

CENSUS OF 1891.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT.

GENERAL REPORT

OR

THE ELEVENTH CENSUS

OF

NEW SOUTH WALES;

BY

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GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS AND DIAGRAMS.

Preface



The renowned New South Wales Statistician T.A. Coghlan presented the first Statistician's Report for the Census of New South Wales in 1891. It included details of all the previous censuses back to the earliest musters of convicts in Sydney Cove and set a precedent for high quality analysis of the population census.

George Handley Knibbs published the first Commonwealth Statistician's Report with the results of the 1911 Commonwealth Census. Following the comprehensive nature of previous reports, it was nearly 1000 pages long. The First World War impinged on its release and it took six years from the date of the census before its release in 1917. It was the first time that a clear picture of the people of our young nation was available.

The Commonwealth Statistician's Report was released for every subsequent census for 50 years—from 1911 until 1961. While the tradition of releasing a Commonwealth Statistician's Report dwindled with the introduction of computing and the availability of census data on a mass scale, the need for analytical publications remained. During the 1980s a number of smaller publications were released in its place. For the censuses from 1986 to 2001, Australia in Profile along with other thematic publications offered analysis of the census.

The fifteenth Census of Population and Housing was held on 8 August 2006. It incorporated a number of changes designed to keep the census as efficient and contemporary as possible. For the first time, people could complete their census form online. In addition, new questions on need for assistance (a measure of disability), and voluntary and unpaid work were included. The first data from the 2006 Census were released in June 2007 and incorporated a completely redesigned web based system that uses a wide range of searching and mapping facilities.

Ultimately, the purpose of each census is to put vital information into the hands of users across Australia. It helps Australians understand how the nation is changing. The census covers a wide variety of topics, with detailed data available down to the regional and small area levels and about small population groups in our society. As a result, the census provides statistical information which can assist decision making in all sections of society: governments, businesses, academics, researchers, students, community organisations and individuals.

For previous censuses the Statistician's Reports played a strong role in fulfilling this purpose. Now I would like to reintroduce a Statistician's Report for the 21st century. Today, a huge breadth of information is available from the census, and it would be impossible for one report to summarise it all. The 2006 Australian Statistician's Report showcases the depth and range of information that the 2006 Census and previous censuses provides about Australia's diverse peoples. It covers topics as varied as changes to families and living arrangements, commuting to work, skills shortages, and second generation Australians. This edition has a particular focus on changes across the generations and differences across Australia.

I would like to thank the Australian people for participating in the census and the tens of thousands of people who worked on the 2006 Census. Thanks also to the ABS staff who prepared this report, **A Picture of the Nation: The Statistician's Report on the 2006 Census.**

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