

The Retention ('Time Capsule') Option

General Demographic Characteristics of Persons who Agreed to the Retention of their Name-Identified Census Information

Introduction

For the first time in an Australian census, the 2001 Census included an option for respondents to agree to their name-identified personal details being kept for 99 years and then made publicly available. This was referred to as the 'Time Capsule Project'.

The forms of persons who explicitly agreed to having their details retained in the 'Time Capsule' were scanned and the images of these forms have been stored securely for release in August 2100. Name-identified information will not be available for any purpose within the 99 year closed access period, including via official requests by a court or tribunal.

If a person did not explicitly agree to their name-identified personal census information being retained, their name and address details were destroyed once statistical processing was completed.

State / Territory

The rate of retention, Australia-wide, was **52.7%**.

The ACT had the highest rate of agreement (60.2%) for retention of name-identified details. The lowest rate (48.9%) was in the NT.

Table 1: State/Territory by Retention

	<i>No. of Persons</i>	<i>% Retained</i>	<i>% Not Retained</i>	<i>Total %</i>
NSW	6371745	53.3	46.7	100
Vic	4644950	52.4	47.6	100
Qld	3655139	51.2	48.8	100
SA	1467261	52.1	47.9	100
WA	1851252	52.7	47.3	100
Tas	456652	57.7	42.3	100
NT	210664	48.9	51.1	100
ACT	311947	60.2	39.8	100
OT*	2740	54.1	45.9	100
Australia	18972350	52.7	47.3	100

* Other Territories

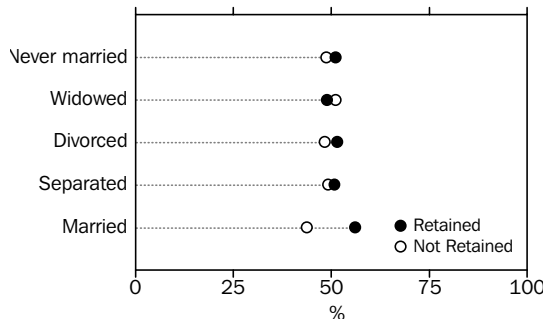
Sex and Marital Status

Almost the same proportion of males (52.5%) as females (52.9%) agreed to their details being retained.

The majority (56.2%) of people who were married agreed to their details being retained. 50.4% of those who were widowed, separated or divorced agreed to

their details being retained, as did 51.2% of persons who had never been married and were 15 years of age or over.

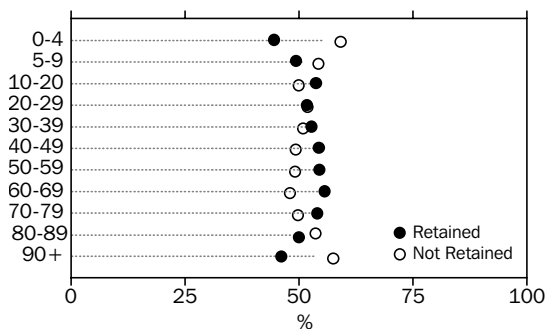
Figure 1: Marital Status by Retention



Age

While respondents in the broad spectrum of age groups were more likely to agree to their details being retained than not, the trend differed as ages neared the two poles - the very young (10 years of age or younger) and the very old (80 years or older).

Figure 2: Age by Retention



Agreement for details being retained reached its peak at the 60-69 year age group, with 55.7% agreeing. The rate of agreement was lowest for children under five years of age (44.6%), and for those aged 90 years or more, the rate was 46.3%.

Nearly half (49%) of respondents who were under 15 years of age agreed to the retention of their name-identified census information.

Household Type

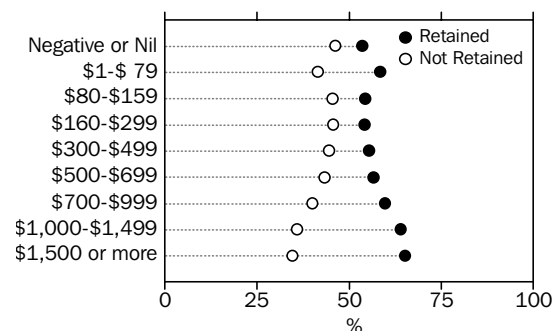
The rate of agreement to details being retained was highest in Family Households, at 55.0%. The rate of form retention in Lone Person Households was 51.7%, and 50.4% in Group Households.

Income

Agreement to the retention of name-identified details is closely related to socio-economic status. The rate of agreement to form retention generally increased with income level, from 53.6% of those who did not receive an income through to 65.2% of those in the top income group of '\$1,500 or more' per week.

The rate of agreement, 58.5% for the \$1-\$79 income bracket, is inconsistent with the general pattern. It is interesting to note that nearly half (48.6%) of respondents in this income bracket who agreed to their details being retained were aged 15-19 years, with the vast majority of these (93.7%) being students.

Figure 3: Income by Retention



Computer / Internet

A relatively high number of persons who stated that they used a computer at home (59.9%) or the Internet at home, work or elsewhere (60.8%), agreed to their details being retained.

Indigenous Status

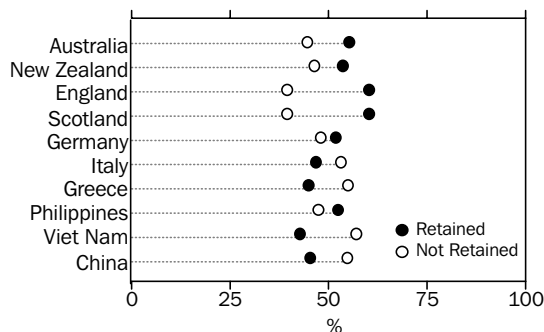
Nearly half (49.3%) of Indigenous people agreed to their details being retained, compared to 55.1% of Non-Indigenous persons.

Birthplace

Note: Analysis of the 'Birthplace of Individual' question (BPLP) was limited to fully defined categories with at least 100 000 responses.

The most likely groups to agree to their details being retained were people born in England (60.4%), Scotland (60.4%) and Australia (55.4%). Conversely, those with the lowest rates of agreement were persons born in Viet Nam (42.4%), Greece (45.0%) and China (45.3%).

Figure 4: Birthplace by Retention



The rate of agreement to their details being retained was higher for people whose parents had **both** been born in Australia (56.5%), than for people with **both** parents born overseas (52.7%).

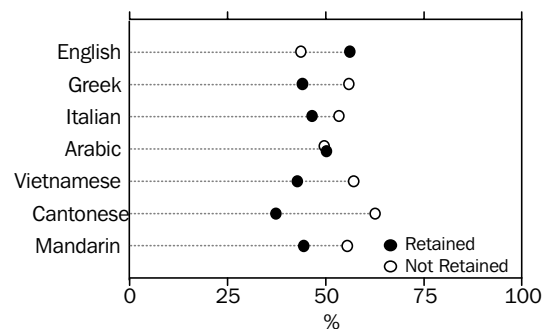
Language

Note: Analysis of the 'Main Language Spoken at Home' question (LANP) was limited to fully defined categories with at least 100 000 responses.

These trends were echoed when looking at the data related to main language spoken at home.

The rate of agreement to their details being retained was highest for English speaking respondents, at 56.3%. The rate for Arabic speakers was the next highest, but still noticeably less, at 50.2%. This was followed by Italian (46.5%), Mandarin (44.6%), Greek (44.1%) and Vietnamese (42.9%). The Cantonese speaking population had the lowest rate of agreement, at 37.3%.

Figure 5: Language by Retention

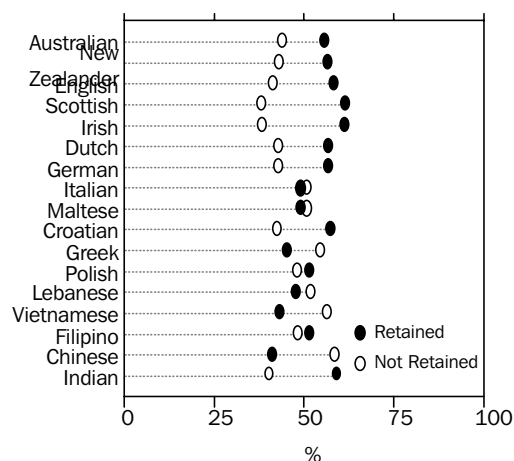


Ancestry

Note: Analysis of the 'Ancestry' question (ANCP) was limited to fully defined categories with at least 100 000 responses. Also note that the 'Ancestry' question (ANCP) had multiple response options, with a maximum of two responses being coded per person.

The highest rates of agreement to their details being retained occurred in persons reporting Scottish (61.7%), Irish (61.4%) or Indian (59.4%) descent, with 'Australian' ranked ninth at 55.8%. Least likely to agree that their details be retained were those of Chinese (41.3%), Vietnamese (43.4%) or Greek (45.4%) descent.

Figure 6: Ancestry by Retention



Religion

Note: Analysis of the 'Religion' question (RELQ) was limited to fully defined categories with at least 100 000 responses.

The highest rates of agreement to their details being retained in terms of responses to the Religion question occurred in the Uniting Church (60.7%), Anglican (59.2%), Presbyterian (58.0%), Baptist (56.6%) and

Catholic (55.9%) faiths. Conversely, the lowest rates were evident in respondents who marked Greek Orthodox (45.1%), Buddhism (45.8%) or Islam (50.9%) as their religious belief.

Figure 7: Religion by Retention

