

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975: subsection 6(3)**MULTIPURPOSE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of supporting a range of key national reporting frameworks and social policy initiatives.

The information will be collected:

- from November 2026 to June 2027, and annually thereafter
- from a sample of approximately 26,500 households
- from one randomly selected person aged 15 years and over in the household
- by computer assisted web interview and computer assisted telephone interview
- across Australia, excluding very remote areas and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Multipurpose Household Survey is a flexible multi-topic survey vehicle. In the 2026-27 cycle, information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- demographic and socioeconomic characteristics (including employment, labour force status and education)
- access to and use of health services in the last 12 months
- details of fraud experienced in the last 12 months (including credit card fraud, identity theft and scams)
- details of crime and assault experienced in the last 12 months (including physical assault, threats of assault, sexual assault, break-ins, theft and property damage).

Some topics will be included in the survey every year and other topics may vary from cycle to cycle.

While this collection will be conducted under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the sensitive content regarding experiences such as sexual assault will be voluntary. The Multipurpose Household Survey provides the only annual, nationally representative data on reported and unreported crime in Australia.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the compilation of published outputs and microdata available for analysis by users. It will be used to support reporting against:

- The National Healthcare Agreement
- Measuring What Matters indicators
- The National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children
- The Report on Government Services.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available from early 2028.

The principal users of the information the ABS produces will be:

- Treasury
- Department of Education
- Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (including Safe Work Australia and Jobs and Skills Australia)
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Home Affairs (including the Australian Institute of Criminology)

- Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (including the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and National Mental Health Commission)
- Jurisdictional police commissioners and statisticians
- Attorney-General's Departments – national and jurisdictional level
- Productivity Commission
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (including Scamwatch and the National Anti-Scam Centre Advisory Board)
- State and territory equivalents of the above departments
- Community organisations and the research and academic community
- Media
- Public

To assist in determining the feasibility of the collection and to understand and manage respondent burden, the ABS has:

- Considered what existing information is available
- Consulted with key stakeholders to identify priority data requirements
- Tested survey content to ensure the respondent burden has been minimised. No significant adverse respondent reaction is expected because of the sensitive content; however, support mechanisms are being implemented.

The Multipurpose Household Survey has historically been collected as a supplement to the ABS's Monthly Population Survey; however, from 2026-27, the MPHS will be a separate survey collection.

This collection was last conducted from June 2025 to July 2026 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 2 of 2020.

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