

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

PROPOSAL NO. 9 OF 2016

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

PRIVATE HEALTH ESTABLISHMENTS COLLECTION

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to conduct a Private Health Establishments Collection for the 2015-16 financial year, commencing September 2016.

The collection will be conducted by e-forms and mail forms from a census of approximately 630 private acute, psychiatric and day hospitals licensed to operate in Australia. The Australian Bureau of Statistics will also recover direct data transfer, from each State Health Authority.

Information will be collected on a range of indicators including:

- facilities maintained and activities undertaken, staffing, finances, and fees and charges (direct from hospitals), and
- admitted patient information such as types of patients treated and treatments provided (as administrative data from State Health Authorities).

The primary purpose of the collection is to complement public hospital statistics compiled by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The collection also addresses the need for national statistics to cover the contribution of private hospitals to the provision of institutional health care in Australia.

The collection has been developed in consultation with principal users, including:

- Department of Health
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- private hospital associations, and
- representatives of individual hospitals.

Results from the collection will be used by governments, to support important decisions in policy development and planning in the delivery of health care as well as to provide input to annual Council of Australian Governments data commitments. It will enable policy makers to make informed decisions about the industry and target their activities and funding accordingly. The statistics are also to be used by researchers and other interested groups to analyse the effectiveness of the private health sector, and conduct studies on the efficiency of this sector.

The collection underwent a broad user requirements review in 2015 which confirmed the demand for the data collected and identified the need for a number of additional data items. Prior to including these data in a future collection, an assessment of potential alternative sources of the data will occur and, if none are appropriate, their availability in hospital records will be assessed while being mindful of the need for to minimise respondent reporting load. There has been a consistently high level of respondent cooperation to the collection and no significant adverse respondent reaction is expected. The collection has been cleared through the Statistical Clearing House with approval number 00213 - 09. Results from the collection are expected to be released in mid 2017.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics expects to conduct the collection annually. The collection was last conducted in respect of 2014-15 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal 25 of 2013.

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