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Authorisation to Release:

Yes
 No

Date Submitted:

13/05/2005

Submission Format

Web Form

Preliminary information

Q1. In which state or territory are you/your organisation based?

- ACT
- NSW
- Victoria
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Western Australia
- Tasmania
- Northern Australia
- Overseas (Please Specify:)

Note: For organisations with offices at more than one location please tick the state or territory where your head office is located.

Q2. Are you completing this questionnaire as a private individual or as a representative of an organisation?

- Private individual – not representing any organisation
- Representative of an organisation

Q3. Which sector best describes your organisation?

- Government Sector – Federal
- Government Sector – State
- Government Sector – Local
- Private sector (fewer than 20 employees)
- Private sector (20 or more employees)
- Other (please specify):

Community Sector (20 or more emp

Views on the proposal to enhance the 2006 Population Census dataset

Proposal 1

The ABS is proposing to create the Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset (SLCD) by:

- combining data from the 2006 Census with data from future censuses; and
- combining data from the 2001 Census with data from the 2006 Census.

Data would be brought together without using name and address, using statistical techniques. Name and address would be destroyed after census processing. The SLCD would be for statistical use only and no identifiable data would be released from the ABS.

The reasons for the ABS considering this proposal are explained in the Discussion Paper in Section 2.

Q4. Do you, or does your organisation, support Proposal 1 if 2006 Census data are combined with data from future censuses?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Q5. What are your reasons?

It would provide a very useful set of data enabling researchers to look at transitions over time for a range of social and economic issues. This is a benefit with any longitudinal data set but to have census data used in this way would allow investigation of issues which affect much smaller groups in the community which is generally not possible due to the sample size for other longitudinal projects.

Q6. Do you, or does your organisation, support Proposal 1 if 2001 Census data are combined with data from the 2006 Census?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Q7. What are your reasons?

Proposal 2

The ABS is proposing to make the SLCD available for use in conjunction with other ABS statistical collections, such as ABS household surveys, using statistical techniques. Use would be for

statistical purposes only, with no identifiable data released outside the ABS.

The reasons for the ABS considering this proposal are explained in the Discussion Paper in Section 3.

Q8. Do you, or does your organisation, support Proposal 2?

Yes
 No
 Don't Know

Q9. What are your reasons?

So long as the confidentiality of the participants is maintained this proposal would really enhance the usefulness of the data for social research. The census questions tend to be quite general (although still interesting) but when combined with other surveys this longitudinal data could provide some very important insights into issues affecting particular groups over time.

Proposal 3

The ABS is proposing to make the SLCD available for use, in conjunction with selected non-ABS datasets. These datasets are birth and death register data, long-term immigration data and national disease registers. This would involve using statistical techniques to bring the datasets together. Use would be for statistical purposes only, and no identifiable data would be released from the ABS.

The reasons for the ABS considering this proposal are explained in the Discussion Paper in Chapter 4.

Q10. Do you, or does your organisation, support Proposal 3?

Yes
 No
 Don't Know

Q11. What are your reasons?

Similar to above.

Proposal 4

(a) The ABS is proposing to use name and address information, available at the time of census processing, to bring together the 2006 Population Census data with the ABS' 2006 Agricultural Census.

Name and address information used in combining the data would be destroyed on completion of census processing. The dataset would be used for statistical purposes only, and no identifiable data would be released from the ABS.

The reasons for the ABS considering this proposal are explained in the Discussion Paper in Section 5.

Q12. Do you, or does your organisation, support Proposal 4(a) if the ABS used 2006 Population Census data with 2006 Agricultural Census data?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Q13. What are your reasons?

(b) For quality studies and other particular statistical studies, the ABS proposes to consider the use of name and address information available at the time of census processing to bring together 2006 Population Census data with other selected datasets, namely ABS household surveys, birth and death register data, long-term immigration data and national disease register data.

Any datasets created for these statistical studies would be kept for a limited time and destroyed after completion of each project. Census name and address information would be destroyed on completion of census processing. No identifiable data would be released from the ABS.

The reasons for the ABS considering this proposal are explained in the Discussion Paper in Section 5.

Q14. Do you, or does your organisation, support Proposal 4(b) if the ABS used 2006 Population Census data with these additional datasets?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Q15. What are your reasons?

Where possible it might be better to include sufficient information (in the household surveys particularly) for statistical techniques to produce a combined dataset of adequate quality.

Privacy and Confidentiality

The ABS abides by a range of privacy and confidentiality provisions. These are discussed in Section 6 of the Discussion Paper.

Q16. Are there any additional procedures or protocols you would like the ABS to consider?

Statistical user requirements

Q17. If the ABS adopted any of these proposals, would you, or your organisation, be likely to apply to use the SLCD, either in its own right or in conjunction with one of the other datasets specified in the Discussion Paper?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Q18. If yes, what types of projects would you use the datasets for, why would you need the SLCD (or a combination of the SLCD and other datasets) and if known, which data items

would you need?

We would be very interested to use the data for research into issues affecting low income earners in Tasmania and for the development of policy proposals to assist this group. This type of data may also be useful in developing services to respond to community needs. We would be interested in looking at areas such as transitions into and out of employment, factors preceding movement onto low incomes, factors preceding movement off low incomes and a range of social, economic and health outcomes as people's financial circumstances change over time. We are particularly interested in changes over time in Tasmania and current longitudinal social research projects tend not to include large enough samples of Tasmanians to make any statements about the experiences of Tasmanians. We would be interested in a range of health, employment, income and general social data items.

General comments

Q19. Do you have any other comments on the proposal to enhance the census dataset?

Our capacity to access the SLCD would very much depend on the price charged for the dataset. As a not for profit community organisation with a small research section we already find some of the ABS data prohibitively expensive, if this data was priced on a "cost to produce" basis with no scaling based on capacity to pay I expect it would be beyond our means.