

Modernising Business Registers and Director Identification Numbers legislation Consultation

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) welcomes the developments under the Modernising Business Registers and Director Identification Number programs, including the draft legislation that has been released. The ABS is Australia's national statistical agency, and as such, has a key interest in the role of the ABN in the collection and integration of statistical data and its role as an evidence base for government policy and decisions and research.

Under the draft legislation, the Registrar may use the data standards to collect information for the *purposes of the performance of the registrar's functions and the exercise of the registrar's powers under this Act or the Transactional Act (62H(1))*. The ABS would like to highlight that the restriction of the data standards to the registrar's own functions, would limit future opportunities to collect information to meet “whole of government” information requirements where this is the most sensible approach. This could potentially reduce the evidence base available for policy development. It might also result in less efficient “whole of government” data collection and increased burden on businesses. Examples of broader requirements where the data standard might be the best instrument due to its wide coverage and efficiency might be in relation to specific characteristics of an ABN business.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
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