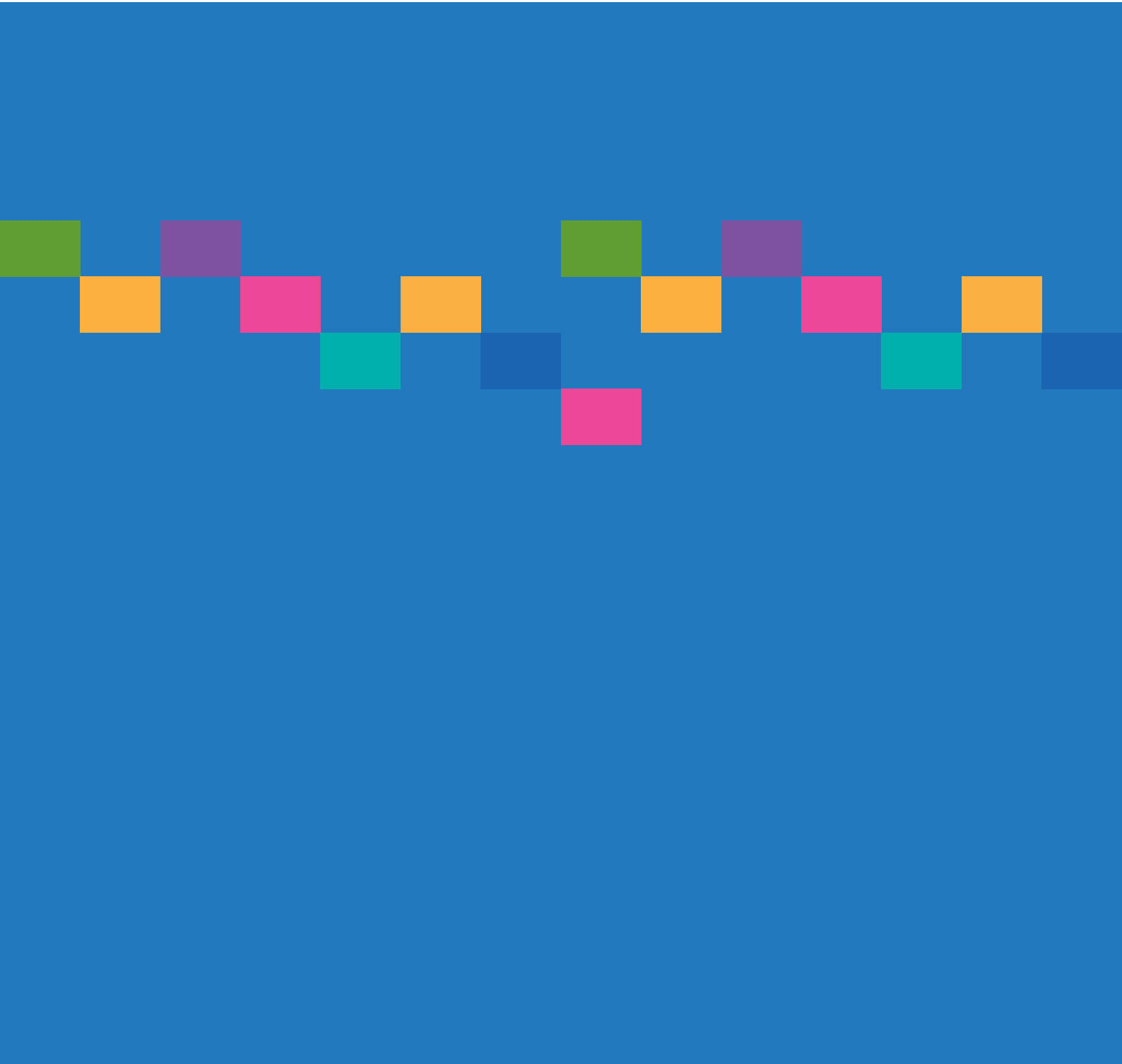


Discover Your Census

Products and Services of the 2006 Census



Free online at www.abs.gov.au/census





CONTENTS

From the Australian Statistician	02
The 2006 Census, An Introduction	04
How Best to Discover Your Census	05
What Help and Explanatory Information is Available?	05
QuickStats	06
MapStats	07
Census Tables	08
Community Profile Series	09
CDATA Online	10
SEIFA 2006	11
TableBuilder	12
Census Datapacks	13
Census Sample File	14
Information Consultancy	15
The Social Atlas Series	16
Picture of the Nation	17
Need More Information?	18
Other Helpful Census Information	19
Glossary	20



FROM THE AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN

On 27 June, 2007, first release data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing became available to all Australians via the ABS website. This release includes a vast amount of important information about our nation, and there is much more to come over the next 12 months.

This is what the Census is all about; putting vital information into the hands of users right across Australia. It helps us to see how our nation is changing. It provides statistical information to assist decision making for all aspects of society, including all levels of government, from the national right down to local and the community.

Starting with this first data release, all the data from our national Census will be available free of charge on our website at www.abs.gov.au/census. I strongly recommend a visit to our site to see how easy it is to access the Census data using our new MapStats and QuickStats online facilities.

Good decisions are based on good information, and the Census is a very powerful source of information for governments, businesses, academics, researchers, students, community organisations and individuals.

The Census is a fundamental building block for official statistics in Australia. It is a resource that documents – without revealing personal information – who we are, where we live, and the circumstances that we live in.

It underpins or complements many of our other statistical activities. It supports our democracy through its application in the distribution of electorates across Australia and the allocation of government funding, particularly between the Commonwealth and the States.

The immense value of the rich flow of information Australia enjoys from the Census is visible all around us. It's likely our local shopping centres, transport services, schools, hospitals and seniors centres were carefully planned using Census data to ensure they were well located.

This first release of 2006 Census results also gives me the opportunity to thank the people of Australia for their ready participation and cooperation in another successful Census. Whilst completing the Census form is a legal obligation, in practice the Census is so successful because Australians choose to participate voluntarily. And that participation goes to the heart of the trust and confidence the community places in our national statistical agency, a trust we at the ABS value enormously.

My thanks also go to the users of Census data, who once again have assisted us in designing the products and services that help put that data to work for the benefit of our society and our economy.

Brian Pink
June 2007



For the first time, all the data from our national Census on the ABS website www.abs.gov.au will be available free of charge.

ABS HOUSE



THE 2006 CENSUS, AN INTRODUCTION

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Australia's official statistical organisation, is committed to assisting and encouraging informed decision making, research and discussion within governments, business and the community. As part of this commitment, the ABS provides services that are timely, relevant, responsive and respected for their integrity and quality. This includes statistics on a wide range of economic and social matters. One of the ABS' most important statistical collections is the national Census, conducted every 5 years.

The Census of Population and Housing is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the ABS. It aims to accurately measure the number of people in Australia on Census Night, their key characteristics, and the dwellings in which they live. On 8 August 2006, over 30,000 collectors delivered and collected Census forms from approximately 9 million households.

The Census provides vital data that is used in research, planning and decision making in a wide range of areas. The wealth of information collected through the Census is available to all Australians through a range of products that will be released during 2007 and 2008. For the 2006 Census the ABS is offering a new and improved online product range, and a simplified web interface designed to offer you greater flexibility in obtaining the data to meet your statistical needs. More products than ever before are available free of charge from the ABS website.



The Census of Population and Housing is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the ABS.

HOW BEST TO DISCOVER YOUR CENSUS

After consulting with you, the Australian community, we have developed a range of products and services that allow you to determine the best way to access the information you need.

All ABS data on the website is free. We encourage you to visit the ABS website and experience the easy-to-use and intuitive products we have provided for you.

All you'll need to consider is what area in Australia you want information on, and what Census topic(s) you are interested in. Once you have determined these two basic pieces of information you can then decide if you want simple tables, thematic maps or graphs.



An important change for the 2006 Census will be the change to 'Place of Usual Residence' (where a person usually lives) as the primary basis for releasing the data. This has replaced data based on 'Place of Enumeration' (where someone was counted on Census night) as the primary method of release.

Census data are released in two stages. The variables released in the first stage are the questions that are easily processed from the Census form. These are the tick box questions including Sex, Age and Birthplace. Second release data consists of the variables that required a handwritten response and so take longer to process.

If you need assistance, help is available both online and via the National Information and Referral Service.

WHAT HELP AND EXPLANATORY INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE?

Several tools have been provided in order to make searching for Census information easier. If you have found the data you require but do not understand, or would like more background information, or detailed classifications, you can:

1.   Use the Help Icons. These information icons, which are built into all Census products, will take you to search tips, definitions, full classifications, an image of the Census question related to the topic you have selected as well as other useful information.
2. Contact Client Services on client.services@abs.gov.au, or call the National Information and Referral Service on **1300 135 070**, to have your query answered.

Web based products

Free Online

QuickStats

Your community at a glance

QuickStats is the best place to start your investigation of the 2006 Census. QuickStats is fast and very easy to use, and is designed to provide you with an overview of the main Census statistics in most areas*. All you need to do is select a geographic area, and QuickStats provides you with key data on basic Census topics such as age, country of birth, main language spoken at home, religious affiliations, marital status and labour force participation, in HTML format. The top five statistics for most topics are published, in addition to a short descriptive commentary of the results.

Available free online at www.abs.gov.au/census.

** Refer to the Glossary on p.20 to see what geographic areas Census data is available in.*



Free Online

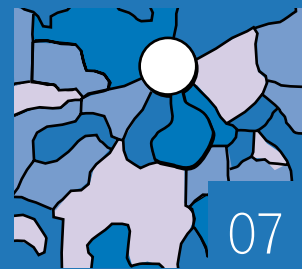
MapStats

Paint a picture of your community

MapStats is ideal if you want to visually explore the spatial distribution of a Census topic. MapStats is fast and simple to use. You simply select a Census topic and geographic area*, and MapStats generates a thematic map on screen as well as downloadable formats. Thematic maps display geographic areas in a range of colours to convey differences in the Census topic being investigated.

Available free online at www.abs.gov.au/census.

** Refer to the Glossary on p.20 to see what geographic areas Census data is available in.*



Free Online

Census Tables

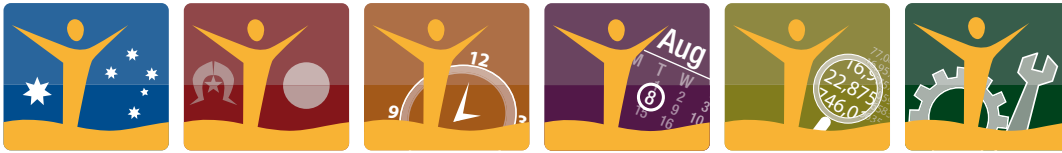
Just the Census data you need

Census Tables is very useful if you need to get detailed data on a particular Census topic for an area*. All you need to do is select a geographic area, decide on a Census topic and download the Excel file containing your data. Most topics covered on the 2006 Census form are available, including information on population, education, labour force, ethnicity, migration, families and households.

Available free online at www.abs.gov.au/census.

** Refer to the Glossary on p.20 to see what geographic areas Census data is available in.*





Free Online

Community Profile Series

The Community Profile Series provides a comprehensive statistical picture of an area*. The series allows you to investigate a diverse range of information in Excel format, covering most topics on the Census form. The Profiles are excellent tools for researching, planning and analysing small and large geographic areas, enabling comparisons to be made between different areas on a number of social, economic and demographic variables.

There are six separate profiles in the series:

Basic Community Profile: Is the primary profile consisting of 45 tables of key Census characteristics of persons, families and dwellings based on place of usual residence (where Census respondents usually live).

Place of Enumeration Profile: 42 tables containing key Census characteristics based on where the Census respondent was counted on Census night.

Indigenous Profile: 34 tables based on place of usual residence containing key Census characteristics of Indigenous persons, households and some comparisons with the non-Indigenous population.

Time Series Profile: 25 tables containing key Census characteristics of persons, families and dwellings comparing data from the 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses based on place of enumeration.

Expanded Community Profile: The most comprehensive profile in the series with 42 tables based on place of usual residence. Tables include: Basic Community Profiles; relationships within a family; living costs and dwelling structures.

Working Population Profile: 22 tables of key Census characteristics of working population data based on Place of Work.

Available free online at www.abs.gov.au/census.

* Refer to the Glossary on p.20 to see what geographic areas Census data is available in.



Free Online

CDATA Online

Providing the flexibility to empower your decisions

CDATA Online is the most comprehensive free online product from the 2006 Census range. CDATA Online combines extensive information on Australian society with dynamic mapping software, providing you with an essential tool for planning and researching more effectively. CDATA Online also lets you view and save the Census data you require in a way that best suits your needs, through tables, graphs and thematic maps.

CDATA Online gives you access to a state-of-the-art map-based search engine, giving you the flexibility to select and combine geographic areas of interest. You can also pinpoint a geographic landmark and collect data for areas that lie within a radial distance of that landmark. As a result, there are literally thousands of different geographies to choose from.

Whether you're analysing business opportunities or wanting a better understanding of your market you can manipulate the way a table looks by adding and removing Census topics, or by simply rearranging the axes. You can even create a range of different graphs that allow you to investigate the relationship between two or more Census topics. If you want to create a customised thematic map, all you need to do is select two or more geographies using the map-based search engine and pick a Census topic.

Available free online at www.abs.gov.au/census.

Free Online

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas 2006

A measure of Australian socio-economic wellbeing

The best way to investigate the socio-economic wellbeing of Australian communities is to use the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA 2006). For this product, the ABS has combined multiple Census topics - such as income, educational attainment and occupation - to develop indexes that allow for the ranking of areas, providing a method of determining the level of social and economic wellbeing of a region. These indexes show, for example, where the affluent live; where the disadvantaged live; and where the highly skilled and educated live. SEIFA 2006 is invaluable for Government planning, funding allocation, marketing research and determining the location of new business opportunities.

Available free online at www.abs.gov.au/census.



TableBuilder

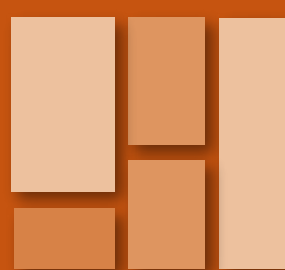
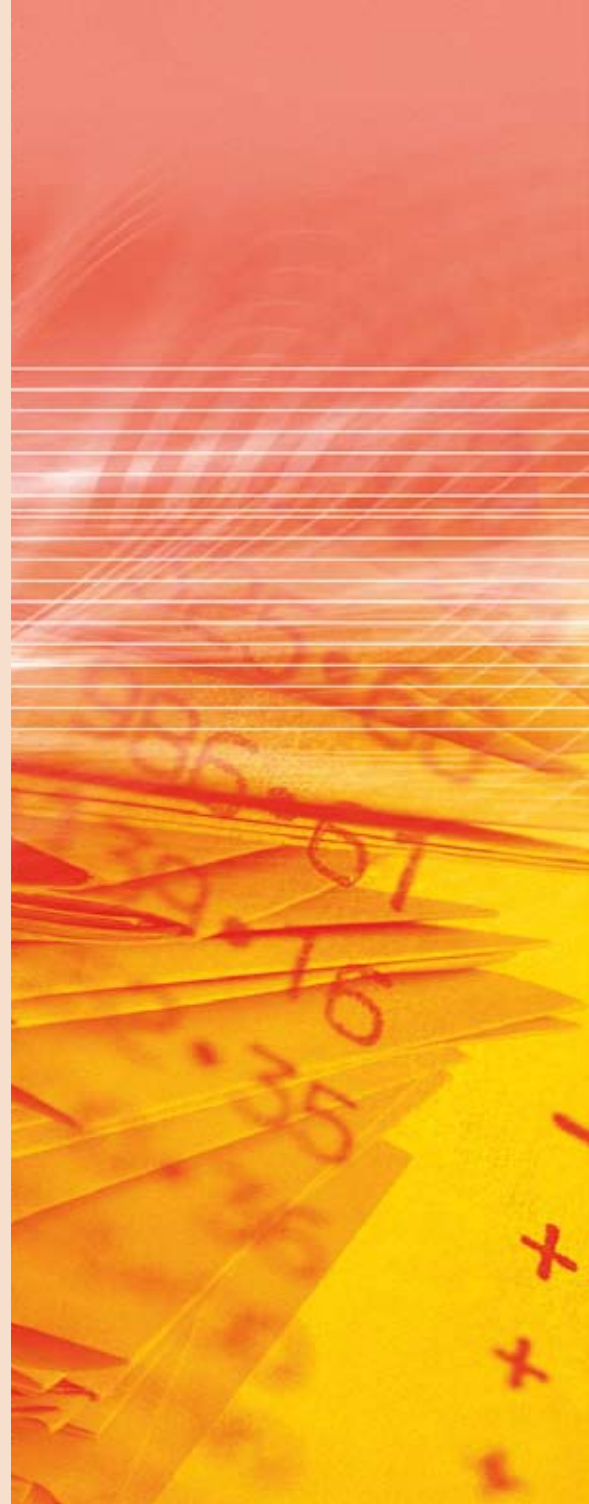
Census by design

TableBuilder is an exciting new product that, for the first time in ABS history, will give you remote access to the complete Census Unit Record File. TableBuilder is designed for people experienced in using Census data and will enable you to extract and manipulate an unlimited number of Census tables. With TableBuilder you can create tables, graphs and thematic maps of Census data.

You will need to discuss with a consultant whether TableBuilder is the best product to meet your information needs.

TableBuilder is a subscription only service which costs \$1320 for access to either the 2001 or 2006 Census data, and \$1550 for both the 2001 and 2006 Census data.

Call **1300 135 070** to discuss your information needs with an ABS Information Consultant.



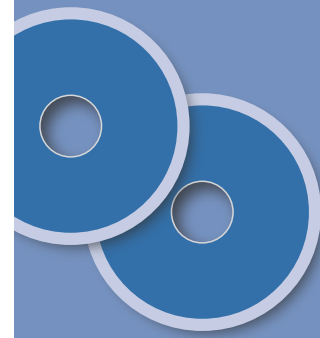
CD-ROM products

Census Datapacks

Census Datapacks is a CD-ROM product containing all the 2006 Census Community Profile Series data (refer to p.9) and digital boundaries. This product is a practical solution if you require only the Census data and digital boundaries to import into your existing database or analysis system.

Census Datapacks is a priced product. You may need to discuss with a consultant whether or not Census Datapacks is the best product to meet your information needs.

Call **1300 135 070** to discuss your information needs with an ABS Information Consultant.





Census Sample File

The 2006 Census Sample File (CSF) is a comprehensive Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) of Census variables, containing a small random sample of private households and associated persons, and a small random sample of persons in non-private dwellings.

Produced for people experienced in using Census data, the CSF is used for statistical purposes such as regression analysis and data modelling. You can use this file to specify cross-classified tables for statistical analysis, producing information to better understand the Australian population, explain relationships and structures, and test theories about the population.

You will need to discuss with a consultant whether the CSF is the best product to meet your information needs.

Call **1300 135 070** to discuss your information needs with an ABS Information Consultant.



INFORMATION CONSULTANCY

CONSULTANCIES – CENSUS CUSTOMISED TABLES

Although there is a large amount of data available free of charge on the ABS website, there may be occasions where you will need the assistance of an ABS Information Consultant. These consultants are able to assist you with your customised Census data needs. They will offer expert advice and assistance and ensure you receive a tailored information solution.

Customised Census tables are a priced service and prices will vary depending on the complexity and size of data tables requested.

Call **1300 135 070** to discuss your information needs with an ABS Information Consultant.



Hardcopy publications

THE SOCIAL ATLAS SERIES

Explore your city...through the Social Atlas Series

Have you ever wondered...

- *Which areas in your city had the greatest change in population between 2001 and 2006?*
- *Where in your city are the highest percentages of people who are not fluent in English?*

The Social Atlas Series answers these questions and more.

The Social Atlas Series contains informative maps and enlightening commentary highlighting the key social characteristics of our capital cities and selected regional centres in each state.

Using a common set of 28 maps, the Social Atlases visually present Census information on the distribution of key characteristics of our population, such as income, ethnicity, education, families, Internet use and unemployment in an easy to interpret manner. The Social Atlas Series really gives you a birds eye view of your city.

This is a priced product.

Call **1300 135 070** to order your copy.

Discover your Census by
exploring your city.



PICTURE OF THE NATION: THE STATISTICIAN'S REPORT ON THE 2006 CENSUS

The Statistician's Report, last published in 1961, has been reintroduced for the 2006 Census.

The publication provides a comprehensive overview of the 2006 Census, summarising a large volume of Census data and providing extensive written analysis. The Statistician's Report focuses on nation-wide statistics, and also features notable statistics in smaller geographies such as the demographic characteristics of minority groups.

This is a priced product.

Call **1300 135 070** to order your copy.





NEED MORE INFORMATION ?

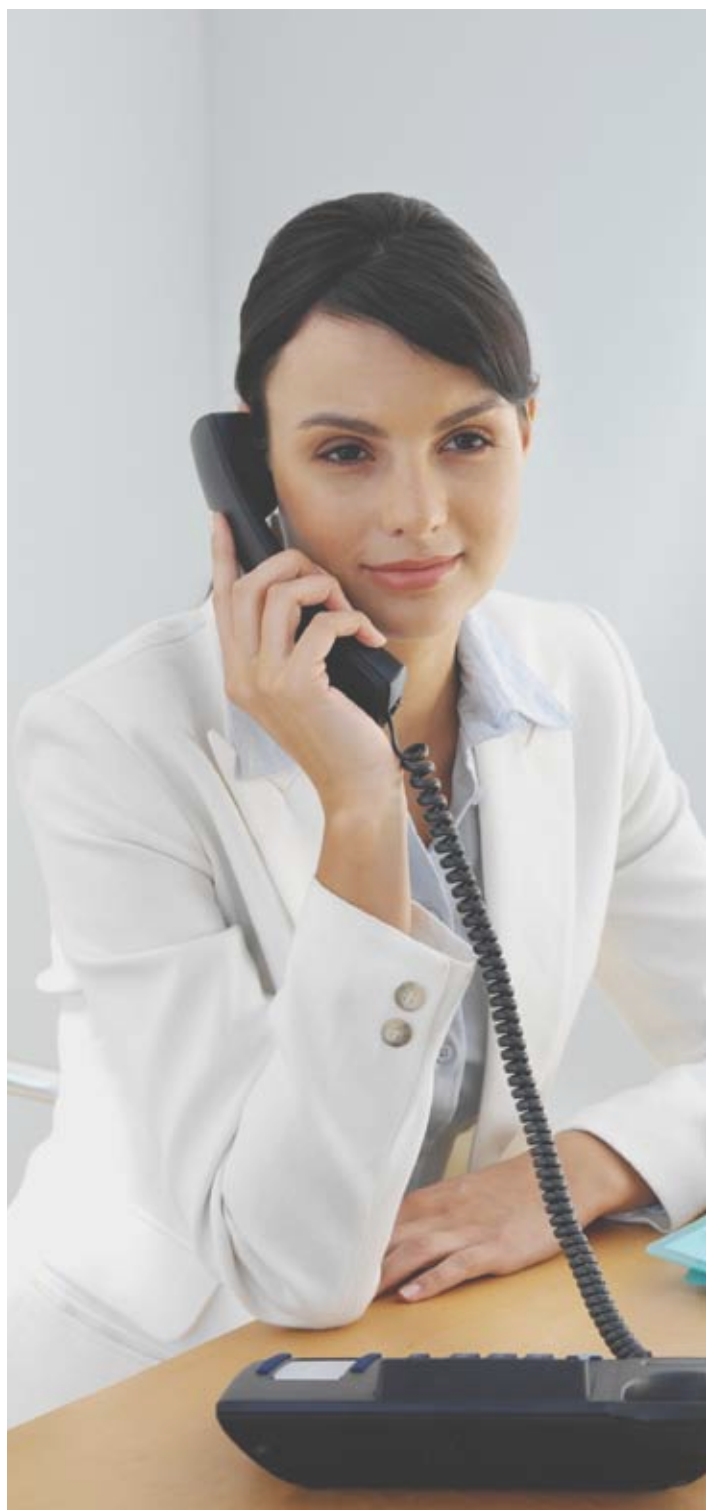
National Information and Referral Service

If you are unable to find the information you need, or require further statistical information, please contact the ABS National Information and Referral Service (NIRS). Our trained consultants can work with you to satisfy your statistical information needs. Call **1300 135 070** or email client.services@abs.gov.au.

Visit your Library

The ABS supports libraries across Australia in all sectors, including public, government, education and specialist libraries. Free website training is provided to library staff to assist users with their information needs.

For more information or to discuss your needs with a local skills consultant call **1300 135 070** or email client.services@abs.gov.au.



OTHER HELPFUL CENSUS INFORMATION

The **ABS website** has a range of information to make your Census data experience more enjoyable. Fact Sheets, Working Papers and help guides are on the website to assist you in understanding Census data.

2006 Census Fact Sheets

Census Fact Sheets are designed to assist you in the use and interpretation of Census data. They provide a summary of conceptual and data issues, and changes that have occurred since the last Census.

Census Update

Census Update is a regular newsletter providing informative comment and articles on the Census. Produced in both printed format (during peak times) and PDF on the ABS website, this free publication is a great source of information on all things relating to the Census.

census.users

To receive regular email updates on Census related matters, including the Census Update publication email **census.users@abs.gov.au** and type in "add to Census email" in the subject field. You can opt out at any time.

Census Papers and Census Working Papers

Census Papers and Census Working Papers are produced to report on Census data quality.

Census Working Papers are produced on a needs basis in response to data issues that arise from the Census.

Product Briefs

Product briefs provide an overview of Census Products and Services.

Census Dictionary

The 2006 Census Dictionary is a comprehensive reference guide designed to assist you to determine and specify your data requirements and to understand the concepts underlying the data. Available free of charge on the ABS website or may be purchased as a hardcopy publication.

How Australia Takes a Census (HATAC)

HATAC describes the history of the Census, including the process by which the 2006 Census was planned, conducted and processed. Available free from the ABS website.

CensusAtSchool

CensusAtSchool, a major ABS initiative in online education, is designed to show students from Years 5 to 12 how statistics can be relevant to them. CensusAtSchool is an engaging tool for students to learn and use statistics by participating in a free Internet based data collection and analysis project.

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED CENSUS TERMS

Confidentiality

Under the Census and Statistics Act it is an offence to release any information collected under the Act that is likely to enable identification of any particular individual or organisation.

For the Census, strict measures are taken in field collection, processing and output of data to guard against the release of confidential information.

CURF

A CURF is a confidentialised unit record file which contains the most detailed statistical information from the ABS. CURFs are of most use to researchers and analysts who wish to run their own statistical queries on the data.

GEOGRAPHY

Geographic areas

For a full listing of the specific geographies available for each product, click on the 'New Product Briefs' link at www.abs.gov.au/census.

The geographic areas used for the collection and dissemination of Census data are divided into two types: Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) and Census Geographic Areas. Census data are collected for small areas called Collection Districts (CDs). The Collection District base allows the aggregation of data into larger areas, for example, Suburbs and Electoral Divisions.

Australian Standard Geographical Classification

The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) is a hierarchically structured classification used by the ABS for the classification of spatial units within Australia.

The ASGC areas used for Census purposes are:

- Mesh Block (MB)
- Collection District (CD)
- Statistical Local Area (SLA)
- Local Government Area (LGA)
- Remoteness Area (RA)
- Statistical Subdivision (SSD)
- Statistical Division (SD)
- Statistical District (SDist)
- Statistical Region (SR)
- Major Statistical Region (MSR)

- Urban Centre/Locality (UC/L)
- Section of State (SOS)
- State/Territory

- Indigenous Region (IREG)
- Indigenous Area (IARE)
- Indigenous Location (ILO), and
- Place of Work

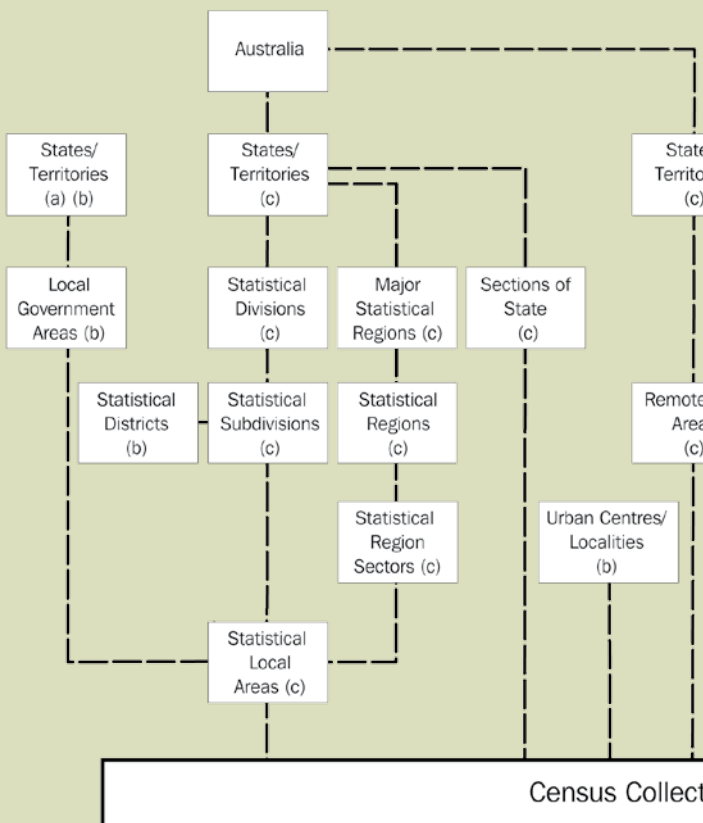
Census Geographic Areas

The Census Geographic Areas comprise of the following Census-specific (non ASGC) geographic areas:

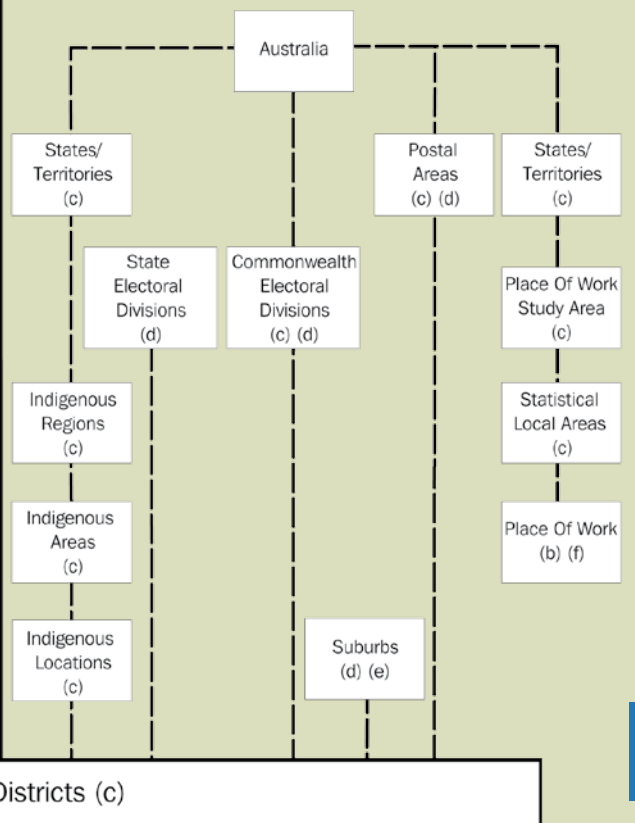
- Commonwealth Electoral Division (CED)
- State Electoral Division (SED)
- Postal Area (POA)
- State Suburb (SSC)

Census statistical data and digital boundary data are available from the ABS for all of these areas except Place of Work. Census data for these areas are aggregated from CD level.

Australian Standard Geographical Classification Areas



Census Geographic Areas



Note: (a) Incorporated areas only. (b) Cover part of Australia only. (c) Cover all of Australia. (d) Approximations created by aggregating Collection Districts (CDs). (e) Only available for specific areas within specified States/Territories. (f) Study Areas do not concord with CDs, but they do aggregate to Statistical Local Areas.



glossary

Mesh Blocks

Mesh Blocks are a new micro level of statistical geography for Australia. Mesh Blocks are about four to five times smaller than Collection Districts (CDs) but do not necessarily aggregate to a CD. They do aggregate precisely to Statistical Local Areas (SLAs).

Mesh Blocks are small so they can aggregate reasonably accurately to many different geographic regions, administrative, management and political boundaries. By coding statistics to mesh blocks it is possible to produce summary statistics to a whole range of geographic regions not currently represented in statistical geography.

Collection District

The Census Collection District (CD) is the second smallest geographic area defined in the ASGC, the smallest being the Mesh Block. The CD has been designed as the smallest unit for collection and processing. For the 2006 Census, CDs will be the basis for most of the data. CDs are the basic building block in the ASGC and are used for the aggregation of statistics to larger Census geographic areas.

Postal Area

Postal Areas are ABS approximations of Australia Post postcodes, created by allocating whole Collection Districts (CDs) on a 'best fit' basis to postcodes. Census Postal Areas exclude non-mappable Australia Post postcodes such as:

- post office box postcodes
- delivery route postcodes within other postcodes (common in rural areas)
- postcodes for which no CD is included by the 'best fit' method.

Electoral Division

An Electoral Division is an area legally prescribed for the purpose of returning one member (or more in the case of the Tasmanian House of Assembly and the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly) to the Federal, State or Territory Lower Houses of Parliament. Queensland has only one House of Parliament at the State level with each member representing an electoral district. Electoral Divisions are approximated by aggregating the data for CDs that lie wholly or partly within the area.

Commonwealth Electoral Divisions (CEDs) have different boundaries to State Electoral Divisions (SEDs) except in Tasmania and the ACT where they are the same. CEDs cover all of Australia.

Local Government Area

A Local Government Area (LGA) is a geographic area under the responsibility of an incorporated local government council, or an incorporated Indigenous government council. The LGAs in Australia collectively cover only a part of Australia. The main areas not covered by LGAs are northern parts of South Australia, a large part of the Northern Territory, the western division of New South Wales, all of the Australian Capital Territory and the Other Territories.

The number of LGAs and their boundaries can change over time. Their creation and delimitation is the responsibility of the respective state/territory governments, and are governed by the provisions of state/territory local government and other relevant acts. The LGAs applicable to the 2006 Census Output are those which existed at 7 August 2005. This early cut off date allows time for the Census mapping to be completed. These LGAs are represented in the 2006 edition of the ASGC.

Statistical Local Area

Statistical Local Areas are defined in the Australian Standard Geographical Classification which consist of one or more CDs. They can be based on LGAs, or parts thereof, or any unincorporated area. They cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps.

Statistical Division

A Statistical Division (SD) is an Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) defined area which represents a large, general purpose, regional type geographic area. SDs represent relatively homogeneous regions

characterised by identifiable social and economic links between the inhabitants and the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities. They consist of one or more Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) and cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They do not cross State or Territory boundaries and are the largest statistical building blocks of States and Territories.

Urban Centre/Locality

An Urban Centre is generally defined as a population cluster of 1,000 or more people. A Locality is generally defined as a population cluster of between 200 and 999 people. People living in Urban Centres are classified as urban for statistical purposes while those in Localities are classified as rural (i.e non-urban). Each Urban Centre and/or Locality (UC/L) is bounded (i.e. a boundary for it is clearly defined) and composed of one or more whole CDs. UC/Ls are defined for each Census and are current for the date of the Census. The criteria for bounding UC/Ls are based on the Linge methodology.



Metadata

Metadata is the accompanying help, definitions, classification and explanatory information linked within the 2006 Census Products.

Place of enumeration

Place of enumeration is the location where someone was counted on Census night, this count gives a snapshot in any given area. Although the Census is timed to capture the typical situation, holiday areas such as the Gold Coast and snowfields may show a large enumeration count compared to the usual residence count which is where people usually live.

This count includes overseas visitors, people on board vessels in or between Australian ports, on long distance trains, buses or aircraft but excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas.

Place of usual residence

Place of usual residence is where a person usually lives rather than the place they were counted on Census Night. Place of usual residence is now the primary basis for releasing data from the 2006 Census.

Each person is required to state the address where they usually live on the Census form. It should be noted that this count excludes overseas visitors and Australian residents temporarily overseas.

The 2001 Census was the first to provide usual residence data at Collection District level. The data has proven to be a more reliable and consistent method of providing Census counts for most purposes.

RADL

The Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) is an online database query system, under which microdata are held on a server at the ABS. Users can submit programs to interrogate, analyse, model, etc. the data, and then access the results.

Thematic Maps

Thematic maps are maps which show various geographic regions which are shaded or patterned, or use some other graphic tool (for example, different sized dots) to convey differences in a particular characteristic. Census data are particularly popular for these types of maps as a wide range of characteristics are available for small areas. These areas and the statistics can be aggregated to cover a wide range of different regions to suit various needs.

Undercount

Although every effort is made by Census collectors to locate every dwelling and household within their allocated area, some dwellings may be missed. Undercount is also possible if not all members of a household are included on the Census form. A small number of people and dwellings can be missed and some may have been counted more than once. The net result is called undercounting or underenumeration. A measure of the extent of the undercount is determined from the Post Enumeration Survey (PES).

2006 Census Release Timetable*

QuickStats

First Release: 27 June 2007
Second Release: October 2007

MapStats (previously QuickMaps)

First Release: 27 June 2007
Second Release: October 2007

Census Tables

First Release: 27 June 2007
Includes Time Series tables for Place of Usual Residence
Second Release: October 2007

Community Profiles

- **Basic**
First Release: August 2007
Second Release: October 2007
- **Indigenous**
First Release: August 2007
Second Release: October 2007
- **Place of Enumeration**
First Release: August 2007
Second Release: November 2007
- **Expanded**
First Release: August 2007
Second Release: November 2007
- **Time Series**
First Release: August 2007
Second Release: November 2007
- **Working Population**
Expected December 2007

Census Datapacks

First Release: from August 2007
Second Release: from October 2007

CDATA Online

First Release: TBA
Second Release: TBA

SEIFA 2006

March 2008

TableBuilder

TBA

Census Sample File

March 2008

Social Atlas Series

Early 2008

Picture of the Nation: The Statistician's Report

May 2008

The Census Dictionary

May 2006

Census Fact Sheets

Released progressively

Digital Boundaries

First Release: July 2007
Second Release: September 2007

* Correct at time of printing



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free from the ABS website

visit our website www.abs.gov.au

phone 1300 135 070



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ISBN 9780642483263

Discover your Community