

NOON 17 MAY 1983

CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING, 30 JUNE 1981

CENSUS 81—DWELLING, HOUSEHOLD, FAMILY

R. J. CAMERON

Australian Statistician

© Commonwealth of Australia 1983

PHONE INQUIRIES *for more information about these statistics*—contact Mr Fred Dawes on Canberra (062) 52 5848 or any of our State offices.
other inquiries including copies of publications—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

MAIL INQUIRIES *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

CONTENTS

	<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
1	Explanatory notes	1
2	Dwelling	2
3	Household	10
4	Family	12
5	Summary of concepts	20
6	Release of census data	21
	Appendix—Inquiries	23

SECTION 1

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

Before embarking on a detailed description of each of the topics dwelling, household and family, it may help to explain the relationship between the concepts involved.

Households

It will be simplest to start the explanation with households, since they are the basic unit of enumeration.

The household may be a number of persons living and eating together as a domestic unit or one person living alone and eating meals separately. Where two or more households are living in close proximity, it is not necessary for any permanent partition, such as a wall, or a locked door, to separate them; indeed, they may share some common facilities, such as a toilet or laundry. The decision on whether there is more than one household in a private residential building is made by householders, guided by the definition of household printed on the front of the census schedule and, if sought, by advice from census collectors.

A household, then, may consist of one person, or of a number of persons who may or may not be related. A boarder who lives and shares meals with a household is a member of the household. A lodger who lives with a family and provides all his food for himself is not a member of the family's household but constitutes a separate household.

Persons counted in non-private dwellings (defined on p. 7 below), whether they are owner/manager and family, employees or inmates, are not regarded for census purposes as constituting a household (or households), and are excluded from any count of households or of household members.

Dwellings

The definition of occupied private dwellings follows from the definition of households; private dwellings are the premises occupied by households on census night, and it follows that the number of occupied private dwellings is the same as the number of households. Thus if two households occupy the same structure the number of dwellings counted is two. The two other dwelling categories are unoccupied private dwellings and non-private dwellings.

Care must be taken to distinguish clearly between dwellings and other terms such as buildings, structures and houses. The word 'structure' appears on the census schedule but only in a question (shown on p. 4) to be answered by the census collector in identifying the dwelling type (e.g. separate house, terrace house, flats over three storeys) occupied by the household or households. A single structure may contain more than one dwelling, as in the case of blocks of flats, groups of townhouses or private houses partly sublet or where two or more households occupy the same structure.

Whereas totals of various dwelling structure types appear in census tables on dwellings, totals of the number of buildings or similar units (e.g. houses) are not included in census outputs. For example, there may be six households occupying separate flats in one block of flats, each of which would be recorded by the collector as a separate dwelling with a structure type 'flat'. Census information does not record that these six dwellings comprise only one block of flats i.e. one building or structure.

Families

Every household is deemed to contain at least one family. Thus a household of one person is also a family of one person. Where more than one person is present in the household, their grouping into one or more families, or their categorisation as non-family members, is based on the relationships to 'person one' as indicated on the census schedule, supplemented at times by answers to other questions (surname, marital status, etc.).

SECTION 2

DWELLING

Dwelling definitions

In the census, dwellings are classified into three basic groups:

- (a) occupied private dwellings;
- (b) unoccupied private dwellings;
- (c) non-private dwellings.

An *occupied private dwelling* is defined as the premises occupied by a household on census night. This definition means that the number of occupied private dwellings is equal to the number of households (as defined for census purposes). It also means that the total number of occupied dwellings in an area, as measured by the census, may be greater than the known number of occupied dwelling structures because more than one household can occupy the one dwelling structure (see definition of household).

A private dwelling is normally a house, flat, part of a house, or even a room, but can also be a tent or caravan if standing on its own block of land and occupied by a separate household, or a houseboat. If a caravan situated in a residential allotment accommodates only part of a household, it is not treated as a separate dwelling.

Unoccupied private dwellings are structures built specifically for living purposes and habitable, but unoccupied at the time of the census. Vacant houses, holiday homes, huts, cabins (other than seasonal workers' quarters) and houseboats are therefore counted as unoccupied dwellings, but vacant tents, garages and caravans (if not normally occupied) are not.

Also included are newly completed dwellings not yet occupied; dwellings which are vacant because they are due for demolition or repair; dwellings to let; and dwellings where all members of the household were absent on census night. (Unoccupied non-private dwellings are not included in any census counts—see below.)

Non-private dwellings (NPD's) are classified according to their function. In many cases these dwellings will be clearly identified by external signs such as 'hotel', 'motel' or 'guest house' but the category also includes gaols, religious and charitable institutions, defence establishments, other communal dwellings and caravan parks. Where this type of accommodation includes self-contained units, the units are enumerated as part of the NPD. A caravan situated in a caravan park (whether permanently or temporarily) is classified as part of an NPD, so that persons in those caravans, in tents, sleeping in cars, or in motel type units at the park, are treated as residents of the NPD.

Two other groups of people are included with the statistics on NPD's:

- (a) Campers out—persons who spent census night in the open in cars, caravans or trucks pulled up at the side of the road for that night only, or who were in other temporary camps or accommodation erected for that night only.
- (b) Migratory—persons who were enumerated on board vessels in and between Australian ports, or on board long-distance trains, buses or aircraft.

The census counts only those NPD's which are occupied.

Dwelling questions

The census schedule for 1981 had considerably fewer dwelling questions than in 1976 and 1971. Four questions relating to occupied private dwellings were asked of the householder (compared with 12 questions at the 1976 Census). They were:

H1. How many rooms are there in this dwelling?

- Write the number of each type of room (e.g. Bedroom(s)).
- Count each room once only.
- A room shared with another household should be counted only by the principal householder.
- Do not count toilets, pantries, laundries, storerooms, halls or corridors.

Number Type of Room

 Bedroom(s) Combined lounge/dining room Lounge room Dining room Kitchen Bathroom Family room Study Other rooms (please specify)

.....

.....

H2. Is this dwelling owned (or being purchased) by you or any usual member of this household?

- No → Go to question H3.
 Yes

Is there a mortgage (or contract of sale) on this dwelling?

- No → Go to question H4.
 Yes

What monthly payment (or average monthly payment) is made on the total mortgages (or contracts of sale) on this dwelling?

\$ per month → Go to question H4.

H4. How many registered motor vehicles owned or used by members of this household were garaged or parked at or near this dwelling for the night of 30 June 1981?

- Exclude motor bikes, motor scooters, tractors.
- Include company vehicles kept at home.

- None
 1 motor vehicle
 2 motor vehicles
 3 motor vehicles
 4 or more

H3. Do you or any usual member of this household pay rent for this dwelling?

- No → Go to question H4.
 Yes

To whom is the rent paid?

- 1 State Housing Commission
 2 Other Government Agencies
 3 Other

What is the weekly rent?

\$ c.....

Is this dwelling rented furnished or unfurnished?

- 1 Furnished → Go to question H4.
 2 Unfurnished

Another three questions on the back of the census schedule about dwelling structure, the material of outer walls, and the reason a dwelling was unoccupied, were completed by the collector.

COLLECTOR'S USE ONLY		
C1. What type of structure best describes this dwelling?	C2. What is the material of the outer walls of this dwelling?	C3. If dwelling unit is unoccupied, why is it unoccupied?
<p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> Separate House</p> <p>2 <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-detached House</p> <p>3 <input type="checkbox"/> Row or Terrace House</p> <p>4 <input type="checkbox"/> Medium Density Housing</p> <p>5 <input type="checkbox"/> Flats Over Three Storeys</p> <p>6 <input type="checkbox"/> Caravan, Houseboat, etc.</p> <p>7 <input type="checkbox"/> Improvised Home</p> <p>8 <input type="checkbox"/> House or Flat Attached to a Shop, Office, etc.</p>	<p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> Brick, brick veneer, stone</p> <p>2 <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete, concrete block</p> <p>3 <input type="checkbox"/> Timber</p> <p>4 <input type="checkbox"/> Fibro, asbestos</p> <p>5 <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>	<p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> For sale</p> <p>2 <input type="checkbox"/> To let (other than holiday home)</p> <p>3 <input type="checkbox"/> Newly completed and awaiting occupancy</p> <p>4 <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant for repairs or alterations</p> <p>5 <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday home</p> <p>6 <input type="checkbox"/> Condemned or awaiting demolition</p> <p>7 <input type="checkbox"/> Usual resident temporarily absent</p> <p>8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other ↓ Please specify..... </p>

Dwelling characteristics

From these householders' and collectors' questions (and sometimes, other questions on the census schedule) data on the following characteristics are produced. The mnemonic is the shorthand used to identify the characteristic in the *Catalogue of 1981 Census Tables* (2139.0).

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Mnemonic</i>
Aboriginal dwelling	ABD
Bedrooms—number	BED
Females in private dwellings	FPD
Males in private dwellings	MPD
Material of outer walls	MAT
Mortgage payments—total monthly	ALM
Motor vehicles—number	VEH
Nature of occupancy	NOC
Non-private dwelling	NPD
Number of occupants in dwelling	IMD
Rent—weekly payments	RNT
Rooms in private dwelling	TOT
Structure of dwelling	STR
Unoccupied private dwelling—reason	RUN

Four other characteristics relating to families are recorded for the dwelling of each household. They are:

Primary family—number of persons	NFP
Secondary family 1—number of persons	NFA
Secondary family 2—number of persons	NFB
Secondary family 3—number of persons	NFC

refer to Section 4, Family

Details of the classifications of each of the dwelling characteristics are as follows:

Aboriginal dwelling ABD

The classification for this characteristic indicates dwellings where the head or spouse of a primary family unit (PFU) stated in answer to question 16 that he/she was of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (TSI) origin.

Code Descriptor

0	Not applicable
1	Head Aboriginal, spouse Aboriginal
2	Head Aboriginal, spouse TSI
3	Head Aboriginal, spouse other, or no spouse
4	Head TSI, spouse Aboriginal
5	Head TSI, spouse TSI
6	Head TSI, spouse other, or no spouse
7	Head other, spouse Aboriginal
8	Head other, spouse TSI

Bedrooms—number BED

Code Descriptor

0	None
1	1 bedroom
2	2 bedrooms
3	3 bedrooms
4	4 bedrooms
5	5 bedrooms
6	6 or more bedrooms
7	Not stated
8	Not applicable

Females in each private dwelling FPD

This characteristic classifies each private dwelling by whether there are 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 or more female occupants.

Males in each private dwelling

MPD

This characteristic classifies each private dwelling by whether there are 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 or more male occupants.

Material of outer walls

MAT

The classification of dwellings by the material of the outer walls of the dwelling is as follows:

Code Descriptor

0	Not applicable
1	Brick, brick veneer, stone
2	Concrete, concrete block
3	Timber
4	Fibro, asbestos
5	Other
6	Not stated

Mortgage payments—total monthly

ALM

The classification for this characteristic indicates whether mortgage payments were being paid on the dwelling and, if so, the amount (monthly).

Code Descriptor

1-398	1-398 in single dollars
399	\$399 or more
400	Not stated
401	Not applicable (i.e. no mortgage, or non-private dwelling)

Motor vehicles—number

VEH

This characteristic classifies dwellings by the number of registered motor vehicles, owned or used by members of the household, garaged or parked at or near the dwelling. It does not include motor bikes, other two wheeled vehicles or tractors.

Code Descriptor

0	None
1	1 motor vehicle
2	2 motor vehicles
3	3 motor vehicles
4	4 or more motor vehicles
5	Not stated
6	Not applicable (i.e. non-private dwellings)

Nature of occupancy

NOC

Information relating to nature of occupancy is derived from answers to question H2 and H3 on the census schedule. The classification for this characteristic is as follows:

Code Descriptor

00	Not applicable
01	Owner
02	Purchaser
03	Owner/purchaser undefined
	Tenant—housing authority
04	Furnished
05	Unfurnished
06	Not stated
	Tenant—other government agencies
07	Furnished
08	Unfurnished
09	Not stated
	Tenant—other landlord
10	Furnished
11	Unfurnished
12	Not stated
	Tenant—landlord not stated
13	Furnished
14	Unfurnished
15	Not stated
16	Other
17	Not stated

Because people may live in a rented dwelling while they are purchasing another, or vice versa, some households answer positively to both questions H2 and H3, although these questions both relate to the dwelling in which the household was counted on census night. While answers to each of these questions were checked in isolation for logical errors, no checking was performed for consistency between the two questions. Where this conflict occurred and insufficient information was given to indicate clearly whether the dwelling was owned or being purchased, a code was allocated for what seemed to be the most likely category after all the information given was taken into account.

Non-private dwelling

NPD

This characteristic classifies non-private dwellings into:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptor</i>
00	Not applicable
01	Hotel, motel
02	Caravan park
03	Staff quarters
04	Boarding house, private hotel
05	Boarding school
06	Residential college, hall of residence Hospital, not mental—
07	Public
08	Private
09	Nursing home
10	Mental hospital
11	Other mental institution
12	Institution for physically handicapped
13	Other health institution
14	Home for the aged
15	Aboriginal mission, settlement, etc.
16	Convent, monastery, etc.
17	Corrective institution mainly for children
18	Prison—adults
19	Other detention institutions
20	Night shelter
21	Hostel, half-way house for homeless people, refuge Child care, State operated—
22	Family group home
23	Campus home
24	Juvenile hostel
25	Other home for children Child care, not State operated—
26	Family group home
27	Campus home
28	Juvenile hostel
29	Other home for children
30	Other welfare institution
31	Campers out
32	Migratory

Number of occupants in dwelling

IMD

This characteristic refers to both private and non-private dwellings, and identifies dwellings by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 or more occupants. The characteristic has a value of zero for unoccupied private dwellings.

Rent—weekly payments

RNT

This characteristic relates only to rented occupied private dwellings and these are classified, by the amount of rent paid, as follows:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptor</i>
0-148	0-148 in single dollars
149	\$149 or more
150	Not stated
151	Not applicable

Rooms in private dwelling

TOT

This characteristic classifies occupied private dwellings by:

Code Descriptor

0	Not applicable
1	1 room
2	2 rooms
3	3 rooms
4	4 rooms
5	5 rooms
6	6 rooms
7	7 rooms
8	8 or more rooms
9	Not stated

Structure of dwelling

STR

Dwelling structure is based on information supplied by collectors for all private dwellings. The classification is as follows:

Code Descriptor

0	Not applicable
1	Separate house
2	Semi-detached house
3	Row or terrace house
4	Other medium density housing
5	Flats over three storeys
6	Caravan, houseboat, etc.
7	Improvised home
8	House/flat attached to shop/office
9	Not stated

Unoccupied private dwelling—reason

RUN

This characteristic relates only to unoccupied private dwellings, and is based on information supplied by the census collector. If a dwelling was vacant (long grass, unopened newspapers, etc.) the collector checked with neighbours. Only after the collector had positively determined that a dwelling was vacant, or that the usual occupants were absent on census night, was it treated as unoccupied. The classification is as follows:

Code Descriptor

0	Not applicable
1	For sale
2	To let (not holiday home)
3	Newly completed
4	Vacant for repairs or alterations
5	Holiday home
6	Condemned or awaiting demolition
7	Usual resident temporarily absent
8	Other
9	Not stated*

*Note that a computer processing error has caused the categories 'usual resident temporarily absent' and 'not stated' to be combined for output purposes.

Data quality

The difficulties of classifying dwelling structures using only external observation, especially for unoccupied dwellings, must be kept in mind when data on dwelling structure are being used. The descriptions included for the dwelling structure classification (collector's question C1, see p. 4) were introduced for the 1981 Census after field trials of the 1976 and some other questions on structure indicated that collectors had had difficulty in accurately identifying dwelling structure types.

The difficulty with any structure classification is to develop a set of dwelling classes, in particular for those dwellings with a structure type somewhere between separate house and high rise flats or apartments. The question format for 1981 is different from the 1976 Census, although the only significant change in dwelling structure classification is that 'villa units and town houses' etc. have been grouped into one category: 'medium density housing'. For the 1981 Census, all that was attempted was to separate out the older style semi-detached, terrace and row houses commonly found in major cities.

The 1976 Census output data on semi-detached houses and terrace houses, flats or home units less than three storeys, villa units, town houses, and dwelling combined with a non-dwelling were (except for a small number of tables for selected areas) amalgamated into the single category 'flats, home units etc.—up to three storeys high'. This was because of inconsistencies among collectors' assessments of dwelling structure types, due in part to the variety of terms used to describe the same type of dwelling structure.

For 1981 Census outputs 'other medium density housing' includes houses converted into two or more flats, and blocks of flats up to and including three storeys high. 'Separate house' includes flats attached to a house, or residential accommodation in an adjacent converted garage.

For the 'number of bedrooms' classification, there are difficulties with comparisons between 1981 and 1976 Census results due to changes in edit procedures for the category 'none'. In the process of validating 1981 Census data a significant decrease between 1976 and 1981 in the number of dwellings recorded as having no bedrooms became evident. In 1976, any dwelling recorded as having only one room—a bedroom (e.g. in the case of a bedsitter)—was classified as being a one room dwelling without a bedroom since the automatic edit specified that the total number of rooms in a dwelling had to be greater than the number of bedrooms. For 1981, the edit in respect of this item allowed the number of rooms to be the same as the number of bedrooms, hence the apparent decrease between the two censuses in the number of dwellings without a bedroom.

SECTION 3

HOUSEHOLD

Definition of household

For census purposes, a household is defined as a group of people who were living together as a single domestic unit, with common eating arrangements, at the time the census was taken. Persons living away from their usual dwellings on census night were therefore excluded from the composition of the remaining household (if any). A person living alone is also a household and it is possible for more than one household to live in one house. (Refer also to Section 1—Explanatory notes.) Note that non-private dwellings, by census definition, do not contain households.

Every household must, for census purposes, have one person to whom relationships of other household members can be expressed. It has been the custom in past censuses for one household member to be designated as head of household. Answers to the question on relationship of the other household members (if any) to this person then enabled household and family compositions (including non-family members) to be established. For the 1981 Census, however, the person in respect of whom the first column on the schedule was completed (i.e. Person 1) was the person to whom the relationships of other household members were sought. For consistency between censuses in terminology of data description in tabulations, this person is referred to as the household head. Where no 'person one' was identified on the schedule, one was imputed during the coding process for these items. This change in terminology on the census schedule from 'Household head' to 'Person 1' appears to have had no effect on the resulting statistics.

The household head is also the head of the primary family unit (refer to Section 4 of this paper).

Households and families

Generally, but not always, a household will comprise only one family unit. Family units are identified by the relationship of individuals to the family head. As well as containing families a household may also contain non-family members, so that persons making up a household do not have to be related to each other in any way. A household may also consist of more than one family unit (refer to Section 4 of this paper).

Householder's schedule

Information from the census was collected using the household as the basic unit of enumeration. Each household received a householder's schedule to be completed on census night. The householder's schedule was used to record information about all members of the household who were present on census night; however, where a person in a household wished to keep his/her information private, a Personal Form was issued on request which was completed separately and handed to the census collector in a sealed envelope, so that details were not shown on the general household schedule. However, such personal forms were placed inside the relevant household schedule by the census collector so that family relationships could be coded later during processing.

Personal forms were also delivered to non-private dwellings and to private households where there were more than 8 and less than 12 persons on census night. If there were more than 12 persons, then another householder's schedule was issued.

Personal forms do not include any householders' or collectors' questions relating to the dwelling in which the respondent was counted.

Household characteristics

Data from the 1981 Census are available for the following two characteristics and associated classifications:

Families in household—number

NOF

This characteristic (which can only apply to occupied private dwellings) classifies households by the number of family units:

Code Descriptor

0	Not applicable (i.e. non-private dwellings)
1	Primary family unit
	Primary family unit and—
2	1 secondary family unit
3	2 secondary family units
4	3 secondary family units

Household income

HIN

This characteristic is the combined annual income of all persons aged 15 years or over in a household on census night. Since income is reported on the census schedule by ticking the income class into which an individual's income falls, the convention of adding the mid-points of the ticked income classes to aggregate to household income has been adopted. (For more details on the census characteristic income, refer to *Census 81—Income (2151.0)*).

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptor</i>
00	Not applicable
01	None
02	Less than \$1,000
03	\$1,000-\$2,000
04	\$2,001-\$3,000
05	\$3,001-\$4,000
06	\$4,001-\$6,000
07	\$6,001-\$8,000
08	\$8,001-\$10,000
09	\$10,001-\$12,000
10	\$12,001-\$15,000
11	\$15,001-\$18,000
12	\$18,001-\$22,000
13	\$22,001-\$26,000
14	Over \$26,000
15	Not stated

SECTION 4

FAMILY

Family questions

Question 4: 'What is each person's relationship to Person 1?' forms the basis for all family coding in census outputs. If relationship was not stated, the family structure was imputed during processing from replies to questions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8. Responses to other questions, such as total issue (number of children born to a female and now living) and usual residence one and five years ago, may also have been consulted.

1. Name of each person who spent the night of 30 June 1981 in this household:	PERSON 1	PERSON 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include any person who returned on Wednesday, 1 July 1981, without having been counted elsewhere. Record details for all adults, children and babies (including visitors) who spent the night of Tuesday, 30 June 1981, in this household. Enter the household head or any adult household member as Person 1. 	Christian or given name..... Surname.....	Christian or given name..... Surname.....
2. Sex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tick one box for each person (e.g. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>). 	Male <input type="checkbox"/> or Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Male <input type="checkbox"/> or Female <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Age: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In years and completed months. If age is less than one year write "0" years and the number of completed months. years months years months
4. What is each person's relationship to Person 1? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples of other relationships: mother, father, sister, son-in-law, granddaughter, uncle, boarder, visitor, co-tenant, flatmate, commune member, etc.. 	Person 1	Wife..... <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Husband..... <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Son..... <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Daughter..... <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Other..... <input type="checkbox"/> 5 ↓ Please state.....
5. What is each person's present marital status?	Never married..... <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Now married..... <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Separated but not divorced..... <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Divorced..... <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Widowed..... <input type="checkbox"/> 5	Never married..... <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Now married..... <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Separated but not divorced..... <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Divorced..... <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Widowed..... <input type="checkbox"/> 5
<i>Answer questions 6 and 7 for each person now married.</i> 6. What is the length (in years) of the person's present marriage? years years
8. Where does each person usually live? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Usual" residence is that address at which a person has lived or intends to live for any period of 6 months or more in 1981. For persons who now have no usual residence, regard this dwelling as their usual residence and tick box 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If usual residence is overseas, write only name of country. → 	At the address shown on front of this form..... <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Elsewhere..... <input type="checkbox"/> 2 ↓ If "Elsewhere" please print the usual address. No. and street..... Suburb, town or locality..... Name of local council..... State..... Postcode..... Country.....	At the address shown on front of this form..... <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Elsewhere..... <input type="checkbox"/> 2 ↓ If "Elsewhere" please print the usual address. No. and street..... Suburb, town or locality..... Name of local council..... State..... Postcode..... Country.....

Family coding

All family coding of census data relates only to persons within individual households: usual family members not present in the household on census night are counted at their actual location on census night and are assessed in terms of family status at that location. In many cases they would be identified in such contexts as non-family members.

Clerical coding of family relationships in the census is complex. Coders at the 1981 Census Data Transcription Centre followed a strict set of rules to establish relationships. For detailed information about this process, copies of instructions to coders can be made available on request.

Family relationships, for census purposes, are only coded for private dwellings. For families in non-private dwellings see C: Occupants of non-private dwellings, below.

Question 4 asked for each person's relationship to person 1. Responses such as 'fiancee', 'de facto' or 'lover' were frequently given, although the instructions for the question did not seek such responses. Such responses were, however, used to help determine family relationships.

Families (termed family units) are defined on the basis of blood and marriage (including *de facto*) relationships, and are largely based on the nuclear (immediate) family.

For the 1976 Census:

- (a) any indication given on the schedule that adults of opposite sex were living together as man and wife was used in determining family structure of households.
- (b) the respondent's choice of 'person 1' was accepted as household head (unless it was unreasonable to do so, e.g. when 'person 1' was a young child).

The same approach to these issues has been taken for the 1981 Census.

In 1981, as in 1976, if a person indicated that he/she lived in a *de facto* relationship with person 1 regardless of his/her marital status, he/she was coded as the spouse. No distinction is made in census outputs between a spouse legally married to the family head and a *de facto* spouse.

If the relationship was given as 'fiancee' or 'lover' then the decision to code the partners as head and spouse depended on other information on the census schedule e.g. whether there were any children of the union and if so, their ages; or the period the couple had lived together as implied by responses to usual residence one and five years ago. The number of head/spouse relationships determined in this way is very small.

As well as families, a household may contain non-family members i.e. persons who are part of a household need not be related (within the limits specified for census purposes) to other household members. Non-family members are classified into three groups:

- related non-family members;
- boarders;
- other non-family members.

Note that by census definition, members of a household coded as non-family members must be at least 16 years of age. (See B: Non-family members—Occupants of private dwellings, below).

Commune members were classified separately for the 1976 Census and not subject to the usual family structures in private dwellings. For the 1981 Census they were not distinguished in this way but were subject to the rules for family coding.

Family definitions

The determination of family relationships and composition is complex and many factors may be taken into consideration. However, the following description of family concepts should meet most users' needs.

A: Classification of family members—Occupants of private dwellings

In the census, two types of families are recognised in any one household: a primary family unit, whose head is also the head of the household; and up to three secondary family units (SFU's).

PRIMARY FAMILY UNIT (PFU)

The family of the household head is the primary family unit and may consist of:

- (a) 'head of the household' (and of the PFU).
- (b) 'spouse' (if present) of the household head (one per PFU, and of the opposite sex to the head of household). If a spouse is present, then the age of the household head must be 15 years or more (by census definition).
- (c) an 'unmarried child' of any age of the head and/or spouse of the family, unless accompanied by an offspring. Such children are designated as 'child family member'—see RLF, p. 18 for full definition. A married son or daughter not accompanied by a spouse or child(ren) is defined for census purposes as a 'related' non-family member and is not coded to a PFU or SFU. ('Unmarried child' includes children never married, separated but not divorced, divorced or widowed.)
- (d) any child (whether or not related to the household head) under 16 years of age with no parent present. Such children are described as an 'other child' and can only be coded to a PFU.
- (e) lone parents and other older generation relatives of direct line relationship to the household head or his/her spouse, who are:
 - (i) 30 years of age and over;
 - (ii) not presently married; and
 - (iii) without parent(s), spouse or child(ren) present. Such persons are coded as 'ancestors' within the PFU, unless condition (iii) is not satisfied, in which case they form an SFU. This 1981 coding procedure is different from that used at the 1976 Census when, if (grand) father *and* (grand) mother or mother-in-law *and* father-in-law were present, they were not treated as a separate SFU but were classified as ancestors within the PFU.
- (f) sister(in-law) or brother(in-law) of the household head who are:
 - (i) 16 years of age and over;
 - (ii) not presently married; and
 - (iii) without parent(s), spouse or child(ren) present. These persons are coded as 'other family members' in a PFU.

SECONDARY FAMILY UNIT (SFU)

If a private household contains more than one family unit, all family units other than the PFU are designated as secondary family units (SFU's). An SFU must consist of at least two persons.

The possible combinations of an SFU are:

- (a) a married couple
- (b) a married couple with their child(ren). See RLF, p. 18 for definition of a child family member.
- (c) a lone parent with his/her child(ren).

If both husband and wife are present in an SFU, the husband is designated family head. The lone parent is the head of a family comprising the lone parent and his/her children.

Only three SFU's are recognised in any private household. If more than three existed, the members of the fourth and subsequent SFU's are coded thus:

- (a) children are coded to 'other children of the PFU';
- (b) any boarders are coded to 'boarder';
- (c) other persons are coded to 'other non-family members'.

B: Non-Family members—Occupants of private dwellings

Non-family members who are occupants of private dwellings can be:

- (a) related non-family members. A relative, 16 years of age and over, of the household head, where it can be assumed that the relative belongs to a family unit outside the household, is coded as a related non-family member. These are principally married sons or daughters, married brothers or sisters who are not accompanied by spouse or child(ren); i.e. 'relative' (so described) of any marital status, without spouse or child(ren) present, and therefore not constituting a SFU.
- (b) boarders. A boarder in a private dwelling is a person who states his/her relationship to the household head as 'boarder'. A boarder who is less than 16 years of age without parent(s) present is coded to 'other child' of the PFU. If families can be identified amongst boarders they are coded to one or more SFU's. Boarders in non-private dwellings are coded differently from boarders in private dwellings. Boarders in non-private dwellings are coded to the classification 'guest, boarder, inmate, patient, etc.' (See C: Occupants of non-private dwellings, below.)
- (c) Other non-family members. These are any persons (e.g. friends, guests, foster children, employees, etc.) 16 years of age and over, but without parent(s), spouse or child(ren) present, who cannot be allocated any other family relationship code.

C: Occupants of non-private dwellings (NPD's)

Coding of families only applies to occupants of private dwellings. However, the following distinction is made between occupants of NPD's. (See Section 2 of this paper for a full description of NPD's.):

- (a) owner, manager, proprietor etc., and his/her family;
- (b) employee of NPD, and his/her family;
- (c) guest, boarder, inmate, patient etc. (i.e. neither (a) nor (b) above).

Because no information is obtained on family relationships for occupants of NPD's, it is not possible to include them in tables classifying families by type. Such tables, therefore, relate only to families in private dwellings.

Family characteristics

The following family characteristics are included in tables from the 1981 Census:

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Mnemonic</i>
Family head	FHD
Family income	FIN
Family number	FNO
Family type	FMC
Income unit type	IUT
Primary family—number of persons	NFP
Relationship to head of family	RLF
Secondary family 1—number of persons	NFA
Secondary family 2—number of persons	NFB
Secondary family 3—number of persons	NFC

Details of the classifications of each of these family characteristics follow:

Family head**FHD**

This characteristic is used to identify the head and spouse in primary and secondary families in private dwellings. The classification is:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptor</i>
0	Head of family
1	Spouse
2	Other (including all members of NPD's)

Family income

FIN

This characteristic relates only to PFU's and SFU's counted in occupied private dwellings. Family income is calculated from the sum of the mid-points of the range of the combined individual incomes of the head and spouse, or the head's income only if the spouse is absent. The incomes of other family members are not included.

The classification for FIN is:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptor</i>
00	Not applicable
01	None
02	Less than \$1,000
03	\$1,000-\$2,000
04	\$2,001-\$3,000
05	\$3,001-\$4,000
06	\$4,001-\$6,000
07	\$6,001-\$8,000
08	\$8,001-\$10,000
09	\$10,001-\$12,000
10	\$12,001-\$15,000
11	\$15,001-\$18,000
12	\$18,001-\$22,000
13	\$22,001-\$26,000
14	Over \$26,000
15	Not stated

For more information on FIN see also *Census 81—Income (2151.0)*.

Family number

This characteristic gives each person in a household one of the following codes according to the kind of family in which he or she is counted:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptor</i>	
0	Primary family	} in private households
1	Secondary family 1	
2	Secondary family 2	
3	Secondary family 3	
4	Non-family member	} in non-private dwellings
5	Not applicable	

Note that an occupied private dwelling will be occupied by a PFU. In addition, up to three SFU's may be recognised in the dwelling, and/or a number of non-family members.

Family type

FMC

This characteristic indicates the type of family (if any) of which individuals in private dwellings are members and is the major family classification produced. It includes a derived category for 'dependants' who are defined as all children aged 0-15 years included in the family unit (refer to RLF for a more precise definition, p. 18), or aged 16-20 years and attending full-time at an education institution. All other members of the family related to the head are 'adults' in this classification. Non-family members are excluded from this classification, but can be obtained from the classification RLF.

The classification for FMC is:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptor</i>
PRIMARY FAMILY UNIT	
01	Head only, aged under 30 years
02	Head only, aged 30-44 years
03	Head only, aged 45 years and over

Code Descriptor

04	Head, 1 dependant
05	Head, 2 dependants
06	Head, 3 dependants
07	Head, 4 dependants
08	Head, 5 or more dependants
09	Head aged under 30 years, spouse
10	Head aged 30-44 years, spouse
11	Head aged 45 years and over, spouse
12	Head, spouse, 1 dependant
13	Head, spouse, 2 dependants
14	Head, spouse, 3 dependants
15	Head, spouse, 4 dependants
16	Head, spouse, 5 or more dependants
17	Head, other adult(s), no dependants
18	Head, other adult(s), 1 dependant
19	Head, other adult(s), 2 dependants
20	Head, other adult(s), 3 dependants
21	Head, other adult(s), 4 dependants
22	Head, other adult(s), 5 or more dependants
23	Head, spouse, other adult(s), no dependants
24	Head, spouse, other adult(s), 1 dependant
25	Head, spouse, other adult(s), 2 dependants
26	Head, spouse, other adult(s), 3 dependants
27	Head, spouse, other adult(s), 4 dependants
28	Head, spouse, other adult(s), 5 or more dependants

SECONDARY FAMILY UNIT

29	Head, 1 dependant
30	Head, 2 dependants
31	Head, 3 dependants
32	Head, 4 dependants
33	Head, 5 or more dependants
34	Head aged under 30 years, spouse
35	Head aged 30-44 years, spouse
36	Head aged 45 years and over, spouse
37	Head, spouse, 1 dependant
38	Head, spouse, 2 dependants
39	Head, spouse, 3 dependants
40	Head, spouse, 4 dependants
41	Head, spouse, 5 or more dependants
42	Head, other adult(s), no dependants
43	Head, other adult(s), 1 dependant
44	Head, other adult(s), 2 dependants
45	Head, other adult(s), 3 dependants
46	Head, other adult(s), 4 dependants
47	Head, other adult(s), 5 or more dependants
48	Head, spouse, other adult(s), no dependants
49	Head, spouse, other adult(s), 1 dependant
50	Head, spouse, other adult(s), 2 dependants
51	Head, spouse, other adult(s), 3 dependants
52	Head, spouse, other adult(s), 4 dependants
53	Head, spouse, other adult(s), 5 or more dependants
54	Not applicable (i.e. other non-family members of the household and persons in non-private dwellings)

Income unit type

(IUT)

This is a derived classification of family type (FMC) and relates only to persons in occupied private dwellings. Income unit type is classified as follows:

Code	Descriptor
0	Not applicable
1	Head and spouse only
2	Head, spouse and dependants
3	Head only and dependants
4	Head only
5	Other adult family member
6	Adult non-family member

where dependants are defined as in FMC (above).

On the census unit record file, income unit type is held for each person in the household as the variable IUT.

For tables which cross-classify income with IUT the following rules apply:

- (a) for IUT codes 1-3, family income is used and either families or individuals are counted, depending on the table;
- (b) for IUT codes 4-6, individual income is used and persons are counted.

For more information on IUT see also *Census 81—Income* (2151.0)

Primary family—number of persons

NFP

This characteristic classifies occupied private dwellings by the number of persons in the primary family unit (see Section 4, A, of this paper); namely 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 or more persons. Non-family members are excluded.

Relationship to head of family

RLF

The classification for this characteristic, as shown below, includes categories for persons in private dwellings and non-private dwellings. The classification shows the values for RLF which are possible for persons in primary families, secondary families and non-family members. Related persons in non-private dwellings are not aggregated into families because (like the non-family members in private dwellings) they are excluded from the family analysis. In non-private dwellings the relationship is to the dwelling i.e. owner, employee, inmate, patient, etc.

The classification of RLF is:

Code	Descriptor		
Private dwellings			
1	Head	} secondary family units	} primary family units
2	Spouse		
3	Child family member*		
4	Other child		
5	Ancestor	} non-family members	
6	Other family member		
7	Related non-family member		
8	Boarder (in private dwelling)		
9	Other non-family member		
Non-private dwellings			
1	Owner/manager and family		
2	Employee and family		
3	Inmates, patients, boarders etc.		

* A child family member is any child:

- (a) born to the family head or spouse or both;
- (b) adopted by the family head or spouse or both;
- (c) who is a step child to the family head or spouse or both; or
- (d) who is a child to the absent *de facto* spouse of a family head.

A child family member may be of any age and must be unmarried or, if in a *de facto* relationship, cannot have a spouse and/or children of his/her own present on census night.

This category does not include:

- (a) foster children;
- (b) State wards;
- (c) daughters/sons-in-law; or
- (d) god-sons/-daughters

Secondary family 1—number of persons

NFA

This characteristic classifies private dwellings by the number of persons in the first secondary family unit (SFU) (see Section four of this paper), namely 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 or more persons.

Secondary family 2—number of persons

NFB

As with NFA (above) this characteristic classifies private dwellings by the number of persons in the second SFU.

Secondary family 3—number of persons

NFC

This characteristic classifies private dwellings by the number of persons in the third SFU (refer to NFA and NFB above).

Table populations

Each table produced from the census counts something. It may, for example, count all persons in Australia on census night, or only those over 15 years of age. What the table counts is called the table population.

A number of tables are produced using persons with specific family characteristics as the table population e.g. families with head and spouse; family heads; household heads; families with dependants aged 0-5 years etc. Refer to the *Catalogue of 1981 Census Tables* (2139.0) for further details of table populations available for family characteristics.

Census versus ABS household surveys

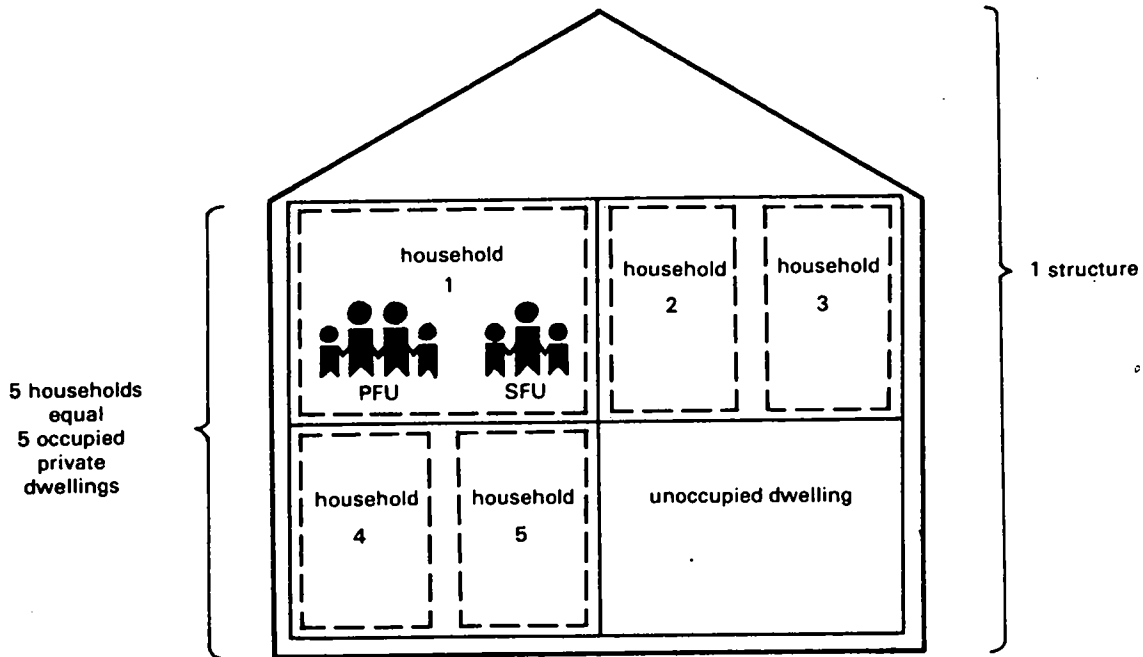
In addition to census statistics on families, the ABS publishes family statistics collected in household surveys. There are three differences between family concepts, used in household surveys and those used in the censuses of population and housing.

- (a) For census purposes, a primary family may consist of one person but under household surveys practice a family is two or more related people. The data can, however, be put on a comparable basis.
- (b) For census purposes, the family excludes cousins, uncles and aunts of a person. In household surveys, persons having these relationships to the person designated as family head (for statistical purposes) are included in the family.
- (c) Terminology varies with respect to family type e.g. 'head and spouse only' (census) versus 'husband and wife only' (household surveys); 'other adults' (census) versus 'other relatives' (household surveys); and 'unrelated non-family members' (census) versus 'non-family individuals' (household surveys).

SECTION 5

SUMMARY OF CONCEPTS

Because of the subtle differences between dwelling, household and family, confusion sometimes arises about what the statistics on these topics show. The following diagram may help; it includes the other complicating characteristic, dwelling structure.



—— structure - - - household

6 dwellings: 5 occupied, 1 unoccupied
private dwelling

SECTION 6

RELEASE OF CENSUS DATA

Census 81 data are being released in statistical publications, on microfiche and on magnetic tape. Statistics on dwelling, household and family characteristics are included in all these forms of census information.

The statistical publications which include statistics on dwellings, households or families are:

Bulletin 1 : Persons and Dwellings in Local Government Areas and Urban Centres (2401.0-2408.0)

Bulletin 2 : Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings (2435.0-2443.0)

Bulletin 3 : Cross-classified Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings (2444.0-2452.0)

Details of statistics contained in these publications appear in the free information paper: *Census 81—Statistical Publications (2144.0)*.

Cross-classified tables with more detailed classifications of dwelling, household and family are included on microfiche and magnetic tape.

Statistics on microfiche include: small area summary tables and counts for most geographic areas from collection district (CD) up to Australia level; and cross-classified tables giving more detailed statistics on characteristics of persons and dwellings at broader geographic levels. All publications, CD field maps, and geographic code and conversion lists are also being published on microfiche. The information paper, *Census 81—Microfiche (2145.0)*, a free publication, gives detailed information about microfiche output.

Magnetic tape files contain large quantities of summary statistics and detailed tables. The 1981 Census magnetic tape files are:

- (a) Geographic Descriptor File;
- (b) Collection District Master File;
- (c) Collection District Summary File;
- (d) Local Government Area Summary File;
- (e) CD and LGA Summary Files Print Programs;
- (f) Household Sample File;
- (g) Persons Sample File;
- (h) Census Descriptor File; and
- (i) A number of detailed tables on magnetic tape, prefixed MT.
- (j) Descriptor File for Household Sample
- (k) Descriptor File for Persons Sample

The free information papers, *Census 81—Magnetic Tape Summary Files (2143.0)*, *Census 81—Sample Files on Magnetic Tape (2165.0)* and *Census 81—Detailed Tables on Magnetic Tape (2166.0)* contain order forms for magnetic tapes and further information.

A number of census releases are being published which explain the outputs available and some of the more detailed characteristics:

The production programme planned from the 1981 Census is contained in *Census 81—Data Release Plans (2142.0)* and its *Addendum* (a free publication).

The *Catalogue of 1981 Census Tables (2139.0)* lists summary tables, cross-classified tables, statistical publication tables and detailed tables on magnetic tape.

Census data are also released on maps, which are described in the information paper: *Census 81—Maps (2146.0)*.

Other census (free) publications are listed below. Note that none of these contain statistics.

Making Sense of Census 81 (2140.0)(a)

Census 81—Industry (2147.0)(a)

Census 81—Occupation (2148.0)(a)

Census 81—Education Qualifications (2149.0)(a)

Census 81—Income (2151.0)(a)

Census 81—Language (2152.0)(a)

Census 81—Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders (2153.0)(a)

Census 81—Journey to Work (2154.0)

Census 81—Usual Residence and Internal Migration (2155.0)

Census 81—Effects of Introduced Random Error (2156.0)(a)

Geographic Code List (2141.0)(a)

(a) already available.

Further information

If you require further information about the census, please contact any of the ABS Offices listed in the Appendix.

APPENDIX**INQUIRIES**

NEW SOUTH WALES	Information Services St Andrew's House Sydney. NSW. 2000 (Box 796 GPO Sydney 2001) Phone (02) 268 4395-6-7 Telex AA20819	WESTERN AUSTRALIA	Information Services 1-3 St George's Terrace Perth. WA. 6000 Phone (09) 323 5140 Telex AA92041
VICTORIA	Information Services Commonwealth Banks Building Cnr Elizabeth & Flinders Streets Melbourne. VIC. 3000 (Box 2796Y GPO Melbourne 3001) Phone (03) 652 6192 Telex AA30086	TASMANIA	Information Services Australian Government Centre 10th Floor 188 Collins Street Hobart. TAS. 7000 (Box 66A GPO Hobart 7001) Phone (002) 20 4437 or 20 4495 Telex AA58098
QUEENSLAND	Information Services 345 Ann Street Brisbane. QLD. 4000 Phone (07) 336 022 Telex AA40271	NORTHERN TERRITORY	The Statistician—Northern Territory 7th Floor MLC Building 81 Smith Street Darwin. NT. 5790 (Box 3796 PO Darwin 5794) Phone (089) 80 2717 Telex AA85075
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Information Services City Mutual Centre 10-20 Pulteney Street Adelaide. SA. 5000 (Box 2272 GPO Adelaide 5001) Phone (08) 228 9439 Telex AA82106	AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY	Information Services Australian Bureau of Statistics Box 10 PO Belconnen. ACT. 2616 Phone (062) 52 6627 Telex AA62020