

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 4 OF 2022
BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH SURVEY

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of understanding the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The information will be collected:

- from August 2022 to late 2023;
- from up to two randomly selected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults (18 years and over) and up to two randomly selected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (0-17 years) per selected dwelling;
- as a sample of approximately 6,500 households;
- in non-remote and remote areas of Australia, including discrete Indigenous communities;
- by face-to-face personal interview.

The information to be collected includes:

- demographic and socio-demographic data;
- general health and wellbeing;
- long-term conditions and disability, including mental health;
- use of medications and medical services;
- lifestyle risk factors, such as physical activity, smoking, dietary behaviour and alcohol consumption;
- unfair treatment due to being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; and
- substance use (voluntary).

The ABS will also seek verbal consent from selected people to take physical measurements (height, weight, waist and blood pressure).

Interviewers will then ask survey participants if they are willing to provide voluntary biomedical (blood and/or urine) samples by visiting their local collection centre or participating health service. Written consent will be sought from participants for this component of the survey. The samples will be tested for a range of health indicators, such as cholesterol, and then the samples will be destroyed.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the analysis of the health status of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, the role of health professionals, and lifestyle behaviours and risk factors which affect health. The information will assist in the administration, evaluation and planning of health policies, programs and services.

The data will also be used for reporting against the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available from March 2024.

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

- Commonwealth, State and Territory health authorities (e.g. Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care);
- other government agencies (e.g. the National Indigenous Australians Agency, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), Productivity Commission);
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations (e.g. National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Aboriginal Medical Services);
- health industry and professional organisations (e.g. The Heart Foundation);
- health researchers and academics; and
- consumer and community groups (e.g. Public Health Association of Australia).

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 key stakeholders from government, research and community sectors to identify priority data requirements and data gaps;
- sought advice and guidance from expert advisory panels on potential new topics for inclusion; and
- tested new survey content to ensure that the required data are readily available and that the provider load has been minimised.

This collection was last conducted from July 2018 to April 2019 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 2 of 2018.

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