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Authorisation to Release:

Yes  
 No

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**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?**

This will provide an extremely valuable and unique time series dataset that is not currently available for analysis from the current Census data collections. Given the considerable time and effort that is devoted to the Census, we believe that the ABS should make the small marginal additional investment to allow more detailed and additional use to be made of the Census data. This will enable higher quality analysis to be undertaken, which should result in improved decision making by government.

### **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?**

If the 2006 Census data are not merged with the 2001 Census data, it will be after 2011 before the longitudinal data is available. We see no benefit is delaying the development of this dataset and not making it available to researchers as soon as possible.

### 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?**

This will result in an increase in the quality of analysis undertaken.

### 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?**

This will provide a unique opportunity to greatly enhance the analysis that can be undertaken. The ability to gain much greater understanding of the settlement patterns and movements of people who arrive in Australia will be extremely valuable for our state planning.

### 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 this proposal will probably be of less importance to our Department, we support the Proposal for the benefits it will bring to other agencies.

(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?**

The improved quality of the data and information that will be available both to external users and the ABS. We also anticipate that this allow the ABS to undertake improved assessment of the quality control and benchmarks of the nominated datasets.

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?**

No

**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?**

Proposal 1.

We would analyse the movement data of the population. For example, we have cross-sectional estimates of the movements of people from country regions to the city and visa-versa by age cohorts. With the existing data sources, we do not know if the people moving from the city to the regional areas more than five years previously had undertaken the reverse movement.

We would also expect to analyse the Journey to Work traveller behaviour. With the current datasets we are also to test hypothesis that once people start driving a car to work they will never use public transport again. We would be able to analyse the impact of staying in the same residential location, but changing workplace on the mode of travel that people use.

Proposal 3.

Using the long-term immigration data combined with the Census data will allow detailed analysis of the movements and changes in the circumstances of immigrants.

We would very happy to discuss these anticipated uses of the data with ABS Officers in more detail.

## General comments

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

It is unfortunate that name and address information will not be used to create the SLSD as we believe that the quality of the resulting dataset would be further improved if this technique could be used.

We would ask the ABS to consider whether it would be feasible to incorporate the 1996 and earlier Census data in the SLCD.

We like ABS to consider investigating the feasibility of the use of different linking variables for different research questions. It is possible that there will be overseas evidence that could be of assistance.