Interacting with a statistician
What is statistical consulting?

- One-to-one discussion between client and statistician
- Training courses, workshops and seminars on both method and practice of statistics
- Development of statistical resources for clients to help themselves
- Collaborative work on projects with substantive statistical issues
- Professional development for the statisticians
Stages in statistical consultancy

• Research question, aims of study, relevant populations to formulate research grant and PhD proposals
• Study design, variables, measurement, population, sampling
• Data collection and management
• Formulation of plans for data analysis
• Advise on data analysis, interpretation and presentation of results
• Carry out statistical analysis
• Critical statistical review of manuscripts and grants prior to submission
• Response / rebuttal of reviewers’ comments
Structure of a consulting session

- Scope of the meeting
- Understanding the issues
- Identify and discuss options
- Give advice or explanation
- Conclusion and summary
- What happens next - who will do what and when?
How to interact with a statistician

• Talk to us early
  – Help to formulate the problem and approach to it
  – Be prepared to explain the setting
  – Allow time for the statistician to think
  – Knowledge of basic statistical concepts and language improves communication

• Design dictates the form of analysis
  – Critical to get the design right before you collect data
  – Incorrect or inappropriate data collection cannot be rectified during the analysis phase

• Take opportunities to improve your statistical literacy
How to contact the Statistics Unit

- **Email:**
  Statistical.Services@qimrberghofer.edu.au

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