



Review of 2021 Census topics

Unpaid Work and Care

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on unpaid work and care.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via consult.abs.gov.au

What was included in the 2016 Census?

Unpaid work and care topics on the Census included:

- unpaid care of children
- unpaid care, help or assistance due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person
- unpaid work - domestic activities
- unpaid work - voluntary work for an organisation or group.

For more information view [2901.0 – Census Dictionary](#)

How is this information used?

Questions on unpaid work and care are answered by people aged 15 years and over. They are separate from employment questions. The questions cover various types of unpaid work and care.

The Census information collected about people's responsibilities at home provides insights into how individuals and families balance paid work and education with other important aspects of their lives, such as family and community commitments.

The information gathered can be used to plan local facilities and services, such as child care and support for carers.

Participation in voluntary work is a measure of how we contribute to society and provides an indication of social connection within communities.

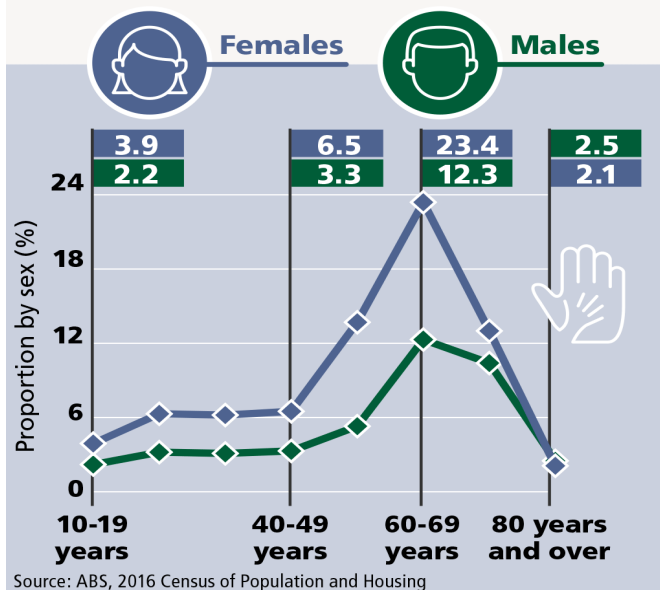
Our understanding of how different cultures and family structures manage these responsibilities can be enriched through consideration of other data collected such as cultural diversity.

The questions asked on the 2016 Census

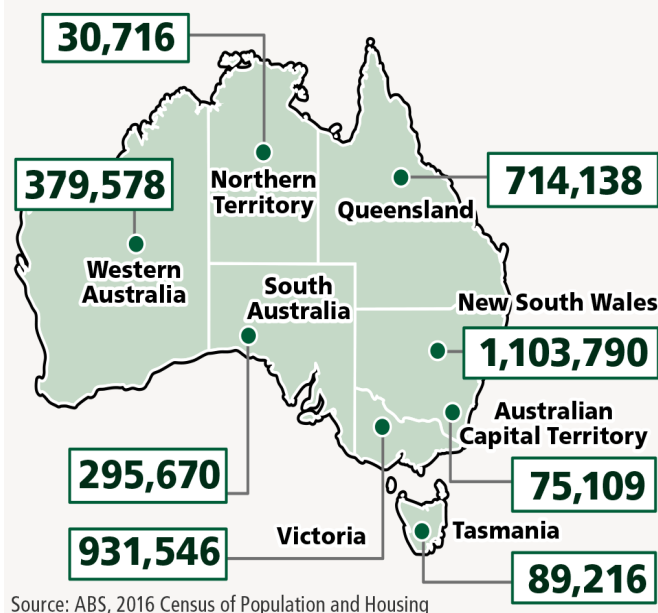
- In the last two weeks did the person spend time looking after a child, without pay?
- In the last 2 weeks did the person spend time providing unpaid care, help or assistance to family members or others because of a disability, a long term health condition or problems related to old age?
- In the last week did the person spend time doing unpaid domestic work for their household?
- In the last twelve months did the person spend any time doing voluntary work through an organisation or group?

Highlights from the 2016 Census on unpaid work and care

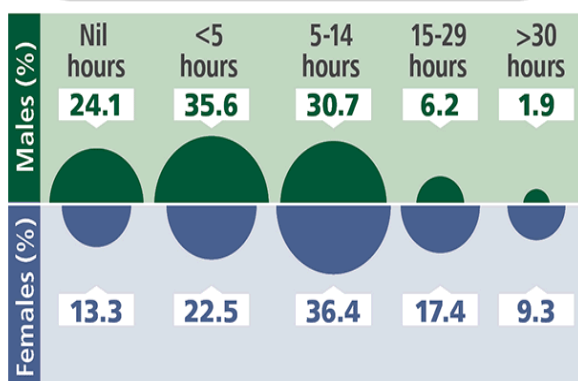
Males and females providing unpaid care to children other than their own



Number of volunteers by state and territory



Weekly hours* of unpaid domestic work



*Hours in the week prior to Census for employed people.
Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing

Standards

There are no standards used for the collection of unpaid work and care information.

If you are interested in finding out more information about volunteering data please refer to the paper [4159.0.55.004 - Discussion Paper: Information needs for Volunteering data, April 2017](#)

For more information go to www.abs.gov.au/census