



the CensusAtSchool NEWSLETTER

Edition Number: 2

Date: December Quarter



Key Dates

CensusAtSchool Project Dates

The CensusAtSchool project has five key phases. Mark the dates down, or join the email list to be notified of the phases.

Now	✓	Project Development
01 July 05		Release Testing
03 Oct 05		Registration opens
30 Jan 06		Data Collection opens
07 July 06		Data Collection closes
11 July 06		Data Usage opens

CensusAtSchool:

Welcome to the December quarter newsletter

We hope you have a refreshing break and a Happy New Year

Since the last quarter the CensusAtSchool project has progressed significantly and special thanks are extended to those who have assisted the Project Team. Strong interest was registered by teachers from across the States and Territories particularly from those who wish to be included in the mailing list.

CensusAtSchool remains a very interesting and exciting venture which the ABS is embarking on with schools. As mentioned previously, CensusAtSchool is based on a similar program developed by the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) Centre for Statistical Education in the United Kingdom, under the guidance of Professor Neville Davies. The UK project has been extremely successful in improving statistical literacy and has successfully extended to South Africa.

Since then, other organisations have adapted the project to suit their local environment, namely Canada, New Zealand, Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR) in Queensland and Noel Baker Centre in South Australia. ABS is privileged to use the CensusAtSchool branding for the Australian project, thanks to the RSS.

TEACHERS' FORUM

The project team would like to share the thoughts of teachers and intermediaries who have taken part in review activities.

The response to the questionnaire has been very constructive and is typified by the following comments:

"...the concept [is] fascinating. It is timely that at last Statistics is gaining the recognition that it deserves...This is a brilliant idea.."

"The census would be a fantastic form of data for students to investigate."

"I'm impressed with the project"

"..great potential to engage students.... they use real data about themselves..."

"I am certainly interested in being kept informed"

We're still looking for a couple of questions that will yield data useful to a SOSE/HSIE class, in particular. Any ideas will be gratefully accepted and will help to make the web site more useful to teachers.

Project UPDATE

The following initiatives have been completed:

- ◆ Appointment of goVote to develop the CensusAtSchool software;
- ◆ Appointment of the Noel Baker Centre to advise on the statistical education soundness of the support materials and to assist with the delivery of workshops and conferences;
- ◆ Conduct of the first Reference Group meeting to provide advice to the project team;
- ◆ Completion of the first draft of the CensusAtSchool questionnaire following feedback from teachers; and
- ◆ Commencement of the web site design.

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how can you help?

Teacher feedback and advice is an essential ingredient for a high quality e-learning resource that is valuable to schools.

ABS is currently developing the uniquely Australian version of the international *CensusAtSchool* project. At all stages of the development ABS will be seeking feedback and the assistance of teachers so that the web site is useful to teachers and provides them with the support they want.

Please lend us your expertise. If you would like to provide feedback during the development of the *CensusAtSchool* project, please contact Ian Wong, Teacher Consultant.

General Project Support Enquiries

For general *CensusAtSchool* project enquiries, please contact the ABS, National Educational Services Unit on free call 1800 623 273, or email censusatschool@abs.gov.au