

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

PROPOSAL NO. 2 OF 2014

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

SURVEY OF EMPLOYEE EARNINGS AND HOURS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to continue conducting the Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours on a biennial basis.

The survey will be conducted from May 2014 from a sample of approximately 8,400 employers in respect of 55,000 individual employees, using mainly electronic forms. The scope of the survey includes all employing organisations in Australia (public and private sectors) except enterprises primarily engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing; private households employing staff; and foreign embassies and consulates.

The purpose of the survey is to provide estimates on the composition and distribution of earnings of employees, the hours for which they are paid, and the methods used to set their pay. Estimates from the survey are used in developing and reviewing remuneration and labour market policies as well as in wage negotiation processes.

The information to be collected on employees will include:

- sex and age;
- whether paid at an adult, junior, apprentice or disability rate of pay;
- whether permanent, fixed term contract or casual;
- whether full-time or part-time;
- type of employee - i.e. working proprietor, managerial, executive or other;
- occupation title;
- main tasks or duties;
- hours paid;
- amount and composition of weekly earnings; and
- how pay was set - i.e. individual agreement, collective agreement, award or other.

Survey outputs are dissected by standard variables:

- state and territory;
- employer size;
- industry; and
- sector.

Outputs are also dissected by:

- occupation;
- managerial status;
- sex;
- adult/Junior status;
- permanent/fixed term contract/casual status; and
- full-time/part-time status.

The survey has been developed in consultation with major users, including the Department of Employment, Department of Social Services and the Fair Work Commission.

The principal users of the survey are located within Commonwealth and state and territory government agencies, employer associations, industrial tribunals and unions. The survey also serves as an important data source for other Australian Bureau of Statistics outputs such as the Wage Price Index.

The survey has been field tested 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. The survey is in the process of being cleared through the Statistical Clearing House.

Results from the survey will be published in Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, May 2014 (ABS cat. no. 6306.0), scheduled for release in January 2015.

This survey was last tabled as Proposal No. 3 of 2000.

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