



Enhancing the Population Census: Developing a Longitudinal View

Please submit your views on the Discussion Paper, *2006 Census of Population and Housing: Enhancing the Population Census : Developing a Longitudinal View* (ABS cat. no. 2060.0) using this questionnaire. Read the Discussion Paper and familiarise yourself with the ABS proposals before completing the questionnaire.

You can also read the Discussion Paper and complete this questionnaire at our web site <www.abs.gov.au>.

Due date

Return your completed questionnaire to Rosalie Butler, Census Field Organisation, Locked Bag 10, Belconnen ACT, 2616 by **10 June 2005**.

Help available

If you have any problems completing this questionnaire, contact Rosalie Butler on (02) 6252 6294 or email rosalie.butler@abs.gov.au

Contact details

Please provide your contact details in case we need to contact you if any queries arise regarding your submission.

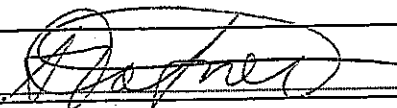
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Authorisation

The ABS may need to make public reference to the information provided in your submission. If you agree to this, please sign the Authorisation to Release below.

By signing here, I agree that the ABS can release or publicly refer to the information provided in this submission as a statement of your or your organisation's, requirements or views on the relevant issues.

Signature of person giving authorisation:



Views on the proposal to enhance the 2006 Population Census

Proposal 1

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

- o combining data from the 2006 Census with data from future censuses; and
- o 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?

Please tick

- Yes
No
Don't know

Q5. What are your reasons?

*Longitudinal trends become visible
and gaps may be bridged to
fulfill deficiencies.*

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

Please tick

- Yes
No
Unsure/Don't know

Q7. What are your reasons?

As above

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?

Please tick

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q9. What are your reasons?

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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 Section 4.

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

Please tick

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q11. What are your reasons?

As above

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Proposal 4

(a) The ABS is proposing to use name and address information available at the time of census processing to bring together 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 Chapter 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?

Please tick

Yes

No

Don't know

Q13. What are your reasons?

Contrary to above and primary seeking conclusions.

(b) For quality studies and other specific 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 registers.

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?

Please tick

Yes

No

Don't know

Q15. What are your reasons?

As above

Privacy and Confidentiality

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

Q16. Are there any additional procedures and 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 this Discussion Paper?

Please tick

Yes

No

Don't know

Q18. If yes:

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

If there is insufficient space, please attach a separate sheet.

Changes in LOTE (languages other than English) usage via 2nd & 3rd generation of migrants & their appearance in future Censuses
cf See P.T.O: p.8.

Should such data be possible even via minor changes to Q15 (2001) or its future equivalent, a more accurate picture of such changes may emerge.

1. How accurate are Census 2001 figures for LOTE speakers?

To begin with, there is the problem with recording of the LOTE (language other than English) question, Q15 on the Census 2001, particularly when it concerns "stateless" languages such as eg. Yiddish. For historical reasons Yiddish speakers have always had to be at least bi-lingual, even though Yiddish may have been their first, most commonly used language. As a "stateless" language, it always came second in status to the main language of the land in which Yiddish speakers resided.

In the Households Form for Census 2001, in Q15, beneath the list of LOTE languages most often spoken, there were two spaces available under the "Other" category. However, as we were informed during pre-Census briefing sessions, only one of the "Other" LOTE languages was to be counted.

When we emailed the ABS Census office inquiring for confirmation about how the "Other" LOTE language entries were counted and whether figures for any second "Other" language entries would be available in the future, we received the following reply on the 19-06-2002:

Dear Alex,

Thank you for your email regarding languages. The Census language question records one language for each person spoken at home.

The Census question asks the respondent to record the language that is used most often if more than one language is spoken at home.

It is not possible to get the extra detail you require as the Census form is scanned and the first response selected is recorded.

Regards
Emma Tilston

ABS Web Site: www.abs.gov.au

Then a second email on the 21-06-2002 confirmed the case quite clearly:

Hi Alex

You raised a query about the "other" Category on the Census Form and if two responses that are written on the form are taken into account.

The answer is no, only one language from the Census form will be processed. For example, if you have written "Africans" and "Xosa" in that order, only the "African" language is processed and a count will be placed against the Census category "Afrikaans" or "African Languages " (depending on the index that the Data Processing Centre has in place for the edits) and the "Xosa" would be ignored.

The outcome will be each person counted on Census night will record a language and therefore the total language category will equal the total population of Australia on Census Night.
Any queries please contact me.

Bye
Tracey Cullen

ABS Web Site: www.abs.gov.au

The concern clearly is that individuals who speak two languages other than English more or less equally at home, (as is almost always the case with Yiddish), but put down randomly or alphabetically in the two "Other" spaces for Q15 say:- 1. Polish & 2. Yiddish or 1. Russian & 2. Hebrew, even though they regularly listen to both languages on SBS radio, will not have their second spoken language counted. Experience tells us that the above scenario is often the case, particularly in regards to Yiddish and Hebrew in the Census, past and present.

Another reason why this question, Q15, disadvantages "older migrant" LOTE languages such as Yiddish and Hebrew, is that they may often fail to record the true cross-generational and cross-functional use of these languages. Q15 asks to record the LOTE language most often spoken by individuals at "home".

As is often the case, Yiddish and other languages of "older migrant" groups, is used as a means of communication and cultural maintenance between different generations, who do not reside in the same household. For example, you may have a family of 3 generations, comprising elderly grandparents living in one household and their adult children and grandchildren living in a separate household. The grandparents and their adult children may regularly speak in Yiddish on the telephone or when they meet or visit each other, but the adult children may speak only English to each other and to the children in their house.

In such a case, Yiddish may not be recorded at all as a "Other" language spoken by individuals in the second household. Anecdotal and personal experience points to the fact that many individuals do not record their use of Yiddish in such cases in the Census.