

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 4 OF 2020  
BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**TIME USE SURVEY**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information about how Australians use their time.

The information will be collected:

- from November 2020 on a continuing basis;
- from residents of private dwellings;
- as a sample of about 1250 fully-responding households in 2020-21, and a further 3750 in 2021-22;
- by questionnaire (either self-enumerated on the web or through a personal or telephone interview), and by the completion of a time use diary (self-enumerated, either on the web or on paper);
- throughout Australia, except in very remote areas.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- demographic characteristics including age, sex, geographic location, family characteristics, country of birth, visa status, language, education, employment, income, financial stress, health, disability, voluntary work, housing characteristics, use of technology, use of household equipment and services; and
- detailed use of time over a two-day period for each respondent.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the compilation of published outputs and datasets available for analysis by users. The data can be used in analysis of the relationships between personal characteristics and the use of time on key activities including employment, education, domestic tasks, caring activities, recreation, self-care, and sleep.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available in late 2022 and annually thereafter.

The principal users of the information produced by the ABS will be:

- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet - Office for Women;
- Treasury;
- Department of Communication and Arts;
- Commonwealth government agencies;
- State and Territory government agencies; and

- Academic and community researchers.

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 Commonwealth government agencies and academic data users to determine the level of need for this data;
- has refined the data requirements with a reference group of key users;
- has conducted cognitive testing and usability testing; and
- has field tested the survey.

This collection was last conducted in 2006 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 12 of 2005.



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