

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

PROPOSAL NO. 17 OF 2014

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

## SURVEY OF RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT BUSINESSES

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of providing comprehensive data on Australia's research and experimental development effort.

The Survey of Research and Experimental Development Businesses collects information on tax incentive and industry grants and schemes from the Department of Industry for the purposes of identifying businesses that are likely performers of Research and Development (R&D).

The information will be collected:

- biennially from January 2015 on a financial year basis;
- from Australian businesses performing research and experimental development activities;
- as a sample of approximately 4,000 businesses;
- by electronic form; and
- across Australia.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- type of expenditure (current and capital expenditure);
- source of funds;
- location of expenditure;
- type of activity;
- fields of research;
- socio-economic objective;
- human resources devoted to research and experimental development by type of resource; and
- business characteristics such as business name, business address, business contact details and business financial information.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available in September 2015.

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

- Department of Industry;
- Department of Education;
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development; and

- ABS.

The information will be used for assessment of relevant government policy, funding and programs, and determination of priorities for research and experimental development, as well as for international comparisons of research and compiling the National Accounts.

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 including the Department of Industry, Department of Education and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development; and
- will clear the collection through the Statistical Clearing House, provisional approval number 00223-10.

This collection was last conducted in 2013 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 18 of 2012.

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