

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

PROPOSAL NO. 1 OF 2021

BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

SURVEY OF EMPLOYEE EARNINGS AND HOURS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of providing 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 in Australia.

The information will be collected:

- from May 2021 on a biennial basis;
- from employing organisations in Australia;
- as a sample of about 8,300 employers in respect of 54,000 individual employees;
- primarily by self-enumeration via electronic form;
- across all Australian states and territories, industries (excluding agriculture), sectors and employment sizes.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- sex and age;
- rate of pay;
- occupation;
- managerial status;
- employee type;
- employment status;
- amount and composition of weekly earnings;
- hours paid for; and
- method of setting pay.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the analysis of earnings and hours paid for various groups of employees classified by, for example, industry, occupation, or pay setting method.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available in January 2022.

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

- Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies;
- Employer associations;
- Industry tribunals; and
- Unions.

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 and consulted with key stakeholders to ensure that both the required data are readily available and that the respondent load is kept to a minimum.

This collection was last conducted in May 2018 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 11 of 2017.

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