



2008.0

Information Paper

2001 Census of Population and Housing

Nature and Content

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
EMBARGO: 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 3 APR 2000

ABS Catalogue No. 2008.0

ISBN 0 642 27497 5

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PREFACE

The purpose of this publication is to outline the nature and content of the 2001 Census. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires that the '...census shall be taken in the year 1981 and in every fifth year thereafter, ...'. The ABS is preparing to undertake the next census on Tuesday 7 August 2001.

The census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and one of the most important. The aims of the census are to accurately measure the number and certain key characteristics of people in Australia on census night and the dwellings in which they live; and to provide timely, high quality and relevant data for small geographic areas and small population groups, to complement the rich but broad level data provided by ABS surveys.

This publication describes the procedures for the 2001 Census and the topics that will be included. The procedures and topics have been determined after evaluation of the 1996 Census data and processes and extensive public consultation. Topic related changes from the 1996 Census include the introduction of an ancestry question, modifications to the education and qualification questions, and revised approaches to collection and coding of industry and transport related questions.

The 2001 Census coincides with the centenary of the Australian Federation. The results from the 2001 Census will be an important national resource both for contemporary planners as well as those seeking to understand how Australia has changed over the first century since Federation.

Information about the full range of ABS data can be found in the *ABS Catalogue of Products and Services* (Cat. no. 1101.0). Further information about 2001 Census products and services will be published closer to the 2001 Census date.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASAC	Australian Statistics Advisory Council
CD	Collection District
ICR	intelligent character recognition
AC	automatic coding
CAC	computer assisted coding
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
ASIC	Australian Standard Industrial Classification
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ABSCQ	ABS Classification of Qualifications
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Division

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

OBJECTIVE OF THE CENSUS

Australia's next Census of Population and Housing will be held in 2001. The first Census was held in 1911 and since 1961 a census has been taken every 5 years, a frequency which is specified in the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The objective of the census is to measure accurately the number and certain key characteristics of people in Australia on census night, and the dwellings in which they live. This provides a reliable basis for the estimation of the population of each of the States, Territories and Local Government Areas primarily for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funds. It also provides the characteristics of the population and its housing within small geographic areas and for small population groups to support the planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities of governments and other users.

Under Australia's Constitution the 'number of members (in the House of Representatives) chosen in the several States shall be in proportion to the respective numbers of their people'. Population estimates based on the Census are used to determine the number of seats allocated to each State in the House of Representatives. Population estimates are also used in the allocation of Financial Assistance Grants by the Commonwealth to the States and the Territories. In 1997–1998 these grants accounted for 10.7% of total Commonwealth Budget outlays. The population estimates of local government areas based on the census are a key element in the criteria used for the distribution of funds.

The census also provides important information on the characteristics of the population. While this is valuable in its own right it is also possible to relate one characteristic with other characteristics so relationships that exist between them can be identified. For example, relationships between the localities in which people born overseas were living on census night, their employment status, the main occupations and industries they worked in, and their educational qualifications can be studied. As another example, those planning transport facilities can study the main traffic flows within a city and the methods people use to get to work, relating these data to average income levels and the availability of motor vehicles to households.

While some information on some characteristics is available from other sources, only a census can provide the information on a standard basis for the country as a whole and for small geographic areas and small population groups.

USER CONSULTATION

In March 1998, ABS published an *Information Paper 2001 Census: ABS Views on Content and Procedures (2007.0)*. This document was distributed to a wide range of organisations and individuals with known interests in the census. Its availability was widely advertised in the media and placed on the ABS website. As well as outlining the broad nature of plans for taking the census the paper summarised topic proposals for the next census under three categories:

- topics to be included in the 2001 Census;
- topics under review; and
- topics to be excluded from the 2001 Census.

A SUMMARY OF THE ISSUES ON WHICH THE ABS SOUGHT ADVICE

While comment was welcome on any aspect of the 2001 Census, the main issues on which ABS sought advice were:

- whether those topics on which the ABS was seeking further views from users should be included or excluded;
- whether there were any other topics which should be included in the 2001 Census and, if so, which topic(s) should be deleted to maintain provider load at about the 1996 Census level; and
- the arrangements for confidentiality and privacy.

The views of users were obtained through 130 written submissions and a range of consultation meetings with major users. In the light of these consultations draft recommendations on the content of the 2001 Census were discussed by the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) in July 1998 and, following completion of further testing on some topics, at a meeting in March 1999.

The final recommendations on the 2001 Census content have been approved by the Government.

KEY GOALS FOR THE 2001 CENSUS

The ABS has a number of key goals for the 2001 Census. These are to:

- improve the processing efficiency of the census so that, with about a 10% increase in population, results are available in about the same timeframe as for the 1996 Census; and to ensure that results are released on the designated date, while maintaining the same high level of data accuracy;
- ensure the relevance of the data collected to both users and providers, whilst reducing provider load in terms of time to fill in the census form from the 1996 level;
- improve census privacy and public perception of census privacy;
- improve the operational effectiveness of field census systems; and
- reduce the real cost per capita of the census.

PRIVACY

Protection of the privacy of individuals and the confidentiality of information supplied by them continue to be paramount to the successful conduct of a census. Confidentiality and privacy issues are discussed in chapter 2.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Regulations associated with the taking of the 2001 Census have been tabled in Parliament at the same time as the release of this Information Paper. Final testing of census form design, field procedures and processing systems will be undertaken during 1999, followed by a census dress rehearsal to be held during May 2000 in Melbourne. Consultation on the output program, including methods of dissemination will take place in 1999 and 2000.

CHAPTER 2

CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY

GENERAL ISSUES

The census collects information relating to each person and household in the country but it is not concerned with information about individuals as such. The census is taken to provide information about the community as a whole and about groups within the community. The public expects that the information they provide will be kept confidential and this protection is given by provisions in the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The ABS also has an obligation to comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in the *Privacy Act 1988*.

To ensure that confidentiality and privacy provisions are observed a comprehensive set of practices will be adopted by the ABS. In the 2001 Census these will include the following:

- (a) Temporary staff recruited for collection and processing of the census as well as permanent staff having access to completed census forms are officers of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. All ABS officers will be legally bound to secrecy under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. Officers will sign an undertaking of fidelity and secrecy to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities about census data. Section 19 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* prohibits any past or present ABS officer from divulging, either directly or indirectly, any confidential information collected under this Act, under penalty of a fine of up to \$5,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years, or both.
- (b) In large urban areas procedures will be established to avoid collectors working in the districts in which they live, to minimise the possibility of collecting information from people they know personally. However, in other areas, where fewer applications are expected for census collector positions and travel involves significant costs, it is more likely that collectors might know some householders. If a collector does know a householder they will be instructed to offer the householder a privacy envelope in which to seal the completed form.
- (c) Householders will be advised that anyone who does not want their completed form to be seen by the collector will be able to obtain a privacy envelope, from the collector in which to seal the form. In addition, any individual member of a household (including a visitor) can request a separate form and envelope in which to record their own details. Census collectors will be required to pass all privacy envelopes unopened to their field supervisor who will then conduct quality assurance. People not in private dwellings generally receive separate forms and envelopes. People who are not satisfied with these arrangements will be able to send a completed form to the ABS by mail.
- (d) A booklet providing guidance in completing the census form and explaining the reasons for including topics in the census will be delivered to each household along with the census form.
- (e) Census collectors will be instructed to pick up census forms in person from householders and not to suggest arrangements whereby completed forms are left outside the house at some pre-arranged location.

- (f) Completed census forms will be transferred to the census processing centre under secure arrangements. Full-time security personnel will be employed to prevent any unauthorised access to the processing centre.
- (g) Comprehensive security arrangements are implemented on the ABS computer system. These include the use of regularly changed passwords, access control and audit trails.
- (h) In accordance with the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, no results will be released in a way which would enable particular individuals or households to be identified. In past censuses, the ABS has made slight random adjustments to the tabulated data and this practice will continue for the 2001 Census.

RETENTION OF CENSUS FORMS

All name-identified information from past censuses has been destroyed, once the statistical processing was completed. However, for the 2001 Census the Government has accepted the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs report, *Saving Our Census and Preserving Our History* that saving name-identified census information 'for future research, with appropriate safeguards, will make a valuable contribution to preserving Australia's history for future generations'. This is particularly true for the 2001 Census as it coincides with the Centenary of Federation. In order to ensure that the current high levels of public confidence and cooperation in the census are maintained, and to respect the wishes of those who do not want their information retained for future release, information will only be kept for those persons who explicitly give their consent. Also for privacy reasons and to encourage households to give their consent, the name-identified information will not be available for any purpose within a 99 year closed access period, including by a court or tribunal. If a person does not explicitly agree to their name-identified Census information being retained their name and address will be destroyed once statistical processing has been completed.

TYPE OF QUESTION

<p>Does each person in this household agree to his/her name and address and other information on this form being kept by the National Archives of Australia and then made publicly available after 99 years?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Answering this question is OPTIONAL ■ A person's name identified information will not be kept where a person does not agree or the answer is left blank ■ Refer to the Census Guide for more information. <p>PLEASE CHECK WITH EACH PERSON BEFORE ANSWERING - LEAVE BLANK FOR THOSE PERSONS WHOSE VIEWS ARE NOT KNOWN TO YOU</p>					
Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5	Person 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, agrees	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, agrees	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, agrees	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, agrees	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, agrees	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, agrees
<input type="checkbox"/> No, does not agree	<input type="checkbox"/> No, does not agree	<input type="checkbox"/> No, does not agree	<input type="checkbox"/> No, does not agree	<input type="checkbox"/> No, does not agree	<input type="checkbox"/> No, does not agree

CHAPTER 3

COLLECTION OPERATIONS

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the collection operation is to achieve a high quality census in a cost-effective manner. This involves the recruitment, training, supervision and payment associated with a temporary workforce of approximately 30,000 people. It also includes the logistics associated with designing and preparing maps and the printing, packing, distribution and return of over 1,700 tonnes of material.

CENSUS DATE

The 1991 and 1996 Censuses were both held on 6 August.

Prior to 1991, late June was the traditional census date. The early August date was selected to avoid a clash with school holiday periods. If the census is scheduled close to the holidays then operational difficulties increase and data quality declines due to people being absent from their usual residences.

The 2001 Census will be held on Tuesday, 7 August 2001.

SCOPE

The scope of the census is all people in Australia on census night, excluding foreign diplomats and their families. Visitors to Australia are counted regardless of how long they have been in the country or how long they plan to stay. Australian residents out of the country on census night are out of the scope of the census.

People outside Australia who are not required to undertake migration formalities, such as those on oil and gas rigs off the Australian coast, are included.

The Territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island will be included in the 2001 Census. Following the enactment of the *Territories Law Reform Act 1992*, the results for these Territories were included in the counts for Australia for the first time in 1996.

People will be counted where they are on census night. This census count is then referred to as one conducted on an actual location or place of enumeration basis (often referred to as a defacto census). See also Chapter 5.

MAPPING

A collector will be responsible for the taking of the census in a clearly bounded local area, known as a Collection District (CD). There will be about 36,000 CDs covering Australia without overlap or omission. The design and mapping of these areas is a most important preliminary task to the census as they represent both the basic unit of collection and the building block for larger geographic units for census dissemination purposes. While some change is necessary CDs are, as far as possible, designed in such a way as to allow comparison of information over time.

MAPPING *continued*

For the 2001 Census, the ABS intends to align CDs in urban areas to gazetted suburb boundaries where they exist. The outer boundaries of these CDs will remain fixed over time and changes to match other administrative boundaries which change (e.g. local government boundaries) will be accommodated by splitting CDs.

As in the 1996 Census, the ABS will use a computer-based mapping system. The main benefits of this system are a common map base for both collection and dissemination purposes, more detailed and appropriately scaled maps for use by collectors leading to better coverage of the population, and improved dissemination products.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE

Public cooperation and acceptance of the census is essential for production of high quality statistics. For this reason a public awareness campaign will be conducted prior to and during the census. The aims of the campaign will be to maintain high quality response to the census by informing the public of the usefulness of the statistics obtained and the confidentiality of the information provided. The availability of help for those who may, for language or other reasons, have difficulty in completing the form will also be made known.

A redesigned information booklet will be delivered with the 2001 Census form to each household. The new booklet will explain the purposes of a census, and provide answers to commonly asked questions about the census. The collector will also answer any queries and arrange for collection of the completed census form.

An Internet site will be developed to provide information about the census and answer commonly asked questions.

A telephone inquiry service will also be available to answer questions about the census. In addition, there will be a telephone interpreter service to assist people who have difficulty with the English language, to complete their census forms.

DELIVERY AND COLLECTION OF CENSUS FORMS

Most of the temporary field staff recruited will be group leaders and collectors. A group leader will be responsible for about 11 collectors who will each be responsible for the delivery and collection of census forms from an average of about 400 dwellings. However, the number of dwellings covered varies depending on whether the area is urban or rural. In addition, special collectors will be recruited to undertake census duties in large non-private dwellings (such as hospitals, hotels and goals) and caravan parks.

The census will be conducted by a collector drop off/pick up method. That is, census collectors will deliver forms to each dwelling before census day and then return and pick up the forms after census day.

ENUMERATION OF
INDIGENOUS, HOMELESS
AND ETHNIC PEOPLE

Special procedures will be implemented to ensure that the coverage of Indigenous, homeless and ethnic people is as complete as possible. These procedures will be further developed from those used successfully for the 1996 Census.

NON COOPERATION

It is expected that the public awareness campaign on the nature of the census, the assurances of confidentiality and the uses of the resulting statistics will ensure maximum cooperation. People who do not cooperate with the collector will usually be approached by the group leader in an endeavour to overcome their problems or objections. If necessary, this approach will be followed up by a letter from the ABS explaining the purposes and value of the census and its legal status, and seeking the householder's cooperation. Further action, including legal action, will be considered only after these measures have failed.

CHAPTER 4

PROCESSING

PROCESSING OUTLINE

For the 2001 Census, the ABS will be using Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) to capture the data from census forms together with the use of automatic coding (AC) and computer assisted coding (CAC) in the processing phase.

A Data Processing Centre (DPC) will be established to undertake the processing of the 2001 Census. Processing of data will proceed as follows:

Receipt and register of forms: a check will be undertaken to ensure that all completed census forms have been received at the DPC.

Data capture: the responses to the questions on the forms will be captured by ICR. Responses will be coded automatically, or where this is not achieved, semi-automatically. A reconciliation process will ensure that all forms have been data captured.

Editing: editing will be undertaken to reduce the inconsistencies in census data. The kinds of error which editing procedures can detect are limited to responses which are invalid, inconsistent with other responses on the census form or in conflict with census definitions. Some inconsistencies will remain in the data where it is not possible to determine the true situation from the information provided.

Imputation: missing responses for sex, age, marital status and usual residence will be imputed.

Quality assurance: processes will be implemented at the DPC to maximise the accurate and consistent recording of information from the census forms.

CHAPTER 5

RESULTS/OUTPUT

WHERE PEOPLE ARE COUNTED

As discussed in Chapter 3, the 2001 Census will be conducted on an actual location basis but a range of usual residence based data will also be available.

CLASSIFICATIONS

Most classifications to be used in the 2001 Census will be similar to those used in the 1996 Census. A major upgrade is expected to the classification of qualifications. The publication *2001 Census ABS Views on Census Output* (ABS Catalogue No 2009.0) will include a summary of major changes to the classifications for the 2001 Census. A list of classifications to be used in the 2001 Census will be issued in a further publication to be released in June 2000.

DATA RELEASE

2001 Census data will be released in two stages and more quickly than it was for the 1996 Census. The first release will consist of the demographic, social and housing variables and the second release will consist of the internal migration, qualifications, family and labour force related variables. The topics included in each of the two release stages are shown in the Appendix.

INVESTIGATIONS OF OUTPUT PRODUCTS

The ABS intends to undertake a review of output products and services from the 1996 Census in consultation with users. This will include an opportunity for users to suggest new products to be made available from the 2001 Census. These suggestions will be considered in the development of output plans for the 2001 Census.

Other investigative work includes:

- methods of delivering information to clients, including use of the Internet;
- more flexible and efficient methods of output dissemination, intended to align more closely with client requirements for speed of service and pricing;
- the need to include census results together with other ABS data in standard products; and
- output mapping needs for the 2001 Census.

EVALUATION

An integral step in the conduct of the census is an evaluation of its success. Of most importance is a measure of the extent of under enumeration. For this purpose a Post Enumeration Survey will be conducted soon after census night.

As well, detailed evaluation studies will be conducted to provide users of census data with information about data quality and to provide feedback for improvements to be made for the following census.

A full review of the effectiveness of all components of the 2001 Census operations will be undertaken.

CHAPTER 6

TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2001 CENSUS

TOPICS INCLUDED TO MEET LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The primary purpose of the census is to provide a reliable basis for the estimation of the population of each of the States, Territories and Local Government Areas for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funds.

The *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* requires the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to supply the Electoral Commissioner with the population statistics that are needed for the regular review of the number of seats each State and Territory is entitled to have in the House of Representatives. To meet this requirement the Statistician has to provide population data for each of the States and Territories.

The *States Grants (General Purposes) Act 1994* requires the Statistician to supply reliable population estimates to the Commonwealth Grants Commission each year. State Grants Commissions have similar data needs at the level of individual local government areas.

The population estimates are dependent on the five-yearly census and are calculated by adjusting the census count for under enumeration and excluding visitors from overseas and adding in Australian residents who are overseas at the time of the census. The population estimates are updated quarterly using a combination of other data sources and demographic techniques which have at their base census data on the following topics:

Sex
Age
Registered marital status
Usual residence at census time
Internal migration

OTHER TOPICS INCLUDED

Because the census covers all households, it can gather much information about the characteristics of the population and its housing within small geographic areas and for small population groups to support the planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities of governments and other users.

In addition to data on total population, the Commonwealth and State Grants Commissions use census data from a wide range of other census topics to assess State and Territories relativities of 'needs' and the ability to generate taxation and other revenue. In this respect, the Commissions are just one of the numerous clients, in both the public and private sectors, which make use of a range of census data for decisions affecting the allocation of substantial resources.

OTHER TOPICS INCLUDED
continued

However a census is not always the most appropriate means of obtaining statistical information about a community. Because a census involves the whole community and requires a large infrastructure, censuses are taken several years apart. Since 1961, Australia has taken a census every five years. This is too long for many policy and planning purposes and often the data needed for most purposes are not for small population groups or small geographic areas. Furthermore, the census in Australia, is completed by the householder with little outside assistance. This limits the nature of the topics which can be covered and the questions which can be asked. Topics which require complex questions or question sequencing are not suitable for a census as the responses obtained may not be reliable.

A set of criteria based on these principles is used to judge the suitability of topics for a census. These are:

- the topic is of major national importance;
- there is a need for data on the topic for small groups in the population and/or for small geographic areas; and
- the topic is suitable for inclusion in the census.

TOPIC IS OF MAJOR
NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Topics selected for a census must have specific purposes which are of national importance. There must be a demonstrated need for the census data for policy development, planning and program monitoring.

NEED FOR DATA FOR
SMALL GROUPS OF THE
POPULATION OR FOR SMALL
AREAS

Because the census covers all households, it can produce accurate information at the small geographic area level or about small population groups. Information which is not required at this fine level of detail is more effectively obtained from sample surveys.

The ABS produces an extensive range of information from a variety of sample surveys. The comprehensive program of monthly population surveys generally provides data at the national, state and regional levels on a wide range of topics.

TOPIC IS SUITABLE FOR
INCLUSION IN THE CENSUS

In the census, information is collected by 'self-enumeration'. Each household is required to fill in the details specified on the census form with relatively little assistance from the census collector. Self-enumeration, and the need to ensure that the large census operation is conducted as efficiently and effectively as possible, impose certain constraints on the type of topics included in order to minimise the reporting burden on households and control census costs.

Topics which require detailed explanation to ensure accurate answers are unlikely to be answered correctly. Research has shown that people often do not read the explanations which accompany such questions. Questions which are controversial or which may cause adverse reactions may also not be answered correctly. Furthermore these types of questions may also affect the quality of other responses. Information about these kinds of topics may be better obtained by interviewer based collection methods.

TOPIC IS SUITABLE FOR
INCLUSION IN THE CENSUS
continued

Taking these criteria into consideration, the Government has decided that the following topics will be included in the 2001 Census. The topics relating to persons are discussed in Chapter 7. Those relating to households and dwellings are discussed in Chapter 8.

TOPICS RELATING TO
PERSONS

Name

Basic Demography

Sex and age

Residential status (for people in non-private dwellings)

Registered marital status

Usual residence at census time

Internal migration

Religion

Ethnicity

Australian citizenship

Birthplace

Year of arrival

Indigenous status

Main language spoken at home/Proficiency in spoken English

Whether parents born in Australia

Ancestry

Education

Attendance at an educational institution

Highest year of schooling completed

Education qualifications

Income (individual)

Labour force

Labour force status

Occupation

Industry

Institutional sector

Hours worked

Transport

Journey to work (destination zone coding)

Mode of travel to work

TOPICS RELATING TO
HOUSEHOLDS AND
DWELLINGS

Household

Address on census night
Family relationship (for people in private dwellings)
Income (family, household)
Number of motor vehicles garaged
Number of bedrooms
Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)
Housing loan repayments
Rent
Landlord type

Dwelling

Structure of private dwelling (classification)
Location of private dwelling (classification)
Non-private dwelling type (classification)

CHAPTER 7

PERSONAL TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2001 CENSUS

NAME

JUSTIFICATION

Names are essential for the conduct of a high quality post-enumeration survey which is used to measure the level of under enumeration in the census. These measures are an important component in the estimation of resident populations for each of the States, Territories and Local Government Areas as required by the *States Grants (General Purposes) Act 1994* and the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* and for determining the number of seats allocated to each State and Territory in the House of Representatives.

Names are used with other information to help determine, for coding purposes, the composition of households, especially where households consist of more than one family. They are also used by collectors to help ensure all forms are accounted for and where they need to refer back to individuals within households.

Including names on census forms reduces the incidence of non-completion and inaccurate responses. The Australian Law Reform Commission, in its 1979 report on Privacy and the Census, found that an anonymous census would result in an unacceptable level of non-response and an equally unacceptable bias in responses.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The inclusion of names in the census does raise privacy concerns even though the confidentiality of data provided is carefully guarded. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (Section 12) requires that no identifiable information about an individual be made available to any other person, government agency or private organisation.

In past censuses names were not retained after processing of the data was completed. For the 2001 Census name-identified Census information will be kept by the National Archives of Australia to be preserved for release for future genealogical and other research after a closed-access period of 99 years, but only where the person explicitly consents to this.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Names have been requested in all previous censuses.

TYPE OF QUESTION

<p>Name of each person <i>including visitors</i> who spent the night of Tuesday, 7 August 2001 in this dwelling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Record details for all adults, children, babies and <i>visitors</i>. ■ Include any person who returned Wednesday, 8 August 2001, without having been counted elsewhere. 	<p>First or given name</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Surname or family name</p> <p>.....</p>
--	--

SEX AND AGE

USER REQUIREMENTS

Sex and age counts are essential for the production of accurate population estimates. Users require counts by single year of age and sex for small geographic areas and small groups of the population as a basic input to many planning and policy development activities. The sex and age variables are also widely used with other characteristics of the population in cross-classified tables.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The topics of sex and age have been included in every Australian census since 1911.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

Is the person male or female?	() Male
Mark one box for each person, for example (-).	() Female

What was the person's age last birthday?	Age
■ If age is less than one year, write '0'.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Years
■ Example, for a person aged 19 years:	() 100 years or more
Age	
<input type="text" value="1"/> <input type="text" value="9"/> Years	

For the 2001 Census, the Age question will be changed from the age grid used in 1996 to a write in question where the respondents write in their age.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

RESIDENTIAL STATUS (FOR PEOPLE IN NON-PRIVATE DWELLINGS)

USER REQUIREMENTS

This topic identifies people staying in non-private dwellings either on a short term basis or as a residence, from live-in staff and their families.

Census data about people residing in non-private dwellings are important for the planning and delivery of many services. Over three quarters of a million people were enumerated in non-private dwellings in the 1996 Census.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Information about the residential status of people counted in non-private dwellings has been collected in all censuses. Until 1996, the information was collected as part of the question about relationship to others in the dwelling. In 2001 this information will be collected from a separate question asked of people in non-private dwellings.

TYPE OF QUESTION

Residential status in this dwelling

- For a person in or person visiting a private home **Go to ...**
- For a person staying in accommodation such as a hotel, hostel, hospital, staff or student quarters, etc, on the night of 7 August 2001, mark one of the following:

Residents in these premises

- () Guest >**Go to ...**
- () Patient >**Go to ...**
- () Inmate >**Go to ...**
- () Resident >**Go to ...**
- () Other >**Go to ...**

Persons employed in these premises

- () Owner, proprietor or manager >**Go to ...**
- () Staff, (e.g. porter, cook, teacher, warden etc.) >**Go to ...**
- () Family of owner, proprietor, manager or staff >**Go to ...**

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

The numbers of people in some types of non-private dwellings are available from the ABS Tourist Accommodation Survey and other administrative sources. The census provides information on the characteristics of people in all non-private dwellings.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in Second Release—see page 78.

REGISTERED MARITAL STATUS

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information from this topic is used by the ABS to maintain the accuracy of the estimated resident population by marital status. This series is the benchmark for the calculation of a range of rates and ratios used in socio-economic studies.

Registered marital status data are used by demographers for population analysis. The data are also used more generally in association with information about actual living arrangements (social marital status) for a range of social research purposes.

Even though there is a trend to cohabit outside registered marriage, changes in registered marital status still reflect an important social transition. Most Australians still marry and many will get divorced and many of these will remarry. The decision to have children is often associated with a decision to register the marriage. Thus registered marriage continues to be useful in measuring social and attitudinal changes taking place in living arrangements.

Census data are crucial in preparing estimates of the resident population by registered marital status which in turn are essential in establishing rates of marriage and divorce. The census is the only regular and reliable source of data on registered marital status and as such provides a basis for these estimates.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on marital status has been included in all previous censuses.

TYPE OF QUESTION

<p>What is the person's present marital status?</p>	<p>() Never married</p> <p>() Widowed</p> <p>() Divorced</p> <p>() Separated but not divorced</p> <p>() Married</p>
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DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

USUAL RESIDENCE AT CENSUS TIME

USER REQUIREMENTS The most important use for data on place of usual residence at census time is to provide usual residence census counts for the estimation of usual resident populations for States, Territories and Local Government Areas. These population estimates are used in determining the number of seats in the House of Representatives allocated to each State and Territory, and the distribution of funds to the States, Territories and Local Government Authorities.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND A question on a person’s place of usual residence at census time was first included in the 1961 Census when people who were temporarily absent from their usual residence were asked to name their State or Territory of usual residence (or overseas if appropriate). The topic was not included in 1966 but has been included in all censuses since 1971.

TYPE OF QUESTION

<p>Where does the person usually live?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For persons who usually live in another country and who are visiting Australia for less than one year, mark ‘Other country’. ■ For all other persons, ‘usually lives’ means that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more. ■ For persons who now have no usual address, write ‘no usual address’. ■ For boarders at boarding school, give address at boarding school or college. 	<p>() The address shown on the front of this form</p> <p>() Elsewhere in Australia—please specify address</p> <p>Street number</p> <p>Street name</p> <p>Suburb, rural locality or town</p> <p>State/Territory Postcode</p> <p>() Other country</p>
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NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE Many ABS surveys include questions on usual residence of members of the household but small sample sizes do not enable generation of data of sufficient accuracy to use in compiling resident population estimates for local government areas.

DATA RELEASE PLANS To be included in First Release—see page 78

INTERNAL MIGRATION

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data on a person's usual residence at some prior point in time (e.g. one or five years ago), when combined with detailed responses to the question on usual residence at census time, provide information on the extent of internal migration of the population. Coupled with other census topics, the questions on usual residence provide information on characteristics of the migratory population as well as the non-migratory population. Such data are used in the production of intercensal and postcensal population estimates, all of which are compiled on the basis of usual residence. In addition, as internal migration is a major component of population change for many areas, the data are important in the calculation of population forecasts.

The census is the only source of data on usual residence one and five years ago.

Information on the internal migration patterns of the population at national, state, regional, local government and collection district levels is required for many planning purposes. In particular the data are used in:

- forecasting short and medium term housing requirements;
- planning transport, health and educational services; and
- zoning, release and development of land for residential and commercial purposes.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Since 1971 people have been asked to provide the full address of their usual residence five years ago. A question on usual residence one year ago has been included since 1976. In 1991, respondents were asked only for their State of usual residence one year ago and for their full address five years ago. The 1996 Census asked for full address of usual residence for both one year ago and five years ago.

Only a statistical area code, not the actual address, is stored on the census computer files.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

Where did the person usually live one year ago (at 7 August 2000)?

- If the person is less than one year old, leave blank.
- For persons who had no usual address on 7 August 2000, give the address at which they were then living.

() Same as question ...

() Elsewhere in Australia—please specify address.

Street number
.....

Street name
.....
.....

Suburb, rural locality or town
.....
.....

State/Territory Postcode
.....

Where did the person usually live five years ago(at 7 August 1996)?

- If the person is less than five years old, leave blank.
- For persons who had no usual address on 7 August 1996, give the address at which they were then living.

() Same as question ...

() Same as question ...

() Elsewhere in Australia—please specify address.

Street number
.....

Street name
.....
.....

Suburb, rural locality or town
.....
.....

State/Territory Postcode
.....

() Other country

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Some administrative by-product data, such as change of address information from Medicare, give regular statistics on the number of movements, but only very limited details are available on the characteristics of movers. Such data are also subject to changes in their coverage.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in Second Release—see page 78.

RELIGION

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data on religious affiliations of the population are required for planning the extensive range of activities and services involving religious organisations, including:

- the location of places of worship, education facilities, aged persons care and other social services;
- the allocation of chaplains to hospitals, prisons and the armed services;
- the accreditation of marriage celebrants; and
- the allocation of Government grants to non-government schools and religious groups, sociological research and the allocation of air time on public radio.

Religious organisations are the largest providers of services to the community outside those provided by Governments, and the census is the only source of data they can use for the effective and efficient planning of such services.

Information on a person's religion is also, to some extent, a useful adjunct in the measurement of ethnicity.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on a person's religion has been asked in all Australian censuses. *The Census and Statistics Act 1905* specifies that response to this question is optional. Despite the optional nature of the religion question approximately 90% of respondents provide an answer.

TYPE OF QUESTION

<p>What is the person's religion?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Answering this question is OPTIONAL.■ For example, Salvation Army, Hinduism, Judaism or Humanism.■ If no religion, mark last box.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">() Catholic() Anglican (Church of England)() Uniting Church() Presbyterian() Greek Orthodox() Baptist() Lutheran() Islam() Buddhism() Other—please specify..........() No religion
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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
continued

There has been some concern at the use of a self-coded list for this topic. The use of lists reduces the cost of coding and only a small number of the most common response categories can be provided in the space available. These are selected according to the frequency of responses reported in the previous census.

NON-CENSUS DATA
AVAILABLE

Data on the religious affiliations of the population are not available from other sources, but some data on religion are obtained from marriage registrations in the form of files used by marriage celebrants.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

USER REQUIREMENTS

Citizenship data are used for measuring the rate of take up of citizenship amongst the overseas-born population and for monitoring electoral enrolments. Citizenship data are also used in costing reciprocal social security arrangements with other countries. The data are often cross-classified with birthplace, year of arrival and age data.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on nationality was first asked in 1921, when respondents were asked to indicate what national subject they were by means of birthplace, parentage or naturalization. In 1966 and 1971 the term 'nationality or citizenship' was used, and from 1976 onwards the question has used the word 'citizenship'. Since 1986, the question on citizenship has been self-coding with only two response categories (Australian citizen or not).

TYPE OF QUESTION

Is the person an Australian citizen?

() Yes, Australian citizen

() No

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Census output serves as the benchmark for statistics on citizenship. This information can be updated by using:

- data on the country of citizenship of settler arrivals indicated on passenger cards completed by people entering and leaving Australia; and
- data on the number of migrants who become Australian citizens.

Both of these sources of information have limitations because they do not provide a complete picture of the total number of citizens at any point in time, nor do they provide reliable small area data.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

BIRTHPLACE

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data on birthplace are critical in targeting settlement assistance to migrants. They are used for the examination of the need for, and the utilisation of, health, education and other social services for migrant groups. They are also used for labour force training and recruitment and for the formulation and monitoring of many other government policies and programs related to migrants.

These needs cannot be met with acceptable quality from sample surveys nor overseas arrivals and departures statistics. The value of the data is greatly enhanced when cross-classified with data on period of residence in Australia which enables recent migrants to be distinguished from those who arrived some time ago. The inclusion of the birthplace topic in the census enables the ABS to maintain the accuracy of the estimated resident population by birthplace series.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on a person's birthplace has been included in every Australian census. Before the 1981 Census, with the exception of the 1921 Census, respondents were asked to provide details of the State or Territory of birth if born in Australia, or country of birth if born overseas. In 1921 and in censuses since 1981, State or Territory details have not been required.

TYPE OF QUESTION

In which country was the person born?	<input type="checkbox"/> Australia >Go to ... <input type="checkbox"/> England <input type="checkbox"/> Scotland <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand <input type="checkbox"/> Italy <input type="checkbox"/> Greece <input type="checkbox"/> Viet Nam <input type="checkbox"/> Other—please specify
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The list of response categories for this question is designed to reflect those countries which are reported most often at the previous census.

NON-CENSUS DATA
AVAILABLE

A question on birthplace is included in every ABS population survey, although detailed birthplace information is not available from these surveys because of high sampling error on estimates for small geographic areas and for many small birthplace groups.

Regular statistics on overseas arrivals and departures classified by birthplace are available from the processing of passenger cards required to be completed for each person arriving or departing Australia.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

YEAR OF ARRIVAL

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data on year of arrival, when cross-classified with other census data, are used to analyse changes in the characteristics of migrants to Australia over time. In addition, users have identified the following needs for these data:

- for the separate identification of recently arrived migrants from 'older' migrant groups, with the former generally requiring more services; and
- for analysis of various aspects of migrant participation in the labour force.

Survey data cannot provide the small area data needed, or the cross-classified tables on the many birthplace groups that are possible with census results.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on date of first arrival in Australia or number of completed years of residence in Australia, has been asked of overseas-born residents in all Australian censuses since 1911.

For the 2001 Census, this question will ask overseas-born respondents to write in the actual year they arrived in Australia, thereby providing more detailed information than in recent censuses.

TYPE OF QUESTION

In what year did the person first arrive in Australia to live here for one year or more?

Example: Year

Year

() Will be in Australia less than one year

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Most ABS population surveys collect information on year of arrival for the overseas-born population. Regular statistics on overseas arrivals are available from the processing of passenger cards required for each such movement.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

INDIGENOUS STATUS

USER REQUIREMENTS

The census is the only comprehensive source of socio-demographic data on Australia's Indigenous peoples for small areas. The main purpose of this topic is to determine the number and distribution of Indigenous peoples.

Data on the distribution and characteristics of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations are important to Commonwealth and State authorities responsible for developing policies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in such fields as housing, health services, education, social security and special assistance programs. The Commonwealth Grants Commission requires accurate data on the Indigenous populations for use in the allocation of funds to the States and Territories for services directed at these populations. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) requires small area demographic data for use in the planning and administrative activities of ATSIC Regional Councils.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In all censuses prior to 1971 respondents were asked to state their race and, where race was mixed, to specify the proportions of each. In the 1971 and 1976 Censuses a question with response categories of European, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Other was included. Since 1981, a specific question has been asked to identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Since 1976, special measures have been adopted to obtain as complete a coverage as possible of the Indigenous population. These include special census awareness activities, greater use of Indigenous staff, greater involvement of Indigenous organisations, and better co-ordination of special field operations. In remote areas, special interview forms have been used to facilitate the enumeration of these groups. These special measures will be continued and improved for the 2001 Census.

TYPE OF QUESTION

Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

- For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.

- () No
() Yes, Aboriginal
() Yes, Torres Strait Islander

NON-CENSUS DATA
AVAILABLE

There have been some improvements in recent years on the extent to which data on Indigenous peoples are available from relevant Commonwealth and State government authorities. However, the available data are still limited in coverage and quality.

The ABS conducted an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey in 1994 which provided statistical data on a wide range of topics at National, State and ATSI Region level. A Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey in Indigenous communities is being conducted in 1999.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

MAIN LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME/PROFICIENCY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data on languages used are required:

- for the investigation and development of language services such as interpretation/translation and education;
- for the implementation of the National and State language policies; and
- as an indicator of 'active' ethnicity.

Data on proficiency in English are needed for:

- the development of English teaching programs;
- the development of multilingual information programs;
- the provision of interpretation/translation services; and
- the provision of migrant welfare or community services.

Data on languages used and proficiency in English are required at small area level and for small population groups for the planning and delivery of the above services.

The Government's objectives in its access and equity policy require language use data to be available for monitoring and implementing associated programs.

Language, either alone or in combination with other characteristics, is a useful adjunct to other ethnicity related variables.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A language question was first included in 1921, asking whether the person could read and write. In 1933 the question asked whether the person could read and write a foreign language if unable to read and write English. Language was not included again until 1976, when a question on languages regularly used was included.

In 1981, a question was asked on proficiency in spoken English for those persons speaking a language other than English at home. Since the 1986 Census, an additional question on main language spoken at home has been asked.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

<p>Does the person speak a language other than English at home?</p> <p>■ If more than one language, write the one that is spoken most often.</p>	<p>() No, English only >Go to ...</p> <p>() Yes, Italian</p> <p>() Yes, Greek</p> <p>() Yes, Cantonese</p> <p>() Yes, Mandarin</p> <p>() Yes, Arabic</p> <p>() Yes, Vietnamese</p> <p>() Yes, other—please specify</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>How well does the person speak English?</p>	<p>() Very well</p> <p>() Well</p> <p>() Not well</p> <p>() Not at all</p>

Response categories included in the first question reflect the languages most commonly spoken at home as reported in the 1996 Census, except for Mandarin. It has been included to cover the two main Chinese dialects and to avoid distortion due to speakers of Mandarin opting for Cantonese in the belief that it is the only Chinese dialect available.

For the 2001 Census, Vietnamese has replaced German in the list of response categories.

The ABS conducted a survey of the major users and producers of language data to determine the language variables for which there was a genuine demand such as First Language Spoken, Main Language Spoken at Home, etc.

As a result of this survey, further consultation was held with major users of census data on the preferred language variable. The strongly held opinion of these users was that the preferred language variable for inclusion in the census is the current 'Main language other than English spoken at home'.

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

A number of ABS surveys collect data on the main language spoken at home.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

WHETHER PARENTS BORN IN AUSTRALIA

USER REQUIREMENTS

The questions on whether parents were born overseas, in conjunction with the ancestry question, provide data for planning decisions relating to access and equity. The data allow determination of the ethnic background of recent generation Australians and hence the identification of communities which in turn affect the allocation of resources/facilities that are made on a community basis.

Many users have expressed a need for data about the ethnic affiliation of individuals which cannot be identified through the previous census questions on language, religion, birthplace (of individuals and of their parents) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. Given the extent of data items relating to cultural affiliation already in the census, ABS sought the views of users about the need for information on birthplace of parents as well as, or instead of, information from an ancestry question. As a result, an ancestry question will be asked in conjunction with questions on whether the person's parents were born in Australia or overseas. (see Ancestry on page 33 for further information).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on birthplace of parents was first asked in 1921, however, no tabulations of birthplace of parents were released from that census. A question on birthplace of parents was not asked again until 1971. The 2001 Census question will ask whether the person's parents were born in Australia or overseas.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

In which country was the person's father born?	<input type="checkbox"/> Australia
	<input type="checkbox"/> Overseas
In which country was the person's mother born?	<input type="checkbox"/> Australia
	<input type="checkbox"/> Overseas

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

The only regular data on birthplace of parents published by the ABS are derived from birth and marriage registrations. Data on birthplace of parents has been occasionally obtained in ABS surveys.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

ANCESTRY

USER REQUIREMENTS

A person's ancestry, in conjunction with the person's birthplace and whether the person's parents were born in Australia or overseas, provide a good indication of the ethnic background of first and second generation Australians. This is essential for the effective delivery of services to particular ethnic communities. As well, the question may provide useful data on Australians of South Sea Islander descent.

There is user demand for a census question about ethnic or cultural origin, for those groups which cannot be identified adequately through the previous set of census questions on language, religion, birthplace of individuals, birthplace of parents and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

Users indicated, during the consultation process, that the main population of concern for policy purposes were those who were born overseas or who had parents born overseas. Analysis of 1986 Census data and data from the census testing program show that acceptable identification of these groups can be achieved with a combination of an ancestry question and a question on whether a person's parents were born in Australia or overseas.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on each person's ancestry, (i.e. ethnic or cultural origin) was asked for the first time in the 1986 Census. This was the result of investigation by the 1986 Population Census Ethnicity Committee on the need for data on ethnicity other than language, birthplace or birthplace of parents. The question was designed to identify the respondent's origin rather than a subjective perception of their ethnic background. The aim of the question was to measure the ethnic composition of the population as a whole. Evaluation showed that it was not useful for this purpose as there was a high level of subjectivity and confusion about what the question meant, particularly for those people whose families had been in Australia for many generations. Very little use was made of the ancestry data from the 1986 Census. As a consequence, ancestry was not included in either the 1991 or 1996 Censuses.

As a result of user demands, the ABS established a Census Consultative Group on Ancestry, to seek user input and to identify user requirements for these data, research international practices and develop and test questions which may provide acceptable and accurate data at a reasonable cost. Testing in the lead up to the 1996 Census indicated that the same data quality problems were experienced as with the 1986 Census. Subsequent discussions of the Consultative Group identified that the major policy issues were for those people who were either born overseas or whose parents were born overseas. For this purpose, an ancestry question in combination with a question on whether the person's parents were born in Australia or overseas would produce data of acceptable quality.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
continued

This question may also be useful in identifying the population of Australians of South Sea Islander descent. These people are the descendants of South Sea Islanders brought to Australia as indentured labour around the turn of the twentieth century and have been identified by legislation as a disadvantaged minority group.

TYPE OF QUESTION

<p>What is the person's ancestry?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ For example: Vietnamese; Arab; Hmong; Dutch; Kurdish; Australian South Sea Islander.■ Provide more than one ancestry if necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">() British() Irish() Italian() German() Greek() Chinese() Australian() Other—please specify <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
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DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

ATTENDANCE AT AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information on whether a person is attending an educational institution has important uses for education and labour market planning. Users require data on demographic, family, economic and social characteristics of people attending particular types of educational institutions.

Information on whether each person aged 15–20 years is a full-time student or not is used for identifying dependent family children in family coding. The data enable education planners to compare the current participation levels of small groups in the population. They also assist in developing policies affecting the labour market, in particular of young people. The relationship between participation in education and labour market activities is required for Governments to monitor the impact of their policies and programs relating to people in the labour market. While much of this need is met by surveys, the census provides data for small areas and for small population groups which assists in planning the delivery of programs.

Data on type of institution being attended further enhance analysis by indicating the participation of different groups in the population in the various levels of education.

The census provides a wider range of information on the characteristics of students than is currently available from the statistics derived from administrative sources. This topic is considered to be of high priority by education planners at Commonwealth, State and community level and is used as input into decisions on the allocation of funds to schools.

Significant changes are occurring in education participation and further changes are anticipated. Data from this question cross-classified with other characteristics will be important in monitoring the changes as they occur.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A variety of questions enabling the identification of full-time students has been included in all censuses. Questions on type of educational institution being attended by students have also been asked in varying degrees of detail in a number of censuses, to enable comprehensive statistics to be produced on the characteristics of people attending various types of institutions.

Due to structural changes in the higher education system, some changes in terminology were made in 1996 for the type of educational institution question. Also, 'Catholic' and 'Other Non-Government' primary and secondary schools were separately identified.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

<p>Is the person attending a school or any other educational institution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Include external or correspondence students. <p>What type of educational institution is the person attending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Include external or correspondence students. 	<p>() No >Go to ...</p> <p>() Yes, full-time student</p> <p>() Yes, part-time student</p> <p>() Pre-school</p> <p>Infants/Primary School</p> <p>() Government</p> <p>() Catholic</p> <p>() Other Non-Government</p> <p>Secondary school</p> <p>() Government</p> <p>() Catholic</p> <p>() Other Non-Government</p> <p>Tertiary institution</p> <p>() Technical or further educational institution (including TAFE Colleges)</p> <p>() University or other higher educational institution</p> <p>() Other educational institution.</p>
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NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Data on attendance at schools, universities and technical or further educational institutions are collected each year from administrative sources but limited socio-economic data are available from these sources.

Monthly labour force surveys ask people whether or not they are attending school. Data on school and tertiary attendance for people aged 15–64 are also available from the annual ABS Survey Transition from Education to Work.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

HIGHEST YEAR OF SCHOOLING COMPLETED

USER REQUIREMENTS

This topic is an important adjunct to education qualifications data for people without post-school qualifications, as well as an important indicator of educational need or disadvantage. Information on highest year of schooling completed is particularly important because of the extent of change occurring in education participation and in labour market adjustment.

Data on highest year of schooling completed are required for:

- assessing the usefulness of extension courses or other educational programs; and
- an indicator of disadvantage because it shows the level of education reached by people with no post-school qualifications.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question relating to highest year of schooling completed was first asked in 1966. In 1976 the question was changed to age left school to overcome reporting problems due to the lack of standardisation of schooling across States and different systems used overseas.

Given that common terminology has been in place now for more than thirty years, it is proposed to include highest year of schooling completed in the 2001 Census rather than age left school. The final question will depend on the outcome of question testing.

TYPE OF QUESTION

What is the highest year of primary or secondary school the person has completed?

- Mark one box only.

- For persons who returned after a break to complete their schooling, mark the highest year completed when they last left.

- () Still at school
- () Did not go to school
- () Year 8 or below
- () Year 9 or equivalent
- () Year 10 or equivalent
- () Year 11 or equivalent
- () Year 12 or equivalent

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Statistics on highest year of schooling completed are collected annually as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey.

Administrative data provide detailed information on age participation rates at school for contemporary students, and the highest year of schooling completed.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS

USER REQUIREMENTS

Qualifications information from the census is used, in particular, to support planning and policy development in the areas of education, training and employment. This is an area of significant public policy discussions and expenditure.

Data on education qualifications are important for the assessment of the skill level of the labour force and are therefore valuable for the planning and implementation of labour force training programs. The data are used as a basis for the preparation of the 'Occupational Demand Schedule' for use by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs in recruiting skilled migrants.

Some users require data on level of qualifications as a general indicator of education advantage in a socio-economic analysis of groups in the population.

Level of qualification and field of study are used in labour market analysis and planning. Field of study is required in considerable detail for studies of skill wastage or under utilisation, and for planning vocational education and training courses.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

An education question in which respondents reported their highest level of achievement was included in the 1911 Census. However, a question directly asking about education qualifications was not included until 1976 when respondents were asked to provide details of the name of the qualification and the institution at which it was obtained. Since 1971, people aged 15 or over have been asked whether they had obtained a qualification. If so, information on the name of the highest qualification obtained, the field of study, the institution from which it was granted, and the year obtained was collected to enable the coding of the highest qualification to a detailed classification incorporating both level and field of study.

For 1996, minor changes were made to the wording of all the questions (the word 'obtained' was changed to 'completed'), and response categories were altered for the first question to enable more accurate collection of trade certificate/apprenticeship data.

Qualifications data in both the 1991 and 1996 Censuses were classified to the ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ).

ABSCQ is currently undergoing a review. It is expected that the qualifications reported in the 2001 Census will be coded to the revised classification.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

<p>Has the person <i>completed</i> a trade certificate or any other educational qualification?</p>	<p>() No >Go to ...</p> <p>() No, still studying for first qualification >Go to ...</p>
<p>What is the <i>highest</i> qualification the person has <i>completed</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For example, trade certificate, bachelor degree, associate diploma, doctorate. 	<p>() Yes, trade certificate/apprenticeship</p> <p>() Yes, other qualification</p> <p>Full name of qualification</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>What is the main field of study for the person's <i>highest</i> qualification <i>completed</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For example, history, plumbing, primary school teaching. 	<p>Field of study</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>At which institution was the person's <i>highest</i> qualification <i>completed</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If completed overseas, also state which country. 	<p>Name of institution</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>In which year did the person complete their highest qualification?</p>	<p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Year study completed</p>

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Educational institutions collect details of qualifications awarded each year.

Data on attendance at School, Higher Education, TAFE and other educational institutions as well as information on level and field of qualification are collected in the ABS Survey on Transition from Education to Work conducted each May. While the Labour Force Supplementary Surveys, which include education topics, all provide useful data, the sample sizes mean that detailed field of study data and small area data are not made available.

COMMENTS

The responses to name of institution and year qualification obtained are used to assist in coding qualification level and field of study. The institution at which the qualification was completed is used to assist in coding the level of qualification. It is not separately coded and is thus not available from census output. Year qualification obtained is coded and is available in census output.

COMMENTS *continued*

Questions on qualifications suffer from a high level of non-response. However, analysis shows that this is mostly from those without other qualifications and therefore the census data remains useful to the users.

There are also problems with interpreting 'field of study' responses, particularly for overseas qualifications, qualifications obtained some time ago and where inadequate descriptions are provided by respondents.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in Second Release—see page 78.

INCOME (INDIVIDUAL)

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information on the income levels of various small groups of the population and the geographic distribution is used in public and private sector planning activities. While there is a tendency for incomes to be slightly understated in the census, the distribution is largely consistent with that obtained from the ABS income surveys. Therefore census income data are useful as an indicator of relative advantage or disadvantage and economic well being for small areas and small population groups.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on income was first asked in the 1933 Census in an attempt to measure the effects of the Depression. It was re-included in 1976 and for all subsequent censuses. Each person is asked to indicate the range within which their gross income from all sources lies. Statistics on personal, family and household income are produced from this question.

In 1996, categories for nil and negative income were provided to overcome an apparent cause of non-response. To ensure that the 'nil income' category did not lead to biased results, the highest income categories were listed first.

Data based on actual dollar amounts would be more useful than the range information collected to date. However, it is not proposed to ask for actual income in 2001, because testing has shown that attempts to collect actual dollar amounts lead to lower response. It is also likely that there would also be greater bias in the results.

Income categories will be adjusted to allow for the effect of inflation since the 1996 Census.

TYPE OF QUESTION

<p>What is the gross income (including pensions and allowances) the person usually receives each week from all sources?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mark one box only. ■ Count all income for each person including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> family payment additional family payment unemployment benefits rental assistance pensions student allowance maintenance (child support) worker's compensation superannuation wages salary overtime commissions and bonuses interest received dividends rents received (less expenses of operation) business or farm income (less expenses of operation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Do not deduct: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tax superannuation health insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> () \$1,500 or more per week (\$78,000+ per year) () \$1,000–\$1,499 per week (\$52,000–\$77,999 per year) () \$800–\$999 per week (\$41,600–\$51,999 per year) () \$700–\$799 per week (\$36,400–\$41,599 per year) () \$600–\$699 per week (\$31,200–\$36,399 per week) () \$500–\$599 per week (\$26,000–\$31,199 per year) () \$400–\$499 per week (\$20,800–\$25,999 per year) () \$300–\$399 per week (\$15,600–\$20,799 per year) () \$200–\$299 per week (\$10,400–\$15,599 per year) () \$160–\$199 per week (\$8,320–\$10,399 per year) () \$120–\$159 per week (\$6,240–\$8,319 per year) () \$80–\$119 per week (\$4,160–\$6,239 per year) () \$40–\$79 per week (\$2,080–\$4,159 per year) () \$1–\$39 per week (\$1–\$2,079 per year) () Nil income () Negative income
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NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Data on income are available from surveys of income and household expenditure conducted regularly by the ABS. A question on income is usually asked in most household surveys for use as a classificatory variable. Family income and type of income unit are separate variables available from these surveys.

COMMENTS

Testing of the topic has shown that there is a general tendency among respondents to understate their income. In particular social welfare payments (e.g. family payments) and investment income such as rent and interest are often omitted. Similarly, pensioners sometimes state that they receive no income as they do not regard their pension as income.

Family and household income are derived from data on individual incomes of members of families and households. Only the incomes of people present on census night are included because of the collection and processing difficulties involved in accounting for people temporarily absent. A statistical method is used to derive family and household income from individuals' income which are reported in ranges.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

Individual Income is to be included in First Release. Family and Household Income is to be included in Second Release—see page 78.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information about the labour force is essential for a wide range of social and economic policy and planning purposes.

While regular ABS surveys provide data on the labour force status of people, the need for such data at small area level and for small groups of the population can only be met by inclusion of the topic in the census.

The questions used to determine a person's labour force status enable:

- each person aged 15 years or over to be classified as in the labour force or not in the labour force;
- people in the labour force to be classified as employed or unemployed; and
- employed people to be classified as an employee, employer, own account worker, or contributing family member.

Users require these data to provide benchmarks for assessing labour force changes for small population groups and within small geographic areas. Because the census provides small area data, analysis of the economic condition of small areas is possible. In addition, labour force participation rates can be determined for small groups of the population such as Indigenous people, migrants from particular countries, detailed age groups, etc. Conversely, it also provides data on those people not in the labour force.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Data on labour force status, employment status and status of workers have been obtained in every Australian census since 1911. In recent censuses, respondents were asked to answer a series of questions from which labour force status was derived.

From the 1986 Census on, a number of changes have been made to the labour force questions to make the census results more conceptually consistent with ABS labour force survey results.

In the 1996 Census, a question about availability to start work was included so that counts of unemployed people in the census would be more comparable to data collected in the monthly Labour Force Survey. The distinction between whether a person's own business was or was not a limited liability company was also added in an effort to increase the comparability of estimates of employees and self-employed people between the census and Labour Force Survey.

The 1996 Census changes involving limited liability companies may have confused respondents and did not lead to better data on employment status. This aspect of question design is being reviewed for the 2001 Census and options for improvement are being investigated.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

<p>Last week, did the person have a full-time or part-time job of any kind?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mark one box only. ■ A job means any type of work including casual or temporary work or part-time work, if it was for one hour or more. <p>In the main job held last week, was the person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mark one box only. ■ If the person had more than one job last week then 'main job' refers to the job in which the person usually works the most hours. <p>(For those who were in unpaid work or did not have a job)</p> <p>Did the person actively look for work at any time in the last four weeks?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Examples of actively looking for work include: being registered with Centrelink as a job seeker; checking or registering with any other employment agency; writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work, or advertising for work. <p>If the person had found a job, could the person have started work last week?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, worked for payment or profit.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but absent on holidays, on paid leave, on strike or temporarily stood down.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, unpaid work in a family business.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, other unpaid work >Go to ...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, did not have job >Go to ...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A wage or salary earner?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A helper not receiving wages?</p> <p>Conducting own business in a limited liability company</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> With employees?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Without employees?</p> <p>Conducting own business which is not a limited liability company</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> With employees?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Without employees?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, did not look for work >Go to ...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, looked for full-time work</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, looked for part-time work</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, could have started work last week</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, already had a job to go to</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, temporarily ill or injured</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, other reason</p>
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NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

The ABS monthly Labour Force Survey provides data on labour force status of people for States and Territories and a number of broad regions within States.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in Second Release—see page 78.

OCCUPATION

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information about occupation for small areas or for finely classified occupations is needed for a wide range of social and economic policy and planning purposes. Detailed occupation data are needed for analysing current and potential imbalances in the supply and demand for labour of varying skills, at the national, regional and local area level. These analyses provide the input to the development of policies and programs in the fields of education, training, immigration, industry and industrial relations and also for the monitoring of changes taking place in specific occupational labour markets. The usefulness of data on occupation is considerably enhanced when analysed with detailed data on industry of employment and qualifications.

Small area and regional data about the structure of the labour market are required for the purpose of advising governments (at all levels) and their agencies responsible for delivering programs and providing services at a regional level.

Data on Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) unit group occupations are available from the ABS Labour Force Survey but detailed survey data are subject to quite high sampling variability. Data from surveys are not available for small geographic areas.

ASCO 2nd edition will be used for coding 2001 Census data.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A variety of questions on occupation has been included in all previous censuses.

Occupation data were coded using ASCO for the first time in 1986. An additional question on the main tasks or duties that a person usually performs in his or her job was also included to assist in the coding of occupations at the unit group level.

Wording of questions and guidelines will be reviewed with the aim of further improving the accuracy and effectiveness of responses.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

For people aged 15 years or more and employed.

In the main job held *last week*, what was the person's occupation?

Occupation

.....

.....

.....

.....

- Give full title.
- For example, Childcare Aid, Maths Teacher, Pastrycook, Tanning Machine Operator, Apprentice Toolmaker, Sheep and Wheat Farmer
- For public servants, state official designation and occupation. For armed services personnel, state rank and occupation.

What are the main tasks that the person *himself/herself* usually performs in that occupation?

Tasks or duties

.....

.....

.....

.....

- Give full details.
- For example, looking after children at day care centre, teaching secondary school students, making cakes and pastries, operating leather tanning machine, learning to make and repair tools and dyes, running a sheep/wheat farm.
- For managers, state main activities managed.

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

A question on occupation is included each quarter in the ABS Labour Force Survey. Information is also available from ABS special supplementary surveys and professional registration boards.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in Second Release—see page 78.

INDUSTRY

USER REQUIREMENTS

Employment data by industry are needed for analysing and monitoring the rate of structural change at a national and local area level. Detailed analyses are undertaken on the demographic and labour force characteristics of employees in industries and in locations which are facing structural change. Recent examples of this are in the textile, steel and heavy engineering industries. The utility of data on industry is considerably enhanced when analysed with detailed data on occupation and qualifications.

Small area and regional data about the structure of the labour market are required for the purpose of advising governments (at all levels), and their agencies responsible for delivering programs and providing services at a regional level.

Although a substantial amount of information on employment by industry is available from other ABS censuses and surveys, it is not available at the detailed level for most industries, for small areas or cross classified with other employee characteristics (such as qualifications or occupation).

Extensive industry restructuring is occurring, so data on the geographic distribution of industry employment is needed to monitor these changes and provide a basis for social and economic policy and planning purposes.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on the industry of a person's employment has been included in one form or another in all censuses. The industry coding for the 2001 Census will use the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC).

Prior to the 2001 Census, industry was coded from the names and addresses of respondents' employers' workplaces or, where no match was obtained, by using the person's response to a direct industry question. The business name matching used the industry codes of businesses on the Business Register maintained by the ABS. This method provided more consistency of the data with that from other ABS collections based on the Business Register.

With changes to the ABS Business Register, it will not be possible to use employers' addresses for the purposes of coding industry. Testing is being undertaken to find a more effective direct industry question which will provide better information from respondents to allow for more reliable coding.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

<p>Which best describes the <i>business</i> of the employer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mark ONE box only. ■ If 'Other' is marked, please specify (e.g. Agriculture, Transport, Insurance, Education). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> () Manufacturing () Wholesaling () Retailing (incl. Take-aways) () Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants () Community & Health Services () Other (please specify) <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>What are the <i>main</i> goods produced or <i>main</i> services provided by the employer's business?</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Each quarter the monthly ABS Labour Force Survey asks employed people for their industry of employment. Industry data at the ANZSIC group level are available quarterly from the Labour Force Survey, but detailed survey data are subject to high sampling variability. Unemployed people are asked each month their previous industry of employment. Personal characteristics of the employed and unemployed are collected each month from the Labour Force Survey.

The ABS undertakes a range of surveys of businesses collecting information on employment, but only limited industry detail is available. Personal characteristics of workers are not collected.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in Second Release—see page 78.

INSTITUTIONAL SECTOR

USER REQUIREMENTS

Institutional sector data are used in the analysis of employment by the various tiers of government and the private sector and to identify Indigenous people employed in the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP). Data are needed for both small geographic areas and for small population groups so that the relative importance of government sector activity can be assessed. CDEP data are used to assist the interpretation of employment data for Indigenous people.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on institutional sector has been included in one form or another in all censuses. The industry sector is coded from the name of the business.

Since 1996, this question, in association with other responses, has been used to code Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders participating in Community Development Employment Programs.

TYPE OF QUESTION

<p>For the main job held <i>last week</i>, what was the name and address of the person's usual workplace?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For persons who worked from home, provide name of business and home address. ■ For persons with no fixed place of work provide name of business and; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — if the person usually travels to a depot to start work, provide depot address; — otherwise write 'no fixed address'. 	Business name

	Street number

	Street name
.....	
.....	
Suburb, rural locality or town	
.....	
.....	
State/Territory Postcode	
..... 	

NON CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Institutional sector data are available at the national, state and regional level from ABS labour force surveys.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in Second Release—see page 78

HOURS WORKED

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information on hours worked, preferably classified by industry and occupation is required by labour market economists as it allows shifts in the labour force to be analysed within small geographic regions. It is also important for labour market analyses of small groups such as Indigenous people, migrants, sole parents and specific age groups. The information is also important as a cross-classifier for labour force variables and for users to derive a classification of full-time/part-time work. Survey data are inadequate for analyses of small areas or small groups of the population. Data on the extent of part-time employment are used in the study of changing work patterns and growth in leisure. Information on hours worked is also needed to estimate child care needs.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question relating to the number of hours worked by employed people has been asked in each census since 1966 but has varied depending on whether only the main job or all jobs are included.

From 1996, the question has referred to all jobs rather than being restricted to the main job, providing greater comparability with data from other sources.

For the 2001 Census, respondents will write in the actual number of hours they worked, thereby providing more detailed information.

TYPE OF QUESTION

Last week, how many hours did the person work in all jobs?

() None

- Subtract any time off, add any overtime or extra time worked.

Hours worked

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Information is collected on the number of hours worked as part of the monthly Labour Force Survey. Extensive information is also available from ABS employer surveys. However neither collection provides data for small population groups or small geographic areas.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in Second Release—see page 78.

JOURNEY TO WORK (DESTINATION ZONE CODING)

USER REQUIREMENTS

The coding of addresses of place of work to destination zones allows census data to be produced on journey to work patterns and on daytime populations of employed people.

Information on daytime populations is required for analysis of the distribution of industry across regions and for planning private and public facilities in employment centres. Journeys to and from work form the largest proportion of the total number of journeys taken and are concentrated in the peak periods which place a critical load on transport systems. Journey to work data are required by transport authorities for the analysis of travel patterns within major metropolitan areas, the modelling of fuel usage, the forecasting of public transport patronage and the analysis of catchment areas for transport routes. The data also assist policy makers in the planning of transport systems, industrial development and the release of residential and industrial land.

Journey to work data will be produced at the Statistical Local Area level. State transport authorities will be approached at a later stage to discuss arrangements for producing data for destination zones smaller than Statistical Local Areas.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The questions which enable the derivation of journey to work have been included since the 1971 Census.

Journey to work is derived from comparing the origin zone code from the collection district in which the person was enumerated and the destination zone code allocated from a question on the address of the person's workplace.

Data on industry sector are also obtained using the business name component of the workplace address in combination with the industry question

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

<p>For the main job held <i>last week</i>, what was the name and address of the person's workplace on Tuesday 7 August 2001?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For persons who worked from home, provide name of business and home address. ■ For persons with no fixed place of work provide name of business and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – if the person usually travels to a depot to start work, provide depot address; – otherwise write 'no fixed address'. 	Business name

	Street number

Suburb, rural locality or town	
.....	
.....	
State/Territory Postcode	
..... 	

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

No data are available on this topic for small areas from other ABS collections. Many state transport authorities undertake their own travel surveys which are used in conjunction with census journey to work data. Some information is available from results of the ABS Time Use Survey.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in Second Release—see page 78.

MODE OF TRAVEL TO WORK

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information about how people travel to work is mainly used in conjunction with journey to work data for transport planning. Data are also used to:

- identify public transport customer groups;
- measure public transport patronage; and
- assist in energy conservation studies.

No viable alternatives to census data exist for this topic.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on mode of travel to work was asked for the first time in the 1976 Census. It has been repeated in all subsequent censuses with slight modifications.

TYPE OF QUESTION

For the main job held last week, how did the person get to work on Tuesday 7 August 2001?

- If the person used more than one method of travel to work, mark all methods used.

- () Train
- () Bus
- () Ferry
- () Tram (including Light Rail)
- () Taxi
- () Car—as driver
- () Car—as passenger
- () Truck
- () Motorbike or motor scooter
- () Bicycle
- () Walked only
- () Worked at home
- () Other
- () Did not go to work

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

No ABS surveys provide this information. Some information is available from public transport records and surveys undertaken by state transport authorities.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in Second Release—see page 78.

CHAPTER 8

HOUSEHOLD AND DWELLING TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2001 CENSUS

ADDRESS ON CENSUS NIGHT

JUSTIFICATION

The majority of census output is available on a place of enumeration basis (i.e. where people spent census night) for individual collection districts or aggregations of them. These aggregations include Local Government Areas and (CD derived) Postcodes. Household address on census night is used to confirm the geographic code allocated to the household.

Household address is essential for the conduct of a high quality post-enumeration survey which is used to measure the level of under-enumeration in the census. These measures are an important component in the estimation of resident population for each of the States, Territories and Local Government Areas as required by the *States Grants (General Purposes) Act 1994* and the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* and for determining the number of seats allocated to each State and Territory in the House of Representatives.

Household address is the best way for collectors to ensure that all forms they deliver and collect are accounted for.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality of the information provided is carefully guarded. *The Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires that no identifiable information about an individual be made available to any other person, government agency or private organisation.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Census counts of where people spent census night, classified by statistical areas, are available from every national census.

TYPE OF QUESTION

What is the address of this dwelling?	
Street number	
.....	
Street name	
.....	
Suburb, rural locality or town	
.....	
State/Territory	Postcode
.....

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

USER REQUIREMENTS

Questions on this topic allow the identification of different types of households and the structure of family groups within each household. Information relating to families and households cross-classified with other census variables, are required at small area level and over time at this level for the development, implementation and monitoring of many social and economic policies.

Detailed data on the full range of family and household structures are available only from the census. The census data provide a benchmark for the analysis of family and household structure and characteristics and allow for the monitoring of changes over time.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on relationship has been included in all Australian censuses.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

<p>What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Examples of other relationships: son-in-law, granddaughter, uncle, boarder. 	<p>Person 2</p>	<p>Person 3</p>
	() Husband or wife of Person 1	() Child of both Person 1 and Person 2
	() De facto partner of Person 1	() Child of Person 1 only
	() Child of Person 1	() Child of Person 2 only
	() Stepchild of Person 1	() Brother or sister of Person 1
	() Brother or sister of Person 1	() Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1
	() Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1	() Other relationship to Person 1—please specify
	() Other relationship to Person 1—please specify

Are they any persons who usually live in this dwelling who were absent on the night of Tuesday, 7 August 2001?

- 'Usually lives' means that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more.

() **No** > **Go to ...**

() **Yes** > **Please complete one separate column for each person absent**

Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was not here on the night of Tuesday, 7 August 2001.

First or given name

.....

Surname or family name

.....

Is the person male or female?

() Male

() Female

- Mark one box for each person absent.

Age last birthday.*

Years

Is the person a full-time student?*

() No

() Yes

What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?*

() Husband or wife of Person 1

() De facto partner of Person 1

() Child of both Person 1 and Person 2

() Child of Person 1 only

() Child of Person 2 only

() Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1

() Other relationship to Person 1—please specify

- Examples of other relationships: son-in-law, granddaughter, uncle boarder.

**See relevant topics for details*

.....

.....

NON-CENSUS DATA
AVAILABLE

Data on family structure are available from some ABS household surveys. However, because of restricted sample sizes, surveys do not provide reliable data for all the family and household structures and for small areas and small groups of the population.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in Second Release—see page 78.

INCOME (FAMILY, HOUSEHOLD)

More details on the definition of income are included in the section on personal topics.

Family and Household income are derived from data on individual incomes of members of families and households. Only the incomes of persons present on census night are included because of the collection and processing difficulties involved in accounting for persons temporarily absent. A statistical method will be devised to derive family and household income from individuals' income which are reported in ranges.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in Second Release—see page 78.

NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES GARAGED

USER REQUIREMENTS

This topic is a significant part of a package of transport-related census topics (Journey to work and Mode of travel to work) and has an important place in transport modelling, town planning and market research. It also serves as a useful socio-economic indicator, either by itself or when cross classified with other characteristics, to identify mobility and thus the ability to access services. Data on the distribution of vehicles are important for indicating needs such as parking and public transport.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on number of vehicles was first asked in the 1966 Census. Since 1976, households have been asked to record the number of registered motor vehicles (excluding motor cycles and motor scooters) owned or used by members of the household garaged at or near their dwelling.

For 2001, ABS will collect data on the number of motor bikes and motor scooters as well. Respondents will be asked to write in the numbers of vehicles rather than mark a self-coding box.

TYPE OF QUESTION

<p>How many registered motor vehicles owned or used by residents of this dwelling, were garaged or parked at or near this dwelling on the night of Tuesday, 7 August 2001?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Include vans and company vehicles kept at home.■ Please mark both sets of boxes.■ If none, write '0'.	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcars, vans or trucks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Motorbikes and motor scooters</p>
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NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

A range of statistics on motor vehicles is available from the ABS Survey of Motor Vehicle Usage, and Household Expenditure Survey in addition to Motor Vehicle Registration records. These collections, however, do not allow extensive cross-classification of vehicle counts with the characteristics of their owners. Some small area data are available from motor vehicle registration statistics.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

NUMBER OF BEDROOMS

USER REQUIREMENTS

The census is the only comprehensive source of data on number of bedrooms at small area level and for small population groups.

Housing authorities and other users of ABS information have indicated that data of this kind are needed:

- to provide some indication of dwelling size; and
- to provide an indication of overcrowding by calculating occupancy ratios (i.e. the number of people per room/bedroom).

Small area level data on occupancy ratios are required as a broad measure of housing standards when assessing the nature and utilisation of the Australian housing stock. Data on the number of bedrooms are one of several factors used to calculate weights for the rent and mortgage component of the Consumer Price Index.

While a small number of users would prefer a question on number of rooms, given the definitional problems and extra costs involved with such a question, data on number of bedrooms are acceptable. Virtually all user requirements are met by a question on the number of bedrooms.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on number of rooms/bedrooms has been included in every Australian census since 1911.

While the 1986 Census household form asked householders to indicate the numbers of various room types, only the number of bedrooms was entered into the computer record. The 1991 and 1996 Censuses collected data on the number of bedrooms only.

For the 2001 Census, respondents will be asked to write in the number of bedrooms in their dwellings rather than mark a response category.

TYPE OF QUESTION

How many bedrooms are there in this dwelling?

Number of bedrooms

- If the dwelling is a bedsitter, write '0'.

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Data on the number of bedrooms are available from the:

- Survey of Housing;
- Survey of Income and Housing Costs and Amenities;
- Household Expenditure Survey;
- Australian Housing Survey; and
- a continuous Survey of Income and Housing Costs.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

TYPE OF TENURE (NATURE OF OCCUPANCY)

USER REQUIREMENTS Type of tenure (whether a dwelling is rented, owned or being purchased) is a characteristic used to classify a range of other census data about households and dwellings. Data classified in this way are needed to monitor housing security, mobility issues and home ownership trends, and to develop housing and social welfare policies.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND Data about whether a dwelling is owned, being purchased or rented have been obtained in all censuses since 1911.

From 1971 until 1991, the information on type of tenure was derived from the answers to more than one question. A single, direct question was used to determine type of tenure for the 1996 Census and will be used again for the 2001 Census.

TYPE OF QUESTION

Mark the box which best describes this dwelling.

- Include owners of caravans, manufactured homes or houseboats regardless of whether or not the site is owned.

- () Fully owned **>Go to ...**
- () Being purchased
- () Being purchased under a rent/buy scheme
- () Being rented
- () Being occupied rent-free **>Go to ...**
- () Being occupied under a life tenure scheme
- () Other

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Data on type of tenure are available from:

- Rental Investors Survey;
- Australian Housing Survey; and
- a continuous Survey of Income and Housing Costs.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

HOUSING LOAN REPAYMENTS

USER REQUIREMENTS

The census is the only source of housing loan repayments data for small areas and small groups of the population.

Users require data on housing loan repayments classified by household characteristics to measure access to home ownership and provide benchmark data for evaluation of housing needs, housing finance and housing demand. Regional and small area (Local Government Area) data are required.

Housing loan repayment data are also used in conjunction with income data as a means of assessing household and family disposable income.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on mortgage was asked for the first time in the 1976 Census. The question was simplified for the 1981 Census to ask only whether there was a mortgage and the monthly payments on the total mortgage on the dwelling. Since the 1986 Census, the question has asked the monthly payment being made on the loan(s) for the dwelling.

Because of the emergence of rent/buy schemes, and strong user demand for actual amounts rather than range data, a new approach to collecting the data was undertaken for 1996. A question collecting actual amounts paid for the dwelling was asked, instead of the range data obtained in the 1991 Census. Type of tenure responses were used to determine whether payments were recorded as rent or loan repayments.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

<p>How much does your household pay for this dwelling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Include rent and mortgage repayments and site fees if the dwelling is a caravan or manufactured home in a caravan park or manufactured home estate.■ Exclude water rates, council rates, repairs, maintenance and other fees.■ Do not include cents.■ If no payments, please mark 'NIL' box.	<p>\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> per week</p> <p>OR</p> <p>\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> per night</p> <p>OR</p> <p>\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> per month</p> <p>() NIL</p>
<p>Mark the box which best describes this dwelling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Include owners of caravans, manufactured homes or houseboats regardless of whether or not the site is owned.	<p>() Fully owned >Go to ...</p> <p>() Being purchased</p> <p>() Being purchased under a rent/buy scheme</p> <p>() Being rented</p> <p>() Being occupied rent-free >Go to ...</p> <p>() Being occupied under a life tenure scheme</p> <p>() Other</p>

NON-CENSUS DATA
AVAILABLE

Data on housing loan repayments are available from:

- Survey of Families in Australia;
- Rental Tenants Survey;
- Australian Housing Survey;
- Household Expenditure Survey; and
- a continuous Survey of Income and Housing Costs.

Because of small sample sizes, surveys cannot provide small area data.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

RENT/LANDLORD TYPE

USER REQUIREMENTS

The census is the only source of rent and landlord type data for small areas and for small groups of the population.

Users have indicated that the rental question is important for housing policy planning in Australia. In particular, rental information produced from the census aids in the identification of housing needs and the extent to which specific groups (e.g. low income households, aged people and Indigenous people) have access to adequate housing.

Rent data from the census are used by the ABS in calculating estimates of imputed rent for the National Accounts and checking the representativeness of dwelling samples used in the Consumer Price Index.

Used in conjunction with income, rent data provide an indication of disposable income.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Weekly rent paid for each dwelling has been asked in every Australian census since 1911. In 1947, householders were also asked to indicate whether the dwelling was rented furnished or unfurnished. Since 1971, in addition to stating the weekly rent and whether the dwelling was furnished or unfurnished, householders have been asked to indicate the type of landlord.

Because of the emergence of rent/buy schemes, and strong user demand for actual amounts rather than range data, a new approach to collecting the data was undertaken for 1996. A question collecting actual amounts paid for the dwelling was asked, instead of the range data obtained in the 1991 Census. Type of tenure responses were used to determine whether payments were recorded as rent or loan repayments.

The question on whether the dwelling is rented furnished or unfurnished will be dropped from the 2001 Census (see Chapter 9).

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

<p>How much does your household pay for this dwelling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Include rent and mortgage repayments and site fees if the dwelling is a caravan or manufactured home in a caravan park or manufactured home estate. ■ Exclude water rates, council rates, repairs, maintenance and other fees. ■ Do not include cents. ■ If no payments, please mark 'NIL' box. <p>Mark the box which best describes this dwelling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Include owners of caravans, manufactured homes or houseboats regardless of whether or not the site is owned. <p>If this dwelling is being rented, who is it rented from?</p>	<p>\$ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> . <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> per week OR \$ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> . <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> per week OR \$ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> . <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> per month</p> <p>() NIL</p> <p>() Fully owned >Go to ... () Being purchased () Being purchased under a rent/buy scheme () Being rented () Being occupied rent-free >Go to ... () Being occupied under a life tenure scheme () Other</p> <p>() State Housing Commission or Trust () Private landlord not in the same household () Real estate agent () Community or cooperative housing group () Employer—Government () Employer—other</p>
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NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Data on rent are available from:

- Survey of Income and Housing Costs and Amenities;
- Survey of Families in Australia;
- Rental Tenants Survey;
- Australian Housing Survey;
- Household Expenditure Survey; and
- a continuous Survey of Income and Housing Costs.

Because of small sample sizes, surveys cannot provide small area data.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

STRUCTURE OF PRIVATE DWELLING

USER REQUIREMENTS

Users require data on dwelling structure, especially at small area level and to determine urban form and density. Analysis of dwelling structure cross classified with other census characteristics is an important indicator of social well being.

The data are also used for providing the benchmark for regular estimates of the different types of housing available.

Initiatives in housing policy such as the National Housing Strategy have strengthened the need for detailed information about Australia's housing stock.

The results are used:

- to determine changes in housing patterns;
- to review existing housing stock for use in housing policy advice;
- for land use forecasting; and
- for transport planning.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on dwelling structure has been asked in every Australian census from 1911.

Caravans have been included as a response option since 1961 and caravans in caravan parks were first enumerated with household forms in 1986.

Traditionally the census has defined a dwelling as the space occupied by a household. Therefore, where a dwelling unit was shared by more than a single household, a census form was supposed to be issued to each household. This procedure was thought to cause an over count of dwellings in the census. Studies in the lead up to the 1996 Census showed that census collectors were, in fact, treating each dwelling as a single household and the census was not over counting dwellings.

The question is answered by the collector which contributes marginally to collection costs but requires no response by the public.

TYPE OF QUESTION

(Answered by collector)

Dwelling Structure

Separate house

Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc.

One storey

Two or more storeys

Flat, unit or apartment

In a one or two storey block

In a three storey block

In a four or more storey block

Attached to a house

Caravan, cabin, houseboat

Improvised home, tent, sleepers out

House or flat attached to a shop, office etc.

NON-CENSUS DATA
AVAILABLE

The ABS conducts a quarterly Building Activity Collection which provides data on additions to the stock of private dwellings. Information on type of dwelling has also been collected in housing and energy surveys conducted by ABS.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

LOCATION OF PRIVATE DWELLING

USER REQUIREMENTS

This classification was introduced for the 1996 Census to accommodate changes in the scope of private dwellings which was extended to include self contained dwellings in retirement villages and dwellings in manufactured home estates. The change allows for a fuller range of household and family statistics to be collected for these populations as well as permitting users to maintain a time series with previous census dwelling data.

The question is answered by the collector which contributes marginally to collection costs but requires no response by the public.

BACKGROUND

From the 1996 Census, private dwellings are classified according to whether they are located in caravan parks (or marinas), manufactured home estates, retirement villages or elsewhere.

On the basis of this information, both dwelling and household data are able to be classified according to these types of location.

Since 1986, dwellings in caravan parks and marinas have been treated as private dwellings. From 1996, self contained units in retirement villages and dwellings in manufactured home estates are also counted as private dwellings.

This classification complements the existing private dwelling structure classification and enables the ABS to meet user requirements for data about these alternative forms of housing and their occupants.

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

No other sources of data on location of private dwelling exist.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

NON-PRIVATE DWELLING TYPE

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information on persons in non-private dwellings is required for:

- analysis of programs for the aged, disabled and other special population groups; and
- policy analysis and formulation in the development and financing of projects in the areas of health, the aged, children and rehabilitation.

Over three-quarters of a million people were enumerated in non-private dwellings in the 1996 Census.

The classification of non-private dwellings (including hotels, motels, hospitals, boarding houses, etc.) is partially dependent on the perceptions of persons-in-charge and arrangements made for collecting data. As a result, information about non-private dwellings and the people in such dwellings is less accurate than that for private dwellings.

There is a need for consistency between output from the census and ABS population surveys and this will be investigated prior to further consultation about census outputs.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Non-private dwellings have been enumerated and classified in all Australian censuses since Federation. Caravan parks were treated as non-private dwellings up to and including the 1981 Census, but since the 1986 Census, caravans in caravan parks have been enumerated as private dwellings using household forms.

From the 1996 Census onward, self contained dwellings in retirement villages and dwellings in manufactured home estates are treated as private dwellings.

TYPE OF QUESTION

Information required for the classification of non-private dwellings is collected from persons-in-charge.

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Government departments have information on government-funded institutions although generally only limited details are available on the characteristics of residents.

DATA RELEASE PLANS

To be included in First Release—see page 78.

USE OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET

USER REQUIREMENTS

Requirement for information about the use of personal computers and the internet for small geographic areas.

BACKGROUND

The ABS received a number of submissions requesting the inclusion of these topics in the 2001 Census. There is a requirement by Commonwealth and State government bodies for data on the use of personal computers and the use of the internet at small geographic area level and for small population groups, in order to target a range of policies and programs. The output from these questions when cross-classified with other questions on the Census form such as age, sex, address, qualifications and employment details will provide information on the take up rates of these technological innovations by various target groups in the population and in small geographic areas. There are a number of access and equity issues associated with both the use of personal computers and the use of the internet and without the detailed information available from the Census on their use, government programs cannot be accurately targeted.

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

The ABS currently collects extensive data quarterly on the number of households with a home computer, whether they have access to the internet from home, work, the local library or elsewhere, their frequency of use, whether they use it for e-commerce, whether they have phone line problems, how much they spent on computers last year and other related information. This information is available for each State and Territory. The survey is undertaken using trained interviewers which means that information on more difficult topics can be obtained. The ABS will also conduct a larger survey in April 2000 which will provide broad regional data.

In 1998 and 1999 ABS also collected information from agricultural holdings on whether they had and used a computer and the internet for personal and/or business use and will continue to collect this information from agricultural holdings for the year 2000 and subsequent years.

CHAPTER 9

TOPICS TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE 2001 CENSUS

TOPICS EXCLUDED

This chapter identifies both those topics which attracted considerable discussion and were ultimately excluded, and those which were included in the 1996 census and initially recommended for exclusion, and for which no significant case for retaining them was put forward:

Disability

Issue (number of children ever born)

Usual major activity

Whether dwelling rented furnished or unfurnished

DISABILITY

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data on people with disabilities are required for developing Federal and State Government policies and community-based programs. While much of this data is only required for large geographic areas, detailed data at the small area level and for small population groups are needed for planning service delivery.

The preliminary ABS view was that this topic should be included in the 2001 Census, but only if the testing program produced questions which provided high quality data.

The ABS established a Census Consultative Group on Disability in 1995 to seek user input and to identify user requirements for these data, research international practices and develop and test disability questions which might provide acceptable and accurate data.

Testing aimed to find a suitable question (or a small number of questions) which would provide high quality data on disability.

Testing of a range of disability questions was undertaken in the lead up to the 1996 Census. None was found to provide reliable results. A different approach to disability questions was undertaken for the 2001 Census. Testing began in 1997 in the form of both cognitive and field testing. After discussions of the results of the 1997 tests with the Disability Consultative Committee, further cognitive testing was conducted and a second field test was carried out in September 1998.

The aims of this test were:

- to test whether a different type of response to the question on difficulties experienced with the range of functions improved the match with total disability as estimated by the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers; and
- to evaluate whether the disability identified by the census question had an acceptably close and stable relationship to an identifiable (more severely affected) subset of the total disability survey population.

The test was a split test and was conducted with two forms one using a scaled response (none/ a little /a lot), to ascertain the extent of difficulty experienced, and the other a yes/no response to indicate just whether or not difficulty was experienced. The results were:

- 30.9% of the yes/no form and 36.0% of the scaled form responses that were classified as having a disability in the census test were not classified as such in the follow-up survey (false positive);

USER REQUIREMENTS
continued

- 47.9% of the yes/no form and 34.1% of the scaled form responses that were classified as having a disability in the follow-up survey were not classified as such in the census test (false negative); and
- further analysis showed that the census results could not be used to describe a more severely disabled subset of the disabled population.

While the ABS appreciates the need for small area data on disabilities the problem of obtaining reliable data through self-enumeration remains. The ABS is currently undertaking research aimed at producing synthetic estimates of the disabled population by severity of handicap at an intermediate geographic level. The ABS considers this approach will lead to useful estimates which address many user needs for small geographic area data.

Questions on disability will not be included in the 2001 Census.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Questions relating to disabilities of respondents were included in the 1911, 1921 and 1933 Australian censuses. Respondents were asked to indicate whether they were deaf, dumb or blind. A more general question on the effect of disabilities was asked in 1976. However, the quality of data obtained from this question was poor and only limited results were released.

Testing was undertaken in 1993 to attempt to develop suitable disability questions for inclusion in the 1996 Census. However, no effective question design was found in time for inclusion in that census. (See *ABS Working Paper 94/3, Disability Census Test: November 1993* for more information).

NON-CENSUS DATA
AVAILABLE

Surveys on disability were conducted by the ABS in 1981, 1988, 1993 and 1998.

These surveys on disability are comprehensive in scope and provide detailed information about disability in Australia and individual States and Territories. The surveys asked a range of demographic questions similar to those asked in the census, and provide a range of disability data cross-tabulated with age, sex, education, employment and household data. However, reliable small-area data are not available from the surveys.

Another way in which the needs for small area data on disability can be met is through use of synthetic estimates. These are the predictions of a model which has been developed by ABS. Synthetic estimates use age and sex patterns in a region, from the most recent census, together with the results of the latest Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, to predict the prevalence of disability in that area.

NON-CENSUS DATA
AVAILABLE *continued*

The 1997 Time Use Survey included some questions to identify people in the household with disabilities. The 1993/94 Household Expenditure Survey also included a module of questions to identify people with a disability or handicap in households. Since then the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey conducted in 1994 and several other ABS surveys have included a module of questions to identify long term conditions and severe handicaps.

Data are available from Centrelink in relation to recipients of invalid pensions, sickness benefits, child disability allowance and mobility allowance. Data are available for invalid pensions, sickness benefits and child disability allowance by postcode areas and social security regions. However, not all people with disabilities receive an invalid pension.

EXPERIENCE IN OTHER
COUNTRIES

Statistical agencies in most industrialised countries either do not ask a disability question in their censuses, or have experienced serious data quality problems when they have. Many countries use the census question as a screening device for a follow up survey. A review of information on disabilities from such censuses in other countries has shown that the information obtained is unreliable for most practical applications.

ISSUE (NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN)

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data on fertility are required for investigations of fertility differentials between various groups such as Indigenous people, migrants and different socio-economic groups. Such information is needed for predicting the future fertility of subgroups and for forming related policies.

After the 1986 Census, the ABS concluded that there was justification for collecting data on number of children ever born at ten yearly intervals. ABS still holds this view and, given the topic was included in 1996, ABS considers that it should not be included in the 2001 Census.

A question on issue will not be included in the 2001 Census.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on the number of children ever born was asked in nearly all Australian censuses up until and including 1986. The question was not included in the 1991 Census because it was not considered necessary to collect data on this topic every five years, but it was included in the 1996 Census.

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Some information on the number of children ever born is available from the 1992 Family Survey but not for small groups of the population. Birth registrations and hospital based data (midwives) provide some information on fertility.

USUAL MAJOR ACTIVITY

USER REQUIREMENTS

Submissions have been made in the past for census questions about activities outside those covered by labour force statistics (such as unpaid work in the home including child care, care of the aged and infirm or unpaid voluntary activities) and to identify the status of people not in the labour force e.g. 'retired' especially self-funded retirees or 'students'.

Users advise that data about usual major activity identify significant areas of human activity. Information on unpaid activities is important in measuring the characteristics of groups with special needs (the elderly, children, the disabled and those who care for them), and assisting in planning for both work and non-work environments.

ABS is not aware of the need for these data for small areas or for small population groups. Consequently it is the ABS view that a question on usual major activity is not justified in the 2001 Census.

Several submissions were received raising issues of public perception rather than statistical need. While acknowledging the census was not the appropriate vehicle for asking questions on unpaid work, these submissions requested that the census labour force question be modified to recognise those undertaking unpaid work.

The ABS does not believe that there is sufficient justification to depart from labour force definitions. The ABS is unwilling to modify the labour force questions used in the 1996 Census in case there is some impact on the comparability of the data with that from previous censuses or with that from the monthly Labour Force Survey.

The ABS will change the Census Guide which is distributed to each household with the census form, drawing attention to the alternative sources of data on unpaid activities and providing directions on how unpaid activities should be treated in answers to relevant census questions.

A question on usual major activity will not be included in the 2001 Census.

NON-CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE

Time Use Surveys define and measure many of the activities identified, and these have been conducted regularly in recent years. Additional information has been collected in surveys on Disability, Ageing and Carers, a 1995 national Survey of Voluntary Work, a 1997 Retirement and Retirement Intentions Survey and in some ABS State Supplementary Surveys.

WHETHER DWELLING RENTED FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED

USER REQUIREMENTS

The question on whether a dwelling is rented furnished or unfurnished has been used by the ABS in calculating a component of Gross Domestic Product. The ABS has determined that survey data can now adequately meet this need. A question on whether a dwelling is rented furnished or unfurnished will not be included in the 2001 Census.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Weekly rent paid for each dwelling has been asked in every Australian census since 1911. From the 1947 Census to the 1996 Census, householders were also asked to indicate whether the dwelling was rented furnished or unfurnished.

APPENDIX

TOPIC RELEASE SCHEDULE

2001 Census data will be released in two stages. Easy to process topics will be released first, in about the same timeframe as for the 1996 Census. Data for second release topics will be released about four months thereafter. Data for all States and Territories will be released at the same time.

FIRST RELEASE TOPICS

Sex
Age
Registered marital status
Usual residence at census time
Religion
Australian citizenship
Birthplace
Year of arrival
Indigenous status
Language spoken at home/proficiency in English
Ancestry
Whether parents born in Australia
Attendance at an educational institution
Highest year of schooling
Use of personal computers
Use of the internet
Income (individual)
Motor vehicles (number garaged)
Number of bedrooms
Tenure type
Housing loan repayments
Rent
Landlord type
Structure of private dwelling
Location of private dwelling
Non-private dwelling type

SECOND RELEASE TOPICS

Family relationship
Residential status (for people in non-private dwellings)
Internal migration (Address of usual residence 1 year ago and 5 years ago)
Education qualifications
Income (family, household)
Labour force status
Occupation
Industry
Institutional sector
Hours worked
Journey to work
Mode of travel to work

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2200800001018

ISBN 0 642 27497 5

RRP \$10.00