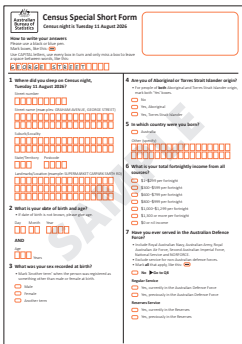
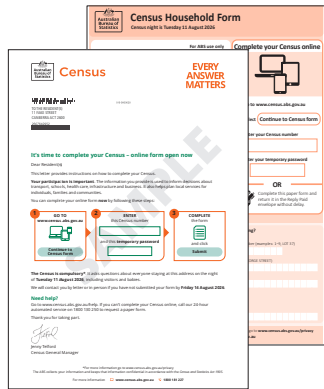


2026 Census Guide for Homelessness Support Workers

Where is the client staying on Tuesday 11 August (Census night)?	How will they participate?	Special instructions
 Sleeping rough	They will be interviewed by Community Field Officers between 10-16 August generally using the Special Short Form.	You can check with your Census contact about locations/times they can be interviewed. If they complete their own Census form, they should write NONE under suburb/locality for the question "Where does the person usually live?".
 Staying in short-term supported accommodation e.g. crisis or refuge	Staff from the accommodation service will give them a Census Personal Form and can help them to fill it out.	They should write NONE under suburb/locality for the question "Where does the person usually live?".
 Brokered into temporary/emergency accommodation (hotel/motel, backpackers, caravan park, boarding house)	Staff at their accommodation will give them a Census Personal Form to fill out.	They should write NONE-CRISIS under suburb/locality for the question "Where does the person usually live?".
 Staying in a boarding, rooming or lodging house	ABS officers will attempt to appoint someone at the dwelling to give residents a Census Personal Form to fill out.	If a homelessness service has arranged their stay, they should write NONE-CRISIS under suburb/locality for the question "Where does the person usually live?". If they are living there long-term, they should write the boarding house address for their usual address.
 Living in transitional (medium term) housing	They will get a letter to complete the Census online or get a paper Household Form dropped off.	They should write NONE under suburb/locality for the question "Where does the person usually live?", no matter how long they have lived at this address.
 Between homes and temporarily staying with friends or family (couch surfing)	The household in which they're staying will get a letter to complete the Census online or get a paper Household Form dropped off.	They should write NONE under suburb/locality for the question "Where does the person usually live?". If they haven't been included on the household's form (or they're not sure), they can request their own separate form.

If they haven't received a form by Census night or want to request their own paper form or an online form, they should reach out to their local Census contact or visit www.census.abs.gov.au/help.

Note: if your client has already completed a form and hasn't written 'NONE' or 'NONE-CRISIS' as instructed in the table above, there is no further follow-up for you or them.

2026 Census Special Short Form	2026 Census Personal Form	2026 Census Household Form
		
People sleeping rough will generally be interviewed using the Special Short Form, a shortened version of the Census Form.	People staying in non-private dwellings such as hotels, boarding houses and crisis accommodation will receive a paper Personal Census Form. There are instructions to complete online if preferred.	Most households will receive a Census letter to complete the Census online. A paper form can be requested if preferred. Some households will receive a paper Census Household Form.

People can complete their Census in their preferred way – online, by paper or with help from Census staff.

More information:

- A person is considered to be homeless if they live in a dwelling that:
 - is inadequate; or
 - has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable; or
 - does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations (i.e. they live in a room in a boarding house so have nowhere to entertain friends).
- It is important to accurately count people experiencing homelessness because of the role Census data plays in planning and the allocation of funds to services, including refuges, domestic violence programs, transitional housing, and programs for young people.
- The Census is compulsory. Everyone in Australia on Census night must be included on a Census form, except foreign diplomats and their families.
- Sector staff can help clients fill in the Census form if they are asked for assistance.
- The personal information collected in the Census is protected by law and isn't shared with anyone. This includes other government agencies, landlords, Centrelink and the Police.
- Resources for people experiencing homelessness are available at www.census.gov.au/homelessness
- Separate forms can be requested by calling **1800 181 227**.