down.



- ✓ Verify organisations using official contact details
- ✓ Avoid clicking unknown links
Never share passwords or one-time codes
- ✓ Do not allow remote access unless fully trusted

For businesses:

Always verify payment changes independently

08

DIGITAL SAFETY HABITS

Good habits reduce risk significantly:



- ✓ Use strong passwords
- ✓ Enable multi-factor authentication
- ✓ Keep software updated
- ✓ Limit personal information shared online

Even small details can help scammers create convincing attacks.

09

REPORTING SCAMS

Many victims feel embarrassed, which prevents reporting. This allows scammers to continue.



Reporting helps:

- ✓ Track patterns
- ✓ Warn communities
- ✓ Prevent further incidents



Speaking up protects others.

Scams are not just a technology issue — they are a human issue. They succeed by exploiting trust, attention and emotion.



The good news is awareness works.

When individuals and businesses recognise warning signs and take a moment to pause, they become much harder to deceive.



AUSTRALIAN POLICE JOURNAL

ISSN 1831-5019 VOL. 29 NO. 4

PORT POWER

WARNING

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True Crime • Police History • Education • Community Safety

YOUTH CRIME AND EARLY INTERVENTION



Youth crime is one of those topics that can quickly become heated. People are understandably concerned when offences involve young people, especially when incidents affect local safety or receive strong media attention.

At the same time, productive community responses depend on more than frustration. If the goal is long-term crime prevention, early intervention has to be part of the conversation. Communities are safer when they respond to youth offending in ways that focus on **accountability, support and prevention together.**



UNDERSTANDING THE BIGGER PICTURE

Young people do need clear boundaries and consequences when they break the law. That part matters.

But it is also true that many young people involved in offending are dealing with other issues at the same time, including:

-  **School disengagement**
-  **Unstable housing**
-  **Family stress**
-  **Trauma**
-  **Substance misuse**
-  **Poor peer influences**
-  **Limited supervision**
-  **Lack of structured activities**



None of that excuses criminal behaviour — but it helps explain why a punishment-only approach often does not reduce repeat offending.



WHAT IS EARLY INTERVENTION?

Early intervention is based on a simple idea:

The sooner risks are identified, the better the outcome.

This can happen in different environments:



Schools: Attendance issues, behaviour changes



Community groups: Social pressure, peer influence



Youth services: Emotional or behavioural stress



Health professionals: Early warning signs

The earlier support begins, the greater the chance of preventing more serious problems later.



THE POWER OF CONNECTION

Connection is one of the strongest protective factors. Young people who feel connected to school, family, work, sport, culture or positive mentors are more likely to make safer choices.



Sports



Music & creative programs



Leadership groups



After-school activities



School



Family



Work



Sport



Culture



Positive mentors

These create routine, confidence and structure, helping reduce risk.





EDUCATION & PATHWAYS MATTER

Education also plays a central role. A young person who is falling behind, excluded, or regularly absent from school may be at greater risk of drifting into harmful behaviour.

Supportive solutions include:

-  **Alternative learning pathways**
-  **Practical training programs**
-  **Work experience opportunities**
-  **Apprenticeships**
-  **Mentorship programs**

These provide direction, responsibility and purpose.



SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Family support is a major factor in youth outcomes.

Parents and carers often need practical help, such as:

-  **Access to services**
-  **Behaviour support**
-  **Counselling**
-  **Respite care**
-  **Guidance for difficult situations**

When families are supported, young people benefit — and community safety improves.



RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

It is also important to be careful about how youth crime is discussed publicly.

-  **Broad negative labels can:**
- Do harm
 - Damage trust
 - Reduce effectiveness of intervention

-  **Important reality:**
- Most young people are not involved in crime
 - Many contribute positively through school, work and community activities



Balanced conversations help build trust and effective solutions.



ROLE OF POLICE & PREVENTION SYSTEMS

Police and youth justice systems remain essential. Serious offences require clear responses.

However, prevention often works best before escalation, through:

-  **Outreach programs**
-  **Diversion strategies**
-  **Restorative approaches**
-  **Targeted support services**



Strong outcomes happen when agencies collaborate and communities stay engaged.



COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

Residents also play a role in prevention:

-  **Support youth programs**
-  **Encourage safe public spaces**
-  **Report concerns responsibly**



The goal is not to ignore problems — but to focus on what actually reduces risk over time.

CONCLUSION

Youth crime is not solved by one speech, one arrest or one policy announcement. It is shaped by many influences, and it takes steady work to change those influences for the better.

Early intervention is not a soft option. It is a practical crime prevention strategy.

When communities invest in support, structure and opportunity while still expecting accountability, they give young people a better chance of making different choices and give everyone a better chance of living in a safer community.





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HOW COMMUNITIES AND POLICE WORK TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME



Crime prevention is strongest when it is shared. Police have a central role in responding to crime, investigating offences and protecting public safety, but they cannot build safer communities on their own.

Residents, businesses, councils, schools, sporting clubs and local organisations all influence what a community feels like and how safe it is. When those groups **work constructively with police, crime prevention becomes more practical, more local and more effective.**



BUILDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Community and police partnerships are often at their best when they are simple and consistent. This may include:

-  Local meetings
-  Neighbourhood forums
-  School visits
-  Business briefings
-  Safety campaigns
-  Regular updates on local issues



These interactions help communities understand what is happening locally and help police hear concerns directly from the people affected.



THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUST

Trust matters in both directions.

Residents are more likely to:

- Report suspicious activity
- Provide useful information
- Follow prevention advice



...when they feel police are approachable and engaged.

Police, in turn, respond more effectively when communities:

- Share accurate information
- Avoid rumours and speculation



A well-informed community responds more calmly and more usefully when incidents occur.



PRACTICAL PROBLEM-SOLVING

One of the most effective ways to prevent crime is through local problem-solving.



If a car park has repeated thefts, the answer may not be enforcement alone. It may also involve lighting improvements, better sightlines, signage, CCTV placement or communication with nearby businesses.



If a shopping strip is dealing with repeat shoplifting or anti-social behaviour, local traders, council officers and police may all need to work together on design, reporting and prevention. Crime is often reduced when the environment itself becomes less supportive of offending.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Education plays a key role in prevention. Police and community safety groups provide guidance on:



Scams



Break-in prevention



Personal safety



Online fraud



Reporting options

This allows people to take immediate practical action, such as:

- Improving home security
- Reviewing business payment systems
- Recognising scam attempts



ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE

Schools and youth programs are important partnership spaces.

Positive engagement between police and young people helps:

- ✓ Reduce distrust
- ✓ Improve understanding
- ✓ Support early intervention

This works best through:

- 📖 Education sessions
- 👥 Community programs
- 🔄 Joint events

Not just enforcement.



THE ROLE OF RESIDENTS

Working with police does not mean acting like police.

Good community partnership involves:

- 👁️ Observation
- 📄 Responsible reporting
- ⚠️ Prevention

Residents should:

- ✓ Report suspicious activity properly
- ✓ Keep descriptions factual
- ✓ Support safety initiatives
- ✓ Avoid confrontation or risk



Communities are strongest when they stay alert, calm and responsible.



THE ROLE OF BUSINESSES

Businesses play a valuable role in identifying early patterns, such as:



Repeat theft



Fake currency



Aggressive behaviour



Scam attempts

Business groups can also collaborate on:

- ✓ Safety campaigns
- ✓ Staff training
- ✓ Local prevention strategies

When businesses:

- ✓ Share information quickly
- ✓ Report incidents properly



...it helps police identify patterns and respond more effectively.



BUILDING LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIPS

Strong partnerships are built over time, not just after incidents.

They grow through:

- ✓ Regular communication
- ✓ Practical cooperation
- ✓ Visible results



When communities see real outcomes, confidence increases.

CONCLUSION

Every community wants to feel safe, but safety is not created by enforcement alone

Police bring expertise, authority and investigative power. Communities bring local knowledge and everyday awareness.

When these strengths come together, crime prevention becomes part of how a community operates — not just a response after something goes wrong.

It is built through:

- ✓ Relationships
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Consistent local action



The most effective partnerships are not dramatic. They are consistent, respectful and useful. They help people understand risks, solve local problems and respond before issues become larger. That is the real value of communities and police working together: not just reacting after crime happens, but helping prevent it in the first place.





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Timely data that reflects Australia today



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Your information is protected by law

KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS

POPULATION	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS	GDP GROWTH
 27.7 M+ Estimated residents (Sept 2025)	 4.3% (March 2026)	 3.7% Annual change (Feb 2026)	 \$2,051+ full-time adults	 0.8% Quarterly change (Dec 2025)

WHAT ABS MEASURES



ECONOMY

Inflation, GDP, business, trade, finance



POPULATION

Births, deaths, migration, demographics



JOBS & LABOUR

Employment, wages, vacancies, workforce



HEALTH

Life expectancy, causes of death, wellbeing



HOUSING

Households, rent, homelessness, living costs



ENVIRONMENT

Water, land, sustainability metrics

DATA TOOLS & SERVICES

- ✓ Census Data
- ✓ Data by Region
- ✓ API Access
- ✓ Research Microdata
- ✓ TableBuilder Tools
- ✓ Interactive Dashboards

HOW ABS HELPS

- 1**
COLLECTS
national data
- 2**
ANALYSES
trends and change
- 3**
PUBLISHES
trusted statistics
- 4**
SUPPORTS
policy and planning
- 5**
INFORMS
public understanding



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THROUGH DATA

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Statistics for business,
study, media and
everyday decisions.



CONTACT WITH US



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NUMBERS THAT SHAPE THE NATION

