

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

PROPOSAL NO. 3 OF 2015

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEY, 2015-16

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to collect information to support the analysis and monitoring of the social and economic welfare of Australian households.

The information will be collected:

- from July 2015 to June 2016 (The survey is conducted every six years);
- from people aged 15 years and over in private dwellings;
- from about 19,000 households; with a subset of 11,000 asked for detailed household expenditure information over a two week period;
- by face-to-face interview, and paper diaries for households reporting expenditure; and
- across Australia, excluding very remote areas.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics, including:

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

The information collected will be used by the ABS to provide primary benchmarks and weights which are a fundamental input to the Consumer Price Index and Household Final Consumption Expenditure in the Australian National Accounts. In addition, the information will be used by the ABS to compile summary statistical products featuring key income, wealth, housing and expenditure for a range of demographic groups. Microdata will also be released to support social and economic analysis, reporting and modelling by government and other social and economic analysts.

The 2015-16 survey is designed to improve estimation for key populations of interest, as in the previous cycle. The sample includes a higher prevalence of households whose main source of income is from a government pension or allowance, to support the ongoing production of the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index. These households will be interviewed and asked to complete expenditure diaries. Additional households are also selected from areas outside of capital cities (who are interviewed only) to contribute to the compilation of key performance indicators for housing affordability that have been agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available from September 2017.

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

- The Treasury

- Department of Social Services
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Employment
- Reserve Bank of Australia
- Productivity Commission
- Academic and other research institutions

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;
- 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.

This collection was last conducted from July 2009 to June 2010 and was most recently tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 3 of 2009.

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