

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 16 OF 2019  
BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES COLLECTION**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of producing quarterly estimates of the number and magnitude of work stoppages in Australia.

The information will be collected:

- on a quarterly basis for the March, June, September and December quarters;
- as a census of organisations indicating participation in industrial action;
- primarily by paper form;
- in Australia.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- number of employees involved;
- working days lost;
- cause of dispute; and
- the reason work resumed.

The information collected will be used by the ABS as an indicator of industrial unrest. It is used by other stakeholders in monitoring of the Australian economy, and for formulating industrial relations policy.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available approximately nine weeks after the end month of the quarter.

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

- government departments;
- employer associations;
- economists; and
- trade 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;
- consulted with key users of the data; and
- undertaken field testing to ensure that the required data are readily available and provider load minimised.

This collection was last conducted in June quarter 2019 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal 29 of 2016.

Jacqui Jones  
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4<sup>th</sup> September 2019