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

PROPOSAL NO. 8 OF 2023
BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

PRISONERS IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of providing comprehensive statistics on the number and characteristics of adult prisoners in Australia.

The information will be collected:
- commencing July 2024 and collected on an annual basis; and
- from the administrative records held by State and Territory corrective services agencies.

Information will be collected on the number and characteristics of adult prisoners in Australia including:
- prisoner characteristics;
- the most serious offence associated with a prisoner;
- sentence length; and
- characteristics of prisoners serving sentences for offences against commonwealth legislation.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in in the compilation of the *Prisoners in Australia* and *Federal Offenders* publications. The ABS may also link this data with other information sources for research and statistical purposes – for example, linking to the Person Level Integrated Data Asset. The principal users of the integrated data are authorised researchers for approved projects.

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

The principal users of the information the ABS produces will be:
- State and Territory corrective services agencies;
- Commonwealth, State and Territory Attorney-General and Justice departments;
- government crime and justice research institutes;
- crime and justice research centres within universities across Australia; and
- the general public.

Statistics and research produced from the collection will be used to make meaningful comparisons of the number and characteristics of custodial prisoners across states and territories in Australia. This will allow policymakers to assess and evaluate crime and justice related policy used throughout the states and territories and facilitate both researchers and policymakers to identify emerging trends in imprisonment and respond accordingly.

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 the Commissioners and Chief Executive Officers of state and territory criminal justice agencies (Police, Criminal Courts and Corrective Services).

This collection was last conducted in July 2023 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 10 of 2019.

Bindi Kindermann
General Manager
People and Place Division

24 November 2023