

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

PROPOSAL NO 2 OF 2012

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

2012 SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS

Between February and December 2012, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) plans to conduct a national Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. Similar surveys were conducted in 1998, 2003 and 2009. Changes to the 2012 survey include additional questions relating to feelings of safety; access and barriers to health services; satisfaction with a range of disability service options; social, community and civic participation; and experiences of homelessness.

The survey sample will include people in approximately 35,000 private households; 400 non-private dwellings such as caravan parks and motels; and 5,000 health establishments, including hospitals, nursing homes and retirement villages. The data will be collected by personal interview with household members in private and non-private dwellings. Health establishments will receive emailed questionnaires requesting administrators provide information about long term residents in their institutions.

Information obtained from the survey will identify the number and demographic characteristics of people with disabilities; people aged 65 years and over; and primary carers in Australia. For people with disabilities and aged 65 years and over, information collected will include the need for and receipt of assistance, transport usage and the use of computers and the Internet. In addition, for those with a disability, data collected will include limitations experienced and help received in everyday activities; the health conditions that gave rise to the limitations; and the use of aids such as wheelchairs and hearing aids. For carers, data collected will include the effects of the caring role on their lifestyle.

The ABS has worked closely with Australian and state and territory governments to ensure the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers is a valuable source of information. The information collected will be used for policy and program development, and will assist in the implementation and evaluation of a range of government initiatives. Users of the data include the Australian Government Departments of Health and Ageing; Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; state and territory departments responsible for disability and ageing; and local government. Non-government organisations such as Carers Australia and National Disability Services will also benefit from the information.

The survey questions have been tested to ensure that the required data are readily available and that provider load has been minimised. In previous surveys there has

been a high level of respondent cooperation and no significant adverse respondent reaction is expected.

Results from the survey are expected to be published in September 2013.

This survey is expected to be conducted every three years in the future.

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February 2012