

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 15 OF 2016**

**BY**

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**SURVEY OF AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to continue to conduct the Average Weekly Earnings Survey on a biannual basis, for the November and May reference periods.

The information will be collected by electronic forms from a sample of approximately 5,700 businesses. 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.

Data collected includes the number of employees, total gross weekly earnings, overtime earnings and salary sacrificed earnings.

Survey outputs are dissected by standard variables:

- state and territory
- industry, and
- sector.

Outputs are also dissected by:

- sex, and
- full-time adult/other.

Average weekly earnings statistics are referenced in a range of Commonwealth, state and territory legislation to adjust a variety of government payments, including the Age Pension. They are also used to analyse average earnings to inform wage claim submissions, monitor wage equity and develop taxation and social policies.

Examples of agencies which use the information include:

- Reserve Bank of Australia
- Department of Employment
- The Treasury
- Australian Taxation Office, and
- Department of Social Services.

The survey has previously 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 has also been cleared through the Statistical Clearing House.

Results of the collection are published twice a year in *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia* (cat. no. 6302.0).

This survey was last tabled as Proposal No. 19 of 2012.

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