

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

PROPOSAL NO. 9 of 2018

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

2019 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information about social issues, wellbeing and people's interactions with their family, friends and wider community.

The information will be collected:

- from January 2019 to December 2022
- from people in private households
- as a sample of about 14,000 private households
- by a web form and face to face interview
- across Australia, excluding very remote areas.

Information will be collected on a range of social and demographic characteristics including:

- demographic characteristics, age, sexual orientation, country of birth, family relationships;
- education, employment, income, health, social networks, civic, social and community participation, crime and safety, experiences of homelessness, transport, voluntary work, and difficulties accessing services.

The information collected can be used in analysis of the interrelationships between social circumstances and outcomes, including the exploration of advantage and multiple disadvantage experienced by individuals.

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

Principal users of the information the ABS produces will be:

- Department of Social Services
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet - Office for Women and Indigenous Affairs
- Department of Health
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Australian Institute of Family Studies
- Productivity Commission
- State and Territory government departments of community and health
- Academic and community researchers.

There are three key government reports which draw on data from the General Social Survey:

- Productivity Commission - [Report on Government Services](#) (annual)
- Productivity Commission - [Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage](#) (2 yearly)
- Department of Health - [Health Performance Framework](#) (2 yearly).

Information is collected that will assist government and community agencies to plan appropriate types of services and to plan for future needs. Survey data is also used by groups advocating to government on behalf of people experiencing social disadvantage.

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 Commonwealth and state/territory government departments and agencies to determine the level of need for this data;
- consulted with a technical and policy reference group to prioritise and refine data needs; and
- conducted cognitive testing and field tested the survey to ensure the required data are readily available.

This collection was last conducted from March – June 2014 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 33 of 2013.

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