

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

PROPOSAL NO. 17 OF 2012

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

WORK, LIFE AND FAMILY SURVEY

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to conduct a national Work, Life and Family Survey commencing February 2013. The Work, Life and Family Survey replaces the former Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation (last conducted in 2007) and incorporates a sub-sample time use diary (last collected in 2006).

The Work, Life and Family Survey will be conducted through personal interviews with all persons aged 15 years and over in a sample of 12,300 private dwellings throughout Australia. In a sub-sample of 4,500 dwellings respondents will also complete a two day personal time use diary. Persons aged between 15 and 17 years will only be asked to answer questions or complete diaries with the consent of a parent or guardian.

Information obtained in the interview will include:

- demographic data;
- labour force participation;
- caring responsibilities;
- working arrangements;
- education;
- income;
- superannuation;
- plans for retirement;
- reasons for retirement;
- satisfaction with different areas of life; and
- time stress.

The diary will ask respondents to record their activities over a 48 hour period (including type of activity, time taken, with/for whom the activity was performed, whether they used the internet, what technology they were using, and where the activity occurred). Diary respondents are also asked a few additional short summary questions such as:

- whether they have participated in voluntary work over the past 12 months;
- whether people can generally be trusted; and
- overall, how satisfied they were with how they spent their time over the past two days.

The primary purpose of the survey is to inform governments, other researchers and the community about how jobs within Australia are changing, how people and families are balancing the different activities in their lives, how people will provide for retirement and whether strategies need to be developed to encourage people to stay in, or return to, the workforce.

Based on past experience with the survey and recent field testing, no significant adverse respondent reaction is expected. The Privacy Commissioner will be informed of the survey.

First results from the survey are expected to be released in the second half of 2014.

Peter Harper
A/g Australian Statistician
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