

Senate Standing Committee on COVID-19
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic
2019 - 2020

Division: Population and Social Statistics
Topic: Time Use Survey/unpaid care
Reference:

Question:

Senator Katy Gallagher, Chair Senate Select Committee on COVID-19, has provided the following questions for response from the ABS:

1. Has the ABS considered doing surveys on the amount of unpaid work undertaken by women during the COVID-19 pandemic? If yes, please provide details. If no, why not.
2. Has the ABS paused information gathering for the 2020-21 Time Use Survey during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Answer:

1. The ABS is collecting data on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected unpaid work through its newly implemented *Household Impacts of COVID-19* Survey ([Survey results](#)).

The Survey, undertaken fortnightly, is a short telephone-based survey of just over 1,000 households.

To date, two iterations of the Survey have been published containing information on health, wellbeing, changes in job situation and financial stress.

The third cycle of the Survey (to be published 18 May) will include information on participation in unpaid activities such as household chores, gardening, projects or renovations, and cooking/baking, including analysis of patterns in activities by males and females.

Future iterations of the Survey will also include information on additional unpaid work such as volunteering and caring for children and adults.

2. Collection of data for the 2020-21 Time Use Survey is scheduled to commence late in 2020.

Plans are being developed in the event that social distancing requirements continue to limit the ABS' ability to re-introduce face-to-face interviews for its household surveys. Should this be the case, the ABS will be reliant on computer-based web interview and e-diary methods to collect information.