



the CensusAtSchool

NEWSLETTER

Edition Number: 3

Date: March Quarter 05

CensusAtSchool:

Welcome to the March quarter newsletter



Key Dates

CensusAtSchool Project Dates

The CensusAtSchool project has five key phases. Mark the dates down, or join the email list to be notified of the phases.

Now	✓ Project Development
01 July 05	Release Testing
03 Oct 05	Registration opens
30 Jan 06	Data Collection opens
07 July 06	Data Collection closes
11 July 06	Data Usage opens

There has been significant and exciting progress with the CensusAtSchool project this quarter. Firstly, the test version of the student questionnaire was finalised. Secondly, the development of the software (by goVote) and its installation at the ABS was completed. Teachers in Victoria will test the software in March and other states/territories will begin testing in April and May. Lastly, the development of learning materials for Mathematics and HSIE/SOSE is also progressing well.

At the recent Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers conference in Sydney, the Australian Statistician, Dennis Trewin, delivered a keynote address to more than 400 mathematics teachers. He highlighted the need to improve statistics teaching in primary and secondary schools and took the opportunity to raise awareness of the CensusAtSchool on-line data collection project. Interest in the project at the conference was very good with a number of teachers requesting more information.

TEACHERS' FORUM

"...from a middle years perspective it looks like a valid teaching and learning activity - relevant...engaging use of technology, higher order thinking..."

The student questionnaire has been revised and a draft can be viewed on the Internet by contacting Ian Wong (ian.wong@abs.gov.au or phone 1800 623 273).

We're looking for schools to take part in testing of the student questionnaire from July to September this year. If you would like to take part please let us know. We are also looking for opportunities to promote CensusAtSchool in newsletters and at conferences - if you have any suggestions, we'd like to hear.

Do you have any good ideas or activities you have used statistics for? We are keen to hear about the successes teachers have had in incorporating statistics in their work plans. Please let us know, as it would be great to include teachers' ideas as part of the web site.

Project UPDATE

The CensusAtSchool project has taken some exciting steps forward in the past three months. We have seen the delivery of many key elements of the project and work has begun to conduct tests with teachers and students in April.

Project update highlights:

- ♦ Web site concepts have been approved and development work has begun.
- ♦ CensusAtSchool software has been developed and delivered to the ABS.
- ♦ The software successfully met all criteria compatibility with screen reader software set out by the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.
- ♦ A CensusAtSchool information page has been posted on the ABS web site. You can view this by visiting ABS home page www.abs.gov.au and clicking the CensusAtSchool icon in the bottom right hand corner of the home page.

To gain a feel for a similar project run overseas, log onto www.censusatschool.ntu.ac.uk

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how can you help?

Teacher feedback and advice is essential to the success of the CensusAtSchool project."

ABS is currently developing the uniquely Australian version of the international CensusAtSchool project. At all stages of the development ABS will be seeking feedback and the assistance of teachers so that the web site is useful to teachers and provides them with the support they need.

Please lend us your expertise. If you would like to provide feedback during the development of the CensusAtSchool project, please contact Ian Wong, Teacher Consultant.

General Project Support Enquiries

For general CensusAtSchool project enquiries, please contact the ABS, National Educational Services Unit on free call 1800 623 273, or email censusatschool@abs.gov.au