Senate Select Committee on Strengthening Multiculturalism
ABS Response to questions on notice

2014 General Social Survey (GSS)

2014 GSS sample size

The initial sample for the survey consisted of approximately 18,574 private dwellings. This number was reduced to approximately 16,145 dwellings due to the loss of households which had no residents in scope for the survey and where dwellings proved to be vacant, under construction or derelict. Of the eligible dwellings, 80.1% responded fully (or adequately) which yielded a total sample from the survey of 12,932 dwellings.

2014 GSS Data Items

(See attached file: 2014 GSS Data Item List.xls)

Dimensions included in the 2014 GSS

- demographic characteristics
- housing and mobility
- education (includes parental education)
- employment
- transport and mobility
- **subjective well-being and general life satisfaction measures**
- health and disability
- **difficulty accessing service providers**
- family and community involvement
- social networks and participation
- experiences of homelessness
- voluntary work
- crime and feelings of safety
- sports attendance and participation
- attendance at selected cultural and leisure venues
- information technology
- financial stress, resilience and exclusion
- income
- housing
- assets and liabilities
- **discrimination**
- visa status
- sexual orientation.

2014 GSS Migrants datacube

(See attached file: Migrants_GSS_41590DO012.xls)

2010 and 2014 GSS data on Cultural Tolerance and Discrimination (This data was discussed at the hearing)

(See attached file: GSS Data 2010_2014.xls)

2014 GSS data on Barriers - to health care and other services

(See attached file: Barriers_Health care and other services_GSS_41590DO007.xls)

2014 GSS data on Overall life satisfaction (index)

(See attached file: Overall life satisfaction_GSS_41590DO002.xls)

2014 GSS Wellbeing information

How do Australians feel about their life as a whole?
Most Australians satisfied with their lives, but not everyone (Media Release)

Additional Wellbeing Information

National Health Survey (NHS)

4364.0.55.001 - National health Survey, First Results, 2014-15

The NHS collects a range of information to give a 'snapshot' of Australia's health, including the type of health problems people have and their lifestyle patterns. In addition, detailed demographic and socio-demographic data (age, country of birth, education, employment, income and housing) are collected to enable an assessment to be made of the health and related needs of groups such as the elderly, migrants and low income families.

The NHS includes questions about:

- General health and wellbeing (including disability status)
- Psychological distress (One indication of the mental health and wellbeing of a population is provided by measuring levels of psychological distress using the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10))
- Health risk status
- Diagnosed conditions
- Medications
- Physical measures (blood pressure, weight, height and waist size). This part of the survey is voluntary.
- Health Service usage and health related actions (including use of health professionals in the last 12 months)

(See attached file: 2014_15_NHS_Table 4.xls)

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A social capital framework in Measuring Wellbeing: Frameworks for Australian Social Statistics, 2001

Measures of Australia's Progress (ABS cat. no. 1370.0) article - Life Satisfaction and Measures of progress.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

4714.0 - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2014-15

Section - Social networks and wellbeing

Feature Article - Social and economic wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability

4703.0 - Framework for Measuring Wellbeing: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2010

This publication describes a framework developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), in conjunction with stakeholders, to measure the wellbeing of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
The framework attempts to provide a holistic approach to the mapping of statistics about the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians. It is presented as a broad level document, balanced across selected themes or 'domains'. It will be used to guide the development of ABS Indigenous statistics, by providing an organisational structure to aid the identification of data gaps and areas for statistical improvements. It will also provide a useful structure for ABS reporting and analysis of Indigenous wellbeing.

Census Information

The following data shows the population by country of birth and sex for the last three Australian Censuses of Population and Housing. The overseas born population increased by approximately 878,000 from 2006 Census to 2011 Census and 869,500 from 2011 Census to 2016 Census.

(See attached file: Census_COB Time Series.xlsx)

In terms of what skills overseas born persons bring to Australia, we can look at their occupations and level of education at the time of the Census by their year of arrival. However, the 2016 Census data on employment (occupation and industry) and qualifications will not be released until **October 2017** so the example below is from 2011 Census data. Please let us know if you would like the updated data for 2016 when it becomes available.

The following 2011 Census data shows the level of non school qualifications of those overseas born persons who arrived prior to 2007 and those who arrived from 2007 to 9 August 2011 (5 years up to 2011 Census night).
The data shows that 30% of those overseas born persons who arrived from 2007 to 9 August 2011 had Bachelor Degree or Higher (i.e. 21% Bachelor Degree and 9% Postgraduate Degree).

(See attached file: Non school Qualification_YOA_2011 Census.xlsx)

The following 2011 Census data shows the occupations of those overseas born persons who arrived prior to 2007 and those who arrived 2007 to 9 August 2011 (5 years up to 2011 Census night).
The data shows that of those overseas born persons who arrived from 2007 to 9 August 2011, almost 16% were Managers and Professionals and almost 7% were Technicians and Trades Workers.

(See attached file: Occupation_YOA_2011 Census.xlsx)