

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

TIME USE SURVEY

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of assisting in understanding how Australians balance their time between work, family, leisure, and caring activities.

The information will be collected:

- from July 2024 to October 2024
- from all persons aged 15 years and over in the household
- from a sample of approximately 3,500 households
- 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
- health and disability
- caring and voluntary work
- how people allocated their time to activities across the reference days.

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 insights into how Australians balance their time between work, family, leisure and caring
- provide a better understanding of gender differences in time spent on activities, particularly factors influencing women's economic participation
- provide an indication of the amount of time spent on unpaid child care and adult care and characteristics of people providing that care
- understand the types of activities undertaken and the amount of time spent on those
- understand changing work practices such as working from home.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available from October 2025.

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

- Commonwealth, State and Territory governments (e.g. Office for Women, Treasury, Productivity Commission, Volunteering Australia)
- the ABS for the purpose of preparing the Labour Account which will include estimates of the amount and value of unpaid work
- other government agencies
- 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
- has consulted with key stakeholders from government, research, and community sectors to identify priority data requirements and data gaps
- 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 2020-2021 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 4 of 2020.

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