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Technical Manual

Family Characteristics and Transitions, Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File

Australia

2006–07

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
CAI	computer assisted interviewing
CURF	confidentialised unit record file
ERP	estimated resident population
FCS	Family Characteristics Survey
FCTS	Family Characteristics and Transitions Survey
MPHS	Multi-Purpose Household Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory
RSE	relative standard error
SE	standard error

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

This manual provides information on the release of microdata from the 2006–07 Family Characteristics and Transitions Survey (FCTS). The data are available through an Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) released with the approval of the Australian Statistician. The 2006–07 FCTS CURF is accessible through the Australian Bureau of Statistics (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 batch database query system to which users submit programs to tabulate, manipulate and analyse CURF data to their own specifications, and access the results. Further information about this facility, including a RADL User Guide, is available on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au> (see Services We Provide, Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs), CURF Microdata, Accessing CURF Microdata).

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The 2006–07 FCTS, comprising the Family Characteristics and Family Transitions and History topics, was conducted as part of the Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS), which is a supplement to the ABS Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The MPHS was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, excluding very remote parts of Australia, from July 2006 to June 2007. The MPHS is designed to provide statistics annually for labour, social and economic topics.

The Family Characteristics topic has been conducted before, in 1982, 1992, 1997 and 2003 and the content is largely repeated, allowing comparisons over time. The Family Transitions and History topic is new for 2006–07.

The Family Characteristics topic collected information on household and family composition, with a particular focus on families with children aged 0–17 years. The additional information collected for families with children included information about family structure, the social marital status of the parents, and contact arrangements for children with non-resident parents.

The Family Transitions and History topic collected information for persons aged 18 years and over about the family transitions they have experienced in their lives, such as the death or divorce of their parents, their experiences of leaving the family home, the forming of marital relationships, children born and their expectations of having children in the future.

The MPHS also collected a range of socio-demographic information, including labour force status, educational qualifications and household income, some of which has been included in this CURF.

Estimates from the 2006–07 FCTS were published in *Family Characteristics and Transitions, Australia, 2006–07* (cat. no. 4442.0).

CHAPTER 2 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The scope of the 2006–07 FCTS included all usual residents in private dwellings, except:

- households where at least one person was a member of the Australian permanent defence forces
- diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, and their dependants, excluded from censuses and surveys of Australian residents
- members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia, and their dependants
- persons living in private dwellings in very remote parts of Australia
- persons living in non-private dwellings such as hotels and university residences, students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities), and inmates of prisons.

The survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded persons living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons is expected to have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for states and territories, except for the Northern Territory where such persons account for approximately 23% of the population.

DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

ABS interviewers conducted personal interviews by either telephone or at selected dwellings, from July 2006 to June 2007, excluding the months of August and September 2006 when the 2006 Census of Population and Housing was conducted. Each month a sample of dwellings was selected for the MPHS from the responding households in the last rotation group for the MPS. In these dwellings, after the MPS had been fully completed for each person, a usual resident aged 15 years and over was selected at random and asked the additional questions in a personal interview. Information was collected using Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI), whereby responses are recorded directly onto an electronic questionnaire in a notebook computer.

The Family Characteristics topic collected information from the randomly selected person about the household and about every person in the household, including all children in the household. The Family Transitions and History topic questions were only asked about the randomly selected persons aged 18 years and over, with some sub-topics having additional age restrictions. Therefore, the sample for Family Characteristics is much larger than for Family Transitions and History. There were approximately 31,300 person records for the Family Characteristics topic, and approximately 12,200 person records for the Family Transitions and History topic.

Where the randomly selected respondent was aged 15–17 years, and a parent/guardian or other responsible adult aged 18 years and over was resident in the household, permission was sought from the parent or other adult to interview the young person. Regardless of whether permission was granted, the Family Characteristics topic and details of household income (excluding the income of the selected person) was collected from the parent or other adult.

The Family Characteristics topic collected information about parent-child relationships beyond the usual residence of the child. The survey collected information about resident children aged 0–17 years in the household who had a natural parent living in another household. In addition, the Family Characteristics topic identified whether respondents

DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY *continued*

were parents who had natural children aged 0–17 years living elsewhere with the child's other natural parent.

WEIGHTING, BENCHMARKING AND ESTIMATION *Weighting*

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. a person, a family or a household). The weight is a value which 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 1 in 600, then the person would have an initial weight of 600 (that is, they represent 600 people).

Benchmarking

The initial weights were 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. Calibration to population benchmarks helps to compensate for over- or under-enumeration of particular groups of persons which may occur due to either the random nature of sampling or survey non-response.

The 2006–07 Family Characteristics data and Family Transitions and History data were benchmarked to the estimated resident population (ERP) living in private dwellings in each state and territory, excluding the ERP living in very remote areas of Australia, as at 31st March 2007. The ERP estimates were based on results from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Therefore the estimates from this survey do not (and are not intended to) match estimates for the total Australian resident population (which include persons and households living in non-private dwellings, such as hotels and boarding houses, and in very remote parts of Australia) from other ABS sources.

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 (number of adults and children usually resident in the household). These benchmark variables are the same as those used in the 2003 and 1997 Family Characteristics surveys. The only change has been in the age groups for which some collapsing was required for each collection. The impact of this change on estimates not involving age is minimal.

Estimation

Survey estimates (e.g. counts of persons, families or households) are obtained by summing the relevant weight (for persons, families or households) with the characteristic of interest. For more information, refer to the 'Weights and estimation' section in Chapter 3 - Using the CURF Data.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

Estimates derived from the CURF are subject to both sampling and non-sampling error.

Sampling error

Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the total population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. That is, estimates may differ from those that would have been produced if the total 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 (67%) that a sample estimate will vary by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all persons had been surveyed, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

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.

Instructions on how to calculate SEs and RSEs can be found in the 'Standard Errors' section in Chapter 3 - Using the CURF Data.

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 and testing of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

CHAPTER 3 USING THE CURF DATA

ABOUT THE MICRODATA

The 2006–07 FCTS Expanded CURF contains four 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 2006–07 FCTS 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 or reducing the level of detail shown for some data items, changing characteristics such as state or area for a small number of records, or dropping some records. Data from the 2006–07 FCTS Expanded CURF will therefore not exactly match published data.

Steps to confidentialise the data 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. A list of data items on the CURF, in Excel spreadsheet format, is available on the ABS web site entry for this manual (see the 'Details' tab).

FILE STRUCTURE

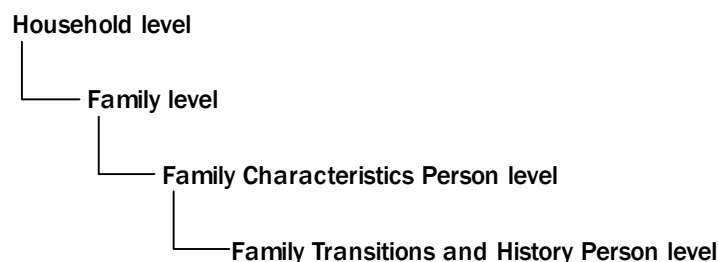
The 2006–07 FCTS Expanded CURF contains four files with confidentialised records, for the following levels:

- Household
- Family
- Person (Family Characteristics)
- Person (Family Transitions and History)

The data is stored on the four levels: the Household level contains data about the household, such as 'State or territory of usual residence'; the Family level contains data about the family, such as 'Family composition'; the Family Characteristics Person level contains data about the person collected in the Family Characteristics part of the survey, such as 'Whether parent of children of any age living in household'; and the Family Transitions and History Person level contains data about the person collected in the Family Transitions and History part of the survey, such as 'Number of natural children ever born'.

The relationship between these four levels forms a hierarchy (as illustrated in the following diagram): each Household level record is linked to one or more Family level records; each Family level record is linked to two or more Family Characteristics Person level records; and some Family Characteristics Person level records may be linked to a Family Transitions and History Person level record. The structure is not a pure hierarchy in that there are no Family level records for persons who are not family members and no Family Transitions and History Person level records for persons who were not selected for that part of the survey.

FILE STRUCTURE *continued*



There are a total of 12,586 household records, 9,011 family records, 31,121 person records for Family Characteristics and 12,151 person records for Family Transitions and History.

Weights and estimation

There are four weights provided on the FCTS CURF, one for each of the four levels, as follows:

- FINHHWT (Household weight)
- FINFAMWT (Family weight)
- FINPRSWT (Person weight for Family Characteristics)
- FINTRNWT (Person weight for Family Transitions and History)

The weight for the relevant level should be applied when deriving estimates from the CURF. It is essential to apply the appropriate weight for the required estimate, rather than just derive a count of records falling into each category. If the person, family or household 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 estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and other characteristics, rather than to the distributions within the sample itself.

When using the Family Transitions and History file in conjunction with data from the other files, it is important to remember that the Family Transitions and History weight must be used, as this file contains a subset of the persons in Family Characteristics and has been independently weighted to represent the population benchmarks.

Standard errors

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

Each record on the CURF contains 4 sets of replicate weights (each set with 30 replicate weights). Using these replicate weights, it is possible to calculate standard errors for estimates produced from the CURF, using what is known as the 30 group Jack-knife standard error estimator. When calculating standard errors, it is important to select the replicate weights which are most appropriate for the analysis being undertaken. The replicate weights are as follows:

- WHM0301 to WHM0330 - use for Household estimates
- WFM0301 to WFM0330 - use for Family estimates
- WPM0201 to WPM0230 - use for Family Characteristics Person estimates
- WPM0301 to WPM0330 - use for Family Transitions and History Person estimates

Standard errors *continued*

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

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

y = the weighted estimate from the full sample.

The formula for calculating the RSE of an estimate (y) is:

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

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.

Identifiers

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

- Household = ABSHID
- Family = ABSHID, ABSFID
- Person = ABSHID, ABSFID, ABSPID (applies to both the Family Characteristics and Family Transitions and History Person levels)

Households have a household identifier, families have a family identifier (and the identifier of the household to which they belong is also given), and persons have a person identifier (and the identifier of 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 fourteen-character random identifier. 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

Identifiers continued

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 for merging files or copying attributes of interest from one file to another, for associated units. For example, a Family level variable such as 'Family composition' can be copied to all the Persons within the family.

SPECIAL CODES

For some data items on the FCTS CURF, certain values are reserved as special codes (e.g. code 0 may be 'Not Applicable', code 99 may be 'Not stated', etc.) and must not be added as if they were quantitative values. Details of special codes to be aware of when analysing data are available in the CURF data item list on the ABS web site entry for this manual (see the 'Details' tab).

GEOGRAPHY

The FCTS CURF has 3 geographic items: 'State or Territory of usual residence' (STATECF); 'Remoteness structure' (REMOTECF); and 'Area of usual residence' (AREURHH). Tables 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.

CHAPTER 4 FILE CONTENT

FILE CONTENT

The 2006–07 FCTS Expanded CURF contains the files listed below which are available through the RADL.

Expanded CURF files

FC07EHH.SAS7BDAT – the FCTS CURF Household level file in SAS for Windows format.

FC07EFM.SAS7BDAT – the FCTS CURF Family level file in SAS for Windows format.

FC07EFC.SAS7BDAT – the FCTS CURF Family Characteristics Person level file in SAS for Windows format.

FC07EFT.SAS7BDAT – the FCTS CURF Family Transitions and History Person level file in SAS for Windows format.

FORMATS.SAS7BCAT – the format file which provides labels for associated codes in the SAS version of the FCTS CURF.

FC07EHH.SAV – the FCTS CURF Household level file in SPSS format.

FC07EFM.SAV – the FCTS CURF Family level file in SPSS format.

FC07EFC.SAV – the FCTS CURF Family Characteristics Person level file in SPSS format.

FC07EFT.SAV – the FCTS CURF Family Transitions and History Person level file in SPSS format.

FC07EHH.DTA – the FCTS CURF Household level file in STATA format.

FC07EFM.DTA – the FCTS CURF Family level file in STATA format.

FC07EFC.DTA – the FCTS CURF Family Characteristics Person level file in STATA format.

FC07EFT.DTA – the FCTS CURF Family Transitions and History Person level file in STATA format.

4442.0.55.002_FCTS_CURF_DATA_ITEM_LIST.XLS – the CURF data item list in Microsoft Excel format.

FREQUENCIES_FCTS_HOUSEHOLD.TXT – data item code values and category labels are provided with the weighted Household level frequencies for each response category. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_FCTS_FAMILY.TXT – data item code values and category labels are provided with the weighted Family level frequencies for each response category. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_FCTS_PERSON_FC.TXT – data item code values and category labels are provided with the weighted Family Characteristics Person level frequencies for each response category. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_FCTS_PERSON_FTH.TXT – data item code values and category labels are provided with the weighted Family Transitions and History Person level 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 FCTS CURF files.

FC07EHH.SAS7BDAT – the FCTS CURF Household level test file in SAS for Windows format.

FC07EFM.SAS7BDAT – the FCTS CURF Family level test file in SAS for Windows format.

FC07EFC.SAS7BDAT – the FCTS CURF Family Characteristics Person level test file in SAS for Windows format.

FC07EFT.SAS7BDAT – the FCTS CURF Family Transitions and History Person level 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 FCTS CURF.

FC07EHH.SAV – the FCTS CURF Household level test file in SPSS format.

FC07EFM.SAV – the FCTS CURF Family level test file in SPSS format.

FC07EFC.SAV – the FCTS CURF Family Characteristics Person level test file in SPSS format.

FC07EFT.SAV – the FCTS CURF Family Transitions and History Person level test file in SPSS format.

FC07EHH.DTA – the FCTS CURF Household level test file in STATA format.

FC07EFM.DTA – the FCTS CURF Family level test file in STATA format.

FC07EFC.DTA – the FCTS CURF Family Characteristics Person level test file in STATA format.

FC07EFT.DTA – the FCTS CURF Family Transitions and History Person level test file in STATA format.

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 2006–07 FCTS 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 <www.abs.gov.au> (see Services We Provide, Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs), CURF Microdata, Accessing 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>.

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 Recommended Retail Price (RRP) of the 2006–07 FCTS Expanded CURF, as at June 2008, is \$1,320.00 including GST.

CHAPTER 5 CONDITIONS OF RELEASE *continued*

HOW TO ORDER

All clients wishing to access the 2006–07 FCTS Expanded CURF should refer to the ABS website, <www.abs.gov.au> (see Services We Provide, Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs), CURF Microdata, Accessing 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.

Australian universities

University clients should refer to the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au> (see Services We Provide, Services for Universities). The 2006–07 FCTS Expanded CURF can be accessed by universities participating in the ABS/Universities Australia CURF agreement for research and teaching purposes.

Other clients

Other prospective clients should contact the Microdata Access Strategies Section via <microdata.access@abs.gov.au> or on (02) 6252 7714.

GLOSSARY

Adopted child	A child permanently placed with a parent or parents other than their birth mother or father, by a formal legal arrangement. In this survey, a child classified as being adopted is as reported by the respondent.
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.
Child	<p>A child is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ any person under 15 years old in the household. ■ 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. ■ in the 2003 and 2006–07 surveys, a person aged 15–17 years who was reported as being under the guardianship (see guardian) or care of another person aged 15 years and over in the household.
Cohabitation	Cohabitation refers to members of a couple, both aged at least 15 years, who are in a registered or de facto marriage and are usually resident in the same household.
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 dependent children, non-dependent children and other related or unrelated 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 a person who is a child (see child) aged under 15 years, or aged 15–24 years and a full-time dependent student (see dependent student).
Dependent student	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.
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: ■ 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.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Employed full-time	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.
Employed part-time	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.
Family	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.
Family composition	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.
Family structure	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.
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.
Foster family	A family which has at least one foster child. There may be other children in the family who are the natural, adoptive or step children of the parent(s).
Grandparent family	A family in which the guardians (see guardian) or main carers of children aged 0–17 years are the grandparents of the children.
Group household	A group household is a household consisting of two or more unrelated people where all persons are aged 15 years or over. There are no reported couple relationships, parent-child relationships or other blood relationships in these households.
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. Throughout this publication, the use of the term 'parent' also refers to guardians.
Household	A person living alone or a group of related or unrelated people who usually live in the same private dwelling.
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 or adopted children of either parent, such as foster children.
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.
Marital status	For this survey, a person's 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).
Natural child	A child who is related to his or her parents by birth.
Natural parent	A parent who is related to his or her child(ren) by birth.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Natural parent living elsewhere	One of a child's natural parents who is not usually resident in the same household as the child.
Non-dependent child	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.
Non-family households	<p>A household that consists of unrelated persons only. Non-family households are classified to one of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Group household – a household consisting of two or more unrelated persons where all persons are aged 15 years and over. There are no reported couple relationships, parent-child relationships or other blood relationships in these households. ■ Lone person household – a household consisting of a person living alone.
Non-family member	A person for whom there is no identified couple relationship, parent-child relationship, or other blood relationship with any of the other usual residents of the household. They may live within a family household, or they may form a non-family household either as a lone person or a group household.
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.</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 and 2006–07 surveys, any 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 either a registered or a de facto marriage.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Proportion of nights with other parent	The proportion of nights a child stays with their non-resident parent is derived from information on how often a child stays overnight with this other parent (e.g. weekly, fortnightly, etc.) and the number of nights the child usually stays overnight with the other parent during that period. For example, if a child stays overnight once a week with the other parent and usually stays for 2 nights when they visit, this would equal two sevenths, or 29% of nights with the other parent.
Registered marriage	A marriage between two people, usually resident in the same household, that has been registered.
Same sex couple	Two persons of the same sex who report a de facto partnership, and who are usually resident in the same household.
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.
Unrelated individual living in a family household	A person who lives in a family household, but who is not related to any person in any of the families in the household.

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