

2026 Census topic review timeline



Phase one consultation

28 Feb – 28 Apr 2023

The ABS will ask about information needs not currently met by the ABS. You can have your say at consult.abs.gov.au



Phase two consultation

Jun – Jul 2023

The ABS will prioritise information needs. We will ask for feedback on proposed changes to Census topics.



Consultation outcomes published

Late 2023

Outcomes from the consultation will be shared on the ABS website, including the Census topics progressing to testing.



Proposed topics tested

Late 2023 – 2024

Proposed new Census topics and questions will be tested through focus groups, interviews and a large scale test.



Recommendation to the Australian Government

Mid 2024

The ABS will recommend 2026 Census topics to the Australian Government for decision.



2026 Census topics finalised

Late 2025

Changes to the Census are tabled in Parliament. The final decision on topics will be published on the ABS website.