

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 18 OF 2012
BY
AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**SURVEY OF RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT,
BUSINESSES 2011-12**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to conduct the Survey of Research and Experimental Development, Businesses, for the reference period 2011-12 financial year. Surveys on this topic are conducted annually.

The survey will be conducted from January 2013 using a paper-based mail questionnaire from a sample of approximately 4,000 businesses performing research and experimental development activities across Australia.

Information will be collected on a range of indicators to measure the business expenditure and human resources devoted to research and experimental development, over time, including:

- type of expenditure (current and capital expenditure);
- source of funds;
- fields of research; and
- socio-economic objective.

The survey will provide data at a national and location of expenditure (state/territory) level.

The survey has been developed in accordance with the Organisation for Economic Development standard guidelines.

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

- Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education;
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; and
- Australian Bureau of Statistics in the compilation of the Australian National Accounts.

The data gathered from the survey is used to monitor and analyse the nature and distribution of research and experimental development, activity in Australia for policy formation, allocation of funds and determination of research priorities. The survey data are also used for international comparison purposes.

Compared to previous surveys, there will be a decrease in the number of businesses selected as well as a small reduction in reporting load placed on individual businesses. The Australian Bureau of Statistics expects no significant adverse respondent reaction.

Results from the survey are expected to be released in late 2013.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics expects to conduct the Research and Experimental Development, Businesses biennially (two yearly) in the future.

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