

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

PROPOSAL NO. 11 OF 2014

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL SURVEY 2014-15

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to collect information for the purpose of providing measures of the social and economic well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The information will be collected:

- daily, from September 2014 to May 2015, on an expected 6 yearly basis;
- as a sample of 11170 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and children across 6900 private dwellings;
- by face to face interviews using *Any Responsible Adult* methodology; and
- across all States and Territories in Australia.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- language and culture;
- health;
- education;
- employment;
- income;
- housing;
- family and support;
- crime and safety;
- experiences of homelessness;
- transport;
- cultural participation;
- difficulties accessing services;
- demographic characteristics; and
- substance use (voluntary).

While the survey will be conducted under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the substance use component of the survey will be completely voluntary. Regardless of this, all information obtained by the Australian Bureau of Statistics will be covered by the secrecy provisions of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The information collected will be used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in the analysis of the social and economic welfare of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, with a focus on potentially disadvantaged groups. It will assist in the planning of services and support arrangements. The results will also provide

indicators for some key factors of social inclusion which will contribute to the social inclusion monitoring and reporting framework.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available in March 2016.

The principal users of the information will include:

- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- The Attorney-General's Department;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Social Services;
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare;
- Office of Children and Families, NT;
- universities and researchers;
- non-government service providers; and
- Academia and special interest groups for the purpose of evaluating COAG's National Indigenous Reform Agreement.

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 Government, Academia, special interest groups and other not-for-profit organisations to determine the level of need for this data; and
- has field tested the survey to ensure that the required data are readily available and that the provider load has been minimised.

The Australian Privacy Commissioner will be informed of the collection.

This collection was last conducted in January/February 2008 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 4 of 2008.

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