

2. Survey Design

The survey was designed to the National Secretariat's specifications by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the government agency responsible for the conduct of the Australian census of population and housing and a large number of industry surveys.

The key objective of the survey was to collect the information about the production, processing and consumption of chemicals that would be required from Australia by the International Organisation when the CWC comes into effect. It was also designed to collect similar information about chemical weapons precursor chemicals subject to Australian export controls.

A first step in the design of the survey was to analyse which organisations would be covered. Analysis of the peaceful purposes for which scheduled chemicals could be used suggested that as well as chemical manufacturers and industrial chemical users, government agencies and laboratories at both Commonwealth and State government levels, universities and hospitals needed to be included.

The main features of the survey methodology were:

it was a mail survey

participation was voluntary

it was directed to companies, not individual plants.

The survey deliberately did not include companies solely engaged in the distribution of, or trade in chemicals. It was considered that this would introduce an element of double-counting between traders and users