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Yes
 No

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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?

This proposal raises serious privacy issues. The data will be attractive to other Government agencies and Australia (and the ABS) has a poor track record of protecting such data from future changes of policy or staff abuse. The best protection is anonymity through the immediate deidentification of the data and a prohibition on linking data across 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?

People completing the 2001 census were not aware of any potential linkage. The census is mandatory, so great care needs to be taken with the use of that information. This proposal would represent a breach of trust by the ABS in that citizens were misled in 2001 about the potential use of the data.

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 data becomes too 'rich' when such linkages are made, and abuse of privacy becomes possible through modern technology which can indicate a possible match through a combination of statistical data (eg CRI).

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?

There should be no link at all between the census and third party data sets (especially immigration). This proposal exposes individuals to future changes in policy and / or abuse and represents a total departure from ABS purpose and goals in conducting a census which is immediately deidentified. individuals will not provide honest answers in the face of such a privacy intrusion.

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?

As in Q11.

(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?

As in Q11.

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?

The ABS should be required by legislation to limit its collection and use of personal information to its current model, and to immediately stop wasting time and resources exploring an expansion of the use of personal information. Trust in the ABS will disintegrate if these proposals continue to be aired.

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?

General comments

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

This proposal is extremely dangerous. the entire integrity of the census is at stake. By raising these potentially damaging uses of previous census data (eg 2001) you are ruining the reputation of the ABS. I am no longer able to believe the privacy assurances contained in the census, because the ABS as an organisation is pursuing expansion of the use of personal information, beyond normal objectives and controls.