

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975: sub-section 6(3)

**PROPOSAL NO. 2 OF 2021
BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

SURVEY OF INCOME AND HOUSING (SIH) / HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY (HES) 2021–22

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect detailed information on income, wealth, expenditure and housing to provide a measure of the economic and social wellbeing of Australian households.

The information will be collected:

- between July 2021 and June 2022;
- as a sample of about 29,000 private dwellings (SIH), with a subset of 22,000 asked additional expenditure information (HES);
- from all persons aged 15 years and over in the selected household;
- by face to face interview with a paper diary to record expenditure for a week and an option of a web form for those not required to record expenditure;
- across Australia, excluding very remote areas.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- demographic and socioeconomic characteristics (including education, labour force status and disability status);
- financial details (including income, assets and liabilities, and household expenditure);
- experiences of financial stress or deprivation; and
- housing characteristics (including tenure, mobility, dwelling characteristics and housing costs).

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the compilation and analysis of the distribution of income and wealth in Australian households, and changes in economic wellbeing over time. It will also provide estimates of household expenditure patterns and composition across the population.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available from mid-2023.

The principal users of the information the ABS produces from this collection will be:

- Treasury;
- Department of Social Services;
- Reserve Bank;
- Productivity Commission;
- Department of Education, Skills and Employment;
- State/Territory Housing Authorities and Treasuries; and
- academic and community researchers.

Information collected facilitates the development, implementation and evaluation of government policy, including microsimulation models used by Treasury and the Department of Social Services. In addition, information contributes to the compilation of key performance indicators for housing affordability that have been agreed to for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement.

The information collected will also provide fundamental inputs to leading macro-economic indicators including the Consumer Price Index and Household Final Consumption Expenditure.

To assist in determining the feasibility of the collection and to understand and manage respondent burden consistent with the Government's Regulator Performance Framework, the ABS:

- has considered what existing information is available;
- has consulted with key stakeholders; and
- has extensively field tested the survey to ensure that the required data are readily available and that the respondent load has been minimised.

These two collections were last conducted together from July 2015 to June 2016 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 3 of 2015. Further to that separate SIH collections were tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 1 of 2019 and cover July 2019 to June 2021.

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