

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

### **General Social Survey**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of understanding the social characteristics, well-being and social experiences of people in Australia. The data is used to provide annual updates for Measuring What Matters.

The information will be collected:

- from May to July 2025, and annually thereafter
- from a sample of approximately 10,000 households
- from one person aged 15 years and over in the household
- across Australia, excluding very remote areas and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- by computer assisted web interview and computer assisted telephone interview.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- demographic information
- employment and education
- income and financial stress
- health and disability
- sex at birth, gender and sexual orientation
- voluntary work and community participation
- trust in institutions.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the compilation of published outputs and microdata available for analysis by users. It will be used to:

- Provide annual updates for 16 metrics in Measuring What Matters.
- Provide insights on various aspects of societal well-being including health, family relationships, social engagement, community participation, trust in institutions, personal stressors, education, employment and financial stress.
- Provide information on the multi-dimensional nature of relative advantage and disadvantage across the population.
- Provide information on discrete population groups and their ability to participate fully in society, including people with disability, people with chronic health conditions, recent migrants and people who identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available from May 2026.

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

- The Treasury for the purpose of Measuring What Matters
- Volunteering Australia and Department of Social Services for the purpose of understanding trends in volunteering across Australia
- other Commonwealth, State and Territory governments
- the research and academic community.

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 The Treasury, Volunteering Australia, the Department of Social Services and the Productivity Commission to identify priority data requirements
- tested new survey content and collection methodologies to ensure that the required data are readily available, and the provider load has been minimised.

This collection was last conducted in 2020 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 9 of 2018.

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