

~~When~~^{if} I grow up I want to be a ...

STATISTICIAN

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Director, I & J Management Services

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My career

- **Qualifications**

- B.Sc. (Hons), University of Melbourne, 1986: Statistics/Mathematics
Reading Project: Optimal Stopping Rules – The Secretary Problem
- MBA, Monash University, 1997
Thesis: Performance Measurement in the Public Sector

- **Experience**

- 1987 - 1988 Australian Bureau of Statistics
Senior Research Officer
- 1989 - 1994 Occupational Health & Safety Authority
Manager, Planning and Review
- 1994 - 1998 Deloitte & Touche Consulting
Manager
- 1998 - I & J Management Services
Director

What do I do?

- Survey design and administration
- Statistical analysis and advice
- Program evaluation
- Financial/statistical modelling
- Strategic/business planning

Clients

- Department of Education, Science and Technology
- Australian Flexible Learning Framework
- Australian Safety & Compensation Council

Clients

- ANZ
- Telstra
- Coles Myer
- Holden
- Puma
- Catholic Church Insurances

Clients

- Department of Education
- Department of Human Services
- Department for Victorian Communities
- Department of Primary Industries
- Multimedia Victoria
- State Library of Victoria
- Building Commission

Magic moments

- **Small area estimates of Retail Census/Survey, ABS**
Producing estimates of retail sales from basically no data
- **WorkCover Industry Model, OHSA**
Using data to dramatically transform business practice and efficiency
- **GM Card, Holden**
Taking 100+ variables and finding the six that mattered
- **OHS Audits, Telstra**
Using information to make better decisions (with only about $\frac{1}{2}$ a day's work)
- **Training in Use of Data**
Demystifying numbers and statistics for people working in communities ...
anywhere, anytime

Demand for maths/stats skills

- Organisations need information to make better decisions
- Few organisations have access to high quality numeracy and analytical skills, let alone high-order mathematical/statistical skills
- Many people (including those in senior management) are unfamiliar with basic statistical concepts
- A lot of data is presented in ways that is confusing and overwhelming for the average reader
- Major corporate and government organisations are now realising they have to better use information and access the right skills



What do you need?

- **Solid technical skill base** You might only use it 5% of your working life, but you need it ... 1) to make sense of that 5%, and 2) for confidence and credibility.
- **Ability to think clearly and solve problems** by taking what is (or often only appears) complex and making it simple.
- **Preparedness to under-utilise your skills** Just because you can do amazing things with numbers doesn't mean you need to do it all the time. Don't underestimate the power of a % distribution, a 2 x 2 table or a line chart.
- **Ability to present data in a simple way** that gets your message across to your audience. Remember, some people like numbers, some like pictures, and some like words.
- **Common sense** The 'bleeding obvious' is often the best place to start looking for an answer. (You'll be surprised how rare common sense is).
- **Ability to listen, patience and a sense of humour** A recent newspaper article called for government intervention to overcome the 'crisis in our schools' where 50% are performing below average.



Your career

- There is unmet and increasing demand for your skills
- There are job opportunities in major corporates, government, research organisations, market research, consulting
- Be prepared to take time to find your niche, and be flexible to changing conditions
- Enjoy what you do
- Your career can be intellectually stimulating, personally fulfilling and financially rewarding.