

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

PROPOSAL NO. 18 OF 2013

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

NATIONAL SCHOOLS STATISTICS COLLECTION

In August 2013, the Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to collect information from administrative records held by state and territory education authorities and the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for publication in Schools, Australia (cat. no. 4221.0) for the 2013 calendar year. The Australian Bureau of Statistics expects that the collection will continue to be undertaken annually.

In this collection, statistics on schools, students and staff are derived from administrative records held by education authorities within each state and territory for the government schools sector, and from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for the non-government schools sector. Data are submitted to the Australian Bureau of Statistics electronically by secure means.

Information is collected across a range of important areas relating to school education in Australia, including:

- schools (type and the number of students)
- students (age, sex, grade, and Indigenous status); and
- staff (sex, number and full-time equivalent and broad job roles).

The principal users of the collection are:

- Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations;
- Australian Curriculum Assessment & Reporting Authority;
- Productivity Commission;
- Council of Australian Governments;
- education research centres across Australia; and
- the public.

Results from the collection will be released in the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication Schools, Australia. Information included in Schools, Australia contributes to the National Report on Schooling in Australia, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan, the National Education Agreement, National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions and the Report on Government Services.

Output from the collection allows the measurement of important indicators for the school sector such as apparent retention rates, apparent progression rates and student participation rates. This provides education policy makers with the information needed to assess the effect of their policies and respond accordingly.

This collection utilises administrative data already collected by state, territory and Commonwealth education authorities. The Australian Bureau of Statistics will continue to work closely with these authorities to facilitate the data collection process.

Results from the 2013 collection are expected to be released in early 2014. Subsequent iterations of this collection are expected to be conducted within similar time-frames.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

May 2013