

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

**PROPOSAL NO.10 OF 2017
BY
AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

2018 Health Literacy Survey

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of measuring the health literacy of Australians.

The information will be collected:

- during 2018
- from respondents to the National Health Survey 2017-18 who have provided their contact details to be approached for this supplementary survey
- as a sample of about 10,000 adults
- by telephone interview
- across Australia, excluding very remote areas.

Information will be collected on various dimensions of health literacy, including use and experience of health services, and ability to find and use health information.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the compilation of statistics on the levels of different aspects of health literacy present in the Australian population. The nature of the survey as a supplement to the National Health Survey enables the combination of data from these two collections to produce data on the interaction between demographic characteristics, health conditions and behaviours, and health literacy.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available by early 2019.

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

- the Commonwealth Department of Health

The information will support policy makers to make informed decisions on actions that may be taken in the health system to address health literacy.

To assist in determining the feasibility of the collection and to understand and manage respondent burden consistent with the Government's Regulator Performance Framework, the ABS:

- has considered what existing information is available
- has consulted with the Department of Health
- has conducted usability testing on the survey instrument.

This will be the first time this collection has been run.

Paul Jelfs
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October 2017