

*Appendix 2*

**Extracts from legislation prescribing responsibilities and functions of the Australian Bureau of Statistics**

**CENSUS AND STATISTICS ACT 1905**  
(as amended)

*Section 16:*

(1) The Statistician shall, subject to the regulations and the directions of the Minister, collect, at least annually, statistics in relation to all or any of the following matters:—

- (a) Population;
- (b) Vital, social, and industrial matters;
- (c) Employment and non-employment;
- (d) Imports and exports;
- (e) Inter-State trade;
- (f) Postal and telegraphic matters;
- (g) Factories, mines, and productive industries generally;
- (h) Agricultural, horticultural, viticultural, dairying, and pastoral industries;
- (i) Banking, insurance, and finance;
- (j) Railways, tramways, shipping, and transport;
- (k) Land tenure and occupancy; and
- (l) Any other prescribed matters.

(2) The Statistician shall collect such statistics as are necessary for the purposes of the compilation of statistics referred to in paragraph 20 (1) (a).

*Section 20:*

(1) The Statistician shall compile and tabulate—

- (a) statistics of the number of the people of each State as on the last day of March, June, September and December in each year; and
- (b) the statistics collected in pursuance of sub-section 16 (1),

and shall publish those statistics or abstracts thereof, as the Minister directs, with observations thereon.

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**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975**

*Section 6:*

(1) The functions of the Bureau are as follows:—

- (a) to constitute the central statistical authority for the Australian Government and, by arrangements with the Governments of the States, provide statistical services for those Governments;
- (b) to collect, compile, analyse and disseminate statistics and related information;
- (c) to ensure co-ordination of the operations of official bodies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and related information, with particular regard to—
  - (i) the avoidance of duplication in the collection by official bodies of information for statistical purposes;
  - (ii) the attainment of compatibility between, and the integration of, statistics compiled by official bodies; and

(iii) the maximum possible utilisation, for statistical purposes, of information, and means of collection of information, available to official bodies;

(d) to formulate, and ensure compliance with, standards for the carrying out by official bodies of operations for statistical purposes;

(e) to provide advice and assistance to official bodies in relation to statistics; and

(f) to provide liaison between Australia, on the one hand, and other countries and international organisations, on the other hand, in relation to statistical matters.

(2) For the purpose of the performance of its functions and for the purpose of co-ordinating statistical activities and securing the observance of statistical standards, the Bureau may collaborate with bodies, being Departments and authorities of the States, the Administrations and authorities of the external Territories and local governing bodies, in the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistics, including statistics obtained from the records of those bodies.

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