



Information Paper

Census of Population and Housing

Nature and Content

Australia

2011

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Housing**

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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PREFACE

The purpose of this publication is to outline the nature and content of the 2011 Census. It describes the procedures for the 2011 Census and the topics that will be included. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires that the '...census shall be taken in the year 1981 and in every fifth year thereafter...'. The ABS is preparing to undertake the next Census on Tuesday 9 August 2011.

The Census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and one of the most important. The aims of the Census are to accurately measure the number and certain key characteristics of people in Australia on Census Night and the dwellings in which they live; and to provide timely, high quality and relevant data for small geographic areas and small population groups, to complement the rich but broad level data provided by ABS surveys.

This publication describes the procedures for the 2011 Census and the topics to be included. The 2011 Census will be undertaken on a comparable basis to the 2006 Census and will not include any new topics. Minor changes have been made where necessary to ensure continuing relevance such as updating income ranges and revising some response categories. In addition, a new geographic classification will be progressively implemented from 2011.

For information on all data published by the ABS, please refer to the ABS web site at <www.abs.gov.au>. Further information about 2011 Census products and services will be published closer to the 2011 Census date.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
AC	automatic coding
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
AQF	Australian Qualifications Framework
ASAC	Australian Statistics Advisory Council
ASCCEG	Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
ASIC	Australian Standard Industrial Classification
CAC	computer assisted coding
CD	collection district
CDE	Census data enhancement
CPI	consumer price index
DPC	data processing centre
GST	goods and services tax
MB	mesh block
SA1	statistical area level 1
SLA	statistical local area
SLCD	Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division

OBJECTIVE OF THE
CENSUS

Australia's sixteenth national Census of Population and Housing will be held on 9 August 2011 and will mark the centenary of national Censuses in Australia. The first Census was held in 1911 and since 1961 a Census has been taken every 5 years, a frequency which is specified in the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The objective of the Census is to accurately measure the number and key characteristics of people in Australia on Census Night, and the dwellings in which they live. This provides a reliable basis for the estimation of the population of each of the states, territories and local government areas primarily for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funds. It also provides the characteristics of the population and its housing within small geographic areas and for small population groups. This supports the planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities of governments and other users.

Under Australia's Constitution the 'number of members (in the House of Representatives) chosen in the several States shall be in proportion to the respective numbers of their people'. Population estimates based on the Census are used to determine the number of seats allocated to each state in the House of Representatives. Population estimates are also used in the allocation of revenue by the Commonwealth to the states and the territories. For 2007-08, the Commonwealth provided the States with general revenue assistance, including all Goods and Services Tax revenue, of \$42.8 billion and payments for specific purposes of \$32.1 billion, totalling \$74.9 billion. Population estimates based on the Census are key elements in the criteria used by the Commonwealth Grants Commission in recommending the appropriate distribution of these funds.

The Census also provides important information on the characteristics of the population. While this is valuable in its own right it is also possible to relate one characteristic with other characteristics so any relationships that exist between them can be identified. For example, relationships between the localities in which people born overseas were living at the time of the Census, their employment status, the main occupations and industries they worked in, and their educational qualifications can be studied. As another example, those planning transport facilities can study the main traffic flows within a city and the methods people use to travel to work, relating these data to average income levels and the availability of motor vehicles to households.

While some information on some characteristics is available from other sources, only a Census can provide information on a standard basis for the country as a whole as well as for small geographic areas and small population groups.

USER CONSULTATION

In October 2007, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) published the *Information Paper Census of Population and Housing: ABS Views on Content and Procedures, Australia, 2011* (cat. no. 2007.0). As well as outlining the broad nature of plans for the taking of the Census, the paper summarised proposals for the next Census under three categories:

- topics to be included in the 2011 Census
- topics under review
- topics to be excluded from the 2011 Census.

However, in February 2008 the Australian Statistician announced that due to financial constraints within the ABS, changes needed to be made to its work program. One of these changes was a decision by the Statistician to conduct the 2011 Census of Population and Housing on a basis comparable to the 2006 Census. As a consequence, the public consultation process regarding topics and procedures for the 2011 Census was withdrawn.

In June 2008, the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) was advised of the draft recommendations on the content of the 2011 Census based on the changes to the ABS work program.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

The Census is conducted under the authority of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. The Act authorises the Australian Statistician to take a Census on a day appointed for that purpose by a Proclamation from the Governor General, to collect information in relation to matters prescribed in the Census Regulations. The Act empowers the Statistician to request persons to complete forms or answer questions. The ABS always seeks willing cooperation of householders. However, where a person refuses the Statistician may, by notice in writing, direct a person to complete a form or answer a question. The Act also requires the Statistician to publish results in a way that is not likely to identify a particular person or organisation.

The final recommendations on the 2011 Census content have been approved by the Government.

KEY GOALS FOR THE
2011 CENSUS

The ABS has four key goals for the 2011 Census. These are to:

- improve coverage, which is the primary goal of the Census
- ensure the relevance of the Census data to users and providers
- use resources effectively and efficiently
- protect the privacy of the public.

PRIVACY

Protection of the privacy of individuals and the confidentiality of information supplied by them continue to be paramount to the successful conduct of a Census. Confidentiality and privacy issues are discussed in Chapter 2.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Regulations associated with the taking of the Census will be tabled in Parliament at the same time as the release of this Information Paper. Testing of field procedures and processing systems will be undertaken during 2009/2010. A Census dress rehearsal will be held in June 2010. Consultation on the output program, including methods of dissemination, commenced in 2009 and will continue in the lead up to the 2011 Census.

GENERAL ISSUES

The Census collects information relating to each person and household in the country, and provides data about groups within the community and the community as a whole. The public expects that the information they provide will be kept confidential and this protection is assured by provisions in the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. The ABS also has an obligation to comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in the *Privacy Act 1988*.

To ensure that confidentiality and privacy provisions are observed a comprehensive set of practices will be adopted by the ABS. In the 2011 Census they will include the following:

- Non-ongoing staff recruited for collection and processing of the Census as well as on-going staff having access to completed Census forms are officers of the ABS. All ABS officers are legally bound to secrecy under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. Officers sign an undertaking of fidelity and secrecy to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities about Census data. Section 19 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* forbids past or present ABS officers from divulging information collected under this Act, either directly or indirectly, under penalty of up to 120 penalty units (currently \$13,200) or imprisonment for two years, or both.
- As in 2006, householders will have the option to complete an Internet version of the Census form, called the eCensus. The ABS will use the strongest encryption technology that current Internet browsers will support to ensure that Census information is delivered securely. All possible measures to protect the integrity of the eCensus site will be taken. Each householder who submits an eCensus form will be issued with a unique receipt number.
- In large urban areas procedures will be established to avoid Census Collectors working in the districts in which they live, to minimise the possibility of collecting information from people they know personally. However, in other areas, where fewer applications are expected for Census Collector positions and travel involves significant costs, it is more likely Census Collectors will be recruited who might know some householders. If a Census Collector does know a householder they will be instructed to offer the householder an envelope in which to seal the completed form.
- Householders will be advised that anyone who does not want their completed form to be seen by the Census Collector will be able to complete the eCensus form, or obtain an envelope in which to seal the form. In addition, any individual member of a household (including a visitor) can request their own access codes to the eCensus form, or a separate form in which to record their own details. Census Collectors will be required to pass all envelopes unopened to their Area Supervisor who will then open the envelope and check the form for completeness. People not in private dwellings generally receive separate Census forms. People who are not satisfied with these arrangements will be able to send a completed form to the ABS by mail.

GENERAL ISSUES

continued

- Census Collectors will be instructed to pick up Census forms in person from householders and not to suggest arrangements whereby completed forms are left outside the house at some prearranged location.
- Completed Census forms will be transferred from the field to the Census processing centre under secure arrangements. The strongest possible measures have been employed to ensure the security of the eCensus and to prevent unauthorised access to data held in the eCensus system. The confidentiality and privacy of all Census data, including that lodged via the eCensus, are protected under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. Full-time security personnel will be employed to prevent any unauthorised access to the processing centre.
- Comprehensive security arrangements will be implemented on the ABS computer system, including the use of regularly changed passwords, access control and audit trails.
- The ABS will not retain name and address information once Census processing and statistical evaluation are completed. The only exception is if a person explicitly agrees, by answering the relevant question on the Census form, to have their name-identified responses retained by the National Archives of Australia for release in 99 years time.
- The creation of the Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset (SLCD), as part of the Census Data Enhancement (CDE) project (see Chapter 5 for further detail), will involve statistical matching and not the matching of name and address information.
- In accordance with the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, no results will be released in a way that is likely to enable particular individuals or households to be identified. In past Censuses, the ABS has made slight random adjustments to the tabulated data to protect confidentiality, and this will continue for the 2011 Census.

TIME CAPSULE

In Australian Censuses prior to 2001, forms and other name-identified records have been destroyed once the statistical data required for the purposes of the Census have been extracted.

Following recommendations from the House of Representatives Standing Committee, the Government decided that for the 2001 Census all people be given the option of having their name-identified responses retained for 99 years. After 99 years, the name-identified data will be made public for future generations. This option has been included in every Census since the 2001 Census and will be a permanent feature of all future Censuses.

Some 53% of the population chose to have their individual responses from the 2001 Census retained, and 56% from the 2006 Census. These are now with the National Archives of Australia.

In order to ensure that the current high levels of public confidence and cooperation in the Census are maintained, and to respect the wishes of those who do not want their name and address identified information retained for future release, information will only be kept for those persons who explicitly give their consent. For privacy reasons the name-identified information will not be available for any purpose, including by a court or tribunal, within a 99 year closed access period.

TIME CAPSULE
continued

If a person does not explicitly agree to their name-identified Census information being retained, their name and address information will be destroyed once statistical processing has been completed.

After this information has been transferred to the National Archives of Australia and statistical processing is completed, the ABS will destroy all paper and eCensus forms including the computer images of those forms. As in the past, the paper forms will be pulped for recycling.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

60 Does each person in this household agree to his/her name and address and other information on this form being kept by the National Archives of Australia and then made publicly available after 99 years?

- Answering this question is **OPTIONAL**.
- A person's name-identified information will not be kept where a person does not agree or the answer is left blank.
- See page 17 of the Census Guide for more information.
- Remember to mark box like this:

PLEASE CHECK WITH EACH PERSON BEFORE ANSWERING – LEAVE BLANK FOR THOSE PERSONS WHOSE VIEWS ARE NOT KNOWN TO YOU

Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5	Person 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, agrees					
<input type="checkbox"/> No, does not agree					

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the collection operation is to achieve a high quality Census in a cost-effective manner. This involves the recruitment, training, supervision and payment associated with a temporary workforce of some 40,000 people. It also includes the logistics associated with designing and preparing maps and the printing, packing, distribution and return of over 1,800 tonnes of material, as well as the development and testing of the systems that support the eCensus.

CENSUS DATE

The 2011 Census will be held on Tuesday 9 August 2011.

SCOPE

The scope of the Census is all people in Australia on Census Night, excluding foreign diplomats and their families. Visitors to Australia are counted regardless of how long they have been in the country or how long they plan to stay. Australian residents out of the country on Census Night are out of the scope of the Census.

Australian residents who are outside Australia on Census Night and who are not required to undertake migration formalities, such as those on oil and gas rigs off the Australian coast, are in the scope of the Census.

Norfolk Island is out of the scope of the Census.

The Territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island will again be included in the 2011 Census. Following the enactment of the *Territories Law Reform Act 1992*, the results for these Territories were included in the counts for Australia for the first time in 1996.

People will be counted where they are on Census Night. This type of Census count is conducted on an actual location or place of enumeration basis (often referred to as a defacto Census). See also Chapter 5.

MAPPING

A Census Collector will be responsible for the Census enumeration in a clearly bounded local area, to be known as a collector workload. Collector workloads, designed by aggregating mesh blocks (MBs), will cover Australia without overlap or omission. The design and mapping of these areas is a most important preliminary task of the Census as they represent the basic unit of collection.

For the 2011 Census, the ABS will use computer-based mapping systems similar to those used for the 2006 Census, for the design of collector workloads and for the production of maps used by Census Collectors. The main benefit of this mapping system is that it will provide more detailed and appropriately scaled maps for use by Census Collectors, leading to better coverage of the population.

MAPPING *continued*

For previous Censuses, collection districts (CDs) were used for both collection and dissemination. From 2011, CDs will no longer form part of the geography used for collection or dissemination purposes. The geography used for dissemination purposes is discussed in the section 'Geographic Output' Chapter 5.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE

Public co-operation and acceptance of the Census is essential for production of high quality statistics. For this reason a public awareness campaign will be conducted prior to and during the Census. The aims of the campaign will be to maintain the cooperation of the public and the high quality of the responses to the Census by informing the public of the usefulness of the statistics obtained and the confidentiality of the information provided. Provisions will be made for those who may, for language or other reasons, have difficulty in completing the form and these will also be made known and advertised in the public awareness campaign.

An information booklet will be available which answers commonly asked questions about the Census and information on the purpose of the Census. The Census Collector will also answer any queries and if necessary arrange for collection of the completed Census form. This information will also be available from the ABS website.

Assistance is available for people with a vision or hearing impairment, including information in large print, Braille and audio format.

A telephone inquiry service will be available to answer questions about the Census. The Census Inquiry Service will also include TTY facilities for the hard of hearing. In addition, there will be a telephone interpreter service to assist people who have difficulty with the English language to complete their Census forms.

DELIVERY AND COLLECTION OF CENSUS FORMS

Most of the temporary field staff recruited will be Area Supervisors and Census Collectors. An Area Supervisor will be responsible for approximately 8 Census Collectors who will each be responsible for the delivery and collection of Census forms from an average of approximately 600 dwellings. However, the number of dwellings covered varies depending on a range of factors such as whether the area is urban or rural. In addition, Special Collectors will be recruited where necessary to undertake Census duties in large non-private dwellings (such as hospitals and hotels).

The Census will be conducted by a Census Collector drop off approach, where Census Collectors will deliver, to each dwelling, materials that allow respondents to complete their form on-line or on paper. The Census Collector will return to pick up the forms after Census Night unless a completed Census form, either on-line or paper, has been returned to the data processing centre (DPC).

eCENSUS

As for the 2006 Census, the 2011 Census form will be available to be completed on-line. This option will be widely advertised and details will be available from Census Collectors.

The design of the eCensus form takes into account accepted accessibility standards as set out by the World Wide Web Consortium. Text in the eCensus can be resized and contrasting colours have been used so that the text is easy to read. The eCensus will be designed to be compatible with commonly used screenreader programs such as Jaws© and Window Eyes©. People with a visual impairment can obtain their access codes in alternative formats, to enable them to complete their Census form online.

.....

ENUMERATION OF
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER
PEOPLES, ETHNIC
GROUPS AND THE
HOMELESS

Targeted strategies will be implemented to ensure that the coverage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, ethnic groups and the homeless is as complete as possible. These procedures will be further refined from those used for the 2006 Census.

Information about the strategies used for these groups in the 2011 Census will be available from the ABS website.

NON COOPERATION

It is expected that the public awareness campaign on the nature of the Census, the assurances of confidentiality and the uses of the resulting statistics will ensure maximum cooperation. People who do not cooperate with the Census Collector will usually be approached by the Area Supervisor in an endeavour to overcome their problems or objections. If necessary, this approach will be followed up by a letter from the ABS explaining the purposes and value of the Census and its legal status, and seeking the householder's cooperation. Further action, including legal action, will be considered only where these measures have failed.

CHAPTER 4

PROCESSING

KEY GOALS

The key objective is to deliver a high quality, timely dataset in an efficient manner while protecting the privacy of respondents.

This goal will be achieved through implementing several initiatives to improve coverage, streamline processes and quality assure results.

PROCESSING OUTLINE

A secure data processing centre (DPC), employing approximately 800 staff will be established to process the results of the 2011 Census.

The DPC will be in full operation for approximately twelve months. Data will be captured and processed using similar technologies that were used successfully in 2006, including intelligent forms processing (IFP), and automatic coding (AC). Forms returned electronically will also be integrated into this processing methodology.

Processing of data will proceed as follows:

Receipt and registration of forms: a check will be undertaken to ensure that all completed Census forms have been received at the DPC.

Data capture: Forms will be scanned and a reconciliation process conducted to ensure that all forms have been captured. Much of the data will be captured directly from responses on the forms and coded automatically. Other data will require on-line coding for responses which cannot be automatically captured or coded.

Imputation: Missing values for sex, age, marital status and usual residence will be imputed.

Editing: Editing will be undertaken as part of the DPC validation strategy. These editing procedures can detect errors in responses and/or codes which are invalid, or which are in conflict with Census definitions.

Quality Assurance: Quality assurance processes will be implemented at the DPC to maximise the accurate and consistent processing of information from the Census form.

POPULATION MEASURES

The 2011 Census will be conducted on an actual location basis. In Censuses prior to 2006, the first data released were on an 'as enumerated' basis with a range of usual residence based data released later. For 2006 standard products were released based on where people usually live (place of usual residence), with later release of 'as enumerated' data. This will again be the case for the 2011 Census.

CLASSIFICATIONS

In light of changes to the ABS work program announced in February 2008 (see User Consultation, Chapter 1), questions for the 2011 Census will be comparable to those asked in 2006. As a result most classifications to be used in the 2011 Census will be similar to those used in the 2006 Census. However, to ensure the continuing relevance of the Census, some revisions to classifications may be necessary. Full details on classifications will be included in the *Census Dictionary, 2011* (cat. no. 2901.0).

DATA RELEASE

In recent Censuses, data have been released in two stages. This will again be the case for the 2011 Output Program. The Topic Release Schedule is shown in the Appendix and will be similar to 2006.

INVESTIGATIONS OF
OUTPUT PRODUCTS

Commencing in 2009, a consultation program will provide users with an opportunity to suggest improvements to outputs, to meet emerging needs.

Ongoing investigative work includes:

- increasing the scope of dissemination methods using Internet applications
- increasing the level of analytical output from the Census.

EVALUATION

An integral step in the conduct of the Census is an evaluation of the extent of underenumeration. For this purpose a post enumeration survey will be conducted soon after Census Night. Further detailed evaluation studies will be conducted to provide users of Census data with information about data quality and to provide feedback for improvements for future Censuses.

GEOGRAPHIC OUTPUTS

Prior to the 2011 Census, the collection district (CD) was the smallest geographical building block of the Census and the lowest level defined in the AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION (ASGC). CDs had a dual purpose. As well as being a geographic area for which outputs from the Census were published, CDs were also used to manage the collection operation.

The ABS conducted a review of the ASGC with the primary aim of simplifying and stabilising the classification. This resulted in the creation of a new geographic classification called the AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARD (ASGS). The ASGS is built up from mesh blocks (MBs), a smaller building block and composed of a hierarchy of geographical units that fulfil all the functionality of the previous ASGC. Outcomes of

GEOGRAPHIC OUTPUTS

continued

the review can be found in the *Information Paper: Outcome from the Review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification, 2008* (cat. no. 1216.0.55.002).

The smallest geographical unit of the ASGS for which full 2011 Census statistics will be published will be the statistical area level 1 (SA1). The SA1 will be composed of aggregates of MBs and be of slightly smaller average size than a 2006 CD. SA1s will aggregate to form the higher level units in the main structure of the ASGS.

Mesh blocks (MBs) will be published with usual resident population and total dwelling counts, as they were for the 2006 Census.

The ASGS will provide either comparable or better statistics for most Census geographies, that were previously derived from whole CDs. This includes geographies such as local government areas, suburbs, postcodes and electoral divisions. A limited range of time series data will be available at the statistical local area (SLA) to assist users' transition to the ASGS.

Implementation of the ASGS for the 2011 Census is outlined in the *Discussion Paper: ABS Views on 2011 Census Output Geography* (cat. no. 2911.0.55.002).

ADDING VALUE TO THE
CENSUS

In the lead up to the 2006 Census, the ABS initiated the Census Data Enhancement (CDE) project. This project involved investigating the feasibility of creating a Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset (SLCD) by combining data from the 2006 Census with data from future Censuses. The aim is to create a dataset through statistical techniques, based on a 5% random sample of the population. It is envisaged that the SLCD will create a comprehensive picture of Australian society for researchers to investigate improving family wellbeing, employment, health, education outcomes and transitions.

As part of the overall project and in line with the original proposal and statement of intention, the ABS may also undertake several quality studies which involve linking specified datasets to Census data. These internal ABS studies may look at the quality of linkages when different linking techniques are used, or they may look at the quality of data that the ABS is disseminating, when compared to information contained in the Census dataset. These studies will help the ABS understand and evaluate the quality of its statistical operation and outputs, and make improvements where appropriate.

The 5% SLCD may be further used by bringing it together with specified non-ABS datasets using statistical techniques, for approved statistical purposes. Records will be matched using variables such as date of birth, sex, country of birth and geographic area. At this stage only the 'conditions of entry and settlement outcomes for migrants' statistical study is planned with it being contingent on the outcome of the quality study, which will determine whether valid statistical analysis can be performed and the types of statistical study which are most useful.

The ABS will be reviewing CDE for 2011. This will include how the SLCD will be statistically linked and which studies to undertake.

TOPICS INCLUDED TO
MEET LEGISLATIVE
REQUIREMENTS

The primary purpose of the Census is to provide a reliable basis for the estimation of the population of each of the states, territories and local government areas for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funds.

The *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* requires the ABS to supply the Electoral Commissioner with the population statistics that are needed for the regular review of the number of seats each state is entitled to have in the House of Representatives. To meet this requirement the Statistician has to provide population data for each of the states and territories.

The *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009* requires the Statistician to determine the population of each state and territory each year. This data are used with factors calculated by the Commonwealth Grants Commission to determine the distribution of goods and services tax (GST) revenue to states and territories. The *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* also requires the Statistician to provide estimates of the population of each state and territory which the State and Northern Territory Grants Commissions use with Census-based population estimates and other data at the level of individual local government areas to determine the distribution of grants to local councils.

The population estimates are dependent on the five-yearly Census and are calculated by adjusting the Census count for underenumeration, excluding visitors from overseas and adding in Australian residents who are overseas at the time of the Census. The population estimates are updated quarterly for state and territory series, and annually for other series using a combination of other data sources and demographic techniques which have at their base Census data on the following topics:

- Sex
- Age
- Registered marital status
- Indigenous status
- Usual residence at Census time
- Internal migration.

OTHER TOPICS INCLUDED

Because the Census covers all households, it can gather information about the characteristics of the population and its housing within small geographic areas and for small population groups to support the planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities of governments and other users.

OTHER TOPICS INCLUDED
continued

In addition to data on total population, the Commonwealth and State Grants Commissions use Census data from a wide range of other Census topics to assess state relativities of 'needs'. In this respect, the Commissions are just some of the numerous clients, from both the public and private sectors, who make use of a range of Census data for decisions affecting the allocation of substantial resources.

The Census in Australia is completed by the householder with little assistance. This limits the nature of the topics which can be covered and the questions which can be asked. Topics which require complex questions or question sequencing are not suitable for a Census as the responses obtained may not be reliable.

A set of criteria based on these principles is used to judge the suitability of topics for a Census. These are:

- the topic is of major national importance
- there is a need for data on the topic for small groups in the population and/or for small geographic areas
- the topic is suitable for inclusion in the Census.

TOPIC IS OF MAJOR
NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Topics selected for a Census must have specific purposes which are of national importance. There must be a demonstrated need for the Census data for policy development, planning and program monitoring.

NEED FOR DATA FOR
SMALL GROUPS OF THE
POPULATION OR FOR
SMALL AREAS

Because the Census covers all households, it can produce accurate information at the small geographic area level or about small population groups. Information which is not required at this fine level of detail is more effectively obtained from sample surveys.

The ABS produces an extensive range of information from a variety of sample surveys. The comprehensive program of monthly population surveys generally provides data at the national, state and regional levels on a wide range of topics.

TOPIC IS SUITABLE FOR
INCLUSION IN THE
CENSUS

In the Census, information is collected by 'self-enumeration'. Each household is required to fill in the details specified on the Census form with relatively little assistance from the Census Collector. Self-enumeration, and the need to ensure that the large Census operation is conducted as efficiently and effectively as possible, impose certain constraints on the type of topics included in order to minimise the reporting burden on households and control Census costs.

Topics which require detailed explanation to ensure accurate answers are unlikely to be answered correctly. Research has shown that people often do not read the explanations which accompany questions. Questions which are controversial or which could cause adverse reactions may also not be answered correctly. These types of questions could also affect the quality of other responses. Information about these kinds of topics may be obtained better by interviewer based collection methods.

TOPICS FOR THE 2011
CENSUS

As outlined in Chapter 1, the 2011 Census will be conducted on a comparable basis to the 2006 Census. Consequently, each of the topics asked for the 2006 Census will be included in the 2011 Census. Minor changes may be necessary to ensure continuing relevance, such as updating income ranges and revising some response categories.

TOPICS FOR THE 2011
CENSUS *continued*

The final recommendations on the 2011 Census content have been approved by the Government. The topics related to persons are discussed in Chapter 7. Those relating to households and dwellings are discussed in Chapter 8.

TOPICS RELATING TO
PERSONS

Name

Sex and Age

Residential status (for people in non-private dwellings)

Registered marital status

Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander origin

Usual residence at Census time

Internal migration

Australian citizenship

Country of birth

Year of arrival in Australia

Country of birth of parents (Australia/Overseas)

Main language other than English spoken at home/proficiency in spoken English

Ancestry

Religious affiliation

Need for assistance

Attendance at an educational institution

Highest year of schooling completed

Non-school qualifications

Number of children ever born

Income (individual)

Labour force status

Employment type

Status in employment

Occupation

Government/non-government employer

Workplace address

Industry

Hours worked

Mode of travel to work

TOPICS RELATING TO
PERSONS *continued*

Unpaid work

TOPICS RELATING TO
HOUSEHOLDS AND
DWELLINGS

Address on Census Night

Family relationship

Income (family and household income)

Number of motor vehicles garaged

Number of bedrooms

Tenure type

Rent/landlord type

Mortgage repayments

Dwelling Internet connection

Structure of private dwelling

Location of private dwelling

Non-private dwelling type

CHAPTER **7**

**PERSONAL TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
2011 CENSUS**

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TOPICS INCLUDED

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SEX AND AGE

USER REQUIREMENTS

Questions on sex and age are essential for the production of accurate state and territory population estimates, a major objective of the Census, and for sub-state population estimates. They are valuable items in their own right for planning and policy, development and evaluation. The vast majority of demographic studies rely on data about the sex and age of the relevant population.

Data on sex and age are required:

- for the production of accurate population estimates
- for studies of particular population age groups, such as young children, teenagers, young adults and older persons
- at the small geographical level and for small population groups, as a basic input into many planning, policy, development and evaluation activities
- in conjunction with other variables, for a variety of cross-classified tables
- in conjunction with other data from other sources to compile composite statistics such as fertility rates, death rates, life tables and estimates of life expectancy at birth, and in evaluating the completeness of the electoral roll.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The topics of sex and age have been included in every Australian Census since 1911.

Prior to the 2006 Census, 'age last birthday' was asked. For the 2006 Census, date of birth was asked in conjunction with age. Date of birth was asked to improve the quality of the age data, with age also asked to cover situations where date of birth is not known.

Analysis of the results of the 2006 Census indicated that the inclusion of date of birth was very successful in removing the 'age heaping' around reported ages ending in 0 or 5 which is clearly visible in the results of previous Censuses. The inclusion of date of birth has also resulted in the compilation of more accurate statistics on the age of very old Australians who may be resident in aged care facilities or other institutions where the Census form is completed by another person on their behalf.

For the 2011 Census, date of birth will again be asked in conjunction with age.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>3 Is the person male or female?</p> <p>• Mark one box for each person, like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Male</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Female</p>
<p>4 What is the person's date of birth (or age last birthday)?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Day Month Year</p> <p>• Example for date of birth: <input type="text" value="2"/> <input type="text" value="3"/> <input type="text" value="0"/> <input type="text" value="5"/> <input type="text" value="1"/> <input type="text" value="9"/> <input type="text" value="7"/> <input type="text" value="0"/></p> <p>• If date of birth not known, give age last birthday.</p> <p>• Example for age last birthday: <input type="text" value="3"/> <input type="text" value="6"/> <input type="text"/> Years</p>	<p>Day Month Year</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>OR</p> <p>Age last birthday</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Years</p>

RESIDENTIAL STATUS (FOR PEOPLE IN NON-PRIVATE DWELLINGS)

USER REQUIREMENTS

This topic differentiates people staying in non-private dwellings, either on a short term basis or as a resident, from live-in staff and their families.

Census data about people residing in non-private dwellings are important for the planning and delivery of many services.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Information about the residential status of people counted in non-private dwellings has been collected in all Censuses. Until 1996, the information was collected as part of the question about relationship to others in the dwelling. Since the 2001 Census this information has been collected from a separate question asked of people in non-private dwellings.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

The numbers of people in some types of non-private dwellings are available from:

- *Tourist Accommodation, Australia, Mar 2003* (cat. no. 8635.0)
- *Short-term Visitor Arrival Estimates, Australia, May 2008* (cat. no. 3401.0.55.001)
- *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, Feb 2009* (cat. no. 3401.0).

Some data are also available from other administrative sources.

Tourism Research Australia produces data on the characteristics of domestic and international tourist activity, including purpose of travel, destination, type of accommodation used and demographics. Results are published on both a quarterly and annual basis.

The Census is the only source of information about the characteristics of people in all non-private dwellings.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Personal Form.

(PERSONAL FORM ONLY)

6 Residential status in this dwelling

- For a person staying in accommodation such as a hotel, hostel, hospital, staff or student quarters on the night of 8 August 2006, mark one of the following:

Residents in these premises

- Guest ► **Go to 8**
- Patient ► **Go to 8**
- Inmate ► **Go to 8**
- Resident ► **Go to 8**
- Other ► **Go to 8**

Persons employed in these premises

- Owner, proprietor or manager ► **Go to 8**
- Staff (e.g. porter, cook, teacher, warden) ► **Go to 8**
- Family of owner, proprietor, manager or staff ► **Go to 8**
- Other ► **Go to 8**

REGISTERED MARITAL STATUS

USER REQUIREMENTS

Census data are crucial in preparing estimates of the resident population by registered marital status which in turn are essential in establishing rates of marriage and divorce. The Census is the only regular and reliable source of data on registered marital status of the Australian resident population to give a basis for these estimates.

Census data on registered marital status are required:

- for the production of accurate estimated resident population by marital status
- for welfare and income support policy, program development and evaluation (e.g. investigations into the number of widows/widowers and their socioeconomic characteristics)
- by demographers, for population analysis
- more generally and in association with information about actual living arrangements (social marital status), for social research.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on marital status has been included in all previous Censuses.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>6 What is the person's present marital status?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Married' refers to registered marriages.• Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Never married<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced<input type="checkbox"/> Separated but not divorced<input type="checkbox"/> Married
--	--

ABORIGINAL/TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ORIGIN

USER REQUIREMENTS

The Census is the only comprehensive source of small area data on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. The main purpose of this question is to determine the number and distribution of people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Data about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population are required:

- by Australian state and territory government departments responsible for the development of policies for Indigenous people in such fields as housing, health services, education, welfare and special assistance programs
- by the Commonwealth Grants Commission, for use in the allocation of funds to the states and territories for these populations
- by a wide range of research institutions and policy areas, to quantify and describe the circumstances of Indigenous people in contemporary society
- by the Productivity Commission, for their regular report *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators*, commissioned by the Council of Australian Governments, which documents the impact of government policies on overcoming Indigenous disadvantage.

Users are keen to obtain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population figures which are comparable from one Census to the next.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In all Censuses prior to 1971 respondents were asked to state their race and, where race was mixed, to specify the proportions of each. In the 1971 and 1976 Censuses a question with response categories of European, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Other was included. Since 1981, a specific question has been asked to identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Since 1976, measures have also been adopted to obtain as complete a coverage as possible of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. These include specific Census awareness activities, greater use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, greater involvement of Indigenous organisations, and better coordination of the related field operations. In remote areas, interview forms have been used to facilitate the enumeration of these groups. These measures will be continued and improved for the 2011 Census.

Since the 2006 Census, a question on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin has been asked for people who were temporarily absent from the dwelling, aimed at improving coverage.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

There have been some improvements in recent years in the availability of data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from relevant federal and state government authorities. However, the available data are still limited in coverage and quality.

Data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are available from some ABS household surveys. However, because of sample sizes, surveys do not provide reliable data for small areas and small groups of the population. The following surveys are relevant to the topic:

- *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002* (cat. no. 4714.0)
- *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2004-05* (cat no. 4715.0)
- *Housing and Infrastructure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4710.0).

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA *continued*

The ABS conducted the most recent National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey between August 2008 and April 2009. It is anticipated that data across a wide range of topics at national, state and territory, and by remoteness areas will be available later in 2009 and will include some time series and non-Indigenous data comparisons.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

7 Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? • For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander
---	---

USUAL RESIDENCE AT CENSUS TIME

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information on usual residence at Census time is essential to the production of accurate state, territory and local government resident population estimates, a primary objective of the Census.

This question enables the classification of respondents into usual residents of Australia and overseas visitors who are not usual residents of Australia and not included in resident population estimates. Resident population estimates are used to apportion the number of seats in the House of Representatives to each state and territory in accordance with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, and the distribution of funds to the states, territories and local governments as required by the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009* and the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*.

Place of usual residence is the primary geographical basis for the release of most Census statistics, enabling the disaggregation of cross tabulations into various geographic levels (e.g. state/territory, regional areas, local government area, etc.) and is used in conjunction with other questions to compile internal migration statistics.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on a person's place of usual residence at Census time was first included in the 1961 Census when people who were temporarily absent from their usual residence were asked to name their state or territory of usual residence (or overseas if appropriate). The topic was not included in 1966 but has been included in all Censuses since 1971.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Many ABS surveys include questions on usual residence of members of the household. However, small sample sizes do not enable generation of data of sufficient accuracy for use in compiling resident population estimates for local government areas.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>8 Where does the person usually live?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For persons who usually live in another country and who are visiting Australia for less than one year, mark 'Other country'. • For other persons, 'usually live' means that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in 2006. • For persons who now have no usual address, write 'NONE' in the 'Suburb/Locality' box. • For boarders at boarding school, write the address of the boarding school or college. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The address shown on the front of this form</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in Australia – please specify address</p> <p>Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Street number</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Street name</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Suburb/Locality</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>State/Territory Postcode</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other country</p>																																																												

INTERNAL MIGRATION

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data on a person's usual residence one or five years ago, when combined with responses to the question on usual residence at Census time, provide information on the extent and patterns of internal migration of the population. Such data are used in the production of intercensal and postcensal population estimates, all of which are compiled on the basis of usual residence. In addition, as internal migration is a major component of population change for many geographic areas, the data are important in the calculation of population projections.

Coupled with information from other questions, the Census is the only source to provide information on the characteristics of the migratory population and the non-migratory population for all geographic levels.

The Census is the only source of data on usual residence one and five years ago.

Information on the internal migration patterns of the population at national, state/territory, regional and local government levels is required for many planning purposes. In particular the data are used in:

- forecasting short and medium term housing requirements
- planning transport, health and educational services
- zoning, release and development of land for residential and commercial purposes.

Demand is increasing for more regular information on internal migration particularly at the sub-state level. Census information would supply the benchmark for any future research and strategies undertaken to meet this demand.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Since 1971 people have been asked to provide the full address of their usual residence five years ago. A question on usual residence one year ago has been included since 1976. In 1991, respondents were asked only for their state of usual residence one year ago and for their full address five years ago. Full address of usual residence for both one year ago and five years ago has been asked since the 1996 Census.

Only a statistical area code, not the actual address, is stored on the computer files.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Some administrative by-product data, such as change of address information from Medicare Australia, give regular statistics on the number of movements. However, only very limited details are available on the characteristics of people who move. Such data are also subject to changes in their coverage.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>9 Where did the person usually live one year ago (at 8 August 2005)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the person is less than one year old, leave blank. • For persons who had no usual address on 8 August 2005, give the address at which they were then living. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Same as in question 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in Australia – please specify address</p> <p>Street number</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Street name</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Suburb/Locality</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td> </tr> </table> <p>State/Territory Postcode</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"><tr><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td></tr></table></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"><tr><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td></tr></table></td> </tr> </table> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other country</p>																																																										<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"><tr><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td></tr></table>					<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"><tr><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td></tr></table>						
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<p>10 Where did the person usually live five years ago (at 8 August 2001)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the person is less than five years old, leave blank. • For persons who had no usual address on 8 August 2001, give the address at which they were then living. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Same as in question 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Same as in question 9</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in Australia – please specify address</p> <p>Street number</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Street name</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Suburb/Locality</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td> </tr> </table> <p>State/Territory Postcode</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"><tr><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td></tr></table></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"><tr><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td></tr></table></td> </tr> </table> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other country</p>																																																										<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"><tr><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td></tr></table>					<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"><tr><td style="width: 20px;"> </td><td style="width: 20px;"> </td></tr></table>						
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AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information about Australian citizenship is used to monitor the take-up of Australian citizenship by the overseas born population. In addition, citizenship data are used for the costing of reciprocal social security agreements with overseas countries. The data are often cross-classified with country of birth, year of arrival and age data.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on nationality was first asked in 1921, when respondents were asked to indicate what national subject they were by means of birthplace, parentage or naturalisation. In 1966 and 1971 the term 'nationality or citizenship' was used, and from 1976 onwards the question has used the word 'citizenship'. Since 1986, the question on citizenship has been self-coding with only two response categories (Australian citizen or not).

It was proposed that the question on Australian citizenship be excluded from the 2006 Census and included again in the 2011 Census. After consultation with key users of the data, a decision was made to retain the question for the 2006 Census. The question will be included in the 2011 Census.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Census output serves as the benchmark for statistics on citizenship. This information can be updated by using:

- data on country of citizenship of settler arrivals indicated on passenger cards completed by people entering and leaving Australia
- data on the number of migrants who become Australian citizens.

Both of these sources of information have limitations because they do not provide a complete picture of the total number of citizens at any point in time, nor do they provide reliable small area data.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>11 Is the person an Australian citizen?</p> <p>• Remember to mark box like this: <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Australian citizen</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
---	--

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

USER REQUIREMENTS

The inclusion of the country of birth topic in the Census enables the ABS to maintain the accuracy of the estimated resident population by birthplace series.

Data on country of birth are critical in targeting settlement assistance to migrants. They are used for:

- the examination of the need for, and the utilisation of, health, education and other social services for migrant groups
- labour force training and recruitment
- the formulation and monitoring of many other government policies and programs related to migrants.

These needs cannot be met by data of an acceptable quality from sample surveys nor from overseas arrivals and departures statistics. The value of the data is greatly enhanced when cross-classified with data on period of residence in Australia, which allows recent migrants to be distinguished from those who arrived some time ago.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on a person's country of birth has been included in every Australian Census. Before the 1981 Census, with the exception of the 1921 Census, respondents were asked to provide details of the state or territory of birth if born in Australia, or country of birth if born overseas. In 1921 and in Censuses since 1981, state or territory details have not been required.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

A question on country of birth is included in ABS population surveys, although detailed birthplace information is not available from the surveys because of high sampling error on estimates for small geographic areas and for many small birthplace groups.

Regular statistics on overseas arrivals and departures classified by country of birth are available from the processing of passenger cards completed for each person arriving or departing Australia.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>12 In which country was the person born?</p> <p>• Remember to mark box like this: <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Australia ► Go to 14</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> England</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Italy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Viet Nam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Scotland</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greece</p> <p>Other – please specify</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 12.5%;"></td> </tr> </table>								

The list of response categories for this question is designed to reflect those countries which were reported most often in the previous Census.

YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data on year of arrival in Australia, when cross-classified with other Census data, are used to analyse changes in the characteristics of migrants to Australia over time.

Information on year of arrival, cross-classified with other Census questions, is used:

- over time, to determine changes in the characteristics of migrants
- for the separate identification of recent migrants compared with 'older' migrant groups, with the former generally requiring more services
- for analysis of various aspects of migrant participation in the labour force.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on date of first arrival in Australia, or the number of completed years of residence in Australia, has been asked of overseas-born residents in all Australian Censuses since 1911.

Since the 2001 Census the question asked overseas-born respondents to write in the year they arrived in Australia, thereby providing more detailed information than in previous Censuses.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Most ABS population surveys collect information on year of arrival for the overseas-born population. Regular statistics on overseas arrivals and departures classified by country of birth are available from passenger cards, which are required to be completed for each person entering or leaving Australia.

However, survey data cannot provide small area data, or data for the cross-classified tables on the many country of birth groups that are possible with Census results.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>13 In what year did the person first arrive in Australia to live here for one year or more?</p> <p>• For example, for arrival in 1974 write: <input type="text" value="1"/> <input type="text" value="9"/> <input type="text" value="7"/> <input type="text" value="4"/> Year</p>	<p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Will be in Australia less than one year</p>
---	---

COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARENTS (AUSTRALIA/OVERSEAS)

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data on ethnic or cultural origin are in high demand, and this information is particularly important for population groups which are unable to be identified through the questions on Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander origin, main language other than English spoken at home, country of birth, religion or ancestry. Questions on whether a person's parents were born in Australia or overseas, in conjunction with the Ancestry question, provide this information.

Country of birth of parents data are used:

- in planning the delivery of services to migrants
- in access and equity reviews
- in the allocation of resources/facilities that are made on a community basis
- to analyse the impact of migration flows from particular countries through to the second generation
- to analyse the socio-economic outcomes of the second generation
- in conjunction with ancestry data, to identify specific population groups which are unable to be identified through other ethnicity questions
- in conjunction with ancestry data, to assist in the understanding of international migration trends.

Most users require detailed data for the large number of source countries and for small areas.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on country of birth of parents was first asked in 1921. The data were used to investigate the extent of the relationship between birthplace and race of persons born in Asia who were resident in Australia. A question on country of birth of parents was not asked again until 1971 and has been asked in all subsequent Australian Censuses until 2001.

As the 2001 Census included a question on a person's ancestry, the country of birth of parents questions were replaced by questions asking whether a person's parents were born in Australia or overseas.

An Ancestry Consultative Committee was established in June 2003 to review the ancestry and country of birth of parents questions for the 2006 Census. The outcome was a recommendation that these questions be asked in a format similar to that used for the 2001 Census. These questions will again be asked in this format for the 2011 Census.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

The only regular data on country of birth of parents published by the ABS are derived from birth and marriage registrations.

There has been no detailed information about actual country of birth of parents, as opposed to Australia/Overseas only, since the 1996 Census.

There are no substitute data available at the small area level for small population groups.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>14 Was the person's father born in Australia or overseas?</p> <p>• Remember to mark box like this: <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Australia</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Overseas</p>
<p>15 Was the person's mother born in Australia or overseas?</p> <p>• Remember to mark box like this: <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Australia</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Overseas</p>

MAIN LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH SPOKEN AT HOME/PROFICIENCY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH

USER REQUIREMENTS

Questions on language use are important for a wide range of policies at the national, state and territory, and local levels. The Government's access and equity policies require language use data to be available for monitoring and implementing associated programs.

Data on languages are required:

- for the investigation and development of language services such as interpreter/translation and education
- for the implementation of national and state/territory language policies
- as an indicator of 'active' ethnicity.

Data on proficiency in English are needed for:

- the development of English teaching programs
- the development of multilingual information programs
- the provision of interpretation/translation services
- the provision of migrant welfare or community services
- a measure of successful participation in the broader Australian community.

Data on languages spoken are required at small area level and for small population groups for the planning and delivery of the services above.

Language, either alone or in combination with other characteristics, is a useful adjunct to other ethnicity related variables.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A language question was first included in 1921, asking whether the person could read and write. In 1933, the question asked whether the person could read and write a foreign language if unable to read and write English. Language was not included again until 1976, when a question on languages regularly used was included.

A question on language has been asked in each Census since the 1986 Census. From 1991, a list of response options has been provided for the question, reflecting the most common languages reported in the previous Census. Respondents are able to provide their language if it is not included in the list of response categories.

Despite not being one of the most commonly reported languages in the preceding Census, Mandarin was included in the list of response options until the 2006 Census to cover the main Chinese dialects, and to minimise the possibility of people who speak the Mandarin language opting for Cantonese in the belief that it was the only Chinese dialect available. For the 2011 Census, Mandarin will again be included in the list due to the frequency of responses in the 2006 Census.

In the lead-up to the 2006 Census, the ABS considered reformatting the language question to collect data on English and Other only, with Other being unspecified. An investigation on the modelling of language data was undertaken, using responses from related ethnicity questions from both 1996 and 2001 Censuses. The results showed sufficient quality outcomes for a range of languages at the statistical local area level.

However, the investigation also showed that some areas of the Language Classification would experience high levels of either over, or under, estimation of populations if modelling was relied upon for the derivation of language data. This was especially true for Indigenous languages. Consequently, the 2006 Census language question remained in the same format as that used in the 2001 Census. This will again be the case for the 2011 Census.

In 1981, a question was asked on proficiency in spoken English for those persons speaking a language other than English at home. A similar question has been asked on each Australian Census since 1981.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

A number of ABS surveys collect data on the main language other than English spoken at home and proficiency in spoken English.

However, surveys cannot provide small area data, or data for the cross-classified tables on the many country of birth groups that are possible with Census results.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>16 Does the person speak a language other than English <i>at home</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • If more than one language other than English, write the one that is spoken most often. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No, English only ► Go to 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Italian <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Greek <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Cantonese <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Arabic <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Vietnamese <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Mandarin <p>Yes, other – please specify</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1075 853 1422 987"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																														
<p>17 How well does the person speak <i>English</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Very well <input type="checkbox"/> Well <input type="checkbox"/> Not well <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all 																														

The list of response categories for the language question is designed to reflect those languages which were reported most often in the previous Census.

ANCESTRY

USER REQUIREMENTS

This question recognises the demand for information about ethnic or cultural origin, particularly for those groups which cannot be identified adequately through the existing questions on Aboriginal/Torres Strait islander origin, main language other than English spoken at home, religion or country of birth of parents.

Data on ancestry, in conjunction with country of birth and information about whether a person's parents were born in Australia or overseas, are used:

- to indicate the ethnic background of first and second generation Australians
- for the effective delivery of services to particular ethnic communities.

This question may also be useful in identifying the population of Australians of South Sea Islander descent. These people are the descendants of South Sea Islanders brought to Australia as indentured labour around the turn of the twentieth century and have been identified by legislation as a disadvantaged minority group.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on each person's ancestry, (i.e. ethnic or cultural origin) was asked for the first time in the 1986 Census. This was the result of investigation by the 1986 Population Census Ethnicity Committee on the need for data on ethnicity other than language, country of birth or country of birth of parents. The question was designed to identify the respondent's origin rather than a subjective perception of their ethnic background. The aim of the question was to measure the ethnic composition of the population as a whole. Evaluation showed that it was not useful for this purpose as there was a high level of subjectivity and confusion about what the question meant, particularly for those people whose families had been in Australia for many generations. Very little use was made of the ancestry data from the 1986 Census and so ancestry was not included in either the 1991 or 1996 Censuses.

As a result of user demands, the ABS established a Census Consultative Group on Ancestry in 1995 to seek user input and to identify user requirements for these data, research international practices and develop and test questions which may provide acceptable and accurate data at a reasonable cost. Testing in the lead up to the 1996 Census indicated that the same data quality problems experienced in the 1986 Census would occur. Subsequent discussions of the Consultative Group identified that the major policy issues were for those people who were either born overseas or whose parents were born overseas. For this purpose, it was determined an ancestry question in combination with a question on whether the person's parents were born in Australia or overseas would produce data of acceptable quality.

A question on ancestry has been included in each Australian Census since 2001. The concurrent restriction of the country of birth of parents question to the responses 'Australian' and 'Overseas' has limited the analysis of ancestry data.

An Ancestry Consultative Committee was again established in June 2003 to review the ancestry and country of birth of parents questions for the 2006 Census. The outcome was a recommendation that these questions be asked in a format similar to that used for the 2001 Census. This will again be the case for the 2011 Census.

As in 2006, responses to this question for the 2011 Census will be coded to the 2005-06 edition of *Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG)* (cat.no.1249.0).

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

There are no other sources of ancestry data.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>18 What is the person's ancestry?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide up to two ancestries only. • Examples of 'Other – please specify' are: GREEK, VIETNAMESE, HMONG, DUTCH, KURDISH, MAORI, LEBANESE, AUSTRALIAN SOUTH SEA ISLANDER. • See page 7 of the Census Guide for more information. • Remember to mark boxes like this: <input type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Irish <input type="checkbox"/> Italian <input type="checkbox"/> German <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish <input type="checkbox"/> Australian <p>Other – please specify</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </table>																																

The list of response categories for this question is designed to reflect those ancestries which were reported most often in the previous Census, except for Australian. Australian was moved to the bottom of the list of response options to encourage people to consider other ancestries they may have.

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

USER REQUIREMENTS

Religious organisations are the largest providers of services to the community outside those provided by governments and the Census is the only source of religious affiliation data for effective and efficient services planning.

Information on religious affiliation is widely used in the religious community, and by government agencies that provide services complementary to those provided by religious organisations.

Data on the religious affiliations of the population are required for planning the extensive range of activities and services involving religious organisations, including:

- education facilities, aged persons care, other social services and location of places of worship
- the allocation of chaplains to hospitals, prisons and the armed services
- the accreditation of marriage celebrants
- the allocation of government grants to non-government schools and religious groups, sociological research and the allocation of air time on public radio.

Information on a person's religion is also, to some extent, useful as a surrogate measure of ethnicity.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on a person's religion has been asked in all Australian Censuses. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* specifies that response to this question is optional. Despite the optional nature of the religion question, approximately 90% of respondents provided an answer in 2006.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Data on the religious affiliations of the population are not available from other sources. However, some data on religion are obtained from marriage registration forms.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>19 What is the person's religion?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answering this question is OPTIONAL. Examples of 'Other - please specify' are: SALVATION ARMY, HINDUISM, JUDAISM, HUMANISM. If no religion, mark the 'No religion' box. Remember to mark box like this: <input type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Anglican (Church of England) <input type="checkbox"/> Uniting Church <input type="checkbox"/> Presbyterian <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Orthodox <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhism <input type="checkbox"/> Baptist <input type="checkbox"/> Islam <input type="checkbox"/> Lutheran Other – please specify <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No religion
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The list of response categories for this question is designed to reflect those religions which were reported most often in the previous Census.

NEED FOR ASSISTANCE

USER REQUIREMENTS

This topic identifies people who, because of a disability, long term health condition or the effects of old age, report a need for assistance in their daily lives with at least one of the core activities of self care, mobility or communication. It was designed to be conceptually comparable to the 'profound or severe core activity limitation' variable from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. It defines a population with the greatest levels of disability and, correspondingly, the greatest need for community support.

Data on people who need assistance with a core activity are required for developing federal and state government policies and community-based programs, and for program and service delivery funding allocation. Detailed data at the small area level and for small population groups are particularly useful for this topic.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Questions relating to disabilities of respondents were included in the 1911, 1921 and 1933 Censuses. Respondents were asked to indicate whether they were deaf, dumb or blind. A more general question on the effect of disabilities was asked in 1976. However, the quality of data obtained from this question was poor and no results were released.

The ABS established a Census Consultative Group on Disability in 1995 to seek user input and to identify user requirements for these data, research international practices and develop and test disability questions which might provide acceptable and accurate data. Disability questions were not included in the 1996 and 2001 Censuses as the questions developed proved unsuitable for a self-enumerated form.

An Advisory Group on Disability was again established in 2003 to develop a suitable question for the 2006 Census and review the concepts these questions were attempting to measure.

The Advisory Group agreed that for the 2006 Census the questions on disability should be based around the concept of 'profound or severe core activity limitation' using similar criteria to the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. Testing of the new questions indicated that the data would be of an acceptable quality for use as an indicator of the target population. This will again be the case for the 2011 Census.

COMMENT

While this topic is based on the criteria used in the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, the population measured is different as a result of the collapsed question format and different collection methodology. On this basis, data for this topic should be taken as an indication of the characteristics of people who report a need for assistance, due to a disability, long-term health condition or old age, not as the total population prevalence of people with a 'profound or severe core activity limitation' as represented in the survey data.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Survey data about disability are available from:

- *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2003* (cat. no. 4430.0).

A range of data about disability is also available from ABS household surveys which incorporate a short Disability Module in their questionnaires. This module has been designed to provide information on the characteristics of people with disabilities and to allow for the comparison of populations with and without disability. The most recent collections that include the Disability Module are:

- General Social Survey
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
- Time Use Survey
- the National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA *continued*

However, these surveys do not provide reliable data at the small area level or for small population groups.

Non-ABS data are available from Centrelink and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in relation to recipients of relevant pensions and benefits. However, this data is not a good indicator of the prevalence of disability in the population as not all people with disabilities receive a pension or benefit. Data on recipients of disability services are available from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>20 Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, self care activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example: doing everyday activities such as eating, showering, dressing or toileting. • See page 9 of the Census Guide for more information. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>21 Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, body movement activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example: getting out of bed, moving around at home or at places away from home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>22 Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, communication activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example: understanding, or being understood by, others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>23 What are the reasons for the need for assistance or supervision shown in questions 20, 21 and 22?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark all applicable reasons. • Remember to mark boxes like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No need for help or supervision <input type="checkbox"/> Short-term health condition (lasting less than six months) <input type="checkbox"/> Long-term health condition (lasting six months or more) <input type="checkbox"/> Disability (lasting six months or more) <input type="checkbox"/> Old or young age <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty with English language <input type="checkbox"/> Other cause

ATTENDANCE AT AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

USER REQUIREMENTS

Users require data on demographic, family, economic and social characteristics of people attending particular types of educational institutions. Information on whether a person is attending an educational institution is used for education and labour market planning. It identifies the current educational participation activities of respondents.

Information on full-time students aged 15–24 years is used:

- for identifying dependent children in families
- by education planners to compare the current participation levels of small groups in the population
- to assist in developing policies affecting the labour market
- to develop policies affecting the labour market for young people in particular.

Data on the relationship between participation in education and labour market activities are required for governments to monitor the impact of their policies and programs relating to people in the labour market. While much of this need is met by surveys, the Census provides data for small areas and for small population groups which are unavailable elsewhere.

Data on type of institution being attended further enhance analysis by indicating the participation of different groups in the population in the various levels of education.

The Census provides a wider range of information on the characteristics of students than is currently available from administrative sources. This topic is considered to be of high priority by education planners at federal, state and community level and is used as input into decisions on the allocation of funds for schools.

Significant changes are occurring in education participation and further changes are anticipated. Data from this question when cross-classified with other Census variables are very important in monitoring these changes as they occur.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Questions enabling the identification of full-time and part-time students have been included in recent Censuses. Questions on the type of educational institution being attended by students have also been asked in a number of Censuses to enable comprehensive statistics to be produced on the characteristics of people attending various types of educational institutions.

Due to structural changes in the higher education system, some changes in terminology were made in 1996 for the type of educational institution question. Catholic and Other non-government primary and secondary schools were also separately identified. These changes were retained for subsequent Censuses.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Monthly labour force surveys ask people whether or not they are attending school. Data on school and tertiary attendance for people aged 15–64 are also available from *Education and Work, Australia* (cat. no. 6227.0).

Information on attendance at an educational institution is also regularly collected in household surveys, including:

- Survey of Education and Training
- General Social Survey
- Multipurpose Household Survey
- National Health Survey
- Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
- Time Use Survey
- Family Characteristics Survey.

However, survey data are not reliable at the small area level or for small population groups.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA *continued*

Administrative data provide detailed information on age participation rates at school for contemporary students, and the highest year of schooling completed. This item is also embedded into the AUSTRALIAN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING MANAGEMENT INFORMATION STATISTICAL STANDARD, for the collection of administrative vocational education and training statistics by training providers.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>24 Is the person attending a school or any other educational institution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include pre-school and external or correspondence students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> No ► Go to 26 <input type="radio"/> Yes, full-time student <input type="radio"/> Yes, part-time student
<p>25 What type of educational institution is the person attending?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • Include external or correspondence students. • Include secondary colleges and senior high schools under the 'Secondary school' category. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Pre-school Infants/Primary school <input type="radio"/> Government <input type="radio"/> Catholic <input type="radio"/> Other non-government Secondary school <input type="radio"/> Government <input type="radio"/> Catholic <input type="radio"/> Other non-government Tertiary institution <input type="radio"/> Technical or further educational institution (including TAFE Colleges) <input type="radio"/> University or other higher educational institution <input type="radio"/> Other educational institution

HIGHEST YEAR OF SCHOOLING COMPLETED

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information on highest year of schooling completed is particularly important because of the extent of change occurring in education participation and the labour market. It is also an important indicator of educational need and disadvantage at the small area level and for small population groups.

Data on highest year of school completed are primarily required for:

- determining level and main field of highest educational attainment
- assessing the likely usefulness of extension courses or other educational programs and assessing demand for university education
- determining disadvantage for particular socioeconomic groups such as Indigenous peoples and recently arrived migrants
- planning and profiling at the small area level and in the analysis of student pathways.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question relating to level of school attainment was first asked in 1966 when a question on the highest level of schooling was included. In 1976 the question was changed to age left school to overcome reporting problems due to the lack of standardisation of schooling across state/territories and different systems used overseas.

Given that standardised schooling in Australia has been in place for a number of years a question on highest level of school completed was included in the 2001 Census. The question also included the category of 'still at school'.

The 'still at school' response category was removed for the 2006 Census to enable level of highest educational attainment (which relies on information about highest year of school completed and highest non-school qualification) to be determined for people still at school. People attending secondary school can be identified by cross-classifying responses from this question with the two attendance at an educational institution questions.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Statistics on highest year of school completed are collected annually for persons aged 15-64 in the Survey of Education and Work, results released in:

- *Education and Work, Australia* (cat. no. 6227.0).

Highest year of school completed is also regularly collected in household surveys, including:

- Survey of Education and Training
- General Social Survey
- Multipurpose Household Survey
- National Health Survey
- Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
- Time Use Survey
- Family Characteristics Survey.

However, survey data are not reliable at the small area level or for small population groups.

Administrative data provide detailed information on age participation rates at school for contemporary students, and the highest year of schooling completed. This item is also embedded into the AUSTRALIAN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING MANAGEMENT INFORMATION STATISTICAL STANDARD, for the collection of administrative vocational education and training statistics by training providers.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>27 What is the highest year of primary or secondary school the person has <i>completed</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark one box only.• For persons who returned after a break to complete their schooling, mark the highest year completed when they last left.• See page 10 of the Census Guide for more information about year equivalents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Year 12 or equivalent<input type="radio"/> Year 11 or equivalent<input type="radio"/> Year 10 or equivalent<input type="radio"/> Year 9 or equivalent<input type="radio"/> Year 8 or below<input type="radio"/> Did not go to school
--	---

NON-SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information about qualifications is used, in particular, to support planning and policy development in the areas of education, training and employment. This is an area of significant public policy discussion and expenditure.

Data on educational qualifications are important for the assessment of the skill level of the labour force and are therefore valuable for the planning and implementation of the labour force training programs. The data are used as a basis for the preparation of the 'Occupational Demand Schedule' for use by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in recruiting skilled migrants.

The data are also used extensively in such areas as:

- labour force analysis, planning and policy formulation
- modelling employment projections
- assessment of performance of the education sector against government targets
- monitoring long term outcomes of school education and lifelong learning
- international comparisons and benchmarking
- equity assessment and provision of educational services
- studies of skill wastage or underutilisation
- vocational education and training policy formation and planning of courses
- assisting in determining education demand and educational programs
- matching educational investment with industry development.

Some users require data on level of qualifications as a general indicator of education advantage for use in socioeconomic analysis of groups in the population.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

An education question in which respondents reported their highest level of attainment was included in the 1911 Census. However, a question directly asking about educational qualifications was not included until 1966 when respondents were asked to provide their qualification name and the institution at which it was obtained. Since 1971, people aged 15 or over have been asked whether they have obtained a non-school qualification and, if they have, the level of the highest qualification they have obtained, the field of study and the year it was obtained (while specific year was collected prior to the 2006 Census, since that time respondents have been asked to indicate whether their qualification was completed prior to 1998, or from 1998 onwards). These three items enable the highest non-school qualification to be coded to a detailed classification incorporating both level and field of study.

Qualifications data in both the 1991 and 1996 Censuses were classified to the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ)* (cat. no. 1262.0).

Following developments in education and training and the introduction of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) (see the *Information Paper Measuring Learning in Australia - A Framework for Education and Training Statistics*, cat. no. 4213.0), the *Australian Standard Classification of Education, (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0) was introduced in 2001. ASCED comprises two components: level of education and field of education. For the 2001 Census, question wording, instructions and examples were modified to accommodate the AQF and the introduction of the ASCED.

For the 2006 Census, the year completed question was reworded to ask if the qualification was obtained before 1998 or from 1998 onward, with 1998 being the year the AQF was introduced. The distinction between certificates awarded pre 1998 and from 1998 is also used to assist in coding some certificates to finer levels of the ASCED classification.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION *continued*

A question asking for the name of the institution where the person's highest non-school qualification was completed has not been asked since the 2006 Census. In previous Censuses, this data was used to assist in coding the person's highest non-school qualification but its removal had minimal impact on the quality of the coding.

COMMENTS

Questions on qualifications generally have a relatively high level of non-response. However, analysis shows that this is mostly from those without qualifications and therefore the Census data remain relevant to the users.

There are also problems with interpreting level and main field of highest non-school qualification responses, particularly for overseas qualifications, qualifications obtained some time ago and where inadequate descriptions are provided by respondents.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Monthly labour force surveys ask people about the level and field of their highest educational qualification. Data on level and field of highest educational attainment for people aged 15-64 are also available from the Survey of Education and Work, results released in:

■ *Education and Work, Australia* (cat. no. 6227.0).

Information on non-school qualifications is also regularly collected in household surveys, including:

- Survey of Education and Training
- General Social Survey
- Multipurpose Household Survey
- National Health Survey
- Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
- Time Use Survey
- Family Characteristics Survey.

However, these surveys do not provide reliable data at the small area level or small population groups.

Administrative data provide detailed information on non-school qualifications. These items are also embedded into the AUSTRALIAN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING MANAGEMENT INFORMATION STATISTICAL STANDARD, for the collection of administrative vocational education and training statistics by training providers.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>28 Has the person <i>completed</i> any educational qualification (including a trade certificate)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • See page 10 of the Census Guide for more information on the treatment of AQF or vocational certificates. 	<p><input type="radio"/> No ► Go to 32</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No, still studying for first qualification ► Go to 32</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, trade certificate/ apprenticeship</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, other qualification</p>																																																		
<p>29 What is the level of the <i>highest</i> qualification the person has <i>completed</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example: TRADE CERTIFICATE, BACHELOR DEGREE, ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA, CERTIFICATE II, ADVANCED DIPLOMA. 	<p>Level of qualification</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1075 607 1422 790"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																																																		
<p>30 What is the main field of study for the person's <i>highest</i> qualification <i>completed</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example: PLUMBING, HISTORY, PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHING, HAIRDRESSING, GREENKEEPING. 	<p>Field of study</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1075 869 1422 1052"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																																																		
<p>31 Did the person <i>complete</i> this qualification before 1998?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, before 1998</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, 1998 or later</p>																																																		

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN

USER REQUIREMENTS

Census data on number of children ever born are required for investigations into the levels of life time fertility and differences across various population groups such as Indigenous Australians, migrants, people in different socioeconomic situations, and birth year cohorts of all Australian women.

Given the focus on Australia's demographic future, with an ageing population and a fertility rate currently below the level required to replace the population over the long-term, reliable data on these issues are important for government policy, program development and evaluation.

Data on number of children ever born are required for:

- measurement of lifetime childlessness among women
- a wide range of community decision-making and planning, such as child, family, and aged care policies.

In conjunction with ABS birth statistics (based on birth registration information from State and Territory Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages), data on number of children ever born from the Population Census provide information for formulating assumptions on future fertility trends for use in population projections for Australia and regions of Australia.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on the number of children ever born was asked in nearly all Australian Censuses up until and including 1986. After the 1986 Census, it was determined that data on this topic were not needed every five years, and subsequently the question was not included in the 1991 and 2001 Censuses, but was asked in the 1996 and 2006 Censuses. Consistent with the decision that questions for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing be comparable to those asked in the 2006 Census (see 'User Consultation', Chapter 1) this topic will again be asked in the 2011 Census.

Data are not collected for females under 15 years due to the low prevalence of births occurring in this age range.

COMMENTS

The term 'fertility' is commonly used to refer to the biological capacity to, or the occurrence of conceiving and becoming pregnant. However, the Census aims to provide a measure of 'demographic fertility', which is related to the number of live born babies each woman has had during her life to the Census date.

The ABS recognises the importance of obtaining accurate data on the total number of babies born to each female, whether live or stillborn. As Australia has high quality death registration statistics and particularly perinatal statistics, it is not necessary to include a question on the Census on the number of stillborn babies. The ABS reports the number of stillbirths (fetal deaths) annually based on perinatal death certificates and birth registrations lodged with the State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. These data have been released in *Causes of Death, Australia* (cat. no. 3303.0) and are published in *Perinatal Deaths, Australia* (cat. no. 3304.0) for 2007 data onwards.

Data are also available through the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's National Perinatal Statistics Unit and published in the annual report *Australia's Mothers and Babies*. Reports are also published by state and territory Health Departments. In addition, there are a range of specific surveys on women's health, family formation and history and related topics.

The ABS has assessed that together, these data are suitable for monitoring trends in stillbirths and perinatal deaths without including an additional question on the Census.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Some information on the number of children ever born was collected by a household survey and published in *Family Characteristics and Transitions, Australia, 2006-07* (cat. no. 4442.0). Survey information for women of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin is also available through the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2004-05* (cat. no. 4715.0) and relates to whether the woman has ever had children.

However, these surveys do not provide data for small areas, small population groups, or for single year age cohorts.

ABS birth registrations data provide information on births and the mothers of those births in specific years and, for some states and territories, the number of previous births to mothers, but not with the range of characteristics available from the Census. As these data relate to births to mothers in specific years only, they do not provide a complete measure of lifetime fertility of all women in Australia.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>32 For each female, how many babies has she ever given birth to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include live births only. • Exclude adopted, foster and step children. • See page 11 of the Census Guide for more information. 	<p><input type="text"/> Number of babies</p> <p><input type="radio"/> None</p>
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INCOME (INDIVIDUAL)

USER REQUIREMENTS

Census data on income are important as an indicator of relative advantage and disadvantage and economic wellbeing for small areas and small population groups. While there is a tendency for incomes to be slightly understated in the Census, the distribution is largely consistent with that obtained from the ABS income and expenditure surveys.

Data on income are required:

- for public and private sector planning activities, for small population groups and small geographic areas. In particular they help identify the location of the economically disadvantaged for planning social services
- at the broad level, as an indicator of economic wellbeing. It is usually cross-classified with other Census variables.

For many purposes, household income is the preferred data item. Household income is used as the main indicator of economic wellbeing and is currently derived from individual incomes that are reported in ranges.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on income was first asked in the 1933 Census in an attempt to measure the effects of the Depression. It was reintroduced in 1976 and for all subsequent Censuses. Each person aged 15 years or older was asked to indicate the range within which their gross income from all sources lies. Statistics on personal, family and household income are produced from this question.

Since 1996, categories for nil and negative income have been provided to overcome an apparent cause of non-response. To ensure that the 'nil income' category did not lead to biased results, the highest income categories were listed first.

For the 2006 Census, the number of income response categories was reduced. Ranges were adjusted in line with rises in income since the 2001 Census and an additional range for higher incomes was added. This will again be the case for 2011. As in previous Censuses, income ranges will be updated for the 2011 Census.

COMMENTS

Testing of the topic has shown that there is some tendency for those not in the labour force to leave this question unanswered, as they consider income only applies to payments received as a result of employment. Similarly, pensioners and self funded retirees sometimes state that they receive no income as they do not regard their pension as income.

Family and household income are derived from data on individual incomes of members of families and households. Only the incomes of people present on Census Night are included, due to the collection and processing difficulties involved in accounting for people temporarily absent.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Data on income are available from surveys of household income conducted regularly by the ABS. The Survey of Income and Housing is conducted biennially and the results are available from:

- *Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2005-06* (cat. no. 6523.0).

A question on income is asked in most household surveys for use as a classificatory variable. Household income is available from most surveys. However, surveys are not able to produce reliable data for small area levels or small population groups.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>33 What is the <i>total</i> of all wages/salaries, government benefits, pensions, allowances and other income the person <i>usually</i> receives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARK ONE BOX ONLY. • Do <i>not</i> deduct: tax, superannuation contributions, health insurance, amounts salary sacrificed, or any other automatic deductions. • Include the following: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; padding-right: 10px;"> <p>Pensions/Allowances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> family tax benefit parenting payment unemployment benefits Newstart allowance rent assistance pensions student allowances maintenance (child support) workers' compensation any other pensions/allowances </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Other income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> interest dividends rents (exclude expenses of operation) business/farm income (exclude expenses of operation) income from superannuation any other income <p>Wages/salaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> regular overtime commissions and bonuses </td> </tr> </table> • Information from this question provides an indication of living standards in different areas. 	<p>Pensions/Allowances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> family tax benefit parenting payment unemployment benefits Newstart allowance rent assistance pensions student allowances maintenance (child support) workers' compensation any other pensions/allowances 	<p>Other income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> interest dividends rents (exclude expenses of operation) business/farm income (exclude expenses of operation) income from superannuation any other income <p>Wages/salaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> regular overtime commissions and bonuses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000 or more per week (\$104,000 or more per year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,600 - \$1,999 per week (\$83,200 - \$103,999 per year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,300 - \$1,599 per week (\$67,600 - \$83,199 per year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 - \$1,299 per week (\$52,000 - \$67,599 per year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$800 - \$999 per week (\$41,600 - \$51,999 per year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$600 - \$799 per week (\$31,200 - \$41,599 per year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$400 - \$599 per week (\$20,800 - \$31,199 per year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 - \$399 per week (\$13,000 - \$20,799 per year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 - \$249 per week (\$7,800 - \$12,999 per year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$1 - \$149 per week (\$1 - \$7,799 per year) <input type="checkbox"/> Nil income <input type="checkbox"/> Negative income
<p>Pensions/Allowances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> family tax benefit parenting payment unemployment benefits Newstart allowance rent assistance pensions student allowances maintenance (child support) workers' compensation any other pensions/allowances 	<p>Other income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> interest dividends rents (exclude expenses of operation) business/farm income (exclude expenses of operation) income from superannuation any other income <p>Wages/salaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> regular overtime commissions and bonuses 		

LABOUR FORCE STATUS

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information about the labour force is essential for a wide range of social and economic policy and planning purposes. The Census is the only source of data on labour force status at the small area level and for small population groups.

The questions used to determine a person's labour force status enable:

- each person aged 15 years or over to be classified as either in the labour force or not in the labour force
- people in the labour force to be classified as employed or unemployed
- employed people to be classified as full-time or part-time.

Users require this information to provide:

- benchmarks for assessing labour force changes for small geographic areas and small population groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, migrants from particular countries, various age groups, etc.
- data on people not in the labour force.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Data on labour force status, and status in employment, have been obtained in every Census since 1911. In recent Censuses, respondents were asked to answer a series of questions from which labour force status was derived.

Since the 1996 Census, a question about availability to start work has been included so that counts of unemployed people in the Census are more comparable with data collected in the ABS Monthly Labour Force Survey.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Official estimates on the labour force status of the civilian population aged 15 years and over are available from the ABS Monthly Labour Force Survey, results released in:

- *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0 and associated electronic products 6291.0.55.001 and 6291.0.55.003).

While regular ABS household surveys provide data on the labour force status of people, the need for such data at small area level and for small population groups can only be met by inclusion of the topic in the Census.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>34 <i>Last week, did the person have a full-time or part-time job of any kind?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • A 'job' means any type of work including casual, temporary, or part-time work, if it was for one hour or more. • See page 12 of the Census Guide for more information. • Remember to mark box like this: <input type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, worked for payment or profit <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but absent on holidays, on paid leave, on strike, or temporarily stood down <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, unpaid work in a family business ► Go to 38 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, other unpaid work ► Go to 46 <input type="checkbox"/> No, did not have a job ► Go to 46
<p>35 <i>In the main job held last week, was the person:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • If the person had more than one job last week, then 'main job' refers to the job in which the person usually works the most hours. • For all persons conducting their own business, including those with their own incorporated (e.g. Pty Ltd) company, as well as sole traders, partnerships and contractors, mark the second box. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Working for an employer? ► Go to 38 <input type="checkbox"/> Working in own business? ► Go to 36
<p>36 <i>Was the person's business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • Incorporated means a limited liability company. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Unincorporated? <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated (e.g. Pty Ltd)?
<p>37 <i>Does the person's business employ people?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No, no employees <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 1 - 19 employees <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 20 or more employees
<p>46 <i>Did the person actively look for work at any time in the last four weeks?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of actively looking for work include: being registered with Centrelink as a job seeker; checking or registering with any other employment agency; writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; or advertising for work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No, did not look for work ► Go to 48 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, looked for full-time work <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, looked for part-time work
<p>47 <i>If the person had found a job, could the person have started work last week?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember to mark box like this: <input type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, could have started work last week <input type="checkbox"/> No, already had a job to go to <input type="checkbox"/> No, temporarily ill or injured <input type="checkbox"/> No, other reason

EMPLOYMENT TYPE

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information about employment type is important for a wide range of social and economic policy and planning purposes. It is needed to understand the characteristics of the workforce, and the extent of self employment. The Census is the only source of data on type of employment at the small area level and for small population groups.

The questions on employment type are used to determine:

- the characteristics of the workforce and the extent of self employment (whether working for an incorporated or unincorporated enterprise)
- the number of employees excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises
- small business owners regardless of whether they are employed in that business or otherwise.

This is different to status in employment, which only allows the identification of owner managers in unincorporated enterprises (employer/own account worker). See next topic for further information on status of employment.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A series of questions to determine employment type was added to the Census for the first time in 2006. The questions identify whether a person is an employee not working in their own business, an owner manager of an incorporated or unincorporated enterprise, or a contributing family worker. The inclusion of these questions improved consistency between the Census and labour related household surveys.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Information on employment type is collected in household surveys, including:

- the six-yearly Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation results released in *Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia, April to July 2007* (reissue) (cat. no. 6361.0)
- labour force supplementary surveys (such as Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership and Forms of Employment).

However, these surveys do not provide reliable data at the small area level or for small population groups.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>34 <i>Last week, did the person have a full-time or part-time job of any kind?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • A 'job' means any type of work including casual, temporary, or part-time work, if it was for one hour or more. • See page 12 of the Census Guide for more information. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, worked for payment or profit <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but absent on holidays, on paid leave, on strike, or temporarily stood down <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, unpaid work in a family business ► Go to 38 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, other unpaid work ► Go to 46 <input type="checkbox"/> No, did not have a job ► Go to 46
<p>35 <i>In the main job held last week, was the person:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • If the person had more than one job last week, then 'main job' refers to the job in which the person usually works the most hours. • For all persons conducting their own business, including those with their own incorporated (e.g. Pty Ltd) company, as well as sole traders, partnerships and contractors, mark the second box. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Working for an employer? ► Go to 38 <input type="checkbox"/> Working in own business? ► Go to 36
<p>36 <i>Was the person's business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • Incorporated means a limited liability company. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Unincorporated? <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated (e.g. Pty Ltd)?
<p>37 <i>Does the person's business employ people?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No, no employees <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 1 - 19 employees <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 20 or more employees

STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information about status in employment is essential for a wide range of social and economic policy and planning purposes. The Census is the only source of data on status in employment at the small area level and for small population groups.

The questions used to determine a person's status in employment enable:

- employed people to be classified as either an employee, an employer, an own account worker, or a contributing family worker
- assessment of the characteristics of the workforce and the extent of self employment
- determination of the number of owner managers of unincorporated enterprises who employ people (employers) and those that do not (own account worker).

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Data on status in employment have been obtained in every Census since 1911. Changes were made to the status in employment question for the 2001 Census to enable more accurate collection of data. Changes included the addition of an explanatory dot point for persons working in their own limited liability company and changes to response categories.

For 2006, the status of employment questions were changed to make them more consistent with the Labour Force Survey, and to provide more detail on people working in their own businesses.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Data on status in employment of people for states and territories are available from the ABS Monthly Labour Force Survey results released in:

- *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0 and associated electronic products 6291.0.55.001 and 6291.0.55.003).

While regular ABS household surveys provide data on the status in employment of people, the need for such data at small area level and for small groups of the population can only be met by inclusion of the topic in the Census.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>34 <i>Last week, did the person have a full-time or part-time job of any kind?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • A 'job' means any type of work including casual, temporary, or part-time work, if it was for one hour or more. • See page 12 of the Census Guide for more information. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, worked for payment or profit <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but absent on holidays, on paid leave, on strike, or temporarily stood down <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, unpaid work in a family business ► Go to 38 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, other unpaid work ► Go to 46 <input type="checkbox"/> No, did not have a job ► Go to 46
<p>35 <i>In the main job held last week, was the person:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • If the person had more than one job last week, then 'main job' refers to the job in which the person usually works the most hours. • For all persons conducting their own business, including those with their own incorporated (e.g. Pty Ltd) company, as well as sole traders, partnerships and contractors, mark the second box. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Working for an employer? ► Go to 38 <input type="checkbox"/> Working in own business? ► Go to 36
<p>36 <i>Was the person's business:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • Incorporated means a limited liability company. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Unincorporated? <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated (e.g. Pty Ltd)?
<p>37 <i>Does the person's business employ people?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No, no employees <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 1 - 19 employees <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 20 or more employees

OCCUPATION

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data about occupation are required for a wide range of social and economic policy and planning purposes. Information is required for small geographic areas and for finely classified occupations.

Detailed occupation data are needed to analyse current and potential imbalances in the supply and demand for labour with varying skills at the national, regional and local area levels. These analyses:

- provide input to the development of policies and programs in the fields of education, training, immigration, industry and industrial relations
- are useful for monitoring changes taking place in specific occupational labour markets
- allow the identification of areas (geographically and in the labour force) of skill shortage, in combination with industry and qualification data.

The usefulness of data on occupation is considerably enhanced when analysed with detailed data on industry of employment and qualifications.

Small area and regional data about the structure of the labour market are required for advising governments (at all levels) and their agencies responsible for delivering programs and providing services at a regional level. Occupation data are also used to provide measures of socioeconomic status at the small area level.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A variety of questions on occupation have been included in all previous Censuses. Occupation data were coded using AUSTRALIAN STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS (ASCO) for the first time in 1986. An additional question on the main tasks or duties that a person usually performs in his or her job was included to assist in the coding of occupations at the unit group level. *Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO), 2nd edition* (cat. no. 1220.0) was used to code the occupation data for the 2001 Census.

For the 2006 Census, occupation data were dual coded using the ASCO 2nd edition and the revised classification - *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)* (cat. no. 1220.0). For 2011, data will be coded to the ANZSCO only.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

A question on occupation is included each quarter in the ABS Labour Force Survey. In addition, unemployed people in this survey are asked each quarter for their previous occupation of employment (if their last job was less than 2 years ago). Results from the survey are released in:

- *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0 and associated electronic products 6291.0.55.001 and 6291.0.55.003).

A range of labour force supplementary surveys provide the occupation of important sub groups of the population such as people not in the labour force (occupation of last job less than 20 years ago) and underemployed workers.

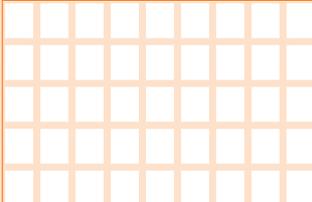
Information is also available from ABS Special Social Surveys and professional registration boards. Occupation of main, second, third and fourth job is collected in the six-yearly Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, results released in:

- *Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, Australia* (cat. no. 6361.0).

However, survey data are not reliable at the small area level or for small population groups.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>38 In the main job held <i>last week</i>, what was the person's occupation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give full title. • For example: CHILDCARE AIDE, MATHS TEACHER, PASTRY COOK, TANNING MACHINE OPERATOR, APPRENTICE TOOLMAKER, SHEEP AND WHEAT FARMER. • For public servants, provide official designation and occupation. • For armed services personnel, provide rank and occupation. 	<p>Occupation</p> 
<p>39 What are the main tasks that the person usually performs in the occupation reported at Question 38?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give full details. • For example: LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN AT A DAY CARE CENTRE, TEACHING SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, MAKING CAKES AND PASTRIES, OPERATING LEATHER TANNING MACHINE, LEARNING TO MAKE AND REPAIR TOOLS AND DIES, RUNNING A SHEEP AND WHEAT FARM. • For managers, provide main activities managed. 	<p>Tasks or duties</p> 

GOVERNMENT/NON-GOVERNMENT EMPLOYER

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information about whether an employer is in the government or private sector is used in the analysis of employment by the various tiers of government and non-government organisations.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A question on institutional sector has been included in one form or another in all Censuses. Government/non-government employer is obtained from the employer's business name.

Prior to the 2006 Census government/non-government employer was a component of institutional sector.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

A range of labour force surveys and other ABS collections include data related to levels of government or private sector at the national, state and regional level.

Only a small number of household surveys contain sector of main job as a data item. These are:

- the Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership Survey, results released annually in *Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia* (cat. no. 6310.0)
- the six yearly Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, results released in *Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia (reissue)* (cat. no. 6361.0).

However, detailed survey data are subject to high sampling variability.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>40 For the main job held <i>last week</i>, what was the employer's business name?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For self-employed persons, write name of business. For teachers, write name of school. 	<p>Business name</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </table>																																																																

WORKPLACE ADDRESS

USER REQUIREMENTS

The coding of address of place of work to destination zones allows Census data to be produced on journey to work patterns and on daytime populations of specified areas.

When the question on workplace address is cross-classified with usual residence at Census time, journey to work data can be obtained. These data are used by policy makers, including transport authorities for:

- the analysis of travel patterns within major metropolitan areas particularly in relation to concentration in peak periods
- the modelling of fuel usage
- the forecasting of public transport patronage
- the analysis of catchment areas for transport routes
- transport planning including road usage, particularly in relation to direction and magnitude of journeys.

The data also assist policy makers in planning for:

- transport systems
- industrial development
- the release of residential and industrial land.

Information on daytime populations is required for:

- analysis of the distribution of industry across regions
- planning of private and public facilities in employment centres.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The questions which enable the derivation of journey to work have been included since the 1971 Census.

There is no specific question addressing this topic. Rather, journey to work is a topic derived from coding address of usual residence and address of workplace to obtain origins and destinations of employed people travelling to work.

Since the 2001 Census, the workplace address of the person has been required rather than employer's workplace address. This was designed to encourage respondents to give their actual workplace address rather than a head office.

From the 2006 Census, the question asking for the person's workplace address has been expanded to include building/property name.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Some information on journey to work is available from the 2006 ABS Time Use Survey, results released in:

- *How Australians Use Their Time, Australia, 2006*, (cat. no. 4153.0).

No data are available on this topic for small areas from other ABS sources.

Each State Transport Authority collects survey data for its capital city/metropolitan area on a regular basis. Victoria Transport is investigating the use of their public transport ticketing and traffic light datasets to supplement ABS data.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>8 Where does the person usually live?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For persons who usually live in another country and who are visiting Australia for less than one year, mark 'Other country'. • For other persons, 'usually live' means that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in 2006. • For persons who now have no usual address, write 'NONE' in the 'Suburb/Locality' box. • For boarders at boarding school, write the address of the boarding school or college. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The address shown on the front of this form</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in Australia – please specify address</p> <p>Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Street number</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Street name</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Suburb/Locality</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>State/Territory Postcode</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other country</p>																																												
<p>41 For the main job held <i>last week</i>, what was the person's workplace address?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For persons who usually worked from home, write the home address. • For persons with no fixed place of work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if the person usually travels to a depot to start work, write the depot address; - otherwise write 'NONE' in 'Suburb/Locality' box. • This information is used to calculate daytime populations and to plan transport activities. 	<p>Street number</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Street name</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Suburb/Locality</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>State/Territory Postcode</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Building/Property name (if any)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25px;"></td> </tr> </table>																																												

INDUSTRY

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data on the geographic distribution of industry employment are needed to monitor changes and provide a basis for social and economic policy and planning. The Census is the only source of industry data at the detailed level for most industries and for small areas and enables cross-classification with other employee characteristics (such as qualifications or occupation).

Data on industry are required for:

- analysis and monitoring of the rate of structural change at a national and local area level
- analysis of the demographic and labour force characteristics of employees in industries and in locations which are facing structural change
- identification of areas (geographically and in the labour force) of skill shortage in combination with occupation and qualification data
- provision of advice to governments (at all levels), and their agencies responsible for delivering programs and providing services at a regional level.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on the industry of a person's employment has been included in one form or another in all Censuses. The industry coding for the 2001 Census used the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993* (cat. no. 1292.0).

There were several changes to the topic for 2006, including:

- rewording the industry question to align industry responses more closely with ANZSIC classification principles
- dual coding of industry responses, to both 1993 ANZSIC and the revised 2006 *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)* (cat. no. 1292.0).

For the 2011 Census, minor updates will be made to response categories for the industry question for consistency with categories in the 2006 ANZSIC. Pubs will be removed from the response category containing cafes and restaurants and replaced by take-aways. Take-aways will be removed from the retailing response category. Industry responses will be coded to the 2006 ANZSIC.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

A question on industry is included each quarter in the ABS Labour Force Survey, and data is output at the ANZSIC group level. Unemployed people in this survey are asked each quarter for their previous industry of employment (if their last job was less than 2 years ago). Results from the survey are released in:

- *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0 and associated electronic products 6291.0.55.001 and 6291.0.55.003).

However, detailed survey data are subject to high sampling variability.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>42 Which best describes the <i>industry or business</i> of the employer at the location where the person works?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • Examples of 'Other – please specify' are: REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, FINANCE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesaling <input type="checkbox"/> Retailing (incl. Take-aways) <input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation <input type="checkbox"/> Pubs, cafes and restaurants <input type="checkbox"/> Road freight transport <input type="checkbox"/> House construction <input type="checkbox"/> Health service <input type="checkbox"/> Community care service <p>Other – please specify</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1077 801 1417 936"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																																																		
<p>43 What are the <i>main goods produced or main services provided</i> by the employer's <i>business</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe as fully as possible, using two words or more. • For example: WHEAT AND SHEEP, BUS CHARTER, HEALTH INSURANCE, PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION, CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY SERVICE, HOUSE BUILDING, STEEL PIPES. 	<p>Goods produced/services provided</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1077 1014 1417 1283"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																																																		

HOURS WORKED

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information on hours worked, classified by industry and occupation, is required by labour market economists to analyse changes in the labour force within small geographic regions and for small groups such as Indigenous people, migrants, sole parents and specific age groups. Survey data are inadequate for such analysis.

The information is also important for users:

- by labour market economists, to analyse changes in the labour force within small geographic regions and for small groups
- as a cross-classifier for labour force variables
- to derive a classification of full-time and part-time work
- for the study of changing part-time employment, work patterns and growth in leisure
- to estimate child care needs.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question relating to the number of hours worked by employed people has been asked in each Census since 1966 but has varied depending on whether only the main job or all jobs are included.

Since the 1996 Census, the question has referred to all jobs rather than being restricted to the main job, providing greater comparability with data from other sources.

From the 2001 Census onwards, respondents have been asked to write in the actual number of hours worked, thereby providing more detailed information.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Information is collected on the number of hours worked as part of:

- the ABS Monthly Labour Force Survey, results released in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0 and associated electronic products 6291.0.55.001 and 6291.0.55.003)
- the six-yearly Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, 2007, results released in *Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia* (cat. no. 6361.0). (This survey includes actual hours worked all jobs, main job, second, third and fourth job.)
- the two yearly Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours, results released in *Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia* (cat. no. 6306.0). This survey collects information on paid hours.

However, none of these collections provide data for small population groups or small geographic areas

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>44 <i>Last week, how many hours did the person work in all jobs?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add any overtime or extra time worked and subtract any time off. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Hours worked </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> None </div>
--	---

MODE OF TRAVEL TO WORK

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information about how people travel to work is mainly used in conjunction with usual address and workplace address data for transport planning in general. Data are also used to:

- identify public transport customer groups
- measure public transport patronage
- assist in energy conservation studies.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on mode of travel to work was asked for the first time in the 1976 Census. It has been repeated in all subsequent Censuses with slight modifications. Since the 2001 Census question, light rail and truck have been included as response categories.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

There are no ABS surveys which collect information about mode of travel to work.

Some data are available from public transport records and surveys undertaken by State Transport Authorities.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>45 How did the person get to work on Tuesday, 8 August 2006?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the person used more than one method of travel to work, mark all methods used. • Remember to mark boxes like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Train <input type="checkbox"/> Bus <input type="checkbox"/> Ferry <input type="checkbox"/> Tram (including Light Rail) <input type="checkbox"/> Taxi <input type="checkbox"/> Car – as driver <input type="checkbox"/> Car – as passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Motorbike or motor scooter <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle <input type="checkbox"/> Walked only <input type="checkbox"/> Worked at home <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Did not go to work
---	---

UNPAID WORK

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information on unpaid activities is important in identifying the characteristics of the carers of groups with special needs (such as the elderly, children and people with disabilities), and assisting with planning for both work and non-work environments.

Information on unpaid work is required for:

- understanding the contribution that various population subgroups (and historically women in particular) make to national wellbeing through unpaid work
- examining the functioning of local communities.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Unpaid work was not included as a topic in any Australian Census prior to 2006. For the 2001 Census, the ABS did not believe there was sufficient justification to modify the labour force questions used in the 1996 Census to include a question on unpaid work. There was concern that modifying the labour force questions would impact on the comparability of the data from previous Censuses and data from the monthly Labour Force Survey.

An Unpaid Work Consultative Committee was established in June 2003 to determine whether there was a need for a question on unpaid work in the 2006 Census. A need for data on unpaid work at the small area level was identified by the committee.

Four questions about unpaid work were included in the 2006 Census:

- unpaid domestic work
- unpaid care of others due to disability, illness or old age
- unpaid care of children
- voluntary work.

This will again be the case for 2011.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Time Use Surveys are the key source of data on people's use of time, including unpaid work, and provide a wealth of information that could not be obtained through the Census, such as time taken on a range of specific activities. The third ABS Time Use Survey occurred in 2006 and results are available in:

- *How Australians Use Their Time, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4153.0).

Additional information has been collected through:

- the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, results released in *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2003* (cat. no. 4430.0)
- the 2006 Voluntary Work Survey, results released in *Voluntary Work, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4441.0)
- the Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, results released in *Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia, April to July 2007* (cat. no. 6361.0)
- the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey, results released in *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 2008* (cat. no. 6220.0)
- the Retirement and Retirement Intentions Survey, results released in *Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia, July 2006 to June 2007* (cat. no. 6238.0)
- the Childhood Education and Care Survey, results released in *Child Care Australia, June 2008* (cat. no. 4402.0)
- the 2006 General Social Survey, results released in *General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4159.0)
- ABS State Supplementary Surveys.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA *continued*

Relevant publications include:

- *Australian National Accounts: Non-Profit Institutions Satellite Account, 1999-2000* (cat. no. 5256.0)
- *Unpaid Work and the Australian Economy, 1997* (cat. no. 5240.0).

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>48 In the <i>last week</i> did the person spend time doing unpaid domestic work for their household?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include all housework, food/drink preparation and cleanup, laundry, gardening, home maintenance and repairs, and household shopping and finance management. • See page 14 of the Census Guide for more information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> No, did not do any unpaid domestic work in the last week <input type="radio"/> Yes, less than 5 hours <input type="radio"/> Yes, 5 to 14 hours <input type="radio"/> Yes, 15 to 29 hours <input type="radio"/> Yes, 30 hours or more
<p>49 In the <i>last two weeks</i> did the person spend time providing unpaid care, help or assistance to family members or others because of a disability, a long term illness or problems related to old age?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipients of Carer Allowance or Carer Payment should state that they provided unpaid care. • Ad hoc help or assistance, such as shopping, should only be included if the person needs this sort of assistance because of his/her condition. • Do not include work done through a voluntary organisation or group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> No, did not provide unpaid care, help or assistance <input type="radio"/> Yes, provided unpaid care, help or assistance
<p>50 In the <i>last two weeks</i> did the person spend time looking after a child, <i>without pay</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only include children who were less than 15 years of age. • Mark all applicable responses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes, looked after my own child <input type="radio"/> Yes, looked after a child other than my own
<p>51 In the <i>last twelve months</i> did the person spend any time doing voluntary work through an organisation or group?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclude anything you do as part of your paid employment or to qualify for a Government benefit. • Exclude working in a family business. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> No, did not do voluntary work <input type="radio"/> Yes, did voluntary work

CHAPTER **8**

HOUSEHOLD AND DWELLING TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2011 CENSUS

CONTENTS

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TOPICS INCLUDED

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ADDRESS ON CENSUS NIGHT

JUSTIFICATION

The collection of information regarding household address on Census Night is essential for the conduct of an accurate and high quality Census. Household address on Census Night is the best way for Census Collectors to ensure that all forms they deliver are returned or that an eCensus form has been lodged, and is used to confirm the geographic code allocated to the household for place of enumeration.

Household address is essential for the conduct of a high quality post-enumeration survey which is used to measure the level of under-enumeration in the Census. This is the question by which people enumerated at home report their place of usual address (Chapter 7, Usual residence at Census time), and enables people enumerated elsewhere to indicate where they were staying on Census Night.

Census counts by place of enumeration also provide valuable information which can be used in assessing the service population of a local area at a point in time, namely Census Night.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The strongest possible measures are employed to ensure the security and confidentiality of information provided in the Census. *The Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires that no identifiable information about an individual be made available to any other person, government agency or private organisation.

Prior to the 2001 Census names and addresses were not retained after processing of the data was completed. From the 2001 Census onwards, name-identified Census information has been provided to the National Archives of Australia for release for future genealogical and other research after a closed access period of 99 years, but only where a person has explicitly consented to their name-identified records being retained for this purpose.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Census counts of where people spent Census Night, classified by statistical areas, are available from every national Census.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

1 What is the address of this dwelling?
Please use **CAPITAL** letters only

Apartment/Flat/Unit number	Street number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(if any)	
Street name (Examples: GRAHAM AVENUE, GEORGE STREET)	
<input type="text"/>	
Suburb/Locality	
<input type="text"/>	
State/Territory	Postcode
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Property/Building name (if any)	
<input type="text"/>	

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data about households and families are of considerable value in their own right, and when cross-classified with other variables.

Data on relationships between people in a household are required for:

- the identification of different types of households
- the establishment of the structure of family groups within each household
- the development, implementation and monitoring of many social and economic policies
- formation of the base population from which to project the number of families and households into the future, and hence demand for housing and other consumer goods.

Census data provide a benchmark for the analysis of family and household structure and characteristics and allow for the monitoring of changes over time.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on relationship has been included in all Australian Censuses.

In 1996, for the first time, family coding was undertaken for people living in self-contained units in retirement villages and dwellings in manufactured home estates.

Since the 1996 Census, the ABS has output information regarding same-sex couples through the relationship question.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Data on family structure are available from many ABS household surveys. However, surveys do not provide reliable data for small areas and small groups of the population because these estimates are based on relatively small sample sizes. The following products are particularly relevant to the topic:

- *Family Characteristics, Australia, 2003* (cat. no. 4442.0)
- *Family Characteristics and Transitions, Australia (reissue), 2006-07* (cat. no. 4442.0)
- *Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, December 2008* (cat. no. 6224.0.55.001)
- *Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia, April to July 2007* (cat. no. 6361.0)
- *Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2005-06* (cat. no. 6523.0).

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions (below and overleaf) are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

(FOR PEOPLE PRESENT IN THE DWELLING ON CENSUS NIGHT)

<p>5 What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	
Person 2 response	Person 3 response
<input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Stepchild of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Brother or sister of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 – please specify <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only <input type="checkbox"/> Brother or sister of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 – please specify <input type="text"/>

TYPE OF QUESTIONS *continued*

(FOR PEOPLE ABSENT FROM THE DWELLING ON CENSUS NIGHT)

<p>52 Are there any persons who usually live in this dwelling who were <i>absent</i> on Census Night (Tuesday, 8 August 2006)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Usually live' means that address at which the person has lived, or intends to live, for a total of six months or more in 2006. • Remember to mark box like this: <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No, no-one absent ▶ Go to 54</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, someone absent ▶ Go to 53</p>									
<p>53 For each person <i>absent</i>, complete the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember to mark boxes like this: <input type="checkbox"/> 										
<p>Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was not here on the night of Tuesday, 8 August 2006.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>First or given name <input type="text"/></td> <td>First or given name <input type="text"/></td> <td>First or given name <input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Surname or family name <input type="text"/></td> <td>Surname or family name <input type="text"/></td> <td>Surname or family name <input type="text"/></td> </tr> </table>	First or given name <input type="text"/>	First or given name <input type="text"/>	First or given name <input type="text"/>	Surname or family name <input type="text"/>	Surname or family name <input type="text"/>	Surname or family name <input type="text"/>			
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Surname or family name <input type="text"/>	Surname or family name <input type="text"/>	Surname or family name <input type="text"/>								
<p>Is the person male or female?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box for each person absent 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female						
<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female								
<p>What is the person's date of birth (or age last birthday)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example for date of birth: Day Month Year <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> • If date of birth not known, give age last birthday. • Example for age last birthday: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Years 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Day Month Year <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></td> <td>Day Month Year <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></td> <td>Day Month Year <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>OR</td> <td>OR</td> <td>OR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Age last birthday <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Years</td> <td>Age last birthday <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Years</td> <td>Age last birthday <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Years</td> </tr> </table>	Day Month Year <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	Day Month Year <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	Day Month Year <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	OR	OR	OR	Age last birthday <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Years	Age last birthday <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Years	Age last birthday <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Years
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<p>Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes. 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander						
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander								
<p>Is the person a full-time student?</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes						
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes								
<p>What is the person's relationship to Person 1/ Person 2?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER. 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 – please specify <input type="text"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 – please specify <input type="text"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 – please specify <input type="text"/></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 – please specify <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 – please specify <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 – please specify <input type="text"/>						
<input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 – please specify <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 – please specify <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 – please specify <input type="text"/>								

INCOME (FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD)

More details on the definition of income are included in the section on Income under personal topics (see Chapter 7, Income - individual).

Family and household income are derived from data on individual incomes of members of families and households. Only the incomes of persons present on Census Night are included because of the collection and processing difficulties involved in accounting for persons temporarily absent. A statistical method will be used to derive family and household income from individual incomes which are reported in ranges.

NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES GARAGED

USER REQUIREMENTS

This topic is a significant part of transport-related Census topics and, together with workplace address and mode of travel to work, is used in:

- transport modelling
- town planning
- market research.

It also serves as a useful socioeconomic indicator, either by itself or when cross-classified with other variables, to identify mobility and thus access to services.

Data on the number and distribution of vehicles are used to assess present and future parking requirements, and the supply and type of both present and future public transport needs.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on number of vehicles was first asked in the 1966 Census. Since 1976, households have been asked to record the number of registered motor vehicles (excluding motor cycles and motor scooters) owned or used by members of the household garaged at or near their dwelling.

For the 2001 Census, the question also included an option to record the number of motor bikes and motor scooters. In addition, respondents were able to write in the actual number of vehicles rather than mark a self coding box.

In 2006, data were collected on the number of registered motor vehicles only. Motorbikes and motor scooters were excluded. This will again be the case for 2011.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

A range of statistics on motor vehicles is available from:

- *Motor Vehicle Census, Australia* (cat. no. 9309.0)
- *Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia* (cat. no. 9208.0)
- *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia* (cat no. 9314.0)
- *Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Detailed Expenditure Items* (cat. no. 6535.0).

These collections do not allow extensive cross-classification of vehicle counts with the characteristics of their owners. Some small area data are available from motor vehicle registration.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>54 How many registered motor vehicles owned or used by residents of this dwelling were garaged or parked at or near this dwelling on Census Night (Tuesday, 8 August 2006)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include vans and company vehicles kept at home. • Exclude motorbikes and motor scooters. 	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;" type="checkbox"/> Motor vehicles </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;" type="checkbox"/> None </div>
---	---

NUMBER OF BEDROOMS

USER REQUIREMENTS

Housing authorities and other users require data on the number of bedrooms to provide an indication of dwelling size and overcrowding by the calculation of occupancy ratios (i.e. the number of people per room/bedroom).

Small area data on occupancy ratios are required as a broad measure of housing standards when assessing the nature and utilisation of the Australian housing stock.

Data on the number of bedrooms are required to provide an indication of:

- dwelling size
- overcrowding.

The number of bedrooms is one of several variables used to calculate weights for the rent and mortgage component of the consumer price index (CPI).

The Census is the only comprehensive source of data on number of bedrooms at small area level and for small population groups.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on number of rooms/bedrooms has been included in every Australian Census since 1911.

While the 1986 Census household form asked householders to indicate the numbers of various room types, only the number of bedrooms was entered into the computer record. The 1991 and 1996 Censuses collected data on the number of bedrooms only.

Since the 2001 Census, respondents have been asked to write in the number of bedrooms in their dwellings rather than mark a response category.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Data on the number of bedrooms are available from the Survey of Income and Housing 2005-06, results released in:

- *Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2005-06* (cat no. 4130.0.55.001).

However, survey data are not reliable at the small area level or for small population groups.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>55 How many bedrooms are there in this dwelling?</p> <p>• If the dwelling is a bedsitter, mark the 'None' box like this: <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Number of bedrooms</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p>
---	--

TENURE TYPE

USER REQUIREMENTS

Tenure type (for example, whether a dwelling is rented, owned with a mortgage or owned without a mortgage) cross-classified with other characteristics of households, is needed for housing and social welfare policy and planning in the government and private sectors.

Data on tenure type are required to:

- monitor housing security, mobility issues and home ownership trends
- develop housing and social welfare policies.

It should be noted that the tenure type questions cannot serve as a measure of housing stock, as they relate only to occupied dwellings.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Data about whether a dwelling is owned, being purchased or rented have been obtained in all Censuses since 1911.

From 1971 until 1991, the information on type of tenure was derived from the answers to more than one question. A single, direct question was used to determine type of tenure for 1996 and 2001 and more detailed responses were listed, catering for a greater variety of tenancy/financial arrangements than in previous Censuses.

Since 2006, the tenure type question has differentiated between owners with and without a mortgage, rather than whether a dwelling was owned outright or being purchased, consistent with the standard for tenure type at that time.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Data on tenure type are available from a number of ABS household surveys. The most comprehensive source is the Survey of Income and Housing 2005-06, results released in: ■ *Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2005-06* (cat. no. 4130.0.55.001).

However, data from surveys such as these are not reliable at the small area level or for small population groups.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>56 Is this dwelling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include owners of caravans, manufactured homes or houseboats regardless of whether or not the site is owned. • Remember to mark box like this: <input type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Owned outright? ► Go to 59 <input type="checkbox"/> Owned with a mortgage? ► Go to 58 <input type="checkbox"/> Being purchased under a rent/buy scheme? <input type="checkbox"/> Being rented? <input type="checkbox"/> Being occupied rent free? <input type="checkbox"/> Being occupied under a life tenure scheme? <input type="checkbox"/> Other?
---	--

RENT/LANDLORD TYPE

USER REQUIREMENTS

Information about rent and landlord type is important for housing policy-making and planning, and for studying the housing conditions of sub-populations of specific interest. The Census is the only source of rent data for small areas and for small groups of the population.

Users have indicated that the rental question is important for housing policy planning in Australia. In particular, rent data produced from the Census are used:

- as an aid in the identification of housing needs and the extent to which specific groups (e.g. low income households, aged people and Indigenous people) have access to adequate housing
- by the ABS to calculate estimates of imputed rent for the National Accounts
- by the ABS, to check if dwelling samples used in the CPI are representative
- in conjunction with income, as an indication of disposable income.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Weekly rent paid for each dwelling has been asked in every Australian Census since 1911. In 1947, householders were also asked to indicate whether the dwelling was rented furnished or unfurnished. Since 1971, in addition to stating the weekly rent, householders have been asked to indicate the type of landlord.

Because of the emergence of rent-buy schemes, and strong user demand for actual amounts rather than range data, a new approach to collecting the data has been taken from the 1996 Census onwards. A question collecting actual amounts paid for the dwelling has been asked, instead of the range data obtained in the 1991 Census. Tenure type responses are used to determine whether payments are recorded as rent or loan repayments.

For the 2006 Census, the order of questions was changed to ask the tenure type question before the mortgage repayments/rent and landlord type questions. Sequencing from the tenure type question directs only those respondents who indicate they either have a mortgage or are renting a dwelling to answer the mortgage repayments/rent and landlord type questions. All other respondents are sequenced past these questions. This ordering will be retained for the 2011 Census.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Data on rent are available from the Survey of Income and Housing, 2005-06, results released in:

- *Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2005-06* (cat. no. 4130.0.55.001).

However, surveys such as these cannot provide reliable data for small areas or small population groups.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>56 Is this dwelling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include owners of caravans, manufactured homes or houseboats regardless of whether or not the site is owned. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Owned outright? ► Go to 59 <input type="checkbox"/> Owned with a mortgage? ► Go to 58 <input type="checkbox"/> Being purchased under a rent/buy scheme? <input type="checkbox"/> Being rented? <input type="checkbox"/> Being occupied rent free? <input type="checkbox"/> Being occupied under a life tenure scheme? <input type="checkbox"/> Other?
<p>57 If this dwelling is being rented, who is it rented from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all state/territory specific Government housing authorities, mark second box. Some examples of Government housing authorities are: NSW Department of Housing, Office of Housing (VIC), Department of Housing (QLD), South Australian Housing Trust, Homeswest (WA), Housing Tasmania, Territory Housing (NT), ACT Housing, Aboriginal Housing Authorities. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Real estate agent <input type="checkbox"/> Government Housing Authority/Housing Department (Public Housing) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Other relative not in this dwelling <input type="checkbox"/> Other person not in this dwelling <input type="checkbox"/> Residential park (including caravan parks and marinas) <input type="checkbox"/> Employer – Government (including Defence Housing Authority) <input type="checkbox"/> Employer – Private <input type="checkbox"/> Housing co-operative; Community or Church Group
<p>58 How much does your household pay for this dwelling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include rent and mortgage repayments and site fees if the dwelling is a caravan or manufactured home in a caravan park or manufactured home estate. • Exclude water rates, council rates, repairs, maintenance and other fees. • Do not include cents. • If no payments, please mark the 'Nil payments' box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<p>\$ <input type="text"/>, <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> per week</p> <p>OR</p> <p>\$ <input type="text"/>, <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> per fortnight</p> <p>OR</p> <p>\$ <input type="text"/>, <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> per month</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Nil payments</p>

MORTGAGE REPAYMENTS

USER REQUIREMENTS

Data on mortgage repayments are important for policy-making and planning for housing, and for studying housing conditions of sub-populations of specific interest. The Census is the only source of these data for small areas and small population groups.

Users require data on mortgage repayments, classified by household characteristics to:

- measure access to home ownership
- provide benchmark data for evaluation of housing needs, housing finance and housing demand.

Mortgage repayment data are used in conjunction with income data to assess household and family disposable income. Regional and small area data are required.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A question on mortgage was asked for the first time in the 1976 Census. The question was simplified for the 1981 Census to ask only whether there was a mortgage and the monthly payments on the total mortgage on the dwelling. For the 1986 and 1991 Censuses, the question has asked the monthly payment being made on the loan(s) for the dwelling.

Due to the emergence of rent-buy schemes and strong user demand for actual amounts rather than range data, a new approach of collecting actual amounts paid for the dwelling has been taken since the 1996 Census. Responses to the tenure type question are used to determine whether payments are recorded as rent or loan repayments.

For the 2006 Census, the order of questions was changed to ask the tenure type question before the mortgage repayments/rent and landlord type questions. Sequencing from the tenure type question directed only those respondents who indicated they either had a mortgage or were renting a dwelling to answer the mortgage repayments/rent and landlord type questions. This ordering will be retained for the 2011 Census.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Data on mortgage repayments are available from the Survey of Income and Housing 2005-06, results released in:

- *Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2005-06* (cat. no. 4130.0.55.001).

However, surveys such as these cannot provide reliable data for small areas or small population groups.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the 2006 Census Household Form.

<p>56 Is this dwelling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include owners of caravans, manufactured homes or houseboats regardless of whether or not the site is owned. • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Owned outright? ► Go to 59 <input type="checkbox"/> Owned with a mortgage? ► Go to 58 <input type="checkbox"/> Being purchased under a rent/buy scheme? <input type="checkbox"/> Being rented? <input type="checkbox"/> Being occupied rent free? <input type="checkbox"/> Being occupied under a life tenure scheme? <input type="checkbox"/> Other?
<p>58 How much does your household pay for this dwelling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include rent and mortgage repayments and site fees if the dwelling is a caravan or manufactured home in a caravan park or manufactured home estate. • Exclude water rates, council rates, repairs, maintenance and other fees. • Do not include cents. • If no payments, please mark the 'Nil payments' box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<p>\$ <input type="text"/>, <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input checked="" type="text"/> <input checked="" type="text"/> per week</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>\$ <input type="text"/>, <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input checked="" type="text"/> <input checked="" type="text"/> per fortnight</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>\$ <input type="text"/>, <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input checked="" type="text"/> <input checked="" type="text"/> per month</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Nil payments</p>

DWELLING INTERNET CONNECTION

USER REQUIREMENTS

There are a number of access and equity issues associated with accessibility of the Internet. This question is used to target and monitor government programs.

There is a continuing requirement by federal and state government bodies for data on access to and use of information and communications technology including the Internet at small area level and for particular sectors of the population, in order to target a range of policies and programs.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Data on Internet and computer use by individuals were collected for the first time in the 2001 Census. These questions were not asked for the 2006 Census.

For 2006, a question on dwelling Internet connection was asked. This question focused on whether private dwellings had an Internet connection and the type of connection in the dwelling. This will again be the case for the 2011 Census.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Data on access to the Internet are collected in a range of ABS surveys (including the 2007-08 Multipurpose Household Survey, the 2006 Time Use Survey, the 2006 Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities survey, and the 2004-05 Agricultural Survey), and are available through the following publications:

- *Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2007-08* (cat. no. 8146.0)
- *Use of Information Technology on Farms, Australia, 2004-05* (cat. no. 8150.0).

However, survey data are not reliable for small areas or small population groups.

COMMENT

The Internet and computer technology field is very dynamic and it is difficult to anticipate future key issues. The complexity of the field also restricts the type of data which can be collected through the Census.

Most Australians now have some basic access to computers and the Internet. As a result, the focus of government policy attention is moving to more complex questions such as the capacity of particular technologies which are accessed and relied upon, and the purposes for which Internet and computer technology are used.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Household Form and will be asked in a similar format for the 2011 Census. A minor update will be applied in the 2011 Census to clarify situations where a dwelling accesses more than one type of internet connection.

<p>59 Can the Internet be accessed at this dwelling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include any Internet service regardless of whether or not paid for by the household. • If more than one type of connection in dwelling, mark the higher type. • Remember to mark box like this: <input type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No Internet connection <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, broadband connection (including ADSL, Cable, Wireless and Satellite connections) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, dial-up connection (including analog modem and ISDN connections) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (include Internet access through mobile phones, etc)
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STRUCTURE OF PRIVATE DWELLING

USER REQUIREMENTS

Users require data on dwelling structure, especially at the small area level, to determine urban form and density. Analysis of dwelling structure cross classified with other Census characteristics is an important indicator of social wellbeing.

The data are also used for providing the benchmark for regular estimates of the different types of housing available.

Initiatives which inform housing policy such as the work by the National Housing Supply Council have strengthened the need for detailed information about Australia's housing stock.

Structure of private dwelling data are used:

- to determine changes in housing patterns
- to review existing housing stock for use in housing policy advice
- for land use forecasting
- for transport planning.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Information on class of dwelling has been included in every Australian Census since 1911. Caravans have been included as a response option since 1961 and caravans in caravan parks were first enumerated with household forms in 1986.

Traditionally the Census has defined a dwelling as the space occupied by a household. Prior to the 2006 Census, a household was defined as being a group of two or more usual residents of a dwelling who regarded themselves as a household and made common provision for food or other essentials. Therefore, where a dwelling unit was shared by more than a single household, a household form should have been issued to each separate household. It was thought that this procedure might lead to an over-count of dwellings in the Census. However, studies in the lead up to the 1996 Census showed that Census Collectors were, in fact, treating each dwelling as a single household and the Census was not over-counting dwellings.

For the 2006 Census, the definition of a household was changed to incorporate all usual residents of a private dwelling, regardless of whether they considered themselves to be a household or made common provision for food or other essentials. Under this definition, for Census purposes the total number of households is equal to the total number of occupied private dwellings.

The question is answered by the Census Collector which contributes marginally to collection costs but requires no response by the public. For the 2006 Census, this question was included in the Collector Record Book rather than on the back of the household form. This will again be the case for the 2011 Census.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Data about additions to the stock of private dwellings are collected through the quarterly Building Activity Survey, results released in:

- *Building Activity, Australia, Dec 2006* (cat. no. 8752.0).

Data on dwelling structures are available from the Survey of Income and Housing 2005-06, results released in:

- *Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2005-06* (cat. no. 4130.0.55.001).

Information on dwelling structure is also collected in some household surveys and energy surveys conducted by the ABS.

However, survey data such as these are not reliable for small areas or small population groups.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Collector Record Book.

(ANSWERED BY COLLECTOR)

Separate house	7 () Caravan, cabin, houseboat
0 () One or more storeys Semi-detached row or terrace house, townhouse, etc.	8 () Improvised home, tent, sleepers out
1 () One storey	9 () House or flat attached to a shop, office etc.
2 () Two or more storeys	
Flat, unit or apartment	
3 () In a 1 or 2 storey block	
4 () In a 3 storey block	
5 () In a 4 or more storey block	
6 () Attached to a house	

LOCATION OF PRIVATE DWELLING

USER REQUIREMENTS

This classification was introduced for the 1996 Census to cater for changes in the scope of private dwellings. A growing number of people reside long term in self contained dwellings in retirement villages and dwellings in manufactured home estates. Users require a fuller range of household and family statistics for these population groups, and data on the location of private dwellings meet user requirements for information about occupants of alternative forms of housing.

Users also require data on the location of these types of dwelling structure, especially at the small area level, to determine urban form and density. Analysis of the location of these types of dwelling structure cross-classified with other Census characteristics is an indicator of social wellbeing.

In addition, these data provide a benchmark for regular estimates of the different types of housing available.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

From the 1996 Census onwards:

- self contained units in retirement villages and dwellings in manufactured home estates have been counted as private dwellings (dwellings in caravan parks and marinas have been included as private dwellings since the 1986 Census)
- all private dwellings have been classified according to whether they were located in caravan parks (or marinas), manufactured home estates, retirement villages or elsewhere.

On the basis of this information, both dwelling and household data are able to be classified according to these types of locations.

This classification complements the existing private dwelling structure classification and enables the ABS to meet user requirements for data about these alternative forms of housing and their occupants.

The question is answered by the Census Collector, which contributes marginally to collection costs but requires no response by the public. For the 2006 Census, this question was included in the Collector Record Book rather than on the back of the household form. This will again be the case for the 2011 Census.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

No other sources of data on location of private dwelling exist.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Collector Record Book.

(ANSWERED BY COLLECTOR)

1	()	Retirement Village
2	()	Caravan Park
3	()	Manufactured Home Estate
4	()	Marina
5	()	Other Location

NON-PRIVATE DWELLING TYPE

USER REQUIREMENTS

Census data about people residing in non-private dwellings are important for planning and delivery of services. Over 600,000 people were enumerated in non-private dwellings in the 2006 Census.

Information on persons in non-private dwellings is required for:

- analysis of programs for the aged and disabled and other sub-population groups
- policy analysis and policy formulation in the development and financing of projects in the areas of health, the aged, children and rehabilitation.

The classification of non-private dwellings (including hotels, motels, hospitals, boarding houses, etc.) depends partly on the perceptions of the Census Collector responsible for the enumeration of the particular dwelling and/or the arrangements made for collecting data. As a result, information about non-private dwellings and the people in them may be less accurate than for private dwellings.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Non-private dwellings have been enumerated and classified in all Australian Censuses. Caravan parks were treated as non-private dwellings up until the 1981 Census. Since the 1986 Census, caravans in caravan parks have been enumerated as private dwellings using household forms.

Until the 1996 Census, self contained dwellings in retirement villages and dwellings in manufactured home estates were also treated as non-private dwellings.

For the 2006 Census, additional response options were provided to identify immigration detention centres, youth/backpacker hostels and ski lodges. This will again be the case for the 2011 Census.

AVAILABILITY OF NON-CENSUS DATA

Government departments have information on government-funded institutions.

However, generally only limited details are available on the characteristics of residents.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The following question is from the 2006 Census Summary Form (used for non-private dwellings).

(ANSWERED BY COLLECTOR)

Instructions

- Before delivering the Census forms, please complete sections 1 and 2 below.
- On pages 2, 3 and 4, record the details of all persons spending Census Night, 8 August 2006, in this establishment into columns 2-6.
- After collecting completed Census forms, complete columns 6-8 for each person, as well as completing sections 3 & 4 on the back page.
- Completed forms remain confidential to the Australian Bureau of Statistics as required by the Census and Statistics Act.

1 Name of this establishment

Street number and name

Suburb, locality or town **Postcode**

2 Description of this establishment

- Remember to mark the box like this:
- If there is more than one type of non-private dwelling within this establishment, your Collector will issue separate Summary Forms.

- Hotel, motel, bed and breakfast
- Nurses' quarters
- Staff quarters
- Boarding house, private hotel
- Boarding school
- Residential college / hall of residence
- Public hospital (not psychiatric)
- Private hospital (not psychiatric)
- Psychiatric hospital or institution
- Hostel for the disabled
- Nursing home
- Accommodation for the retired or aged - not self-contained
- Hostel for the homeless, night shelter, refuge
- Childcare institution
- Corrective institution for children
- Other welfare institution
- Prison or corrective institution for adults
- Immigration detention centre
- Convent, monastery, etc.
- Youth / backpacker hostel
- Ski lodge
- Other, please specify

Comments about description of establishment:

.....

.....

.....

.....

APPENDIX

RELEASE STATUS OF TOPICS

RELEASE STATUS

As has been the case in previous Censuses the standard tables containing data from the 2011 Census will be released in a two stage process. First release data will be made available as soon as possible after the Census with a target date of June 2012. The second release data will follow five months later with a target date of November 2012.

FIRST RELEASE TOPICS

Sex
Age
Residential status (for people in non-private dwellings)
Registered marital status
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander origin
Usual residence at Census time
Australian citizenship
Country of birth
Year of arrival in Australia
Country of birth of parents (Australia/Overseas)
Main language other than English spoken at home/proficiency in spoken English
Ancestry
Religious affiliation
Need for assistance
Attendance at an educational institution
Highest year of schooling completed
Number of children ever born
Income (individual, family, household)
Unpaid work
Family relationship
Motor vehicles (number garaged)
Number of bedrooms
Tenure type
Rent
Landlord type
Mortgage repayments
Dwelling Internet connection
Structure of private dwelling
Location of private dwelling
Non-private dwelling type

SECOND RELEASE TOPICS

- Internal migration (address of usual residence 1 year ago and 5 years ago)
- Non-school qualifications
- Labour force status
- Status in employment
- Employment type
- Occupation
- Government/non-government employer
- Workplace address
- Industry
- Hours worked
- Mode of travel to work

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

INTERNET **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS website is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

Our consultants can help you access the full range of information published by the ABS that is available free of charge from our website. Information tailored to your needs can also be requested as a 'user pays' service. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

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FREE ACCESS TO STATISTICS

All statistics on the ABS website can be downloaded free of charge.

WEB ADDRESS www.abs.gov.au