

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 11 OF 2015**

**BY**

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**2016 SURVEY OF HEALTH CARE**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of understanding the coordination and continuity of care of patients as they transition through the health care system. The data from this survey will be available at the Primary Health Network (PHN) level which will allow the ABS and other users of the data to evaluate geographic patterns of health care use.

The information will be collected:

- from April 2016 to June 2016;
- on a voluntary basis, from persons aged 45 years and over, who have visited a GP in the last 12 months and have a Medicare number;
- from a sample of approximately 120,000 persons;
- by mailout, which will be conducted by the Department of Human Services (DHS) on behalf of the ABS; and
- across Australia.

In addition, consent will be sought from each person to merge their survey responses with their Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS), Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data as well as private and public hospital admissions and emergency data.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- the demographic characteristics of users of GP services aged 45 years and over;
- attitudinal data on people's experiences with the health system and coordination of care at the PHN level;
- data from the MBS including date of visit, type of service that was provided and where the service was provided; and
- data from the PBS including date of supply of medication and the type of medication.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the analysis of coordination and continuity of care at the PHN level.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the first phase of the collection results available in late 2016.

The principal user of the information the ABS produces will be the National Health Performance Authority (NHPA) to meet information gaps in their primary health care reporting requirements and to report against the Performance and Accountability Framework.

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;
- consulted extensively with NHPA and DHS; and
- conducted cognitive testing of the survey.

This will be the first time this collection has been run.

Luise McCulloch  
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