

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975: sub-section 6(3)

PROPOSAL NO. 6 OF 2016

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

2016 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING AND POST ENUMERATION SURVEY

In accordance with section 8(1) of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, (C&S Act) the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) intends to conduct the seventeenth national Census of Population and Housing on 9 August 2016.

Regulations determining the content of the census were registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments on 16 December 2015 and tabled in the Parliament on 2 February 2016. The information collected from each person will repeat the topics collected in 2011 and include demographic particulars including age, sex, and marital status; usual address; ethnicity data including birthplace, ancestry, and whether of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin; religion; education; income; number of children ever born; labour force status; industry; occupation; need for assistance; unpaid work and method of travel to work. Questions will also be asked of each household on ownership of motor vehicles; characteristics of the dwelling occupied; connection to the internet; and tenure of occupation.

All Census responses are collected and stored securely to protect the confidentiality and privacy of respondents, as prescribed in the C&S Act. The C&S Act requires the Statistician to publish results in a way that is not likely to identify a particular person, household or organisation.

In accordance with Section 8A of the C&S Act, a person may consent to having their complete Census information transferred to the custody of the National Archives of Australia. This information will be made publicly available after 99 years.

Prior to Census night, most households will be mailed information which includes a unique login number for the online Census. The option of a paper form is available on request, with forms being mailed back in prepaid envelopes. Temporarily hired field officers will visit around 20% of dwellings to deliver Census materials as well as visiting dwellings that have not participated after reminder letters have been sent.

Information will be collected from all persons present in Australia and the external territories of Norfolk Island, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands on the night of 9 August 2016, with the exception of foreign diplomats and their families, and visitors to Australia who are not required to undergo migration formalities, such as foreign crews on ships. Australian residents out of the country on Census night are not included in the Census unless they have left the country without being required to undertake departure formalities (for example, Australian navy personnel serving on Australian ships abroad).

The 2016 Census will provide detailed information for small geographic areas and small population groups. Such data are necessary to support the planning, administration, policy development, and evaluation activities of Commonwealth, State, Territory and Local governments. Other users of Census data include business, academics, and the community generally. Population estimates derived from the Census provide the basis for the allocation of Commonwealth Government funding to the States and Territories, and are also used for electoral purposes.

Extensive testing has shown that the Census form and questions will be well accepted by the community.

As with each Census since 1966, a Post Enumeration Survey will be conducted immediately after the 2016 Census to estimate the extent of under-enumeration. This survey will be conducted by interviewing a random sample of approximately 43,000 households to collect a subset of the information asked in the Census. Data obtained in the survey will be used to calibrate the Census data to ensure the accuracy of population estimates.

Results from the 2016 Census will be released progressively and are expected to be available from April 2017.

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March 2016