

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

PROPOSAL NO. 3 OF 2020
BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of assisting in the understanding of chronic disease and disease risk factors.

The information will be collected:

- from August 2020 to June 2021;
- by computer assisted and personal face-to-face interview when it is safe to do so;
- from one randomly selected adult (18 years and over) and up to one randomly selected child (0-17 years) per selected dwelling;
- from a sample of approximately 12,000 households across Australia.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- demographic and socio-demographic data;
- general health and wellbeing;
- long-term conditions and disability; and
- health related aspects of lifestyle (such as exercise, smoking, dietary behaviour, and alcohol consumption).

The ABS will also seek verbal consent of selected persons when it is safe to do so to allow the voluntary taking of physical measurements (height, weight, girth and blood pressure) using height measures, scales, tape measures and electronic blood pressure monitors.

Respondents will also be asked to volunteer follow-up contact details for the purpose of assisting the Australian Bureau of Statistics with future health related information collections.

The information collected will be used to:

- determine the prevalence of specific long-term illnesses and those groups in the community most affected;
- reduce the prevalence of chronic disease, for example through better understanding of the links between lifestyle, risk factors and disease;
- assess and improve policies and services related to the management of chronic conditions; and
- support policy development and improve provision of health services.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available in the last quarter of 2021.

The principal users of the information will include:

- Commonwealth, State and Territory health authorities;
- Other government agencies (e.g. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Safe Work Australia, drug and alcohol authorities and area health services);
- Health industry and professional organisations (e.g. The Heart Foundation, Food Standards Australia and New Zealand, Australian Medical Association);
- Health researchers and academics; and
- Consumer and community groups (e.g. Public Health Association of Australia, Consumers Health Forum).

To assist in determining the feasibility of the collection and to understand and manage respondent burden the Australian Bureau of Statistics:

- has considered what existing information is available;
- has consulted with a wide range of stakeholders in the health field including government, professional and research agencies, and community groups; and
- has extensively field tested the survey to ensure that the required data are readily available and that the provider load has been minimised.

This collection was last conducted from June 2017 to July 2018 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 4 of 2017.

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