



Census

Inclusive Strategies

2026 Australian Census of Population and Housing



A faint, light purple circular Aboriginal pattern with concentric circles and dots, located on the left side of the slide.

**The Australian Bureau of Statistics acknowledges
the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country
throughout Australia and recognises their continuing
connection to land, waters and community. We pay our
respects to their cultures and Elders, past and present.**

A faint, light purple gear-like Aboriginal pattern with a central heart shape, located on the right side of the slide.

What is the Census?

- The ABS conducts the Australian Census of Population and Housing every five years.
- The Census counts every person and home in Australia.
- Census data tells us about the economic, social and cultural make-up of the country.
- The Census is compulsory for everyone in Australia on Census night (including international students, temporary workers, and tourists).

The next Census will be held in August 2026.



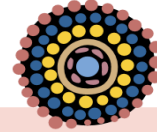
Inclusive Strategies scope



People
experiencing
homelessness
strategy



People from
culturally &
linguistically
diverse
communities
strategy



Aboriginal and
Torres Strait
Islander Peoples
in urban and
regional areas
strategy



Strategy for
people living
with
disability

People experiencing homelessness strategy



**HEALTHCARE
FOR OUR MOST
VULNERABLE**

WHY EVERY ANSWER MATTERS IN THE 2026 CENSUS

Street Side Medics brings doctor-led care to people experiencing homelessness – whether that's sleeping rough in inner-Sydney, or staying on a friend's couch in a regional town. The 2026 Census will help them identify more communities where their service is needed.

www.census.abs.gov.au



Census

ABS definition of homelessness

A person is homeless if they do not have suitable accommodation alternatives and their current living arrangement:

- is in a dwelling that is inadequate – ACT 2021 59
- has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable, or – ACT 2021 862
- does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations. – ACT 2021 848

Rough Sleeper Week

People without shelter or typical accommodation, for example people living in their car or on the street

- Rough sleepers are counted by interview.
- In the standard approach (Special Short Form), the 'usual address' question won't be asked.
- In specific areas, some people will be asked the usual address question. This is so people who are travelling from Community can provide details about where they have travelled from.

**Australian
Bureau of
Statistics**

Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026

Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026

How to write your answers

Please use a black or blue pen.

Mark boxes, like this: ☒

Use CAPITAL letters, use every box in turn and only miss a box to leave a space between words, like this:

GEORGE STREET

1 Where did you sleep on Census night, Tuesday 11 August 2026?

Street number

Street name (examples: GRAHAM AVENUE, GEORGE STREET)

Suburb/Locality

State/Territory

Postcode

Landmark/Location (example: SUPERMARKET CARPARK (SMITH ST))

2 What is your date of birth and age?

If date of birth is not known, please give age.

Day

Month

Year

Age

3 What was your sex recorded at birth?

Mark 'Another term' when the person was registered as something other than male or female at birth.

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Another term

4 Are you of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin?

For people of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.

☐ No

☐ Yes, Aboriginal

☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander

5 In which country were you born?

☐ Australia

Other (specify)

6 What is your total fortnightly income from all sources?

☐ \$1-\$299 per fortnight

☐ \$300-\$599 per fortnight

☐ \$600-\$799 per fortnight

☐ \$800-\$999 per fortnight

☐ \$1,000-\$1,299 per fortnight

☐ \$1,300 or more per fortnight

☐ \$0 or nil income

7 Have you ever served in the Australian Defence Force?

Include Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army, Royal Australian Air Force, Second Australian Imperial Force, National Service and NORFORCE.

Exclude service for non-Australian defence forces.

Mark all that apply, like this: ☒

☐ No ☒ Go to Q8

Regular Service

☐ Yes, currently in the Australian Defence Force

☐ Yes, previously in the Australian Defence Force

Reserves Service

☐ Yes, currently in the Reserves

☐ Yes, previously in the Reserves

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Census and homelessness approach types



Census

Accommodation for people experiencing homelessness (around 11th August)

People staying in crisis accommodation, shelters, refuges and boarding houses



- The ABS will work closely with homelessness service providers and organisations to count the number of people staying in these places on Census night.
- Community Field Officers will assist in collection for some of these cases.
- In some instances, this may occur around the 11th August

Census Personal Form
Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026

For ABS use only

Complete your Census online

1 Go to www.census.abs.gov.au

2 Select **Continue to Census form**

3 Enter your Census number

4 Enter your temporary password

OR

Complete this paper form and return it without delay.

It's time to complete your Census.
Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026. Every person in Australia on Census night must be included on a Census form. The information you provide is used to make important decisions about transport, schools, health care and infrastructure. It also helps plan services for individuals, families and communities.
Complete this form if you requested a separate form, or you are:
• staying in accommodation such as a hotel, hospital, aged care home or staff/student quarters, or
• in a household of more than six people.
The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects your information and keeps that information confidential in accordance with the Census and Statistics Act 1955. Go to www.census.abs.gov.au or page two of this form to find out more.
Thank you for taking part.

Jenny Telford
Jenny Telford
Census General Manager

How to write your answers

- Use a blue or black pen only.
- Mark response boxes, like this: ☐ (if any)
- Use **CAPITAL** letters and only use one letter per box.
- Remember to leave a space between words, like this: **D I E S E L M E C H A N I C**
- If you make a mistake, draw a line through the box, like this: **S E R V I N G C A R S**
- OR draw a line through the box and continue writing, like this: **S E R V I N G C A R S**

1 What is the address of this dwelling?
Please use **CAPITAL** letters only.

Apartment/Flat/Unit number _____ Street number (examples: 1-9, LDT 37) _____
(if any)

Street name (examples: GRAHAM AVENUE, GEORGE STREET) _____

Suburb/Localities _____

State/Territory _____ Postcode _____

Property/Building name (if any) _____

All responses are kept strictly confidential. To see our Privacy Policy and Collection Notice, go to www.census.abs.gov.au/privacy
For more information, go to www.census.abs.gov.au

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Census and homelessness approach types

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Couch surfers



People who are
between homes,
staying temporarily
with friends or family

- Couch surfers and people living in severely crowded homes can be counted as part of regular Census field collection.
- Everyone staying at the residence on Census night needs to be included on the Census form. Personal forms should be used to help count couch surfers

Census Household Form
Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026

For ABS use only Complete your Census online

It's time to complete your Census.
Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026. Every person on Census night must be included on this Census form.

The information you provide is used to make decisions about transport, schools, health care and infrastructure. It also helps plan services for individuals, families and communities.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects and keeps that information confidential in accordance with the Census and Statistics Act 1955. Go to www.census.gov.au page two of this form to find out more.

Thank you for taking part.

Jenny Telford
Census General Manager

How to write your answers

- Use a blue or black pen only.
- Mark response boxes, like this: —
- Use CAPITAL letters and only use one letter per box. NSW
- Remember to leave a space between words, like this: DIESEL MECHANIC
- If you make a mistake, draw a line through the box, like this: SERVICING CARS

OR draw a line through the box and continue writing, like this: SERVICING CARS

1 What is the address of this dwelling?

Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any) Street number (examples: 1-9, 127 37)

Street name (examples: GRAHAM AVENUE, GEORGE STREET)

Suburb/Locality

State/Territory Postcode

Property/Building name (if any)

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Census Personal Form
Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026

For ABS use only Complete your Census online

It's time to complete your Census.
Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026. Every person in Australia on Census night must be included on a Census form. The information you provide is used to make important decisions about transport, schools, health care and infrastructure. It also helps plan services for individuals, families and communities.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects your information and keeps that information confidential in accordance with the Census and Statistics Act 1955. Go to www.census.gov.au page two of this form to find out more.

Thank you for taking part.

Jenny Telford
Census General Manager

How to write your answers

- Use a blue or black pen only.
- Mark response boxes, like this: —
- Use CAPITAL letters and only use one letter per box. NSW
- Remember to leave a space between words, like this: DIESEL MECHANIC
- If you make a mistake, draw a line through the box, like this: SERVICING CARS

OR draw a line through the box and continue writing, like this: SERVICING CARS

1 What is the address of this dwelling?

Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any) Street number (examples: 1-9, 127 37)

Street name (examples: GRAHAM AVENUE, GEORGE STREET)

Suburb/Locality

State/Territory Postcode

Property/Building name (if any)

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Paper forms used for homelessness enumeration

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Census Household Form
Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026

For ABS use only

Complete your Census online

1 Go to www.census.abs.gov.au

2 Select **Continue to Census form**

3 Enter your Census number

4 Enter your temporary password

OR

Complete this paper form and return it in the Reply Paid envelope without delay.

It's time to complete your Census.

Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026. Everybody at this address on Census night must be included on this Census form, including visitors and babies.

The information you provide is used to make important decisions about transport, schools, health care and infrastructure. It also helps plan services for individuals, families and communities.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects your information and keeps that information confidential, in accordance with the Census and Statistics Act 1955. Go to www.census.abs.gov.au or page two of this form to find out more.

Thank you for taking part.

Jenny Telford
Census General Manager

How to write your answers

- Use a blue or black pen only.
- Mark response boxes, like this: ☐ **NSW**
- Use **CAPITAL** letters and only use one letter per box.
- Remember to leave a space between words, like this: **D I E S E L M E C H A N I C**
- If you make a mistake, draw a line through the box, like this: **S E R V I C I N G C A R S**

1 What is the address of this dwelling?

Please use **CAPITAL** letters only.

Apartment/flat/unit number (if any) Street number (examples: 1-6, LOT 37)

Street name (examples: GRAHAM AVENUE, GEORGE STREET)

Suburb/Locality

State/Territory Postcode

Property/building name (if any)

All responses are kept strictly confidential. To see our Privacy Policy and Collection Notice, go to www.census.abs.gov.au/privacy

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

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Census Personal Form
Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026

For ABS use only

Complete your Census online

1 Go to www.census.abs.gov.au

2 Select **Continue to Census form**

3 Enter your Census number

4 Enter your temporary password

OR

Complete this paper form and return it without delay.

It's time to complete your Census.

Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026. Every person in Australia on Census night must be included on a Census form. The information you provide is used to make important decisions about transport, schools, health care and infrastructure. It also helps plan services for individuals, families and communities.

Complete this form if you requested a separate form, or you are:

- staying in accommodation such as a hotel, hostel, bed and breakfast, or
- in a household of more than six people.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects your information and keeps that information confidential, in accordance with the Census and Statistics Act 1955. Go to www.census.abs.gov.au or page two of this form to find out more.

Thank you for taking part.

Jenny Telford
Census General Manager

How to write your answers

- Use a blue or black pen only.
- Mark response boxes, like this: ☐ **NSW**
- Use **CAPITAL** letters and only use one letter per box.
- Remember to leave a space between words, like this: **D I E S E L M E C H A N I C**
- If you make a mistake, draw a line through the box, like this: **S E R V I C I N G C A R S**

1 What is the address of this dwelling?

Please use **CAPITAL** letters only.

Apartment/flat/unit number (if any) Street number (examples: 1-6, LOT 37)

Street name (examples: GRAHAM AVENUE, GEORGE STREET)

Suburb/Locality

State/Territory Postcode

Property/building name (if any)

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

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Census Special Short Form
Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026

How to write your answers

Please use a black or blue pen.

Mark boxes, like this: ☐ **NSW**

Use **CAPITAL** letters. Use every box in turn and only miss a box to leave a space between words, like this: **G E O R G E S T R E E T**

1 Where did you sleep on Census night, Tuesday 11 August 2026?

Street number

Street name (examples: GRAHAM AVENUE, GEORGE STREET)

Suburb/Locality

State/Territory Postcode

Landmarks/Location (examples: SUPERMARKET, CHURCH, GYM, etc.)

2 What is your date of birth and age?

If date of birth is not known, please give age.

Day Month Year

Age

3 What was your sex recorded at birth?

Mark 'Another term' when the person was registered as something other than male or female at birth.

Male

Female

Another term

4 Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

For people of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.

No

Yes, Aboriginal

Yes, Torres Strait Islander

5 In which country were you born?

Australia

Other (specify)

6 What is your total fortnightly income from all sources?

\$1-\$299 per fortnight

\$300-\$399 per fortnight

\$400-\$499 per fortnight

\$500-\$599 per fortnight

\$600-\$699 per fortnight

\$700-\$799 per fortnight

\$800-\$899 per fortnight

\$900-\$1,099 per fortnight

\$1,100-\$1,299 per fortnight

\$1,300 or more per fortnight

\$0 or nil income

7 Have you ever served in the Australian Defence Force?

Include Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army, Royal Australian Air Force, Second Australian Imperial Force, National Service and HOPFORCE.

Exclude service for non-Australian defence forces.

Mark all that apply, like this: ☐ **NSW**

No

Yes, currently in the Australian Defence Force

Yes, previously in the Australian Defence Force

Reserve Service

Yes, currently in the Reserves

Yes, previously in the Reserves

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ABS Homelessness Operational Groups - recap

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ABS Homeless Operational Group(s)	Referred to as	Form type	Answering the usual address question
People living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleepers out	'sleeping rough'	Special Short Form (most areas) Household Form in specific areas	Special Short Form - not included Household Form - 'NONE' or provide usual address (if have one),
People in supported accommodation for the homeless	'in transitional, crisis or homeless accommodation (short or medium term)'	Personal Form	Write 'NONE' in the suburb part of the question
People living in boarding houses	'in rooming houses or lodging houses'	Personal Form	Homelessness-agency arranged stay - write 'NONE – CRISIS' in the suburb part of the question Living long term - provide the address of the boarding house.
People in other temporary lodgings	'in brokered, vouchered or purchased accommodation'	Personal Form	Write 'NONE – CRISIS' in the suburb part of the question.
People staying temporarily with other households	'couch surfing'	Household Form or Personal Form	Residents who have no usual address enter 'NONE' for the suburb part of the question.
People living in 'severely' crowded dwellings	'in overcrowded dwellings'	Household Form or Personal Form	Provide usual address

Locations for support during Census

During the week commencing 10th August, Census staff will be accompanying the following outreach teams on their standard route:

Vinnies Night Patrol – Monday 10th – Sunday 16th

Orange Sky – various locations and times across the week

Census staff will be providing in-house support at the following locations:

Early Morning Centre – Tuesday 11th – Friday 14th 9am – 1pm

Vinnies Roadhouse – Monday 10th – Sunday 16th

St Benedicts in Queanbeyan – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10am - 1pm

New Census topic



2026 Census topic review

- Two phase public consultation with over 1,000 pieces of feedback.
- Changes to questions for 10 existing topics across cultural diversity, health, household and families, transport and work themes.
- This includes expansion of the ancestry question to collect up to four ancestries for each person.
- A new topic on gender and sexual orientation has been added for people aged 16 years and older.

New topic – Gender and Sexual Orientation

Important data that will support better programs and services across Australia

Household Form (paper form)

8 What was the person's sex recorded at birth?

- Mark 'Another term' when the person was registered as something other than male or female at birth.
- Mark one box, like this: ☐

- ☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Another term

9 What is the person's gender?

- Answer for people aged 16 years and older.
- This question refers to how the person currently identifies or expresses their gender, which may be different to sex at birth.
- Mark one box, like this: ☐

Go to www.census.abs.gov.au/questions for more information.

- ☐ Man
☐ Woman
☐ Non-binary
☐ Uses another term (specify)
☐ Prefer not to answer

57 How does the person describe their sexual orientation?

- Answer for people aged 16 years and older.
- Data from this question will help plan health and social programs and services.
- Mark one box, like this: ☐

Go to www.census.abs.gov.au/questions for more information.

- ☐ Straight
☐ Gay or Lesbian
☐ Bisexual
☐ Uses another term (specify)
☐ Don't know
☐ Prefer not to answer

2025 Census Test Interviewer Household Form

Person Number	Name	Date of Birth and Age	Was the person born as:
Person 1	First or given name Surname or family name	Day Month Year AND Age Years	☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Another term

59 Only continue for people aged 16 years or more			
Person No.	59 Does the person identify as a man or a woman? • This question can be skipped.	61 Does the person describe themselves as: • This question can be skipped.	
1	☐ Man ☐ Woman ☐ Non-binary ☐ Uses another term (specify) ☐ Prefer not to answer	☐ Straight ☐ Gay or Lesbian ☐ Bisexual ☐ Uses another term (specify) ☐ Prefer not to answer	

When will data be released?

June 2027

- Key demographics
- Cultural diversity
- Health



October 2027

- Employment
- Educational qualifications
- Internal migration



Early to mid 2028

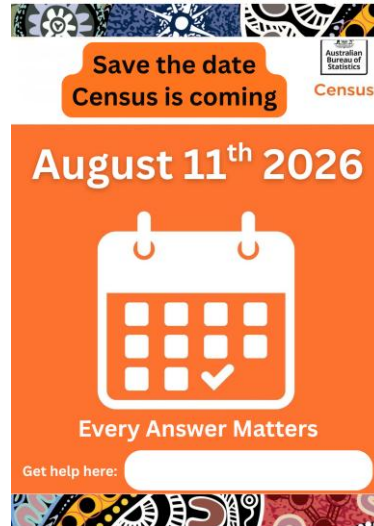
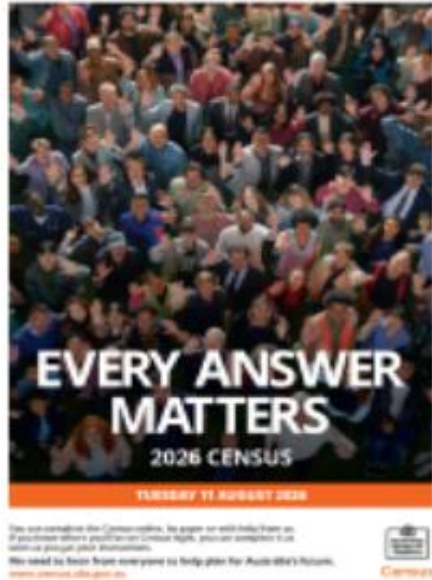
- Journey to work
- Socio-economic indexes for areas (SEIFA)
- Estimates of people experiencing homelessness



How you can help



Promoting Census 2026



A range of promotional materials, social media tiles and language information is available to download from our resources site – www.info.census.abs.gov.au

For further information please contact:

Deb Fleming – Local Engagement Office – ACT

Email: deb.fleming@censusfield.abs.gov.au

Phone: 0438 244 233

www.info.census.abs.gov.au