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# **Technical Manual**

# Multipurpose Household Survey, Expanded CURF

Australia

2007–08

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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# ABBREVIATIONS .....

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ABSDL	Australian Bureau of Statistics Site Data Laboratory
ADSL	asymmetric digital subscriber line
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
CAI	computer assisted interviewing
CD	collection district
CURF	confidentialised unit record file
DHAC	Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
DSL	digital subscriber line
DVA	Australian Government Department of Veterans Affairs
Gbps	gigabits per second
GISCA	National Centre for Social Applications of GIS, University of Adelaide
GST	goods and services tax
HUIT	Household Use of Information Technology
ISDN	integrated service digital network
kbps	kilobits per second
LFS	Labour Force Survey
Mbps	megabits per second
MB	megabyte
MPHS	Multipurpose Household Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PSTN	public switched telephone network
RA	Remoteness Area
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SAS	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
SDSL	symmetric digital subscriber line
SE	standard error
SPSS	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
STATA	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
TAFE	Technical and Further Education

# CHAPTER **1**

# INTRODUCTION .....

OVERVIEW	This paper provides information on the release of microdata from the 2007–08 Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS). The data are available through an Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) released with the approval of the Australian Statistician. The 2007–08 MPHS Expanded CURF is accessible through the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). This Expanded CURF option provides access to more detailed information than would otherwise be available from a basic CURF product. A basic CURF has not been produced from this survey.
	The RADL is an on-line database query system, under which microdata are held on a server at the ABS. Users of the RADL can submit programs in SAS, SPSS and STATA software to interrogate and analyse the microdata, and access the results. Further information about the RADL facility and information about obtaining access to the file is available on the ABS web site <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au">http://www.abs.gov.au</a> (see Services, CURF Microdata).
	The RADL enables purchasers to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their own specifications.
ABOUT THE SURVEY	The MPHS is conducted each month as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The 2007–08 MPHS was conducted throughout Australia between July 2007 and June 2008.
	<ul> <li>The MPHS is designed to provide statistics annually for a small number of labour, social and economic topics. Topics included in the 2007–08 MPHS survey were:</li> <li>Environmental Views and Behaviour</li> <li>Household Use of Information Technology</li> <li>Personal Fraud.</li> </ul>
	The MPHS also collected other socio-demographic information such as educational qualifications, labour force status and personal and household income.
	This expanded CURF comprises data from the Environmental Views and Behaviour and Household Use of Information Technology topics and socio-demographic information. A separate CURF has been released which comprises data from the Personal Fraud topic.
	The Environmental Views and Behaviour topic collected information on attitudes towards the environment and specific environmental issues. The topic also covered conservation measures taken in relation to electricity consumption, water consumption, recycling and waste disposal. Estimates from this topic were released in <i>Environmental Views and Behaviour</i> , 2007–08 (cat. no. 4626.0.55.001).
	The Household Use of Information Technology topic collected information on personal and household access to computers and the Internet. Information on: locations of use of the Internet; the purpose and frequency of access to the Internet at home and technology used to access the Internet; access to the Internet at sites other than at

#### CHAPTER 1 · INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THE SURVEYhome; and main reasons for not purchasing or ordering goods or services via thecontinuedInternet were collected. Estimates from the survey were published in Household Use ofInformation Technology, Australia, 2007–08 (cat. no. 8146.0).

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### CHAPTER **2**

#### SURVEY METHODOLOGY

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The scope of the 2007–08 MPHS Household Use of Information Technology topic included all usual residents aged 15 years and over in private dwellings except for those people detailed below. The Environmental Views and Behaviour topic included all usual residents aged 18 years and over in private dwellings except for the following:

- members of the Australian permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependents) stationed in Australia
- people living in very remote parts of Australia.

The 2007–08 MPHS was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded people living in very remote parts of Australia. The exclusion of these people will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for states and territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where people living in very remote areas account for approximately 21% of the total number of people in the population aged 15 years and over.

The MPHS is linked to the ABS Monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) because the sample used in the MPHS is a subset of the LFS sample. The LFS is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (houses, flats, etc.) and a list sample of non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and Indigenous Communities. The survey is conducted in both urban and rural areas of all states and territories of Australia.

In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. The chance of a person being enumerated at two separate dwellings in the one survey is considered to be negligible.

For more information about the LFS see Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

DATA COLLECTIONDwellings selected for the MPHS Household Use of Information Technology andMETHODOLOGYEnvironmental Views and Behaviour topics comprised one-third of the outgoing rotation<br/>group for the LFS (one-eighth of the sample is rotated out each month) from July 2007<br/>to June 2008. Socio-demographic information was also collected from these dwellings,<br/>and dwellings selected from July 2007 to December 2007 were also asked the Personal<br/>Fraud topic.

In these dwellings (any) one person aged 15 years or over living in the dwelling was randomly selected and asked the additional MPHS questions in a personal interview, after the LFS had been fully completed. If the selected person was aged 15 to 17 years, permission to interview was first sought from a parent or guardian. If such permission

DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY continued	was denied, information was obtained about the 15 to 17 year old from a responsible adult in the household. Note if the selected person was aged 15 to 17 years then they were not asked the Environmental Views and Behaviour questions because they were out of scope for this topic.
	Data were collected using Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI), whereby responses were recorded directly onto an electronic questionnaire in a notebook computer during a telephone interview. Face-to-face CAI interviews were conducted in a small number of households, where that was the method of collection for the LFS.
	The initial sample for the 2007–08 MPHS consisted of approximately 18,480 private dwelling households. Of these households, approximately 2,680 were excluded from the MPHS sample because of sample loss (for example, households selected in the survey which had no residents in scope for the LFS, vacant or derelict dwellings and dwellings under construction). Of the remaining 15,800 private dwelling households, 14,000 or approximately 89% fully responded to the MPHS.
WEIGHTING, ESTIMATION AND BENCHMARKING	As the survey was conducted on a sample of households in Australia, it is important to consider the method of sample selection when deriving estimates from the CURF. This is particularly important as a person's chance of selection in the survey varies depending on the state or territory in which they are selected.
	Weighting is the process of adjusting results from the sample survey to infer results for the total in-scope population. To do this, a weight is allocated to each sample unit i.e. each person or household. The weight effectively indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.
	The first step in calculating weights for each sample unit is to assign an initial weight which is equal to the inverse of the probability of being selected in the survey. For example, if the probability of a person being selected in the survey was one in 600, then the selected person would have an initial weight of 600 (that is, they represent 600 people in the population). The initial weights are then calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks'. Weights are calibrated against population benchmarks to ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population, rather than to the distribution within the sample itself.
	Replicate weights have been included on the CURF which can be used to calculate sampling error. For more information, refer to the 'Standard Errors' section in Chapter 3.
	The survey was benchmarked to the estimated civilian population aged 15 years and over living in private dwellings in each state and territory in non very remote areas. The process of weighting ensures that the survey estimates conform to person benchmarks by state, part of state, age and sex and to household benchmarks by state, part of state and household composition. These benchmarks are produced from estimates of the resident population derived independently of the survey.

RELIABILITY OF	Estimates derived from the CURF are subject to both sampling and non-sampling error.
Sampling error	Sampling error arises because the estimates are based on a sample of units and so will
	differ from estimates that would have been produced if all units in the population had
	been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the
	standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied
	because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three
	that the sample estimates will differ by less than one SE from the number that would
	have been obtained if all people had been surveyed and about 19 chances in 20 that the
	difference will be less than two SEs. Instructions on how to calculate SEs can be found in
	Chapter 3.
	Another measure of the sampling error is the relative standard error (RSE) which is
	obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate. Generally, only estimates
	(numbers, percentages, means and medians) with RSEs less than 25% are considered
	sufficiently reliable for most purposes. The formula for calculating the RSE of an estimate
	(y) is:
	$RSE(y) = SE(y)/y \times 100\%$
Non-sampling error	Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by
	respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These
	inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration whether it be a full count or a sample of the
	population. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by
	careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and

efficient processing procedures.

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### CHAPTER 3

#### USING THE CURF DATA .....

ABOUT THE MICRODATA	The 2007–08 MPHS Expanded CURF enables users to manipulate the data, produce
	tabulations and undertake statistical analysis to individual specifications.

This MPHS 2007–08 microdata is released under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* which has provision for the release of data in the form of unit records where the information is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. Accordingly, there are no names or addresses of survey respondents on the CURF, and other steps have been taken to protect the confidentiality of respondents. These include removing or reducing the level of detail shown for some data items and changing characteristics such as state or area for several records. All income items have been perturbed. Perturbation is a process of altering the reported values for earnings to prevent identification of respondents. The distribution of values is not changed significantly through perturbation and the statistical validity of aggregate data is not affected. Data from the 2007–08 MPHS Expanded CURF will therefore not exactly match published data.

Steps to confidentialise the datasets made available on the CURF are taken in such a way as to ensure the integrity of the data and optimise the content of files, while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents. Intending users should ensure that the data they require, at the level of detail they require, are available on the CURF. Data obtained in the survey but not contained on the CURF may be available in tabulated form on request. The location of a full list of all data items on the CURF is provided in the Appendix.

 FILE STRUCTURE
 The 2007–08 MPHS Expanded CURF contains three data files (SAS, SPSS and STATA), each containing 14,000 confidentialised records. Each record holds both the person and household level data of a respondent to the survey. Using the person and household weights provided for each record, the data can be used to estimate characteristics for the Australian population.

GEOGRAPHY

To enable analysis at a regional level, each record contains a state/territory identifier (STATEC) and a substate identifier (CCBALST). The CCBALST data item has two output categories – Capital city and Balance of state. Only the statistical divisions for the six state capital cities defined in the *Australian Standard Geographical Classification* (cat. no. 1216.0) are classified as capital cities. All other regions in Australia, including Canberra and Darwin are classified to the Balance of state category.

#### SPECIAL CODES For income data items, certain values are reserved as special codes and must not be added as if they were quantitative values. The value of the codes are as follows: 9999999998 = Not applicable 9999999999 = Not stated. MULTIPLE RESPONSE A number of questions asked during the MPHS allowed respondents to give more than FIELDS one response. On the CURF, each response category for these multiple response questions is treated as a separate data item. Each data item has either a 'Not applicable'

or a 'Yes' response. A 'Not applicable' response has a code of '0' indicating that the response category is not relevant for the respondent. A 'Yes' response has a code greater than '0' indicating a positive response for that category.

An example of this is the 'Purpose of Internet access at home' question which has six response categories. From these categories six separate data items have been produced - PURNETHA, PURNETHB, PURNETHC...PURNETHF.

#### PURPOSE OF INTERNET ACCESS AT HOME

Response category	Data item	Data item response
Work / business	PURNETHA	Not applicable (0)
		Yes (1)
Education / study	PURNETHB	Not applicable (0)
		Yes (2)
Volunteer / community groups	PURNETHC	Not applicable (0)
		Yes (3)
Personal / private	PURNETHD	Not applicable (0)
		Yes (4)
Other	PURNETHE	Not applicable (0)
		Yes (5)
Did not access the internet	PURNETHF	Not applicable (0)
at home in last 12 months		Yes (6)

#### WEIGHTS AND ESTIMATION

The CURF contains records which can be adjusted (weighted) to infer results for the total in-scope population in Australia. Care needs to be taken to ensure the appropriate weight is selected when estimating for the Australian population. The CURF contains two weights:

- FINWTHEP Person weight
- FINWTHEH Household weight.

The FINWTHEP weight must be used when estimating the number of people in Australia with a particular characteristic. When estimating the number of households in Australia with certain characteristics, the FINWTHEH weight must be used.

The application of weights ensures that person estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex, state/territory and part of state. Similarly, household estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of households by certain household characteristics (e.g. by state, part of state and number of adults and children), rather than to the distributions within the sample itself. If

WEIGHTS AND	weights were to be ignored, no account would be taken of a person's or household's
ESTIMATION continued	chance of selection in the survey or of different response rates across population groups,
	with the result that distributions based on the sample alone will be biased for
	distributions in the in-scope population, and overall aggregates will add up to sample
	and not population totals.

 STANDARD ERRORS
 Standard errors for each estimate produced from this CURF can be calculated using the replicate weights provided on the file.

Each record on the CURF contains 30 replicate weights. Using these weights, it is possible to calculate standard errors for estimates produced from this file, using what is known as the 30 group Jack-knife variance estimator. When calculating standard errors it is important to select the replicate weights which are most appropriate for the analysis being undertaken:

- WHEP0101 to WHEP0130 use for person estimates
- WHEH0101 to WHEH0130 use for household estimates.

To obtain the standard error of a weighted estimate y, calculate the same estimate using each of the 30 replicate weights. The variability between these replicate estimates (denoting y(g) for group number g) is used to measure the standard error of the original weighted estimate y using the formula:

$$SE(y) = \sqrt{(29/30) \sum_{g=1}^{30} (y_{(g)} - y)^2}$$

where:

g = the replicate groups number

 $\gamma_{(g)}$  = the weighted estimate, having applied the weights for replicate group g

 $\mathcal{V}$  = the weighted estimate from the full sample.

The 30 group Jack-knife method can be applied not just to estimates of population total, but also where the estimate y is a function of estimates of population total, such as a proportion, difference or ratio. For more information on the 30 group Jack-knife method of SE estimation, see *Research Paper: Weighting and Standard Error Estimation for ABS Household Surveys (Methodology Advisory Committee), July 1999* (cat.no.1352.0.55.029).

Use of the 30 group Jack-knife method for complex estimates, such as regression parameters from a statistical model, is not straightforward and may not be appropriate. The method as described does not apply to investigations where survey weights are not used, such as in unweighted statistical modelling.

The following tables have been provided to enable CURF users to check some of the relative standard errors they have produced.

#### STANDARD ERRORS TABLE 1: ITEL OF ERRORS Errors—Households TABLE 1: TYPE OF BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS, Relative Standard

	Households	Relative Standard Error
	'000'	%
Not applicable	3 956.5	1.0
Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL/SDSL)	2 937.6	1.3
Cable	627.6	2.1
Satellite	38.5	19.5
Wireless	141.1	7.3
Other	21.2	21.6
Don't know	521.2	2.8
Total	8 243.6	0.3

#### TABLE 2: WHETHER WATER RESTRICTIONS AFFECTED PERSONAL WATER USE, Relative Standard Errors—Persons aged 18 years and over

	Persons	Relative Standard Error
	'000'	%
Not applicable	838.9	_
Water restrictions have affected personal water use	6 483.2	1.4
Water restrictions have not affected personal water use	5 483.9	1.6
No water restrictions in the area	2 603.7	2.5
Not aware of water restrictions in the area	628.2	4.6
Not connected to a water supply	532.3	7.6
Total	16 570.2	—

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

# CHAPTER 4 FILE CONTENT

FILE CONTENT	The 2007–08 MPHS Expanded CURF contains the files listed below which are available through the RADL.
Expanded CURF files	MPHS07E.sas7bdat – the MPHS file in SAS for Windows format.
	Format.sas7bcat – the format file which provides labels for associated codes in the SAS version of the 2007–08 MPHS Expanded CURF.
	MPHS07E.SAV – the MPHS file in SPSS format.
	MPHS07E.DTA – the MPHS file in STATA format.
	41000_DATA_ITEM_LISTING_MPHS07E.XLS – the documentation file which includes data item names, category labels and populations. The file is in Microsoft Excel format.
	FREQUENCIES_MPHS07EPSN.TXT – data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted person frequencies for each response category. The file is in plain text format.
	FREQUENCIES_MPHS07EHH.TXT – data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted household frequencies for each response category. The file is in plain text format.
Expanded CURF test files	The test files mirror the actual data files but contain random data. The test files can be used to troubleshoot SAS, SPSS or STATA code or to solve any syntax problems prior to submitting RADL jobs. The test files can also test code without the restrictions imposed by RADL. Data from the test files will not match data from the actual 2007–08 MPHS Expanded CURF files.
	MPHS07E.sas7bdat – the MPHS test file in SAS for Windows format.
	Formats.sas7bcat – the format test file which provides labels for associated codes in the SAS version of the 2007–08 MPHS Expanded CURF.
	MPHS07E.SAV – the MPHS test file in SPSS format.
	MPHS07E.DTA – the MPHS test file in STATA format.

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### CHAPTER 5

#### CONDITIONS OF RELEASE .....

RELEASE OF CURF

The Australian Statistician's approval is required for each release of the CURF. In addition and prior to being granted access to the CURF, all organisations, and individuals within organisations, who request access to the CURF will be required to sign an Undertaking to abide by the legislative restrictions on use. Organisations and individuals who seek access to the 2007–08 MPHS Expanded CURF are required to give an undertaking which includes, among other conditions, that in using the CURF data they will:

- use the data only for the statistical purposes specified
- not attempt to identify particular persons or organisations
- not disclose, either directly or indirectly, the data to any other person or organisation other than members of their organisation who have been approved by the ABS to have individual access to the information
- not attempt to match, with or without using identifiers, the data with any other list of persons or organisations
- in relation to data made available via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL), access the data only in a manner specifically authorised in writing by the ABS
- not attempt to access the data after the term of their authorisation expires, or after their authorisation is rescinded by the organisation which provided it, or after they cease to be a member of that organisation.

Use of the data for statistical purposes means use of the content of the CURF to produce information of a statistical nature, i.e. the arrangement and classification of numerical facts or data, including statistical analyses or statistical aggregates. Examples of statistical purposes are:

- manipulation of the data to produce means, correlations or other descriptive or summary measures
- estimation of population characteristics
- use of data as input to mathematical models or for other types of analysis (e.g. factor analysis)
- providing graphical or pictorial representations of the characteristics of the population or subsets of the population.

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the 'Responsible Access to ABS CURFs – Training Manual' available on the ABS website <http://www.abs.gov.au> (see Services, CURF Microdata). Use of the data for unauthorised purposes may render the purchaser liable to severe penalties. Advice on the propriety of any particular intended use of the data is available from the Microdata Access Strategies Section via <microdata.access@abs.gov.au>.

#### CHAPTER 5 • CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

CONDITIONS OF SALE	All ABS products and services are provided under Conditions of Sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be referred to <intermediary.management@abs.gov.au>.</intermediary.management@abs.gov.au>
PRICE	The Recommended Retail Price (RRP) of the 2007–08 MPHS Expanded CURF, as at January 2009 is \$1,430.00 including GST.
HOW TO ORDER	All clients wishing to access the 2007–08 MPHS Expanded CURF should refer to the ABS website, <http: www.abs.gov.au=""> (see Services, CURF Microdata) and read the Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual, and other relevant information, before downloading the Application and Undertaking to apply for access.</http:>
Australian universities	University clients should refer to the ABS website <http: www.abs.gov.au=""> (see Services, Services for Universities). The 2007–08 MPHS Expanded CURF can be accessed by universities participating in the ABS/Universities Australia CURF agreement for research and teaching purposes.</http:>
Other clients	Other prospective clients should contact the Microdata Access Strategies Section via <microdata.access@abs.gov.au> or on (02) 6252 7714.</microdata.access@abs.gov.au>

#### APPENDIX

### DATA ITEM LIST

For data items and structure see the Excel spreadsheet titled '41000\_DATA\_ITEM\_LISTING\_MPHS07E' associated with this information paper.

# GLOSSARY .....

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) was developed by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (formerly Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC)) and the National Key Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information System (GISCA). ARIA measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre (ASGC 1996) in each of five size classes.
Age	This is the reported age of a person on the last birthday.
Analog/Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)	A telecommunications network operated by a carrier to provide services to the public.
ASGC Remoteness Structure	The Remoteness structure is used for the production of standard ABS statistical outputs from Population Censuses and some ABS surveys. It is a structure describing Australia in terms of a measurement of remoteness. The Remoteness structure includes all Collection Districts (CDs) and therefore, in aggregate, it covers the whole of Australia. The purpose of the structure is to classify CDs which share common characteristics of remoteness into broad geographical regions called Remoteness Areas (RAs). There are six RAs in this structure.
Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)	The ASCED is a national standard classification which includes all sectors of the Australian education system: that is, schools, vocational education and training, and higher education. From 2001, ASCED replaced a number of classifications used in administrative and statistical systems, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ). The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education. See <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1272.0).
Balance of state/territory	This area comprises the region outside of the six state capital Statistical Divisions. The area includes the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.
Bit	Abbreviation for binary digit and describing the smallest unit of information handled by a computer. One bit expresses a 1 or a 0 in a binary numeral, or a true or false logical condition. See also Byte.
Broadband	Defined by the ABS as an 'always on' Internet connection with an access speed equal to or greater than 256 kilobits per second (kbps).
Byte	Abbreviation for binary term. A unit of data, today almost always consisting of 8 bits. A byte can represent a single character, such as a letter, a digit, or a punctuation mark. See also kilobit and kilobyte.
Cable	Describes those technologies including coaxial cable, fibre optic cable and hybrid fibre coaxial cable which are capable of transmitting data at speeds of up to 2 Gigabits per second (Gbps).
Capital city	This area comprises the Statistical Divisions of the six state capital cities which are defined in the <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0). Excludes Canberra and Darwin.
Certificate not further defined	Level of Education survey responses are coded to Certificate not further defined (n.f.d.) when there is not enough information to code them to Certificate I, II, III or IV in the <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1272.0), Level of Education classification.

Child	A person of any age who is a natural, adopted, step, or foster son or daughter of a couple or lone parent, usually resident in the same household, and who does not have a child or partner of their own usually resident in the household.
Collection Districts	CDs are designed for use in census years for the collection and dissemination of Population Census data. In non-census years, CDs are undefined. In aggregate, CDs cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. The CD is the smallest spatial unit in the ASGC. CDs aggregate to form larger spatial units such as the Remoteness Areas in the Remoteness Structure. In Census years, the CD is the common denominator which integrates all classification structures in the ASGC. For the 2006 Census, 38,704 CDs were defined throughout Australia.
Composting	The controlled microbial decomposition of organic matter, such as food and garden wastes.
Computer use	This refers to use of a computer in the 12 months prior to interview.
Country of birth	Country of birth has been classified according to the <i>Standard Australian Classification</i> of <i>Countries (SACC)</i> , 1998 (cat. no. 1269.0).
Couple families	For the purposes of this publication, a family consisting of two persons in a registered marriage or de facto relationship and at least one child aged 0 to 14 years who are usually resident in the household. The family may also include any number of other dependents, non-dependents and other related individuals.
Current job	The job in which a person currently works.
Dependent children	All people aged under 15 years, and people aged 15 to 24 years who are full-time students, have a parent in the household and do not have a partner or child of their own in the household.
Dial-up connections	Connection to the Internet via modem and dial-up software utilising the public switched telecommunication network (PSTN).
Digital Subscriber Line	More properly referred to as ADSL as this covers several digital technologies (e.g. asymmetric DSL or ADSL and symmetric DSL or SDSL) for fast two-way data connections over the PSTN.
Disposed of	'Disposed of refers to 'got rid of', for purposes other than recycling or re-using.
Educational institution	Any institution whose primary role is education. Included are schools, higher education establishments, colleges of Technical and Further Education (TAFE), public and private colleges, etc. Excluded are institutions whose primary role is not education, for example, hospitals.
Employed	<ul> <li>People who during the reference week:</li> <li>worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or</li> <li>worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or</li> <li>were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: <ul> <li>away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or</li> <li>away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or</li> <li>away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or</li> <li>on a strike or locked out; or</li> <li>on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Employed full-time	Employed people who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.
Employed part-time	Employed people who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.
Employees	People who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or people who operate their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.
Employers	People who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade and hire one or more employees.
Employment types	<ul> <li>Classification of employed people according to the following employment type categories on the basis of their main job (i.e. the job in which they usually work the most hours):</li> <li>employees (excluding owner-managers of incorporated enterprises)</li> <li>with paid leave entitlements</li> <li>without paid leave entitlements</li> <li>owner managers</li> <li>owner managers of incorporated enterprises</li> <li>owner managers of unincorporated enterprises</li> <li>contributing family workers.</li> </ul>
Energy efficiency	Products and systems that use less energy to perform as well or better than standard products, as indicated by the star rating label.
Environmental problems	Any issues relating to the natural environment.
Equivalised weekly household income	Equivalising adjusts actual gross income to take account of the different needs of households of different size and composition. There are economic advantages associated with living with others, because household resources, especially housing, can be shared. The equivalence scale used to obtain equivalised incomes is that used in studies by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and is referred to as the 'modified OECD scale'. The scale gives a weight of 1.0 to the first adult in the household, a weight of 0.5 for each additional adult (persons aged 15 years and over), and a weight of 0.3 for each child. For each household, the weights for household members are added together to form the household weight. Total household income is then divided by the household weight to give an income that a lone person household would need for a similar standard of living. Equivalised weekly household income can be viewed as an indicator of the economic resources available to each member of the household.
Equivalised weekly household income deciles	These are groupings of 10% of the total population when ranked in ascending order according to equivalised weekly household income. The population used for this purpose includes all people living in private dwellings, including children and other persons under the age of 15 years. As the scope of this publication is restricted to only those persons aged 15 years and over, the distribution of this smaller population across the deciles is not necessarily the same as it is for persons of all ages, i.e. the percentage of persons aged 15 years and over in each of these deciles may be larger or smaller than 10%.
Family	Two or more people, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.

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Field of education	Field of Education is defined as the subject matter of an educational activity. It is categorised according to the <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)</i> , 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0) Field of Education classification. The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education. See <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)</i> , 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0).
Full-time educational attendance	People aged 15 to 19 years who, during the reference week were enrolled full-time at secondary or high schools, and those aged 15 to 24 years who, during the reference week, were enrolled full-time at a college of Technical and Further Education (TAFE), university, or other tertiary educational institution.
Full-time workers (usual)	Employed people who usually work 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs).
Gbps	A data transfer speed measurement for high speed networks. A unit of data transfer that equates to 1 million (1,000,000) kilobits per second.
Government pension/allowance	Income support payments from government to people under social security and related government programs. Included are pensions and allowances received by aged, disabled, unemployed and sick people, families and children, veterans and their survivors, and study allowances for students. Payments made by overseas governments as well as the Australian government are included.
Gross income	Regular and recurring cash receipts including monies received from wages and salaries, government pensions and allowances, and other regular receipts such as superannuation, workers' compensation, child support, scholarships, profit or loss from own unincorporated business or partnership, and property income. Gross income is the sum of current income from all these sources before income tax or the Medicare levy have been deducted.
Group Jack-knife method	This method of calculating standard errors starts by dividing the survey sample into a number of approximately equal-sized groups (replicate groups). Replicate estimates of the population total are then calculated from the sample by excluding each replicate group in turn. The Jack-knife variance is derived from the variation of the respective replicate estimates around the estimate based on the whole sample.
Household	A household consists of a person living alone, or two or more related or unrelated persons who live and eat together in private residential accommodation.
Household waste	All types of waste generated by everyday household activities such as general rubbish, recycling, kitchen waste and packaging.
Incorporated enterprise	An enterprise which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners. Also known as a limited liability company.
Indigenous	This refers to people who identified themselves, or were identified by another household member, as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.
Inner Regional Australia	Inner Regional Australia is a category in the ASGC Remoteness Structure. Inner Regional Australia is defined as 'CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 0.2 and less than or equal to 2.4'. Inner Regional Australia includes towns such as Hobart, Launceston, Noosa and Tamworth.
Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN)	A digital access technique for both voice and data. Digital alternative to an analog public switched telephone service and carries data or voltages consisting of discrete steps or levels, as opposed to continuously variable analog data. ISDN enables digital transmission over the PSTN.
Internet	A world-wide public computer network. Organisations and individuals can connect their computers to this network and exchange information across a country and/or across the world. The Internet provides access to a number of communication services including the World Wide Web and carries email, news, entertainment and data files.
Internet access	Availability of lines, points, ports, and modem to subscribers to access the Internet.

Internet use	This refers to the use of the Internet in the 12 months prior to interview. It includes access via mobile phones, set-top boxes connected to either an analogue or digital television, and games machines.
kbps	A measure of data transfer rate . A unit of data transfer that equates to 1000 bits per second.
kilobit (kb)	A data unit of 1,024 bits and generally abbreviated as kb or kbit. Data speeds are generally referred to in kilobits (kbps) rather than kilobytes.
kilobyte (kB)	A data unit of 1,024 bytes and generally abbreviated as kB or kbyte.
Labour force	The civilian population can be split into two mutually exclusive groups: the labour force (employed and unemployed people) and people not in the labour force.
Level not determined	Level not determined includes inadequately described responses and cases where no response was given.
Level of education	Level of education is a function of the quality and quantity of learning involved in an educational activity. It is categorised according to the <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1272.0), Level of Education classification.
Level of highest educational attainment	Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken. For further information regarding how 'highest level' is derived, refer to paragraphs 45–47 of the Explanatory Notes in <i>Adult Learning, Australia, 2006–07</i> (cat. no. 4229.0).
Level of highest non-school qualification	Level of highest non-school qualification identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study, outside of their school achievements. See also Level of highest educational attainment.
Main English Speaking countries	The list of Main English Speaking Countries provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, and the United States of America.
Major Cities of Australia	Major Cities of Australia (not to be confused with Major Urban) is a category in the ASGC Remoteness Structure. Major Cities of Australia is defined as 'CDs with an average ARIA index value of 0 to 0.2'. The 'Major Cities of Australia' class includes most capital cities, as well as major urban areas such as Newcastle, Geelong and the Gold Coast.
Megabit (Mb)	A data unit of 1,048,576 bits, sometimes interpreted as 1 million bits. Faster data speeds are generally referred to in megabits rather than megabytes (hence Mbps).
Megabyte (MB)	A data unit of 1,048,576 bytes, sometimes interpreted as 1 million bytes.
Non-dependent child	A child of a couple or lone parent usually resident in the household, aged over 15 years and who is not a dependent student aged 15-24 years, and do not have a partner or child of their own in the household.
Non Dial-up connections	Refers to permanent and 'always on' connections to the Internet via a variety of technologies including Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL), Cable, Wireless, Satellite, dedicated data service, frame relay, etc.
Non-school qualification	Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Postgraduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and

Non-school qualification continued	Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.
Not employed	People who are either unemployed or not in the labour force.
Not in the labour force	Persons who are not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.
One parent families	For the purposes of this publication, a family consisting of a lone parent and at least one child aged 0 to 14 years usually resident in the household. The family may also include any number of other dependents, non-dependents and other related individuals.
Own account worker	A person who operates his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.
Part-time workers (usual)	Employed people who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs).
Public library computers	Includes computers provided in the library for public access for library catalogue searches, Internet use and word processing.
Recyclable waste	Recyclable waste refers to anything that can be recycled e.g. paper, plastic, glass, electrical.
Recycle - garden waste	This refers to putting garden waste to another use e.g. turning into compost or mulch, putting into a green waste bin etc. May also be referred to as 'green waste'.
Recycle - kitchen or food waste	This refers to putting kitchen or food waste to another use e.g. putting into compost or a worm, farm, feeding to animals, etc.
Recycled or grey water	Recycled or grey water refers to the wastewater collected in the household for further use(s). The water may be from showers, baths, spas, hand basins, washing machines, laundry basins but excludes water from the toilet, dishwashers or kitchen sinks.
Reference week	The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.
Relationship in household	The relationship of people who live in the same household.
Reuse	This refers to using waste material again, usually for a different purpose from that which it was originally intended.
Satellite	A satellite stationed in geosynchronous orbit that acts as a microwave relay station, receiving signals sent from a ground based station, amplifying them, and re-transmitting them on a different frequency to another ground-based station. Satellites can be used for high-speed transmission of computer data.
Status in employment	Employed people classified according to whether they were employees, employers, own account workers, or contributing family workers.
Unemployed	<ul> <li>Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:</li> <li>had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or</li> <li>were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.</li> </ul>
Unincorporated enterprise	A business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred.
Usual hours worked	The hours usually worked per week by an employed person.
Waste collection services	The type and times of waste collection services vary in each State. Refer to the Local Government/Council or Waste collection services in your state.
Water efficiency	The amount of water used by an appliance, as indicated by the star rating label.
Water restrictions	Restrictions on either type of use (e.g. using the hose), purpose of use (e.g. water the garden), or days and times on which water can be used. Restrictions can be imposed by water suppliers or water authorities.

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