



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE 2016 CENSUS

# AUGUST 9 IS CENSUS NIGHT. OUR MOMENT TO **PAUSE** AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

## What is the Census?

The Census of Population and Housing (Census) is Australia's largest statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). For more than 100 years, the Census has provided a snapshot of Australia, helping to shape our nation's education, health, transport and infrastructure.

## When is the next Census?

The next Census will be held on August 9.

## What does the Census mean to Australia?

The Census provides important information about Australia's people and their housing. It helps estimate Australia's population, which is used to distribute government funds and plan services for your community.

In 2016, the Census will count close to 10 million dwellings and approximately 24 million people, the largest number counted to date.

## What should people expect this Census?

From August 1, most households will receive a letter from the ABS, addressed 'To the Resident'.

The letter will include your household's unique Census Login and instructions on how to complete the Census online, as well as directions on how to order a paper form.

## How many people are expected to complete the Census online?

In 2016, more than 15 million people are expected to complete the Census online.

## Why go digital?

Completing the Census online is fast, easy, secure and environmentally friendly and helps reduce the cost of the Census to the community.

## Can I still complete a paper form?

Yes. If a household is unable to access the internet or would prefer to fill out a paper form, simply call our automated paper form request service. You will need your 12-digit Census Login from the letter you received.

Paper forms must be completed and returned in the Reply Paid envelope without delay - don't wait for a Census Field Officer to collect it.

## I have received a paper form. Can I complete it online?

In some locations, households will receive a paper form upfront with the option to complete the Census online. If you're able to access the internet, just follow the simple instructions on the front of the form to complete it online.

If you complete it online, do not mail back your paper form - please recycle.

## Will personal information be shared with other government departments?

No. The personal information which you provide in the Census is not shared with any other government departments or agencies including the police, Australian Taxation Office or Centrelink.

The ABS is legally bound to protect the privacy of all Australians and will not release your information in a way that will identify any individual or household.

## What happens to my personal information after the Census?

After data collection and processing, the ABS will remove names and addresses from other household information. Names and addresses will be stored separately and securely from other Census data. Names and addresses will be destroyed four years after collection or earlier, once there is no longer any community benefit from their retention.

## Is the Census compulsory?

Yes. Everyone in Australia on Census night must complete the Census. It's the law.

## Where can I find out more information about the Census?

If you have any questions, like what to do if you're not home on Census night, how to complete the Census in a share house, or what to do if you don't receive your letter, please search *Census*.



**Census**  
census.abs.gov.au

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