

Inquiry into residential and community aged care in Australia

Submission by Australian Bureau of Statistics

The Australian Bureau of Statistics produces a range of statistics that would support analysis of the issues raised in the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry. These statistics include:

- Estimated Resident Population and Population Projections which describe the size and distribution (by age, sex and geography) of the Australian population, to assist in understanding current and future need for services.
- Census of Population and Housing which includes a measure of disability - the 'core activity need for assistance' variable - which will support further analysis of the characteristics of people currently using residential aged care, and assist in understanding current and future needs. The Census measure aligns with other profound/severe measures of disability. It will support analysis of disability at sub-state levels.
- Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers provides detailed information about the characteristics of people with a disability, and the severity and impact of their disability; and for people aged 60 and over, their need for assistance and how this has been met. This information could be used to assist in understanding the nature and size of different groups of consumers of aged care services.
- The Community Services Survey, to be conducted in respect of 2008-09 which will collect information about residential aged care services, as well as information about the location of services, and the broad range of services provided.

Further information about these collections is provided below.

1. Estimated Resident Population and Population Projections

Estimated Resident Population statistics provide estimates of the size and distribution of the Australian population. Several products are available, including spreadsheets at fine levels of geography. Quarterly estimates are published in *Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no 3101.0)*.

2. Census of Population and Housing

A range of products are available from the Census of Population and Housing. These are described on the ABS website at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Census+data>

Information about the Census - core activity need for assistance variable is provided at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/304E60A454FD00D2CA25729E0008A89F?opendocument>

3. Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

This survey contains the most comprehensive and accurate measure of disability in the Australian population. The most recent survey was run in 2003, with results available from the ABS website. Previous surveys were run in 1993 and 1998, with a Survey of Handicapped persons run prior to that in 1981 and 1988. The next survey will be run in 2009.

The primary objective of the survey is to collect information about three population groups: people with a disability, older people (those aged 60 years and over), and people who provide assistance to older people and people with disabilities. For people identified as having a disability, the survey collects information about a person's long-term health conditions, their need for and receipt of assistance, use of aids and equipment, and participation in community activities. For older people the survey collects information about their need for and receipt of assistance and participation in community activities. For those who provide care, the survey collects information about the type of care provided, support available to them, characteristics of carers, and effects that the caring role has on their lives.

More information is available in *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: User Guide, 2003* (cat. no. 4431.0.55.001) available at:
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4431.0.55.0012003?OpenDocument>

4. Community Services Survey

Results of the previous survey were published in *Community Services Australia, 1999-2000* (cat. no. 8696.0) and available at:
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyCatalogue/71A3B97BF7436EE2CA2568A900139376?OpenDocument>