The ABS is dependent on the NSW Birth, Death and Marriage Register (BDMR), to meet its legislative responsibility under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (Cth) to produce intercensal population estimates. The New South Wales (NSW) BDMR Regulation sets out the information required to be given to the NSW Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages, enabling compulsory registration, and as a consequence administrative data required to produce Australia’s official population estimates.

With no regulated basis for requiring people to provide information to the Registry individuals may refuse to provide information, compromising both the quality and timeliness of national births, deaths, causes of death and marriages, and other specialised statistics such as fertility estimates and life expectancy tables.

There are few government programs at any level of government which do not use population estimates in some form. Population estimates are used in the formulation of most policies, particularly those involving service delivery and are also needed to monitor existing government programs. Biological characteristics of the population are also required to accurately determine national Cause of Death statistics used to inform Australia’s death and disease prevention strategies, and funding for the health sector.

The Bureau therefore supports the remake of the Regulation in substantially the same form, ensuring that the legislative requirement to provide information about vital events to the Registry is maintained and improved. Without reliable vital statistics, the government’s ability to monitor progress towards development goals or national development policies would be compromised.