

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

**PROPOSAL NO.4 OF 2018
BY
AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

SURVEY OF RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESSES

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of providing comprehensive data on Australia's research and experimental development effort.

The information will be collected:

- biennially from January 2019 on a financial year basis;
- from Australian businesses performing research and experimental development activities;
- as a sample of approximately 4,000 businesses;
- by electronic form;
- across Australia.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- type of expenditure (current and capital expenditure);
- source of funds;
- location of expenditure;
- type of activity;
- fields of research;
- socio-economic objective;
- human resources devoted to research and experimental development by type of resource;
- business characteristics such as business name, business address, business contact details and business financial information.

The Survey of Research and Experimental Development, Businesses collects information on tax incentive and industry grants and schemes from the Department of Industry for the purposes of identifying businesses that are likely performers of R&D.

The information collected will be used by the ABS to produce the Research and Experimental Development, Businesses publication (cat. no. 8104.0) and in the compilation of National Accounts.

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

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

- Department of Industry, Innovation and Science;
- Department of Education and Training; and
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The information will be used for assessment of relevant government policy, funding and programs, and determination of priorities for research and experimental development, as well as for international comparisons of research activity.

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;
- has consulted with the stakeholders listed above.

This collection was last conducted in 2017 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal 17 of 2014.

Lisa Wardlaw-Kelly
Acting General Manager
Industry Statistics Division
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