

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

PROPOSAL NO. 19 OF 2014

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

## 2015 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to collect information to measure the prevalence of disability in Australia, measure the need for support of older people and those with disability, and provide a demographic and socio-economic profile of people with disability, older people and carers compared to the general population.

The information will be collected:

- from February to December 2015;
- from people in private households, and from administrators of health establishments such as hospitals, nursing homes and retirement villages;
- from about 26,000 households and 5,000 health establishments;
- by face to face interview for people in households, and by electronic form and mail-out/mail-back paper form for health establishments; and
- across Australia excluding very remote areas.

A range of information will be collected, including the number and demographic characteristics of people with disability; people aged 65 years and over; and carers in Australia.

For people with disability, information collected will also include:

- the level of restriction and need for support with daily activities;
- the health conditions that gave rise to the restrictions; and
- the amount and areas of unmet need, and the barriers to receiving formal or informal assistance.

For people aged 65 years or over, information collected will also include:

- their level of independence and their support needs; and
- their level of participation in various activities.

For carers, information collected will also include:

- how care is provided to people in need, whether by family, friends or organisations;
- their support needs; and
- the effects of the caring role on their lifestyle.

Information collected from Households will include:

- basic demographics (e.g. age, sex, marital status, relationship to other household members);
- personal characteristics (e.g. date of birth, country of birth, languages spoken, housing tenure, education qualification, employment information, income and financial information);
- health information (e.g. physical health, mental health, disability);
- personal opinions (e.g. satisfaction with organised support services, experiences of discrimination); and
- name, address and contact details (e.g. phone number, email address) for people willing to participate in a follow up survey (kept for up to two years).

Information collected from Health establishments will include:

- business characteristics (e.g. business name, business address, business contact details); and
- basic demographics (e.g. age, sex, and marital status), personal characteristics (e.g. date of birth, country of birth) and health information (e.g. physical health, mental health, disability) of long term residents.

The information collected will be used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in the compilation of the Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings (Catalogue Number: 4430.0) and will also be released as microdata.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available from November 2016.

The principal users of the information from the survey will be:

- Department of Social Services;
- Department of Human Services;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- Productivity Commission;
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW);
- Council of Australian Governments (COAG);
- State and territory departments responsible for the disability, ageing and carer services
- National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA);
- Carers Australia;
- National Disability Services and non-government service providers;
- Local government; and
- University researchers.

Information is collected that will assist government and community agencies to plan appropriate types and numbers of services each year, and to plan for future needs. Survey data is also used by groups advocating to government on behalf of people with disability, carers and older people.

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 Commonwealth, state and territory government departments and agencies, community service providers, and university researchers;
- has conducted cognitive testing and is conducting a field test; and
- will clear the Health Establishments component of the collection through the Statistical Clearing House (provisional approval number 00073-04).

This collection was last conducted from February 2012 to March 2013 and was most recently tabled in Parliament as Proposal 2 of 2012.

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