

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

### PROPOSAL NO. 11 OF 2016

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

### 2016-17 PERSONAL SAFETY SURVEY

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to collect information on aspects of personal safety including violence against both men and women, by men and women, at a level of detail that is not available from any other source. The same questions will be asked of both male and female respondents to support analysis of the circumstances of people experiencing violence, and to measure changes over time.

The information will be collected:

- from November 2016 to May 2017
- from a sample of approximately 22,200 adults (aged 18 years or over) nationally (excluding very remote areas of Australia), including approximately 16,100 female and 6,100 male respondents, and
- via a face-to-face interview, with the option for some components to be collected via a self-completion form.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondent and their current partner
- Lifestyle indicators such as self assessed health status, disability, life satisfaction, social connectedness, and financial stressors
- Feelings of safety in selected situations
- Experience of selected types of sexual harassment (voluntary)
- Experience of violence, such as sexual assault/threat and physical assault/threat, since age 15 (voluntary)
- Details of the most recent incident of sexual assault/threat and physical assault/threat (voluntary)
- Experience of physical abuse and sexual abuse before age 15 (voluntary)
- Experience of violence by current partner and (most recently violent) previous partner (voluntary)
- Experience of emotional abuse by current partner and (most recently emotionally abusive) previous partners (voluntary), and
- Experience of stalking (voluntary).

While the survey will be conducted under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the content regarding experiences of violence will be completely voluntary. Regardless of this, all information obtained by the Australian Bureau of Statistics will be covered by the secrecy provisions of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

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

The survey has been developed in consultation with:

- the Commonwealth Department of Social Services
- Commonwealth Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet: Office for Women
- Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety
- Women's Services Network
- the National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence
- the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, and
- as well as academic researchers working in the field.

The principal users of the survey will be relevant state and federal government departments, research agencies and peak bodies within the field. The data collected will assist and inform decision making, research and discussion around the development, implementation and evaluation of social and economic policies and services.

The survey questionnaire and collection strategy and procedures have been extensively field tested to ensure that the required data are readily available and that provider load has been minimised as much as possible. No significant adverse respondent reaction is expected.

This survey was last conducted in 2012 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 17 of 2011. It is expected to be conducted again in 2020.

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