

**Name** Nick Parr  
**Position** Senior Lecturer  
**Organisation** Macquarie University  
**Address** NSW2109  
**Suburb** North Ryde  
**State** NSW  
**Postcode** 2109  
**Telephone Number** 0298508570  
**Mobile Number**  
**Email** nparr@efs.mq.edu.au

Authorisation to Release:

Yes  
 No

Date Submitted:

**08/06/2005**

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):

## 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?**

The proposed longitudinal dataset would be a most valuable resource for future demographic research. For example it would facilitate the identification of transitions at the individual-level (in family, occupation etc) between censuses.

### **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?**

The proposed dataset would be a most valuable resource for analysing demographic changes between 2001 and 2006.

### 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?**

The combination of census data with survey data should facilitate the preparation of estimates for small area data and generally enhance the scope for analysing a wide range of demographic and non-demographic outcomes.

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?**

The demographic information collected on birth and death registration are very limited. To analyse the patterns of variation of these data across the population linkage to the wider range of demographic data available from the census would be most valuable.

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?**

Whilst not directly related to my own research, I believe this proposal may enhance the resources available for research in other areas.

(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?**

This would improve the analysis of census data quality and of the quality of data from vital registration.

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?**

A potential limiter of the accuracy of the data from the above proposed combinations of data sources is the accuracy of the record linkage. Whilst privacy issues should prohibit the release of any name identified data I see no reason why ABS should not maintain name and address identified data from one census on file until the linkage with the subsequent census data has been made and is allowed to use this data in the matching process. If this means amending privacy legislation then so be it!

**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?**

Research on occupational mobility over time, family formation, and analysis of the relationships between the circumstances of childhood an later life demographic and socioeconomic outcomes and analysis.

### **General comments**

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