

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975: sub-section 6(3)****PROPOSAL NO. 3 OF 2021  
BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS****2021 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING AND POST CENSUS REVIEW**

In accordance with subsection 8(1) of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, (C&S Act) the Australian Bureau of Statistics intends to conduct the eighteenth national Census of Population and Housing on 10 August 2021.

Pursuant to subsection 8(3) of the C&S Act, the *Census and Statistics Regulation 2016*, as amended in 2020, prescribes the information that may be collected by the Census. The information collected from each person will generally repeat the topics collected in 2016, with the addition of two new questions on long-term health conditions and service with the Australian Defence Force. Other information that will be collected includes demographic particulars including age, sex, and marital status; usual address; ethnicity data including birthplace, ancestry, and whether of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin; religion; education; income; number of children ever born; labour force status; industry; occupation; need for assistance; unpaid and volunteer work and method of travel to work. Questions will also be asked of each household on ownership of motor vehicles; characteristics of the dwelling occupied and tenure of occupation. A question on household internet access has been removed.

All Census responses are collected and stored securely to protect the confidentiality and privacy of respondents, as prescribed in the C&S Act. The C&S Act requires the Australian Statistician to publish results in a way that is not likely to identify a particular person, household, or organisation. In accordance with section 8A of the C&S Act, a person may consent to having their complete Census information transferred to the custody of the National Archives of Australia. This information will be made publicly available after 99 years.

Prior to Census night, most households (around 84%) will receive a Census letter with instructions on how to complete their Census online. A paper Census form will be delivered to the remaining dwellings, either by post or hand delivered by Census field staff. The option of a paper form is also available on request.

Information will be collected from all persons present in Australia and the external territories of Norfolk Island, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands for the night of 10 August 2021, with the exception of foreign diplomats and their families, and visitors to Australia who are not required to undergo migration formalities, such as foreign crews on ships. Australian residents out of the country on Census night are not included in the Census unless they have left the country without being required to undertake departure formalities (for example, Australian navy personnel serving on Australian ships abroad).

The 2021 Census will provide detailed information for small geographic areas and small population groups. Such data are necessary to support the planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities of all levels of government. Other users of Census data include business, academics, community groups and the community generally. Population estimates derived from the Census provide the basis for the allocation of Commonwealth Government funding to the states and territories, and are also used for electoral purposes.

Extensive testing using a range of techniques including focus groups, interviews and large-scale field tests has shown a high level of community acceptance of the 2021 Census questions.

As with each Census since 1966, a post-enumeration survey, the Post Census Review, will be conducted immediately after the 2021 Census to estimate the number of people missed or included more than once in the Census. In 2021 it will survey around 44,000 households, selected to be representative of the whole country. The short survey is conducted via interview, either over the phone or in person, and asks for basic demographic information as well as questions about where the person usually lives. Data obtained through the survey is used to determine the 'net undercount' which is a key contributor to the production of accurate population estimates at the state and territory level.

Results from the 2021 Census will be released progressively and are expected to be available from June 2022.

The 2016 Census was conducted on 9 August 2016 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 6 of 2016.

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9 March 2021