

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 25 OF 2013**

**BY**

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**PRIVATE HEALTH ESTABLISHMENTS COLLECTION**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to conduct a Private Health Establishments Collection for the 2012-13 financial year, commencing September 2013.

The survey will be conducted by e-forms and mail forms from a census of approximately 600 private acute, psychiatric and day hospitals licensed to operate in Australia. The Australian Bureau of Statistics will recover direct data transfer, from each state Health Authority.

Information will be collected on a range of indicators including:

- facilities maintained and activities undertaken, staffing, finances, and fees and charges (direct from hospitals); and
- admitted patient information such as types of patients treated and treatments provided (as administrative data from State Health Authorities).

The primary purpose of the survey is to complement a survey conducted by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to collect information on public hospitals. The survey also addresses the need for national statistics to cover the contribution of private hospitals to the provision of institutional health care in Australia.

The survey has been developed in consultation with principal users, including:

- Department of Health and Ageing;
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare;
- Productivity Commission;
- private hospital associations; and
- representatives of individual hospitals.

Results from the survey will be used by governments, to support important decisions in policy development and planning in the delivery of health care as well as to provide input to annual Council of Australian Governments data commitments. It will enable policy makers to make informed decisions about the industry and target their activities and funding accordingly. The statistics are also to be used by researchers and other interested groups to analyse the effectiveness of the private health sector, and conduct studies on the efficiency of this sector.

The collection underwent a user requirements review in 2010 which was followed by a field testing exercise to ensure that the required data are readily available and that provider load has been minimised. 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 released in mid 2014.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics expects to conduct the survey annually on a continuing basis.

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