

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 18 OF 2019
BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of producing estimates of the average weekly earnings associated with employee jobs in Australia.

The information will be collected:

- on a biannual basis for the May and November quarters;
- as a sample survey of about 5,400 employing organisations;
- primarily by web form;
- in Australia.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- number of employees;
- gross weekly earnings;
- overtime earnings; and
- salary sacrificed earnings.

The information collected is used in a range of Commonwealth, state and territory legislation to adjust a variety of government payments, including the Age Pension. It is also used to analyse average earnings to inform wage claim submissions, monitor wage equity and develop taxation and social policies.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available approximately thirteen weeks after the May reference period and fourteen weeks after the November reference period.

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

- Reserve Bank of Australia;
- Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business;
- The Treasury;
- Australian Taxation Office; and
- Department of Social Services.

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 that provider load minimised.

This collection was last conducted in May 2019 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 15 of 2016.

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