

Technical Paper

**Family Characteristics
Survey**

**Expanded Confidentialised
Unit Record File**

Australia

2003

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Survey**

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Unit Record File**

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
CSA	Child Support Agency
CURF	Confidentialised Unit Record File
FCS	Family Characteristics Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory
RSE	relative standard error
SE	standard error

OVERVIEW

This technical paper provides information on the release of microdata from the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey (FCS). The data are available through an Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) released with the approval of the Australian Statistician. The 2003 FCS 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 standard CURF product, which has not been produced.

The RADL is an on-line database query system, to which users submit programs to interrogate and analyse data, and access the results. Further information about this facility is available on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (see Services We Provide, CURFs).

The CURF enables purchasers to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their own specifications.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The 2003 FCS was conducted throughout Australia as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). It was conducted to provide an update of the information provided by its predecessor the 1997 Family Characteristics Survey. Other earlier ABS surveys focussed on providing detailed information on family characteristics and related matters include the 1982 Families Survey and the 1992 Survey of Families in Australia.

The 2003 FCS collected details on household and family composition including demographic, labour force, and family structure information. A particular focus of the survey was families with children aged 0–17 years. The additional information collected for these families included: more specific details about relationships between family members (such as the presence of step parent/child relationships); whether any children had a natural parent living elsewhere and, if so, details of child support provided by non-resident parents and their contact arrangements; and, amount and main source of parental income.

Results from the 2003 FCS were published in *Family Characteristics, Australia June 2003* (cat. 4442.0).

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The 2003 FCS was conducted as a supplement to the ABS Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The LFS is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hospitals, hotels etc.). The LFS is conducted in both rural and urban areas of all States and Territories of Australia, and excludes:

- members of the Australian permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys;
- overseas residents in Australia; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded approximately 120,000 persons living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons will only have a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for states and territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where persons living in very remote areas account for approximately 20% of the total number of persons in the population.

Information for the 2003 FCS was collected only from usual residents of private dwellings. Visitors to private dwellings were excluded, as were persons residing in non-private dwellings such as hospitals, motels and gaols.

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.

Persons who are away from their usual residence for six weeks or less at the time of interview are enumerated at their usual residence (relevant information may be obtained from other usual residents present at the time of the survey).

The LFS is described more fully in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0).

DATA COLLECTION
METHODOLOGY

Information was collected through interviews conducted over a two-week period during June 2003.

For each family in a selected household, (any) one of the responsible adult (ARA) members was asked to respond on behalf of all the family members. Where possible interviewers arranged to speak with either the parents of children in the household, or the partner of a parent with children in the household for the child-related questions. About 80% of the interviews were conducted by telephone with the remainder being face-to-face interviews.

DATA COLLECTION
METHODOLOGY
continued

The survey collected detailed information for up to three children aged 0–17 years in a family. In families with four or more children aged 0–17 years, only limited information (age, sex, and relationship to parents) was collected about the fourth and subsequent children, up to a maximum of nine children. The remaining details for these children were imputed from information already collected for the first three children.

Information collected in the survey has been used to estimate the number of children aged 0-17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere. The survey collected information from parents about each of their resident children aged 0–17 years who were living apart from their other natural parent. This included information about the support provided by the non-resident parent and the child's contact arrangements with the non-resident parent.

In addition, the 2003 survey also identified whether respondents (persons aged 15 years and over) had natural children aged 0–17 years living elsewhere with the child's other natural parent. As a result, basic labour force, demographic and family composition data are available for people who are parents of 0-17 year olds but whose children live apart with the other natural parent.

WEIGHTING, ESTIMATION
AND BENCHMARKING
Weighting and estimation

As the survey was conducted on a sample of households in Australia, it is important to take account of 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 varied depending on the state or territory in which they lived.

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, family or household. The weight effectively indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

The first step in calculating the weight for a 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 persons in the population).

The initial weights are calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks'. Weights calibrated against population benchmarks ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population rather than to the distribution within the sample itself.

Information about using weights is included in Chapter 3.

Replicate weights have also been included and these can be used to calculate sampling error. For more information, refer to the 'Sampling Error' section below.

Benchmarking

The 2003 FCS was benchmarked to the estimated resident population (ERP) at 30 June 2003 living in private dwellings in each State and the Australian Capital Territory, and for the ERP at 30 June 2003 living in non-sparsely settled areas of the Northern Territory. The ERP estimates for 2003 were based on results from the 1996 Census of Population and Housing. The FCS estimates do not (and are not intended to) match population estimates for the total Australian resident population which also include estimates of

Benchmarking continued

persons and households living in non private dwellings, such as hotels and boarding houses.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

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 sampling error is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied because only a sample of units was included.

There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all units had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate. Generally, only estimates with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. The formula for calculating the RSE of an estimate is:

$$RSE(y) = SE(y)/y * 100\%$$

To assist users to ascertain the approximate levels of reliability of estimates, the tables of SEs and RSEs for estimates obtained from the FCS are provided in Appendix 2. The values given in the tables do not give a precise measure of the SE and RSE for a particular estimate, but will provide an indication of their magnitude.

Additional information about the calculation of standard errors is provided in the Technical Notes of *Family Characteristics, Australia June 2003* (cat. 4442.0), which can be accessed online from the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (see AusStats, Publications and Data).

Each record on the CURF contains 30 sets of replicate weights. The purpose of these replicate weights is to enable the calculation of SEs for each estimate produced using the "30-Group Jack-Knife" method. The SE calculated for a particular estimate using the replicate weights should be more precise than the SE calculated from the SE Table in Appendix 2. This is because the SE Table is derived from a modelling procedure which used a large number of estimates in the FCS publication.

The 30-Group Jack-knife method is an example of a replicate method for estimating sampling error. The basic idea of such methods is to select subsamples from the full sample and estimate the statistic of interest for each subsample. The sampling error of the full sample statistic is estimated using the variability among the replicate estimates calculated from the subsamples.

Sampling Error continued The formula for calculating the 30 Group Jack-knife SE is:

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

where

g = (the replicate groups no.)

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

y = weighted estimate from the full sample.

The replicate weights can also be used to estimate the SE of estimates of parameters which are derived from modelling the unit record data (e.g. a regression coefficient). In modelling, the full sample would be used to estimate the parameter of interest, and the replicate groups are used to provide 30 replicate estimates of the parameter. The SE of the estimate of the parameter from the full sample is then approximated, as above, by the variability of the replicate estimates.

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 estimation of the population or a sample. 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.

SEASONAL FACTORS

Estimates are based on information collected in the survey month, and, due to seasonal factors, they may not be representative of other months of the year.

ABOUT THE MICRODATA

The 2003 FCS Expanded CURF contains three separate files which are explained in detail below under 'File Structure'. The CURF enables users to manipulate the data, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

The 2003 FCS microdata are 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 some items from the CURF, reducing the level of detail shown on the CURF for some other items, changing some characteristics such as state or area for some records and dropping some records. Data on the FCS 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 dataset and optimise its content, while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents. Intending purchasers 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 as statistics in tabulated form on request. A full list of all the data items on the CURF is provided in Appendix 1.

FILE STRUCTURE

The 2003 FCS Expanded CURF contains a set of three files with confidentialised records. These files provide records for the following counting units.

1. Household
2. Family
3. Person

The counting units relate to each other in a hierarchical relationship. Households are comprised of family households and non-family households (people living alone and group households) and, a family household may contain more than one family. Families in turn are made up of individual persons. There are a total of 24,498 household records, 26,172 family records (of which there are 17,480 actual families) and 61,859 person records.

Counting units, weights and estimation

For each record of the three counting units (be they households, families or persons), a weight is provided on the respective files. This weight is used to determine the number of population units that record represents in the total population.

As the survey was conducted on a sample of households in Australia it is important to take account of the different chances of selection a household, family or person had, as it varied depending on the state or territory in which they lived. Survey 'weights' are values which indicate how many population units are represented by the sample unit. There are

*Counting units, weights
and estimation continued*

three weights provided on the CURF: a person weight (FINPRSWT), a family weight (FINFAMWT) and a household weight (FINHHWT). These should be used when analysing data at the person, family and household level respectively.

Where estimates are derived from the CURF, it is essential that they are calculated by applying the weights of persons, family or households, as appropriate, in each category, and not just by counting the number of records falling into each category. If each person's, family's or household's 'weight' were to be ignored, then no account would be taken of a person's, family's or household's chance of selection in the survey or of different response rates across population groups, with the result that counts produced could be biased. The application of weights ensures that:

- person estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex, state/territory and section of state, and
- household estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of households by certain household characteristics (e.g. by number of adults and children),

rather than to the distributions within the sample itself.

Identifiers

There are unique identifiers for every record on each of the three files. As shown below these identifiers are provided in a hierarchical order.

- 1. Household = ABSHID
- 2. Family = ABSHID, ABSFID
- 3. Person = ABSHID, ABSFID, ABSPID

Households have a household identifier, families have a family identifier (and the identifier of the household to which they belong is also given), and person's have a person identifier (and the identifier of the both the family and household to which they belong is also given).

The household identifier (referenced on the file from the item labelled ABSHID) is a unique twelve-digit random number. For family records each family within a household is numbered sequentially (within the item ABSFID). The same is true for person records, that is, each person in a household is numbered sequentially (within the item ABSPID). As a result of these arrangements each person can be uniquely identified through the combination of their household and person identifiers. And, each family can be uniquely identified through the combination of their household and family identifiers.

As well as uniquely identifying all units the identifiers are vital to copying attributes of interest from one type of counting unit to another, for associated units. For example, a family level variable such as family composition (FAMTYCF) can be copied to all the persons within the family. The means by which this might be done in SAS and SPSS is illustrated below.

*Identifiers continued**SAS CODE*

```

PROC SORT DATA=SASDB.FCS03PSN; BY ABSHID ABSFID ;
PROC SORT DATA = SASDB.FCS03FAM; BY ABSHID ABSFID ;
DATA MERGFILE ;
MERGE SASDB.FCS03PSN SASDB.FCS03FAM(KEEP=ABSHID ABSFID FAMTYCF) ;
BY ABSHID ABSFID ;
RUN ;

```

SPSS CODE

```

GET
FILE="S:\URTFIL\FC03\DAIS\FC03PSN.SAV".
SORT CASES BY ABSHID ABSFID
SAVE OUTFILE="C:\DATA\SORTEDP.SAV".
GET
FILE="S:\URTFIL\FC03\DAIS\FC03FAM.SAV"
/KEEP=ABSHID ABSFID FAMTYCF.
SORT CASES BY ABSHID ABSFID.
SAVE OUTFILE="C:\DATA\SORTEDF.SAV".
MATCH FILES FILE="C:\DATA\SORTEDP.SAV"
/TABLE="C:\DATA\SORTEDF.SAV"
/BY ABSHID ABSFID.
SAVE OUTFILE="C:\DATA\MERGFILE.SAV".

```

This merge will match one FAMILY record to many PERSON records. Note that the data items copied from the FAMILY level will now have the counting unit for the level they have been added to, i.e. the person level in this example.

The following is an example of a household where the data item FAMTYCF has been copied from the family level onto the person level.

ABSHID	ABSFID	ABSPID	FAMTYCF
FCS031000015	01	01	1222
FCS031000015	01	02	1222

Identifiers continued

The following SAS and SPSS code (or equivalent) provides another illustration of copying information between associated counting units, this time from the person level to the family level. In this example a new family level variable STUDY is created to show whether any family members are attending school. The variable is created from the person level item School Attendance (ATTSKOOL). The new item is copied onto the family level.

SAS CODE

```
PROC SORT DATA=SASDB.FCS03PSN; BY ABSHID ABSFID ;
DATA SUMMARY (KEEP = ABSHID ABSFID STUDY);
SET SASDB.FCS03PSN;
BY ABSHID ABSFID;
RETAIN STUDY;
IF FIRST.ABSFID THEN STUDY=0; *NO ONE IN FAMILY ATTENDING SCHOOL;
IF ATTSKOOL=1 OR ATTSKOOL=3 THEN STUDY=1; *AT LEAST ONE PERSON IN
  FAMILY ATTENDING SCHOOL;
IF LAST.ABSFID THEN OUTPUT;
PROC SORT DATA=SASDB.FCS03FAM; BY ABSHID ABSFID ;
PROC SORT DATA=SUMMARY; BY ABSHID ABSFID ;
DATA MERGFILE;
MERGE SUMMARY SASDB.FCS03FAM;
BY ABSHID ABSFID;
RUN;
```

SPSS CODE

```
GET
FILE="S:\URTFILE\FCS03\DAIS\FCS03PSN.SAV"
/KEEP=ABSHID ABSFID ATTSKOOL .
RECODE ATTSKOOL (1 = 1) (3 = 1) (else = 0) into ATTSKOL2.
EXECUTE.
MATCH FILES FILE=* /KEEP=ABSHID ABSFID ATTSKOL2 .
AGGREGATE OUTFILE="C:\DATA\SUMMARY.SAV"
/BREAK ABSHID ABSFID
/STUDY=MAX(ATTSKOL2).
GET
FILE="C:\DATA\SUMMARY.SAV".
MATCH FILES FILE="C:\DATA\SUMMARY.SAV"
/FILE = "S:\URTFILE\FCS03\DAIS\FCS03FAM.SAV"
/BY ABSHID ABSFID.
SAVE OUTFILE="C:\DATA\MERGFILE.SAV".
```

The SUMMARY file only keeps the last record for each family on the PERSON file so the merge is a one-to-one match of family records on the SUMMARY file with records on the FAMILY file. This method allows summary information from one level (PERSON) to be used on the level above it (FAMILY) in the hierarchy. The item generated above can now be cross classified by any number of items on the family level file.

Identifiers continued

The following is an example of a family where the data item STUDY has been created on the family level. In this example the family has a STUDY value of '1' because there is one person who is currently studying, person 06.

Person level

ABSHID	ABSFID	ABSPID	ATTSKOOL
FCS031030108	01	01	0
FCS031030108	01	02	0
FCS031030108	01	05	2
FCS031030108	01	06	1
FCS031030108	01	03	0
FCS031030108	01	04	0

Family level

ABSHID	ABSFID	STUDY
FCS031030108	01	1

SPECIAL CODES

For income and cost data items (containing dollar values), certain values are reserved as special codes and must not be added as if they were quantitative values. The values of these codes are as follows:

Income

- 999,996 = No income
- 999,997 = Nil income
- 999,998 = Not applicable
- 999,999 = Not stated

Child support

- 99,996 = No formal agreement or informal agreement
- 99,997 = Nil
- 99,998 = Not applicable
- 99,999 = Not stated

GEOGRAPHY

User note

To enable users greater flexibility in their analysis, the ABS has included two sub-state geographic items on the Expanded 2003 FCS CURF. These are: 'area of usual residence' (AREAURHH) and 'remoteness areas' (ARIACTCF). Simultaneous cross-tabulations of these two variables will produce cells relating to some small geographic regions. Tables showing multiple data items, cross-tabulated by more than one sub-state geography at a time are not permitted due to the detailed information about people in some small geographic regions that could be presented. Users are advised that this condition is monitored through the RADL audit process.

User note continued

While recognising the above, users are also advised that a cross-classification which simply shows total population counts using the two sub-state geographic variables may be of interest to some clients and such output is permitted. Cross-tabulations of multiple data items by state and territory together with one of the two sub-state geographic variables referred to above is also permitted.

FILE CONTENT

The 2003 FCS Expanded CURF contains the files listed below and is available through the RADL.

Expanded CURF files:

- FCS03PSN.SD2 - the FCS CURF person level file in SAS for Windows format.
- FCS03FAM.SD2 - the FCS CURF family level file in SAS for Windows format.
- FCS03HH.SD2 - the FCS CURF household level file in SAS for Windows format.
- Formats.SC2 - the format file which provides labels for associated codes in the SAS version of the FCS CURF.
- FCS03PSN.SAV - the FCS CURF person level file in SPSS format.
- FCS03FAM.SAV - the FCS CURF family level file in SPSS format.
- FCS03HH.SAV - the FCS CURF household level file in SPSS format.
- FCS03PSN.DTA - the FCS CURF person level file in STATA format.
- FCS03FAM.DTA - the FCS CURF family level file in STATA format.
- FCS03HH.DTA - the FCS CURF household level file in STATA format.
- DATA_ITEM_LISTING_FCS03PSN.TXT - contains documentation relating to the person level file, including lengths and data item labels. The file is in a plain text format.
- DATA_ITEM_LISTING_FCS03FAM.TXT - contains documentation relating to the family level file, including lengths and data item labels. The file is in a plain text format.
- DATA_ITEM_LISTING_FCS03HH.TXT - contains documentation relating to the household level file, including lengths and data item labels. The file is in a plain text format.
- FREQUENCIES_FCS03PSN.TXT - data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted person frequencies of each code value. The file is in plain text format.
- FREQUENCIES_FCS03FAM.TXT - data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted family frequencies of each code value. The file is in plain text format.
- FREQUENCIES_FCS03HH.TXT - data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted household frequencies of each code value. The file is in plain text format.

Expanded CURF test files :

The test files mirror the actual data files, but have random data. The test files can be utilised to trouble shoot 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 FCS CURF files.

- FCS03PSN.SD2- the FCS CURF person level test file in SAS for Windows format.
- FCS03FAM.SD2- the FCS CURF family level test file in SAS for Windows format.

Expanded CURF test files :
continued

- FCS03HH.SD2- the FCS CURF household level test file in SAS for Windows format.
- Formats.SC2 - the format file which provides labels for associated codes in the SAS version of the FCS CURF test files.
- FCS03PSN.SAV- the FCS CURF person level test file in SPSS format.
- FCS03FAM.SAV- the FCS CURF family level test file in SPSS format.
- FCS03HH.SAV- the FCS CURF household level test file in SPSS format.
- FCS03PSN.DTA- the FCS CURF person level test file in STATA format.
- FCS03FAM.DTA- the FCS CURF family level test file in STATA format.
- FCS03HH.DTA- the FCS CURF household level test file in STATA format.

RELEASE OF CURF

The 2003 FCS Expanded CURF is released in accordance with a Ministerial Determination (Clause 7, Statutory Rules 1983, No.19) in pursuance of section 13 of the Census and Statistics Act 1905. As required by the Determination, the CURF has been designed so that the information on the file is not likely to enable the identification of the particular person to which the data relates.

The Australian Statistician's approval is required for each release of the CURF. In addition, the ABS requires all organisations and individuals within organisations seeking to use the CURF, to sign an undertaking to abide by the legislative restrictions on use, before access to the CURF will be granted. Organisations and individuals who seek access to the 2003 FCS CURF are required to give an undertaking which includes, among other conditions, that in using the data they will:

- use the information only for the statistical purposes specified in the Schedule to the Undertaking.
- not attempt to identify particular persons or organisations.
- not disclose, either directly or indirectly, the information to any other person or organisation other than members of this 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 information with any other list of persons or organisations.
- comply with any other direction or requirement specified in the ABS Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual.
- not attempt to access the information 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 information contained in 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 Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) Training Manual*" available on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (see Services We Provide, CURFs). Use of the data for unauthorised purposes may render the purchaser liable to severe penalties. Advice on

RELEASE OF CURF <i>continued</i>	the propriety of any particular intended use of the data is available from curf.management@abs.gov.au or telephone (02) 6252 5853.
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> .
PRICE	The price of the 2003 FCS Expanded CURF, as at November 2005 is \$8,000, including GST.
HOW TO ORDER	All clients wishing to access the 2003 FCS Expanded CURF should complete the Application and Undertaking available on the ABS website, <http://www.abs.gov.au> (see Services We Provide, CURFs). Before completing the application form clients should read the ' <i>Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) Training Manual</i> ', and related information which is also available from the ABS website (again see Services We Provide, CURFs).
<i>Australian universities</i>	The FCS CURF can be accessed by universities participating in the ABS/Australian Vice Chancellors Committee CURF agreement for research and teaching purposes.

FOR DATA ITEMS AND STRUCTURE SEE THE EXCEL SPREADSHEET TITLED '4442055002_DATA_ITEM_LISTING_FCS03.XLS' ASSOCIATED WITH THIS TECHNICAL PAPER.

APPENDIX 2

STANDARD ERRORS

STANDARD ERRORS OF PERSON ESTIMATES

Size of Estimate	STANDARD ERROR									RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR
	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.	Aust. %
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	130.0	160.0	160.0	180.0	140.0	120.0	110.0	140.0	120.0	120.0
200	210.0	250.0	250.0	250.0	220.0	170.0	170.0	190.0	200.0	100.0
300	290.0	320.0	310.0	310.0	280.0	210.0	220.0	230.0	260.0	86.7
500	410.0	440.0	430.0	390.0	370.0	270.0	290.0	290.0	370.0	74.0
700	510.0	540.0	520.0	460.0	440.0	320.0	350.0	330.0	460.0	65.7
1,000	650.0	660.0	630.0	540.0	520.0	380.0	420.0	390.0	570.0	57.0
1,500	840.0	820.0	780.0	650.0	640.0	450.0	500.0	450.0	740.0	49.3
2,000	1 000.0	960.0	900.0	730.0	730.0	510.0	560.0	500.0	870.0	43.5
2,500	1 150.0	1 100.0	1 000.0	800.0	800.0	550.0	600.0	550.0	1 000.0	40.0
3,000	1 250.0	1 200.0	1 100.0	850.0	850.0	600.0	650.0	600.0	1 100.0	36.7
3,500	1 400.0	1 300.0	1 200.0	900.0	950.0	650.0	700.0	600.0	1 200.0	34.3
4,000	1 500.0	1 400.0	1 250.0	950.0	1 000.0	650.0	700.0	650.0	1 300.0	32.5
5,000	1 700.0	1 550.0	1 400.0	1 050.0	1 100.0	700.0	750.0	700.0	1 500.0	30.0
7,000	2 050.0	1 800.0	1 650.0	1 200.0	1 250.0	800.0	850.0	750.0	1 800.0	25.7
10,000	2 450.0	2 150.0	1 900.0	1 400.0	1 400.0	900.0	900.0	850.0	2 150.0	21.5
15,000	3 000.0	2 600.0	2 300.0	1 600.0	1 650.0	1 000.0	1 000.0	950.0	2 650.0	17.7
20,000	3 500.0	2 950.0	2 550.0	1 750.0	1 800.0	1 100.0	1 050.0	1 050.0	3 050.0	15.3
30,000	4 200.0	3 500.0	3 000.0	2 050.0	2 050.0	1 200.0	1 100.0	1 150.0	3 700.0	12.3
40,000	4 750.0	3 900.0	3 350.0	2 250.0	2 200.0	1 300.0	1 100.0	1 250.0	4 250.0	10.6
50,000	5 250.0	4 300.0	3 600.0	2 400.0	2 350.0	1 350.0	1 150.0	1 300.0	4 700.0	9.4
100,000	6 950.0	5 550.0	4 550.0	2 950.0	2 800.0	1 550.0	1 150.0	1 500.0	6 300.0	6.3
150,000	8 100.0	6 450.0	5 150.0	3 350.0	3 100.0	1 650.0	1 100.0	1 650.0	7 450.0	5.0
200,000	9 000.0	7 100.0	5 600.0	3 600.0	3 250.0	1 700.0	1 100.0	1 700.0	8 300.0	4.2
300,000	10 350.0	8 100.0	6 250.0	4 050.0	3 550.0	1 800.0	..	1 850.0	9 650.0	3.2
500,000	12 100.0	9 450.0	7 100.0	4 600.0	3 850.0	1 850.0	..	..	11 600.0	2.3
1,000,000	14 700.0	11 450.0	8 250.0	5 400.0	4 150.0	..	..	..	14 500.0	1.5
2,000,000	17 400.0	13 600.0	9 400.0	6 200.0	4 450.0	..	..	..	17 750.0	0.9
5,000,000	20 800.0	16 550.0	10 700.0	..	..	..	..	..	22 450.0	0.4
10,000,000	23 100.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26 150.0	0.3
15,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28 250.0	0.2
20,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29 740.0	0.1

.. not applicable

STANDARD ERRORS OF FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD ESTIMATES

Size of Estimate	STANDARD ERROR									RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR
	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.	Aust. %
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	140.0	120.0	110.0	140.0	130.0	100.0	80.0	110.0	100.0	100.0
200	230.0	200.0	190.0	210.0	200.0	150.0	140.0	160.0	170.0	85.0
300	310.0	270.0	260.0	270.0	260.0	190.0	190.0	200.0	230.0	76.7
500	430.0	380.0	370.0	350.0	340.0	260.0	260.0	250.0	320.0	64.0
700	530.0	470.0	460.0	420.0	410.0	300.0	310.0	290.0	410.0	58.6
1,000	660.0	580.0	570.0	500.0	500.0	360.0	380.0	340.0	510.0	51.0
1,500	840.0	730.0	720.0	590.0	610.0	420.0	450.0	400.0	660.0	44.0
2,000	980.0	860.0	840.0	670.0	690.0	470.0	510.0	440.0	780.0	39.0
2,500	1 100.0	950.0	950.0	750.0	750.0	500.0	550.0	500.0	900.0	36.0
3,000	1 200.0	1 050.0	1 050.0	800.0	850.0	550.0	600.0	500.0	1 000.0	33.3
3,500	1 300.0	1 150.0	1 150.0	850.0	900.0	550.0	600.0	550.0	1 050.0	30.0
4,000	1 400.0	1 250.0	1 200.0	900.0	950.0	600.0	650.0	550.0	1 150.0	28.8
5,000	1 600.0	1 350.0	1 350.0	950.0	1 000.0	650.0	700.0	600.0	1 300.0	26.0
7,000	1 850.0	1 600.0	1 550.0	1 050.0	1 150.0	700.0	750.0	650.0	1 550.0	22.1
10,000	2 150.0	1 900.0	1 800.0	1 200.0	1 350.0	750.0	800.0	700.0	1 850.0	18.5
15,000	2 600.0	2 200.0	2 100.0	1 350.0	1 500.0	800.0	850.0	750.0	2 250.0	15.0
20,000	2 900.0	2 500.0	2 300.0	1 450.0	1 650.0	850.0	850.0	800.0	2 550.0	12.8
30,000	3 350.0	2 850.0	2 650.0	1 550.0	1 850.0	850.0	850.0	850.0	3 050.0	10.2
40,000	3 750.0	3 150.0	2 900.0	1 650.0	2 000.0	900.0	850.0	900.0	3 450.0	8.6
50,000	4 000.0	3 400.0	3 050.0	1 750.0	2 150.0	900.0	850.0	900.0	3 750.0	7.5
100,000	4 950.0	4 100.0	3 600.0	1 950.0	2 500.0	900.0	750.0	950.0	4 850.0	4.9
150,000	5 550.0	4 550.0	3 900.0	2 050.0	2 650.0	850.0	700.0	950.0	5 550.0	3.7
200,000	5 950.0	4 850.0	4 050.0	2 100.0	2 800.0	850.0	650.0	950.0	6 050.0	3.0
300,000	6 500.0	5 200.0	4 250.0	2 150.0	2 950.0	800.0	..	950.0	6 800.0	2.3
500,000	7 150.0	5 650.0	4 450.0	2 150.0	3 100.0	700.0	..	..	7 750.0	1.6
1,000,000	7 950.0	6 100.0	4 550.0	2 150.0	3 250.0	..	..	..	9 050.0	0.9
2,000,000	8 550.0	6 400.0	4 500.0	2 050.0	3 250.0	..	..	..	10 300.0	0.5
5,000,000	8 950.0	6 400.0	4 150.0	..	..	..	..	..	11 600.0	0.2
10,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12 250.0	0.1

.. not applicable

GLOSSARY

Adopted child	See natural child.
Blended family	A couple family containing two or more children aged 0–17 years, of whom at least one is the natural or adopted child of both members of the couple, and at least one is the step child of either member of the couple. Blended families may also include other children who are not the natural children of either parent.
Capital city	For each State, capital city refers to the Capital City Statistical Division. All other regions within each state are classified as balance of state. The entire population of the ACT is classified as capital city, whilst the entire population of the Northern Territory is classified as balance of state.
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. A child is also any individual under 15, usually resident in the household, who forms a parent–child relationship with another member in the household. This includes otherwise related children aged under 15 years and unrelated children aged under 15 years. In the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey, an individual aged 15–17 years who was identified as being under the guardianship (see guardian) of another person aged 15 years and over in the household was also classified as a child.
Child support	Cash or in-kind payments towards the financial wellbeing of children. These payments are made by the natural parent living elsewhere to the parent who has care of the children.
Child support assessment	Children with a natural parent living elsewhere were considered to have been assessed for child support if their resident parent had received a letter from a government agency in the last 12 months about how much child support they should receive.
CSA Collect	Child support payments made through the Child Support Agency, following a child support assessment.
Contact arrangement	An arrangement concerning the frequency and duration of a child's contact with a natural parent who is not usually resident in the same household.
Couple family	A family based on two persons who are in a registered or de facto marriage and who are usually resident in the same household. The family may include any number of dependents, non-dependents and other related individuals. It is not necessary for a parent–child relationship to be formed, thus a couple family can consist of a couple without children present in the household.
De facto marriage	The relationship between two people who live together in a consensual union who are not registered as married to each other. A de facto marriage may exist between a couple of the opposite sex or of the same sex.
Dependent child	A dependent child is an individual who is either a child aged under 15 years or a child aged 15–24 years who is a full-time dependent student (see dependent student). To be regarded as a child the individual cannot have a partner or a child of his or her own usually resident in the household. A dependent child must be attached to a nominal parent with whom she or he usually resides. This parent must be over 15 years of age.

Dependent student	<p>A child who is 15–24 years of age and who attends a secondary or tertiary educational institution as a full-time student and who has no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the same household.</p> <p>In the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey, an individual aged 15–17 years who was identified as being under the guardianship (see guardian) of another person aged 15 and over in the household, who attended a secondary or tertiary educational institution as a full-time student, and who had no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the same household was also classified as a dependent student.</p>
Employed	<p>Employed persons comprise all those aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:</p> <p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers) or ■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week or ■ 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 ■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement or ■ on strike or locked out or ■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job or ■ were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.
Employed full-time	<p>Persons 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.</p>
Employed part-time	<p>Persons 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.</p>
Family	<p>Two or more persons, 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.</p>
Family life stage	<p>This is a classification of families according to the particular stage of life of couple families with and without children and lone parent families. Couple families without children are classified according to the age of the female partner: this group will include couple families who are yet to have children and those whose children have grown up and left home. Couple families with children and lone parent families are classified according to the age of youngest child: these range from families with children aged 0–2 years to those with non-dependent children aged 25 years and over, who may in fact be looking after aged parents in a caring role.</p>
Family structure	<p>The classification of families according to whether they are either intact families, step families, blended families, other couple families, or lone parent families. In this publication family structure is only presented for families with children aged 0–17 years.</p>
Family type	<p>The differentiation of families based on the presence or absence of couple relationships, parent–child relationships, child dependency relationships or other blood relationships, in that order of preference.</p>
Formal Agreement	<p>An agreement about the payment of child support following a child support assessment.</p>

Foster child	A person who lives with a person or persons who are not his or her natural, adoptive or step parent(s). The definition of foster child includes dependent and non-dependent children. If the foster child is no longer dependent, but still regards his or her relationship with appropriate members of the household as a parent–child relationship, then he or she remains a foster child.
Grandparent families	Families in which the guardians (see guardian) of children aged 0–17 years are the grandparents of the children.
Guardian	A person aged 15 years and over who is reported as being the guardian or main carer of any child(ren) aged 0–17 years, regardless of the existence of any legal arrangement. The use of the term 'parent' in family level variables on the file also refers to guardians.
Household	A group of two or more related or unrelated people who usually reside in the same dwelling, who regard themselves as a household and who make common provision for food or other essentials for living; or a person living in a dwelling who makes provision for his or her own food and other essentials for living without combining with any other person. In practice only one household per dwelling was identified in the survey.
Informal Agreement	An agreement between two parents about the payment of child support where there has been no child support assessment.
In-kind payments	Child support or maintenance contributions other than direct cash transfers between the two parents. Such contributions may include: clothing or money to buy clothing, payment of child care or school fees, payment of health cover, pocket money, mortgage payments or other expenses.
Intact family	A couple family containing at least one child aged 0–17 years who is the natural or adopted child of both members of the couple, and no child aged 0–17 years who is the step child of either member of the couple. Intact families may also include other children who are not the natural children of either parent.
Labour force status	A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force.
Lone parent	A person who has no spouse or partner usually resident in the household but who forms a parent–child relationship with at least one child usually resident in the household.
Lone person	A person who makes provision for his or her food and other essentials for living, without combining with any other person to form part of a multi-person household. He or she may live in a dwelling on their own or share a dwelling with another individual or family.
Marital status	A person's social marital status refers to their current living arrangements, that is whether or not they are living with another person in a couple relationship either in a registered marriage (see registered marriage) or a de facto marriage (see de facto marriage). A person's registered marital status refers to their status in relation to a legally registered marriage as either never married, currently married, separated, divorced or widowed. Some persons who are not living with their partner may still report their status as currently registered married rather than separated. In the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey, social marital status was only collected for parents with children aged 0–17 years.
Natural child	A child who is related to his or her parents by either birth or adoption.
Natural parent	A parent who is related to his or her child(ren) by either birth or adoption.
Natural parent living elsewhere	One of a child's natural parents who is not usually resident in the same household as the child.
Never married	A person who has never been a partner in a registered marriage.

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Non-dependent child	<p>A natural, step, adopted or foster child of a couple or lone parent usually resident in the household, aged 15 years and over and who is not a full-time student aged 15–24 years, and who has no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the household.</p> <p>In the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey, any other individual aged 15–17 years who was identified as being under the guardianship (see guardian) of another person aged 15 years and over in the household, who was not a full-time student, and who had no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the household was also classified as a non-dependent child.</p>
Non-resident parent	Persons aged 15 years and over who have one or more natural children aged 0–17 years living elsewhere.
One parent family	<p>A family consisting of a lone parent with at least one dependent or non-dependent child (regardless of age) who is also usually resident in the household.</p> <p>Examples of one parent families include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ a 25-year-old parent with dependent children; and ■ an 80-year-old parent living with a 50-year-old child.
Other family	A family of other related individuals residing in the same household. These individuals do not form a couple or parent–child relationship with any other person in the household and are not attached to a couple or one parent family in the household. For example, if two brothers are living together and neither is a spouse, a lone parent or a child, then they are classified as an other family. However, if the two brothers share the household with the daughter of one of the brothers and her husband, then both brothers are classified as other related individuals and are attached to the couple family.
Other related individual	<p>An individual who is related to members of the household, but who does not form a couple relationship or parent–child relationship (see child). He or she can be related through blood, step and in-law relationships and include any direct ancestors or descendants. Relatives beyond first cousin are excluded.</p> <p>Other related individuals can form their own family type or can be attached to an already existing family. Those related individuals who reside in the same household and who do not form a couple or parent–child relationship with any other person in the household are classified as an other family.</p> <p>In cases where a couple family or one parent family has been formed, any persons who are related to members of these families and are usual residents of the household are other related individuals. In these circumstances they can be identified at the detailed level of the Family Type classification.</p>
Parent	<p>A natural, step, adoptive or foster mother or father of a child usually resident in the same household.</p> <p>In the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey, any other individual aged 15 years and over who was identified as being a guardian (see guardian) of a child aged 0–17 years was also classified as being a parent.</p>
Partner	A person in a couple relationship with another person usually resident in the same household. The couple relationship may be in either a registered or de facto marriage.
Private Collect	Child support payments made directly from the other parent, following a child support assessment.
Registered marital status	Registered marital status is a person's relationship status in terms of whether he or she has, or has had, a registered marriage with another person. Accordingly, people are classified as either widowed, divorced, separated, married or never married. The partners in a registered marriage must be of the opposite sex as same-sex relationships cannot be registered as marriages in Australia.
Registered marriage	A marriage between two people, usually resident in the same household, that has been registered and for which they hold a marriage certificate.

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Sex of potential child support recipient	The sex of the resident natural parent of a child who has a natural parent living elsewhere.
Spouse	A marital or de facto partner.
Step child	In a couple family, a child who is either the natural child of one partner but not of the other, or who was reported as being the step child of both parents. As a consequence of relationship breakdown or the death of a spouse, some one parent families may also have children reported as step children.
Step family	A couple family containing one or more children aged 0–17 years, none of whom is the natural or adopted child of both members of the couple, and at least one of whom is the step child of either member of the couple. A step family may also include other children who are not the natural children of either parent.
Usual resident	A person who usually lives or intends to live with the household for a total of six months or more and regards it as his or her own, or main, household; or a person who has no usual place of residence and is staying with the household during the reference period of the collection.

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