

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 19 OF 2016**

**BY**

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**CRIMINAL COURTS, AUSTRALIA**

In July 2016 the Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to collect information from administrative records held by State and Territory courts agencies on the number and characteristics of defendants finalised in the criminal courts. Data is submitted to the ABS electronically by secure means. The collection will continue to be undertaken annually.

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
- the case outcomes of defendants

The principal users of the collection are:

- State and Territory courts agencies
- Commonwealth and State and Territory Attorney-Generals and Justice departments
- government crime and justice research institutes
- crime and justice research centres within universities across Australia
- 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.

Results from the collection are expected to be released in March 2017.

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