

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

### **PROPOSAL NO.8 OF 2012 BY AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

#### **WAGE PRICE INDEX SURVEY**

From September 2012, it is proposed the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducts the Wage Price Index Survey, this survey will measure the effect of changes in the price of wages over time.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics currently conducts a quarterly Labour Price Index survey. The Labour Price Index Survey was previously tabled as proposal No.3 of 2004. The Labour Price Index measured the combined effect of changes in wage costs and selected non-wage labour costs, and was produced on an annual basis. The non-wage component of this survey will not be collected through the Wage Price Index.

Information on wage prices will be collected quarterly by a paper-based mail questionnaire from a sample survey of approximately 3,500 private and public sector employers selected from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register.

There will be a small reduction in the reporting load placed on businesses, therefore the Australian Bureau of Statistics expects no significant adverse respondent reaction.

Results from the survey will continue to be used by federal and state government departments and agencies, such as:

- Reserve Bank of Australia;
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; and
- Australian Bureau of Statistics in the compilation of the Australian National Accounts.

The information will also be used by employer and employee associations and the community, to analyse movements in the price of wages.

Results of the collection will be published quarterly in *Wage Price Index, Australia* (catalogue no. 6345.0).

The survey is expected to be ongoing.

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