

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey Consultation



HAVE YOUR SAY ON HEALTH SURVEY CONTENT AND HOW WE COLLECT INFORMATION



The ABS is committed to early and ongoing conversations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to inform an upcoming health survey. We want to hear what you think about what type of information we collect and how we collect it.

As well as the Census, the ABS runs many surveys asking people about themselves and the way they live. Some of these surveys are just for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and collect information on things like health and culture. The information is used to help communities, organisations and governments make important decisions about funding, services and education.

What type of information do we collect through our surveys?

Most of the information we collect is related to health, such as health conditions, risk factors, nutrition, physical activities and social and emotional well-being. We also collect information on social topics like language, culture, education and employment.

You can find a full list of the information we collect in our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander surveys in the Consultation Discussion Paper on the ABS website.

How are people selected to be in a survey?

If we are running a survey in an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community, a computer randomly selects houses to be in the survey. If we are in an area that is not an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community, we visit every house to ask if there are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people living there. Once a house has been selected, the names of all the people who live there will be entered into a computer. But not everyone will take part in the survey. The computer will randomly select who will take part. The interviewer will then start doing the survey with the selected people, or work with you to book in a time to come back and do the survey.

Let's have a yarn

We want to know what you think about things like:

- If you have been in one of our surveys, how did it go?
- How we should be collecting sensitive information about people's health to make sure it is done in a culturally appropriate way?
- What would make you want to be in our surveys and what makes you not want to?
- What information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is important to collect?
- Is there information that is less important to collect, or inappropriate for us to collect?

What will happen at the interview?

Surveys are conducted face-to-face with ABS interviewers and can happen wherever you are comfortable, at a time that suits you. When a child is selected, an adult answers the questions on their behalf so children don't need to be present at the interview. The interviewer will ask a number of questions and enter the answers into a computer.

What happens to the information that is collected?

Once the survey is finished, the ABS puts all the information together and publishes it. This data is about all people. This means you can not be identified and your personal information remains safe and confidential to the ABS.

For more information see the Consultation Discussion Paper available at <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/4740.0>