

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 9 OF 2019
BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

CRIMINAL COURTS, AUSTRALIA

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

The information will be collected:

- from August 2019 on an annual basis; and
- from the administrative records held by State and Territory court agencies.

Information will be collected on the number and characteristics of defendants finalised in the criminal courts in Australia, including:

- defendant characteristics;
- the offences associated with defendants; and
- the case outcomes for defendants.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the compilation of the *Criminal Courts, Australia* (cat. no. 4513.0) and the *Federal Defendants, Australia* (cat. no. 4515.0) publications.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available from February 2020.

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

- State and Territory court 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 defendants finalised in the criminal courts 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 courts activity and respond accordingly.

This collection was last conducted in August 2018 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal 19 of 2016.

Dr Paul Jelfs
General Manager
Population and Social Statistics Division

July 2019