

To Dean Adams
Assistant Director - Families, Gender, Children and Youth Statistics

Living Conditions | Population, Labour and Social Statistics | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

We apologise for delay in getting this information to you and hope you can still include it in the Collective submission on behalf of GSAG. Attached is some information about economic Security4Women. Please note comments below:

1. Status in employment (priority up for review) - Questions 34, 35, 36 and 37.

This is of interest to eS4W especially for longitudinal study. While we share the interest in female participation as entrepreneurs we would also be looking to be able to distinguish between entrepreneurs and those who are employed on contracts (also requiring an ABN) as we are interested in female participation in casual, i.e. insecure, work.

Given that employment type is no longer separately required in the Census, as the information previously collected for this topic will now be available from the status of employment topic, why would this question up for review?

2. Need for assistance (priority up for review) - Questions 20, 21, 22 and 23.

AND

3. Unpaid work (priority up for review) - Questions 48, 49, 50 and 51.

As health and disability have not been one of our core issues in the past, we are more interested in who is providing the assistance and are more concerned that the Unpaid work question remains unless there is another measure available.

Unpaid care work is a significant determinant of the time women have for paid work, it contributes to gender pay gap and reduced retirement savings and impacts on women's economic security.

We would want to be able to measure any change related to the amended Workplace Gender Equality Act, the availability of Paid Parental Leave for men and women, the introduction of NDIS and its new focus on carers.

We would want to retain this question especially as the date for the next WoLFS is yet to be brought forward. Census data is the only source of unpaid work for small population groups and persons in regional and remote areas which will not be covered by WoLFS. We have recently been able to use Census data to get greater detail on care activities in remote indigenous communities that was not available elsewhere.

eS4W considers all 4 components collected in 2006 and 2011 are important to retain. We also support extending the categories to cover main activities of people not in the labour force (whether by choice or circumstance).

4. Long-term health conditions (suggested new topic)

Information on long term health conditions may be useful for eS4W if our members decide to focus on their impact on women's working patterns and income.

5. Second residence/Ownership of other dwelling (suggested new topic) – not a core issue for eS4W but could be useful in determining wealth and socio economic status.

6. Sources of income (suggested new topic)

This topic would identify all sources of income, such as government pensions and allowances, investment income and wages. This new topic would enhance the income data collected from males and females by the Census, and extend the social analysis that can be undertaken in relation to gender differences (e.g. recipients of government payments).

Links with this topic and unpaid care work would also be very useful for on-going eS4W monitoring.

7. Hours worked (topic suggested for retaining) - Question 44

Currently this question is asked about actual hours worked last week, but there is demand for information on usual hours worked. Feedback is sought on the relative priority of actual hours worked last week and the potential replacement topic of usual hours.

eS4W does support replacement topic of usual hours as long as there is a mechanism to capture the significant number of workers (in insecure work) who do not have usual hours.

8. Educational institution address/Journey to education (new topic)

eS4W supports the provision of Education Institution address (subject to testing) in assisting with understanding the socioeconomic characteristics of families with children at particular schools and in education policy development as well as input to developing more effective funding models into the future.

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