

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 10 OF 2019
BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

PRISONERS IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of providing comprehensive statistics on the number and characteristics of adult prisoners in Australia.

The information will be collected:

- from July 2019 on an annual basis; and
- from the administrative records held by State and Territory corrective services agencies.

Information will be collected on the number and characteristics of adult prisoners in Australia including:

- prisoner characteristics;
- the most serious offence associated with a prisoner;
- sentence length; and
- characteristics of prisoners serving sentences for offences against commonwealth legislation.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the compilation of the *Prisoners in Australia* (cat. no. 4517.0) publication.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available from December 2019.

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

- State and Territory corrective services agencies;
- Commonwealth, State and Territory Attorney-General's and Justice departments.
- government crime and justice research institutes;
- crime and justice research centres within universities across Australia; and
- the public.

Statistics produced from the collection will be used to make meaningful comparisons of the number and characteristics of custodial prisoners across states and territories in Australia. This will allow policy makers to assess and evaluate crime and justice related policy used throughout the states and territories and facilitate both researchers and policy makers to identify emerging trends in imprisonment and respond accordingly.

This collection was last conducted in July 2018 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal 21 of 2016.

Dr Paul Jelfs
General Manager
Population and Social Statistics Division

July 2019