

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 7 OF 2021
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 January 2022 to December 2022;
- from one randomly selected adult (18 years and over) and up to one randomly selected child (0-17 years) per selected dwelling;
- as a sample of approximately 24,000 households nationally;
- by computer assisted face-to-face personal interview.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

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

The Australian Bureau of Statistics will also seek verbal consent of selected persons to allow the taking of physical measurements (height, weight, waist and blood pressure) using height measures, scales, tape measures and electronic blood pressure monitors.

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. Participants who agree to provide samples will also be invited to provide an additional sample for long-term storage at a secure medical facility as part of the Australian Health biobank. Samples will be used in future research, subject to a governance process, including ethics approvals, signing off the research proposal. Written consent will be sought from participants for the voluntary components of the study.

The information collected will be used to:

- determine the prevalence of specific long-term illnesses and those groups in the community most affected;
- provide detailed insights into the links between lifestyle, risk factors and disease;
- assess and inform policies and services related to the management of chronic conditions; and
- support policy development and improve provision of health services.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available at the end of 2023.

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

- Commonwealth, State and Territory health authorities (e.g. Department of Health);
- other government agencies (e.g. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), 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 (FSANZ), Australian Medical Association (AMA))
- health researchers and academics;
- consumer and community groups (e.g. Public Health Association of Australia, Consumers Health Forum); and
- the Productivity Commission and Report on Government Services reporting.

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 a wide range of stakeholders in the health field including government, professional 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 in August 2020 to June 2021 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 4 of 2020.

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