

In summary, the #CensusFail Submission argues:

- The government has never had any legislative right to combine data from the census with administrative or law enforcement datasets.
- The manner in which the government undertook the decision to de-anonymise census data for linkage with administrative datasets was inadequate and inappropriate.
- At no time has the ABS attempted to educate the public about the uses to which 2016 census data will be put.
- The oversight mechanisms originally in place to govern cross portfolio data integration projects have been removed in favour of less transparent and legally inappropriate mechanisms.

It is the proposition of this submission that the above considerations have impacted significantly on the data quality of the 2016 Census and that this is directly relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference: a, b, e & f.

#CensusFail Submission
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About

The #CensusFail Submission to the to the '[Inquiry](#) into the preparation, administration and management of the 2016 Census' is written by Rosie Williams BA (Sociology). You can contact me [here](#) or find out more about me [here](#). At the time of writing I have not received any payment in relation to the research or preparation of this submission, the survey which is included or for any other action or statement related to the 2016 census or the #CensusFail campaign.

The submission is based on research which [goes back 45 years](#), includes an explanation and examination of the privacy principles as they relate to [data linkage projects](#) run by the Commonwealth government and includes feedback from a survey of responses to this year's census that was completed by over 500 people. I have carefully documented #CensusFail throughout and have used this documentation (in the Appendices) to reference the submission. If you would like to read only about the survey, go straight to [Community Response](#).

This submission is written solely by myself without public editing and does not imply endorsement of any particular person or group however many people have contributed to the pool of knowledge I have drawn from at the #CensusFail hashtag. A list of those who wish to specifically endorse this submission is below.

Special thanks to [REDACTED] (whom I've had no communication with) for the dedication he has shown to community in placing the original [FOI request through Right to Know](#) which I discovered and lead to #CensusFail.

This submission is specifically endorsed by the following people/Twitter accounts: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Introduction

It's August 9, 2016. The government has been running a scare campaign for weeks, turning a mundane form-filling event into a nation-wide law and order operation.

Afraid of prosecution (and simply to do their civic duty), millions go online as instructed on August 9, 2016 to fill out the Australian Census of Housing and Population.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull tweets (in what later must have read as a smug tone) that he had completed his Census without any issues.

Shortly after this missive went live, the Census site went down like a boxer with a glass jaw. For reasons yet to be fully explained, rather than inform the public that the site had been deliberately removed from public access, the ABS continued to issue instructions through social media channels to complete the survey.

As a result, much of the country spent hour after hour staring at error messages, creating a groundswell of frustration in what was a very public demonstration of just how fragile and unprepared the Census systems were for the task for which they were created.

Hours later, the ABS publicly admits for the first time that the Census site is down while thousands take to Twitter making #CensusFail the top global trending hashtag.

This submission is dedicated to the over 500 people who contributed their experiences to the #CensusFail Survey. But the #CensusFail issue doesn't begin on August 9, 2016. The real story of how Australia's Census became a source of national outrage has a surprisingly long history.

Reaching back through the decades from the campaign against inclusion of names in the 1971 census the Australia Card protests of the 80's, through the Save our Census review of the 90's and culminating in the last minute decision to de-anonymise the 2016 Census, this submission provides an overview of the epic struggle between the populace and our government over the right to decide what personal information we share and the uses to which it is put.

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Historical Background

In modern Australia, censuses occur every five years. This provides several years between each census for legislation to be changed and for individuals to forget our past battles over collection, storage, control and use of census data that have culminated most recently, in the conflict and dissent surrounding the 2016 census.

In Australia, the issue of privacy is indivisible from that of the Australian census. In point of fact, it was public backlash from the threat to de-anonymise the [1971](#) and [1976](#) censuses that gave impetus to Australia's first Commonwealth privacy legislation.

As a result of the protests of the 1970's censuses, the government formed the Australian Law Reform Commission to inquire into the balance between the collection and storage of personal information in Australian censuses and the right of the individual to privacy:

*The ALRC received a wide-ranging reference on privacy from the federal Attorney-General in April 1976. At the same time, public controversy arose in relation to certain aspects of the census to be held on 30 June 1976, therefore, the Attorney-General requested that the implications of the census for individual privacy be taken into account in the Commission's general reference. The ALRC released a discussion paper *Privacy and the Census (ALRC DP 8)* in 1978 and its first report, *Privacy and the Census (ALRC Report 12)*, was tabled in federal Parliament in November 1979. (Quote from the [ALRC website](#).)*

The conflict surrounding the 2016 census is rooted in attempts by successive governments to introduce a national identity system and the efforts of Australian citizens to resist these attempts. The most well-known of these campaigns was the Australia Card of the late 1980's through which the Hawke government attempted to introduce a unique identifier that would be used to link together multiple administrative datasets for the purposes of law enforcement. The Howard government had similar plans in mind with their 'Access Card'.

So determined was Labor to introduce a national identity system, it took the Australia Card to a Double Dissolution election, a tactic which ultimately did their efforts no good in the face of the largest nation-wide protests experienced since Vietnam.

In a plan nearly identical to the Australia Card, late last year the Australian Bureau of Statistics took a decision to de-anonymise the 2016 census to enable the creation of a unique key to link together multiple (and undisclosed) administrative datasets.

This was not the first attempt of the Bureau to de-anonymise the census and in fact represents a step in a long history of similar efforts. An Inquiry was carried out in 1997 seeking input on the benefits of a de-anonymised census. Titled, [Saving our Census and Preserving our History](#), the ABS itself was quoted as being clearly against any such de-anonymisation for fear that it would breach the relationship of trust it held with the public and put future censuses at risk (Chapter 3).

3.35 ABS stated that privacy concerns in some overseas countries had adversely affected some censuses. Privacy concerns in the United Kingdom affected both the 1971 and 1991 censuses. Response rates to the 1991 census were so poor that the results are not used as the basis for estimates of the population. The 1981 census is still relied on. In 1971, a public campaign on privacy grounds led to the destruction of that year's census forms in the Netherlands and traditional censuses in the Netherlands are no longer conducted. In West Germany, a substantial campaign of opposition to the 1983 census led to its cancellation because of public concerns about protection of privacy. Following this West Germany made the destruction of census forms mandatory.

The report went on to detail many potential uses for a de-anonymised census including chasing family members for blood samples to be used in genetic research and assisting family historians of the future (and presumably the companies that now sell access to such records).

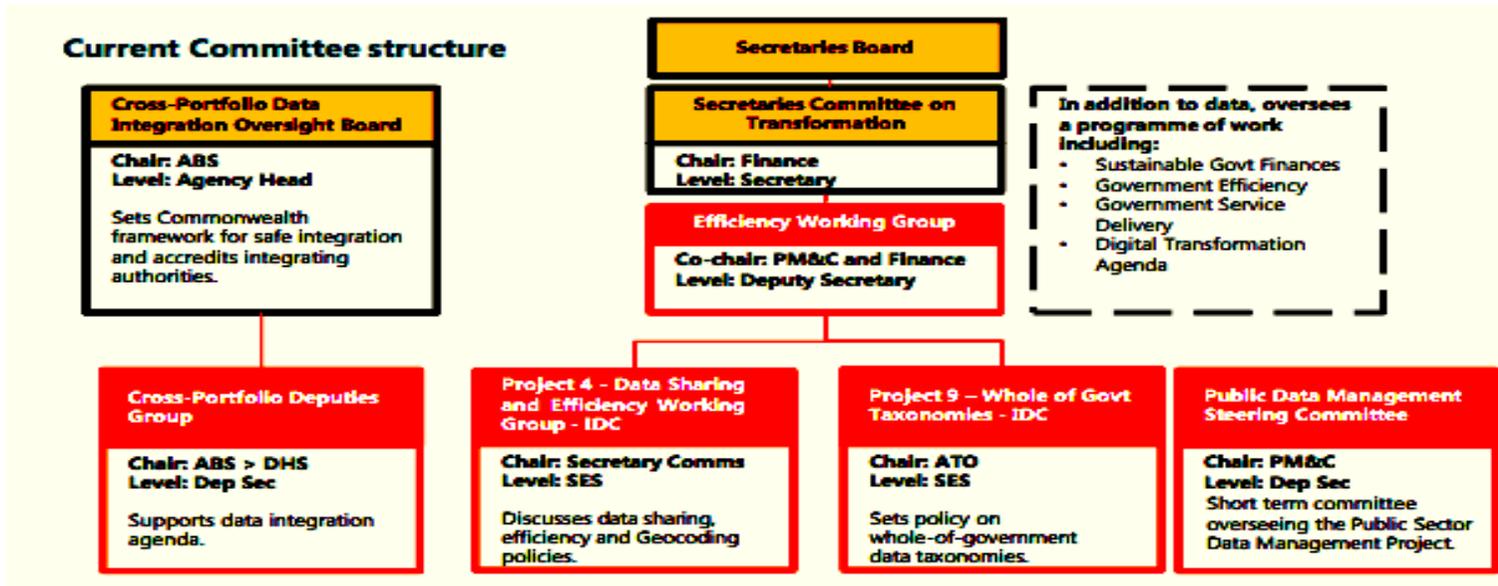
5.19 Professor Nicholson told the Committee that for the purpose of genetic research census information would be required well before a 100 year release period. He suggested that information would be required for living persons: We cannot make use of 100-year-old information – particularly obtaining blood samples – because all those people are dead. What we need to do is get to the living members of families that we know are connected through the historical records. That might mean that we go back through this material or other material which would connect them and then we would say, "You are a living descendant of this person."

In 2005, citing the Saving our Census Report, the government amended the Census and Statistics Act to introduce strict liability so that people could be fined for not returning the census form or filling it out incorrectly without the need for the government to prove any intention.

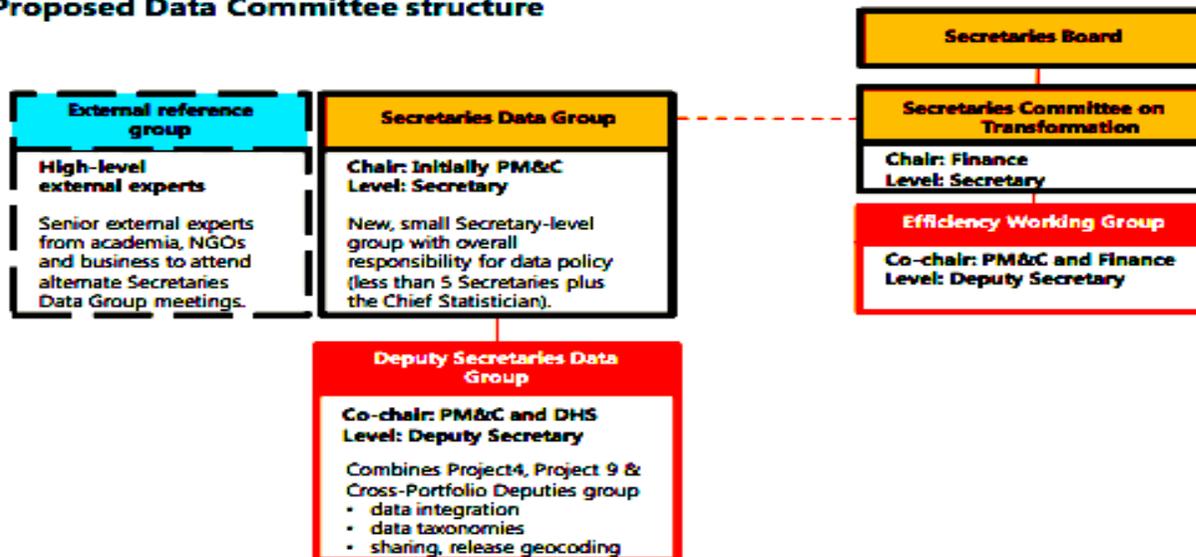
In the same year, the Australian government proposed the idea of using census data to link multiple administrative datasets in a project called the Census Enhancement Project. An independent Privacy Impact Assessment was commissioned which advised against the idea. In the words of [Dennis Trewin, Australian Statistician \(18 August 2005\)](#):

The ABS in 2005 points out that non-statistical or administrative uses would only be possible if radical changes were made to the authorising legislation.

The ABS believes that such changes are extremely unlikely. It would require a Government that would want to use Population Census data in this way, both Houses of Parliament to approve the change in legislation and a compliant Australian Statistician. Changes of this nature would be in clear breach of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.



Proposed Data Committee structure



The necessary changes to legislation never took place. Despite this, the governance arrangements for oversight of linked data projects put in place in 2010 were quietly removed during 2015 in favour of oversight by the Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries Data Project Boards under the auspices of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and ultimately, the Prime Minister himself (page 10 [Public Sector Data Management Report](#)).

Coinciding with this change in oversight of data integration projects, the ABS announced its intention on November 11, 2015 to consult on the retention of names & addresses: Just five weeks later, on December 18, 2015 the ABS announced its decision to retain names & addresses.

A census has some interesting statistical requirements, one of which is that it needs at least a 95% completion rate in order to be statistically accurate. Unlike other social research, a census needs extremely high participation rates in order to be usable.

This stringent requirement is one reason former Heads of the ABS have held such a disinclination to de-anonymise the census despite repeated requests from demographers, medical and genealogical researchers who would like to use de-anonymised census data as soon as possible.

In light of the former Statistician, Dennis Trewin's conclusions regarding the collection of census data for use in linking together administrative datasets, it would appear that the recent changes in oversight of data integration projects have been undertaken as an attempt to side-step the legislative and ethical issues identified by former Statisticians. Backing this up, another former Head of the ABS, Bill McLennan who contributed extensively to the Census and Statistics Act 1905, has been outspoken in his belief that the Act as it stands can not be used to compel people to provide name or address as the reason for collection is to create an SLK rather than to create a statistic.

For his part, David Kalisch, the current Head of the ABS claims he has different advice from the Government Solicitor but has not produced that advice for public scrutiny.

Attitudes to risk have clearly changed within the ABS since the 1989 'Save our Census' Report and the 2005 Report by former Head, Dennis Trewin with the current Head, David Kalisch making a decision within the space of a month only eight months before the census to break with history. Unlike previous consultations, this time the ABS did not seek an external review of the risks associated with this option but instead completed the mandatory Privacy Impact Assessment internally.

The issues surrounding the mixing of data collected for different purposes was not made clear during the consultation, nor was the consultation referenced in a single mainstream media story (see [media](#)).

When privacy advocates and the general public did begin raising concerns regarding the retention of names and addresses in the weeks leading up to the census, the ABS maintained a deception that no significant changes affecting privacy applied to the 2016 census.

Therefore it can be concluded that at no point either during or after the consultation has the public at large been informed of the significance of the changes to the 2016 census or in many cases that any changes were proposed or decided. This conclusion is reflected in the near universal response to [Question 10](#) in the #CensusFail Survey and has serious legal and political implications.

Data Linkage

To understand the campaign against the 2016 census it is important to understand the changes that have been introduced to the census and the purpose of those changes.

As can be seen in the section on Historical Background, while being tempted to de-anonymise the census throughout the past half century, the ABS has avoided doing so in favour of destroying names and addresses at the earliest opportunity. That all changed late in 2015.

The point of the change is to allow the ABS to create for each individual a Statistical Linkage Key created from name and address provided in the Census- a unique number that identifies each individual (including children) that is used to join data sets together to create more interesting and useful data.

Does the person speak a language other than English at home?	Language spoken at home	FK - Language	This question is useful in providing a description of those who are accessing mental health care. It is asked in the same format as on the Census, to allow for comparison.
	Language other	Text	
How well does the person speak English?		FK - English Level	This question is useful in providing a description of those who are accessing mental health care. It is asked in the same format as on the Census, to allow for comparison. Two response categories (i.e., not well and not at all) imply that the person will need further services in a language other than English. Indicate the english level from a drop down menu.
Is the person of Aboriginal origin?		FK - YesNoUnknown	This question is useful in providing a description of those who are accessing mental health care. It is asked in the same format as on the Census, to allow for comparison. For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, select 'yes' for both categories.
Is the person of Torres Strait Islander origin?		FK - YesNoUnknown	This question is useful in providing a description of those who are accessing mental health care. It is asked in the same format as on the Census, to allow for comparison. For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, select 'yes' for both categories.

The data linkage projects the Commonwealth government intends (and has already begun) to create will be used for research or law enforcement. The image on the last page is an example of the use of the SLK is in [joining data collected by health professionals with census data](#) yet few people would be aware that information is collected during their visits with doctors and mental health practitioners that is going to be matched with what they write on their census forms. It is this kind of undisclosed, intrusive behaviour by the government that privacy groups are concerned about.

The Australian government holds many 'administrative datasets'. These are created when we interact with government for the purposes of receiving services or benefits. If the government is supplying or paying for our health care for example, then this creates datasets owned by the government that include the information that is necessary to carry out this service. To be consistent with the Privacy Act 1988, the data collected and stored by organisations including government agencies must be treated in a manner consistent with the [Australian Privacy Principles](#).

Under these principles, only the information necessary for the service should be collected ([APP3 3.1 & 3.2](#)) and it should be stored in a way that provides a reasonable level of protection against mis-use (APP 11). The Australian Privacy Principles grant the public access to their data for the purpose of ensuring it is correct however it is important to note that this right does not apply in respect to census data. An ALRC report on Privacy and the Census, recommended the public be given access to data collected via the census if it is to be used for research purposes:

The Commission accepts the fundamental principle of privacy protection that an individual should normally be allowed to have access to, and to challenge, a record of personal information about him. This principle is based on the fact that a personal record affects the way in which an individual is perceived by others. It is also based on the value which access has as a means of controlling the quality of the information held in a system of personal records. It does not follow that a person should have unrestricted access to his own census information. That information is used for statistical purposes, unlike many other collections of personal information; it may not be used to the individual's personal detriment. Nonetheless, experience in North America indicates that there may be good reason for allowing access in special circumstances.

The Statistician should be required to grant access to an individual who is able to demonstrate that he has a reasonable ground for seeking access to census information and that his need for that information could not reasonably be met in other ways. Mere curiosity or a desire to check the accuracy of information which is to be used solely for statistical purposes should not constitute a reasonable ground for this purpose. (Para. 56)

If, as the Commission recommends later in this report, census forms were in future to be retained for research, a general right should be granted to census subjects to have access to, and to challenge, census information after it has been transferred to Archives. (Para. 56)

There should be a system of administrative review of decisions made with respect to such rights of access as may eventually be established. (Para. 56)

This position was echoed by the Privacy Commissioner to the later (1997–8) Senate Inquiry set up to examine the de-anonymisation of the census:

4.34 The Privacy Commissioner considers that should name-identified census forms be retained for disclosure at a later point in time for research purposes, and potentially for wider purposes, then a case could be made for the FOI exemption to be removed, restoring individuals rights to access the information held about them and to seek to amend that information if it is incorrect.

Privacy expert, [Roger Clarke](#) makes this point more recently:

Individuals have no right of access to personal information about themselves held by the ABS. This is because data gathered by the ABS from the Census is exempt from the FOI Act (although the ABS does have a discretion to provide a copy of data back to the person who provided it). A right of access and correction might have seemed superfluous when the only data that was held was that from each single census form, and only for a matter of 12–18 months, until processing was completed.

Despite these recommendations coming out of the government's own commissioned Inquiries both in 1979 and 1998, the recommendations have never been implemented. As the 1979 ALRC report points out: data collected under the Census and Statistics Act 1905 is intended to be used for statistical purposes only – which is the reason it does not enjoy the protections afforded to administrative data. It is obvious then, that linking administrative datasets together using information gleaned from the census muddies the waters in terms of the privacy laws and principles currently in effect.

Further, the nature of the census which is distributed on a household (rather than individual) basis where one person is expected to fill out the form for all members of a household creates significant issues for any privacy legislation allowing later access to that information. These issues were raised by the ABS in the 1998 Senate Inquiry ([Chapter 4](#)).

4.36 The Privacy Commissioner considers that individuals ought to be able to check the information which may have been given about them by someone else (for example, by another member of their household or their parents).²⁷ Information may be supplied about an individual member of a household without that individual providing or verifying it.

Census data is intended for statistical purposes only yet the mapping of census data at a person by person level against administrative datasets collected for the purpose of providing services to the public or law enforcement is a radical departure from this concept.

Another important aspect of privacy law is that we must be informed of the uses to which the sensitive data we provide will be put in order to grant our informed consent (APP 3.3 & 6.1) . This is a serious concern with the 2016 census as the government can no longer be said to have our informed consent for the uses to which it is putting our census information. It is probably impossible for anyone to know all the uses to which this data might be put. It is unrealistic to expect even the ABS to have established in advance all the uses to which it might like to apply the data. Given that there is little public awareness of the existing data linkage projects that are intended to be matched with census data, there is clearly no informed consent from the vast majority of the population. This issue was raised in the more recent (1998) Senate Inquiry into de-anonymisation of the census (Chapter 4):

4.20 IPP2 imposes an obligation upon ABS to ensure that individuals are generally aware of the purpose for which their information is being collected. IPP2 also obliges ABS to inform individuals about other parties to whom it is the usual practice of ABS to disclose their personal information, and if ABS knows, of any other bodies to which those other parties usually pass the information.

4.21 The Privacy Commissioner interprets IPP2 as imposing on ABS an obligation to notify individuals if their information were being collected for purposes other than ABS's own immediate statistical functions.

4.22 The Privacy Commissioner also stated that if census forms were retained, ABS would have to notify Australians that their personal information would be disclosed to other parties after a certain period and, in general terms, who those parties would be.

4.23 Mr Allan Thompson, Director of Legislation, WA Ministry of Justice, told the Committee that: either people should be told, firstly, up-front that it is going to be used for particular purposes; or as a fall-back position, in the event that we are not able to isolate the particular uses to which it might be put, it may be put to some uses – for example, medical or health research – alerting individuals as they fill in these forms to the fact that the information may be used for those purposes.

In a move intended to side-step the legislative and governance issues created by the mixing of administrative, law enforcement and statistical data sets, in late 2015 the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet publicly documented its intention to dismantle the existing governance responsibilities for linked Commonwealth data projects.

Arrangements put in place in 2010 required that projects linking Commonwealth data could only be established through what is called an 'Integrating Authority' and where such projects were considered 'high risk' the responsible Integrating Authority had to be 'accredited' and approved projects published at the National Statistics Service National Register of Projects.

It should be noted that the Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board oversees data linkage projects where that data is used for statistical and research purposes. This Board did not oversee data linkage projects that are used for law enforcement or administrative purposes- again pointing out the confusion in administration and oversight created by data linkage projects which collect and link data that is used for both research and administrative purposes.

'Statistical data integration must be used for statistical and research purposes only.' is one of the 'high level principles' which data linkage projects overseen by the CPDIO must adhere.

The Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board was set up with the stipulation that it would be 'reviewed' at the end of 2015. On December 3, 2015 the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet published its intention to dispense with the governance provided through the Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board in order to run several 'catalyst' projects linking 2016 census data with multiple administrative datasets under the oversight of the Deputy Secretaries Oversight Board run out of PM&C (pg 31).

The ABS is currently conducting a 'review of legislation' to look at ways of getting around current legislative roadblocks with PM&C running meeting on December 11, 2015 titled 'Legislative Barriers Workshop' in which 'representatives from across the APS met to identify legislative barriers to the release, use and re-use of public data'.

This is described by PM&C as a medium term goal to 'identify whether privacy and secrecy laws can be streamlined and modernised through an overriding principle-based law to enable data to be better used for policy and research'.

The main 'catalyst' project being planned by PM&C is the [Multi-Agency Data Integration Project \(MADIP\)](#), a cross portfolio project which links 2016 census data to multiple administrative datasets using the Statistical Linkage Keys generated from census data.

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Area of Interest	Key Partner(s)	Linked Data	Benefits
Mental health circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Mental Health Commission • Department of Health • Department of Human Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Benefits Schedule • Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme • Census of Population and Housing 	Enabled new analysis regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of mental health services in Australia.
Educational outcomes over time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Education and Training • Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority • Queensland and Tasmanian education departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Early Development Census • National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy • Census of Population and Housing 	Enabled analysis of the impact of personal, family, social and economic characteristics on school achievement and child development over time (for Queensland and Tasmania).
Longitudinal business analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Industry, Innovation and Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative data • Directly collected firm level data 	Provided new information about business innovation, efficiency performance and likelihood of business survival. In conjunction with the Department of Industry and Science, the ABS has developed the Expanded Analytical Business Longitudinal Database, which links financial and characteristics data for all active businesses in the Australian economy from 2001-02 to 2012-13.
Migrants' outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Social Services • Australian Taxation Office • Department of Immigration and Border Protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlement database • Taxation data 	Provided a comprehensive picture of the economic outcomes of migrants to assist policy makers and researchers to better understand the experience of migrants and their contribution to Australia.

Planning for MADIP is well underway. The project joins several administrative datasets from across the health, taxation, immigration, social services, education portfolios with 2016 census data.

The ABS has also planned to link information from their other surveys (which people are also compelled under threat of fine to submit their data to) with census data.

The point of the public register maintained by the National Statistics Service is to provide the public with information on these kinds of projects yet a perusal of the existing projects does not include either MADIP or the combination of ABS surveys with census data.

As can be seen from the information and analysis presented in this section, plans to change the use to which census data has been used have been underway for some time and in some cases, linkage with census data has already occurred – without public awareness or consent.

Governance arrangements have been altered to remove the transparency and accountability that was built into the National Statistics Service system via the Cross Portfolio Data Integration Board.

2016 Census data is now being collected for use in ways that is not consistent with the Australian Privacy Principles.

These changes have caused wide-spread distrust of the Australian Bureau of Statistics that authorised these changes only eight months prior to the 2016 census in a manner which is inadequate from the perspective of open and transparent government.

The #CensusFail Survey

The survey was created for multiple uses, one of which is to inform this Submission into the Senate Inquiry into the preparation, administration and management of the 2016 Census due to report to parliament at the end of November.

The #CensusFail survey provides a way for people to have input into the Inquiry without creating their own submissions and as such, speaks for a large number of people, many of whose voices may otherwise not be documented in any permanent manner or perhaps at all. As such, care will be taken with the interpretation of results to ensure those voices are adequately and appropriately represented.

While the census itself attempts total enumeration (in the event that 95% participation is received which is under considerable doubt at the time of writing), the #CensusFail survey provides detailed data on the sub-population concerned with the conduct of the 2016 census and those interested in the dissent surrounding it.

Specifically, the following terms of reference are particularly relevant to survey questions.

- a) the preparation, administration and management on the part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Government in the lead up to the 2016 Census;
- b) the scope, collection, retention, security and use of data obtained in the 2016 Census;
- e) the response rate to the Census and factors that may have affected the response rate;
- f) privacy concerns in respect of the 2016 Census, including the use of data linking, information security and statistical linkage keys;

In discussing the impacts on return rates and data quality of the many failures surrounding the 2016 census, it is worth noting that the ABS has provided a moving target in reporting census form response rates. According to the ABS, while the 2011 census was sent out to 9.8 Million households, only 9.1 Million households were subsequently recorded in the population figures – a substantial difference.

The ABS 2016 Census 'cheatsheet' claims 'The 2016 Census will count close to 10 million households and approximately 24 million people in Australia on Census night.'. The figure of 10 million households has been used in several media stories and is the only total figure I could find associated with expectations for the 2016 census.

According to former Head of the ABS, Bill McLennan, a 95% completion rate is necessary for the census data to be usable. Based on the ABS figure for number of households in Australia, 9.5 Million forms need to be returned with usable data. Contradicting this logic, on September 2, Census Head Duncan Young claimed that the 7 Million forms received at that time equated to an 80% completion rate. 7 Million is 70% of 10 Million which indicates that the total households figure being used by the ABS to calculate completion rates is being revised down to hide the non-completion rate.

Given what might be interpreted as an effort on the part of the ABS to change their targets and conclusions based on response rates, it can be seen that a survey to find out what people are actually doing in terms of their response behaviours to the 2016 census is an important step in filling in a missing piece of the puzzle.

Survey aim and relationship to sampling methodology

The #CensusFail survey is not intended as a random sample to be generalised to the entire population but as an opportunity to gather information of the behaviours, concerns and beliefs of those particularly concerned with the 2016 census. As such and for reasons of practicality, purposive/snowball sampling was used to gain respondents mainly through Twitter which has sustained a discussion of the issues throughout the weeks leading up and away from census night.

It is notable that some questions (Q3, 6, 8, 9, 10) about the de-anonymisation of the census received almost universal consensus. Other questions relate to specific responses to the concerns people had about the 2016 census and provide data to policy makers and researchers to help them determine the likely quality issues that may afflict the 2016 census data.

The survey was carried out using Survey Monkey due to time constraints and convenience. 546 responses were received within the time frame leading up to September 13 when analysis for use in this submission began and the survey closed. While the sample size is large enough in numerical terms to be generalised to 10 Million households, the sampling technique means that for some questions (Q1, 2, 4 & 5), assumptions about this sample mean it would not be appropriate to generalise response patterns to the total population. In these questions it is the ways in which the respondents do vary in behaviour and belief from the wider population that the survey intends to document.

Having said that, there are questions in the survey in which the sample population is unlikely to vary substantially in relevant characteristics from the general population and these questions (Q3, 6, 8, 9, 10) could reasonably be claimed to represent not only the sample survey but the

wider population.

Throughout the 2016 census period, the ABS has remained steadfastly uncommunicative regarding the problems experienced by a vast number of census respondents. The introduction of widespread use of the online form and the manner in which this change was implemented created widespread frustration and confusion on a scale suggestive of gross maladministration.

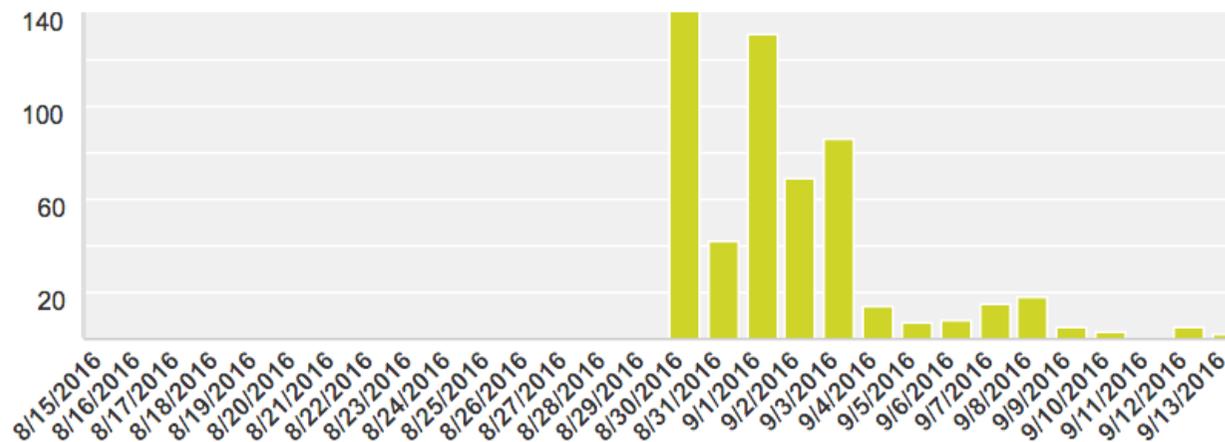
The #CensusFail survey is in some regards a response to what has been seen by many as a campaign of misinformation by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Rather than be told by an organisation which is suffering a gross loss of trust how people are responding to the census, an independent survey provides an alternate source of information and gives a voice to the many people whose concerns have gone unacknowledged by the ABS.

The survey (and this submission in it's entirety) was designed by Rosie Williams who holds a degree in social research/public policy and who has been a key contributor to discourse on the privacy issues introduced in the 2016 census.

The survey opened on August 30 and concluded on September 13, 2016. Most responses were received in the first week which might have impacted on Question 7 regarding contact with census field officers who may not have been active during that period.

Responses Volume

8/15/2016 - 9/13/2016



Q1 Have you completed the 2016 Census?

Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ Yes	45.97%	251
▼ No	46.34%	253
▼ No, but I intend to.	7.69%	42
Total		546

Throughout the survey, responses were evenly divided between those who have completed the census and those who have refused to or found themselves unable do so. This was a required question. This is not expected to represent the response patterns of the wider population. It does indicate the high non-response rate among survey respondents.

This high non-response rate is directly relevant to the Inquiry Terms of Reference seeking feedback on impacts on data quality for the 2016 census.

Q2 If you have completed the Census, did you complete it online or by paper?

Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ I have not completed the form	51.47%	281
▼ I completed the paper form	25.46%	139
▼ I completed the online form	23.08%	126
Total		546

Throughout the census period there were campaigns encouraging people to complete the census in paper form rather than online. The benefits of hardcopy were that paper forms gave more control over how the respondent replied in terms of choosing to respond or not to specific questions and in removing from the paper form the unique code that was issued to each household for the purposes of tracking.

As a required question, the option of not having filled in the census was included. This has the benefit that the responses can be quoted out of context without losing the non-response rate.

Q3 What issues did you experience when you tried to fill out the 2016 census?

This question was open ended and not a required question. As such it was answered by 301 and skipped by 245.

Responses fall into some broad groups:

- Those who filled in the Census and experienced no difficulties. (79 responses)
- Those who could not fill in the form or experienced extensive technical and/or procedural difficulties in gaining access to either the online or paper form. (55 responses)
- Those who refused to fill out the census due to trust issues stemming from the possibility of tracking and/or privacy issues due to mandatory collection/retention of names and addresses. (153 responses)
- Those who had problems with the gender question. (5 responses)

Selected Responses

9/2/2016 4:56 PM : *I could not fill in my correct legal gender X because the phone lines to get the login code were closed.*

9/3/2016 3:45 PM : *Privacy - linkage keys esp connected to health records*

9/9/2016 4:11 PM : *Since learning of the privacy issues early this year I never intended to fill it out :-)*

8/30/2016 7:11 PM : *Being put in the invidious position of potentially breaking the law or being tracked by my government*

9/3/2016 10:59 AM : *Unnecessary questions - asked if anyone in household used Internet when we were completing census online. Also poor business logic in other questions bordering on offensive (asking young people about whether they were married)*

All Responses

To see more survey responses for any open ended question, click the 'All Responses' link at the end of each question where open ended responses were invited.

Q4 If you did fill out the 2016 Census, did you include your real name and address?

Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ I did not fill in the 2016 Census	46.52%	254
▼ Yes, I included my real name and address	25.82%	141
▼ No, I wrote in a false name and address	4.03%	22
▼ No, I left name and address blank	13.19%	72
▼ Other (please specify) Responses	10.44%	57
Total		546

A substantial majority (74%) of respondents either did not fill out the census form at all or responded in ways intended to frustrate efforts to share their information in ways that could identify them as individuals, match their census data to other data or track their census data from one census to the next. The commonly found terms below are not mutually exclusive of one another.

This high number of people who have chosen not to complete the census or refused specific questions/ removed identifying information is directly relevant to the Inquiry Terms of Reference seeking feedback on impacts on data quality for the 2016 census.

Selected Responses:

9/1/2016 8:42 PM : *I included it in the palest of blue coloured pencil- so it could not be scanned but required dedicated effort AND included cover letter saying it was complted under duress asnd in great anger at them compromising such an important process.*

8/30/2016 10:03 PM : *I intend to leave name- all addresses (both current and past)- and age blank- to frustrate creation of an SLK or any possible link to past census data*

9/3/2016 1:54 AM : *I redacted identifying information and competed the data section truthfully*

9/8/2016 5:08 PM : *I will do it but am unhappy about it and have no wish to take it seriously again. I think the info will be used for any purpose the govt wants and fear lack of security.*

9/1/2016 5:18 PM : *Real address- as it was printed on the paper- fake names.*

8/30/2016 6:05 PM : *Removed all tracking items on form*

[All Responses](#)

Q5 If you have not and do not intend to fill in the 2016 Census please share your reasons.

Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ Privacy concerns	92.96%	264
▼ Security concerns	78.87%	224
▼ Other (please specify) Responses	34.86%	99
Total Respondents: 284		

This question was optional and applied only to those who had not filled out the census. 284 people offered responses to this question which is just over half of all survey respondents. As is obvious above, privacy was an almost universal concern influencing response rates to the 2016 census. Security was also a concern of the majority of non-respondents. A smaller group have been unable to complete the census due to technical failures in implementation by the ABS.

Within the larger theme of privacy concerns are those with specific personal concerns eg victims of domestic violence and those concerned others may be targeted using census data at some future point due to health/disability, gender, relationship, religious or ethnic status.

The concern that matching census data with administrative data sets means that this is no longer a 'census' ie information used only for statistical purposes was expressed.

Selected responses:

8/30/2016 8:02 PM : *ABS is not complying with the Act. And it has shown that it is IT technically incompetent.*

9/9/2016 4:11 PM : *Fear. DV victim with suppressed ABN and Business Registration (ATO and ASIC approved)- silent elector status (AEC approved). I cannot risk being found...*

8/31/2016 9:26 AM : *General lack of trust with ABS that they will use my data in an ethical manner.*

9/3/2016 1:12 PM : *I think any changes that will have significant impact on the potential privacy of citizens should be discussed clearly and at length in the public domain and should only be implemented if there is a clear mandate of support. The ABS clearly is stocked with data nerds lacking any empathy to the legitimacy of the concerns in the community on whose cooperation they rely.*

[All Responses](#)

Q6 If you did fill in the 2016 Census please share your reasons.

Answer Choices	Responses
▼ Afraid of being fined under the Census and Statistics Act 1905	43.37% 121
▼ Believe that the benefits of Census data outweigh the risks to privacy and individual rights	34.05% 95
▼ Other (please specify) Responses	36.20% 101
Total Respondents: 279	

This question was not required and received 279 responses with 101 choosing to add a comment under 'other'.

A majority of those who did fill out the census (in itself a minority of respondents to this survey), stated they filled out the census more out of fear than any positive reason. A smaller percentage filled it out because they believed the value of the census outweighs privacy concerns or that there were no valid privacy concerns. Even for those who did respond to this question, it is clear that filling in the census and filling in every question is not the same thing. This has implications for the quality of census data and is directly relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference b), e) & f).

Responses stating that they did not fill in the census have been removed from this output as the question was about the opinions of people who had filled it in. I also removed a couple of swear words from one of the responses.

It is notable that even where people have filled out the census, the majority of comments indicate this was done despite misgivings about privacy and use of the census data. Having no concern at all for the privacy arrangements of the 2016 census is mentioned rarely in the #CensusFail survey. The fact that whether survey respondents did or did not fill in the census that almost all respondents to the #CensusFail survey state concerns with privacy and misgivings about how census data will be used is evidence that there is a near universal concern among respondents.

Selected Responses:

9/2/2016 6:49 AM : *act of civil disobedience due to personal privacy issues and concerns re function creep/future uses of retained data - see Q4*

8/30/2016 6:35 PM : *Believe Census data is important and valid- but can't see any practical way of preventing privacy infringements in the short/medium term - so let's collect in 2016- and fight to protect in future years*

8/30/2016 8:20 PM : *Can't afford the fines*

9/1/2016 5:46 PM : *Can't hack the stress at the moment & I figure the gov already knows all about me anyway.*

8/31/2016 10:36 PM : *Evidence based policy matters- partial completion sends a clearer message than non-collection*

[All Responses](#)

Q7 What experience (if any) have you had with the 2016 Census collectors?

This question was open ended and not a required question. As such it was answered by 319 and skipped by 227. Responses fell into the following broad groups:

- Those who report no contact census collectors/field officers. (102 responses)
- Those who report negative experiences with census collectors. (42 responses)
- Those from people who report positive experience with census collectors. (16 responses)
- Those from those who actively avoided census collectors. (7 responses)

Can Australian Bureau of Statistics officers enter premises?

Yes. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* and *Statistics Regulations 1983* permit an authorised officer of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to, at all reasonable times, enter any prescribed premises for the purpose of:

- a) supplying people with forms
- b) collecting forms that have been supplied to people, and
- c) making inquiries for the purposes of this Act.

You can identify an ABS authorised officer by their official ABS identification card.

Prescribed premises include, but are not limited to, boarding houses, hostels, caravan parks, camping grounds, construction camps, mining camps, housing developments, gated communities, business premises, and common areas of hotels, motels, and buildings that contain flats or home units (such as an apartment building) or the land surrounding a dwelling-house.

Penalties may apply for a resident, a person in charge of the prescribed premises, or any person responsible for controlling access to the prescribed premises to refuse an authorised officer entry or fail to arrange access following a request.

Experience with census collectors (field officers) varied from one extreme (no contact at all) to multiple visits. Personal impressions of the conduct of field officers varied from one extreme 'very polite' to 'rude/harassing'.

A surprising proportion of respondents report no contact with census collectors however these responses came in between 30 August and 9 September so it is reasonable to assume some of these people may have received contact at a later date.

Threats of fines are mentioned in the responses to the survey but also on the Twitter hashtag #CensusFail where evidence is posted that the ABS has issued threats to households prior to the cut-off date of September 23. Written notices have also been distributed by the ABS claiming that census field officers have the right to enter private premises. The Census and Statistics Act stipulates that census field officers may only enter common areas normally open to the public.

Is the Census compulsory?

Yes. The Census is compulsory. The information is collected under the authority of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

At this time, you are being asked to answer the questions on the Census form. If you do not answer the questions, the Australian Statistician has the power to direct you in writing to provide the information.

Penalties may apply if you do not complete the Census when directed. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* provides for penalties of up to \$180 per day and a criminal conviction for failure to complete and return a form when directed. It is also an offence to provide false or misleading statements or information. The penalty is a fine of up to \$1,800.

Your participation is important and helps plan for Australia's future.

This aggressive law and order approach is seems particularly inappropriate in light of the multiple technical and political issues with this year's census. That a government department is printing and distributing materials that are misleading people about their rights and responsibilities (and those of the government) demonstrates a deeply unethical approach toward the 2016 census.

In an attempt to bring some reasonableness to the situation, and at the behest of the public, a motion was put to the Senate on August 12 by Senators Xenophon, Ludlam & Lambie requesting that the ABS issue a statement that it would not fine people it believes have not completed the 2016 census. The motion was voted down by the Liberal government with the support of Labor.

Selected Responses:

9/9/2016 2:00 PM : Did not perceive trust in process per the lack of mention on the census paper of either the longitudinal study or the new policy to keep and link names to any/all available datasources without informed consent to each linkage.

8/30/2016 6:57 PM : Inability to record my gender using the default form necessitating a five day wait for a special login

9/9/2016 2:00 PM : Did not perceive trust in process per the lack of mention on the census paper of either the longitudinal study or the new policy to keep and link names to any/all available datasources without informed consent to each linkage.

8/30/2016 11:49 PM : I'm 21. I'll note my mother (58) most likely blithely included me in her form despite me explicitly saying I don't agree with it and attempting to inform her. Doesn't seem to care. That said she had to attempt a few times because the site was down.

[All Responses](#)

Q8 At the time of announcement and consultation (November 11– December 18 2015), were you aware that the ABS had changed the approach to privacy for the 2016 Census and that you understood what this meant for yourself or others?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	23.26%	127
No	76.74%	419
Total	546	

This question was required and had only two options: Yes and No. A clear majority of respondents believed that not enough was done to inform the public of the consultation last November or to educate people about the implications of the consultation.

Given that there was not a single mainstream media report (see [media](#)) on the consultation or the decision that followed less than six weeks later, it is the opinion of the author that if the broader population were to receive education on the changes to the 2016 census and the manner in which the decision was made that similar response patterns could be expected.

Obviously, people have to be aware that there have been changes to how their data will be used in the 2016 census for them to be able to provide an informed opinion on whether they were aware of the implications during the consultation period late last year.

Rather than inform and educate people once the issue did hit the headlines in the lead up to the census, the ABS chose to mislead the media and public with comments to the effect that no major changes had occurred.

Please see the sections on [Historical Background](#) and [Data Linkage](#) to get some context on why these claims by the ABS and reiterated in the main stream media are specious and deceptive.

Q9 Do you feel that the government did enough to raise awareness of and publicise the changes to privacy with the 2016 Census (during 2015 the consultation period)?

Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ Yes	3.30%	18
▼ No	91.39%	499
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 5.31%	29
Total		546

Nearly every respondent to the survey (95%) believes that the government did not do enough to raise awareness of the changes to the 2016 census during the consultation period. This meant that many people only found out there were potential issues with privacy and the 2016 census in the lead up to the census collection period. This caused significant public backlash that should have been dealt with appropriately in order to guarantee the quality of the 2016 census data.

The ABS ignored every suggestion proposed by the citizenry through our political representatives, choosing to claim publicly that there were no significant changes to the 2016 census and that there have been no significant technical, political or practical issues likely to affect data quality and return rates.

Rather than make any attempt to deal with the emerging problems, the ABS repeatedly stated that it was happy with the response rate of the 2016 census.

The comments below provide to the Inquiry the opinion of the concerned public with regard to the changes that have been put in place, their actual opinions of the decision making process as opposed what the ABS would like people to believe is the public mood.

Selected Responses:

9/1/2016 5:38 PM : *Absolutely not! The additional data retention/linking has ZERO social licence*

8/31/2016 2:41 PM : *Hell no! This is a matter of supreme importance. Even Senators didn't disclose names- which makes you wonder if the think the rest of us a complete idiots.*

9/2/2016 4:23 PM : *It is increasingly obvious that public consultation was avoided due to an excpted backlash. This is precisely why the government and ABS have lost public trust and raised suspicions about the real function of this census.*

9/2/2016 1:41 PM : *My view is that the ABS did what was required under existing privacy frameworks and government practices. If there is a desire for there to be a different process- that is a different issue.*

9/3/2016 3:11 PM : *No - and the way the changes appear to have been deliberately rushed through without publicity or public discussion serves only to arouse suspicion even in those who aren't naturally suspicious.*

9/3/2016 11:49 AM : *NO and NO again its shocking the way the government (LAB & LIB) have destroyed or rights to privacy over the last few years. I rallied against the Australia Card in the 80's and we are now seeing the last steps to implementing it by stealth.*

9/1/2016 6:58 PM : *Only found out through the good folks on Twitter*

9/3/2016 3:46 PM : *Publicising (not enough spin through advertising) is not the issue. Media/government are definitely putting that filter over people's eyes though. Australians are not morons. Many are refusing- not because we didn't receive enough advertising to understand but because do understanding - we're sick of government encroaching on our lives unnecessarily. People are realising government actively attempted to bypass privacy laws through deception with this census. Attempted to make us believe laws say something they do not. i.e. Census is compulsory. government want every person identified and given an SLK. so rather than do that openly (which would require legislation etc.) lets simply imply identifying yourself by providing your name is compulsory too - by attaching what isn't compulsory to what is - whilst removing the option to not provide your name.*

All Responses

[About](#) [Introduction](#) [Historical Background](#) [Data Linkage](#) [Community Response](#) [Media](#) [Timeline](#)
[Q1](#) [Q2](#) [Q3](#) [Q4](#) [Q5](#) [Q6](#) [Q7](#) [Q8](#) [Q9](#) [Q10](#)

Q10 Do you feel that you have given your informed consent to the uses to which 2016 Census data will be applied?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	11.36%	62
No	88.64%	484
Total	546	

This question was required with only Yes and No options. The overwhelming majority of respondents (88.64%) do not consider that they have given informed consent to the uses of the 2016 census data.

There is an obvious logical link between failure to inform the public of the implications of the changes to the 2016 census (or even that any significant changes had been made), the concept of informed consent and the avoidance techniques detailed in early survey questions.

People can only consent to the uses they are aware of. With no publicity surrounding the public consultation or decision to retain names and addresses for the purpose of cross matching data with administrative datasets there is an obvious democratic and legislative issue yet to be addressed by the Australian government. In particular, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet which is now overseeing the linked data projects for use with 2016 census data and the ABS which is carrying out the data linkage and administering access has serious questions to answer in terms of the legislative, democratic and ethical issues stemming from the use of census data under the Census and Statistics Act 1905 for purposes other than statistical use. Read the section on [Data Linkage](#) for a detailed explanation of these issues.

Media

Census 2016: More than 7 million households completed	Rachel Baxendale	The Australian	September 2
The ABS reveals how many Australians have filled in the Census as delays continue	Rod Chester	News Corp	September 2
Glitches still, but census 'on track'	Matthew Denholm	The Australian	September 1
MPs urge govt to dump Census non-completion fines	Allie Coyne	IT Wire	September 1
Parliamentary Probe into Census Disaster	Sam Varghese	IT Wire	September 1
Report of Census review expected this month	Rohan Pearce	Computer World	September 1
Mack caused hack attack?	Paul Barry	MediaWatch	August 15
The Most Likely Explanation For #CensusFail Is The Simplest	Eoin Blackwell	Huffington Post	August 10
Census 2016: the political game has changed and Coalition failed its first test	Katherine Murphy	ABC	August 10
Australia's Online Census Brought Down by Cyberattacks	Rob Taylor & Rachel King	Wall Street Journal	August 10
'No data compromised': Census website not attacked or hacked, government claims	Krystel Johnson & Catherine Healey	Yahoo7	August 10
ABS chief earns \$705,000 a year	Fank Chung	News.com	August 10
Why weren't Australians told Census website had shut down when government knew about it?	Matt Young	News.com	August 10
Computer says no: Australian census shambles explanation depends on who you ask	Ellie Hunt	The Guardian	August 10
Malcolm Turnbull defends handling of census as Privacy Commissioner investigates	Michael Koziol	The Age	August 10
Census: ABS website not attacked or hacked, Michael McCormack says	Stephanie Anderson	ABC	August 10
Census: ABS needs to get #CensusFail story straight to win back our trust	Adam Turner	ABC	August 10
Census: Possible hack of private information cannot be ruled out, experts		ABC	August 10

say			
Census 2016: outage due to 'overcautious' response, not hacking, government says	Paul Karp	The Guardian	August 10
The Census wasn't hacked, but the ABS still has a problem	Claire Reilly	CNET	August 10
INDEPENDENT INQUIRY NEEDED INTO #CENSUSFAIL		Digital Rights Watch	August 10
Govt claims census triumph: 'we are a proud nation of 4 million people'	Charles Firth	The Chaser	August 10
Census meltdown just the latest Bureau of Statistics bungle	Peter Martin	The Age	August 10
Census 2016 outage: Labor calls for Census Minister Michael McCormack to resign	Kara Vickery & Shoba Rao	Daily Telegraph	August 10
Census hacked, website crashes for millions	Rose Donahoe	New Daily	August 10
Census website attacked by hackers, ABS says	Primrose Riordan	AFR	August 10
Census fail: ABS says hackers attacked website after nearly \$500,000 was spent on load testing servers		Daily Telegraph	August 10
The Census Website Was Deliberately Hacked, Prompting Massive Crash	Emily Brooks & Lara Pearce	Huffington Post	August 10
Census 2016: ABS says deliberate attacks were to blame for website crashing	Helen Davidson	The Guardian	August 10
Census: Australian Bureau of Statistics says website attacked by overseas hackers		ABC	August 10
Census website crashes, despite ABS assurances		3AW	August 10
Australians dialed up the snark for #CensusFail	Athena Cao	USA Today	August 10
#CensusFail: Here's what Australians were doing last night instead of the national survey		ABC	August 10
Census 2016: ABS website crashes in #censusfail		ABC	August 9
The funniest responses to the great Census bungle of 2016		News.com	August 9
The Australian Census Website Is Down	Campbell Simpson	Lifehacker	August 9
The great Australian census fail of 2016: website crashes under load	Helen Davidson	The Guardian	August 9
Census 2016: Senators could be prosecuted over withholding details, ABS	Francis Keany & Alkira	ABC	August 9

says	Reinfrank	Yahoo	August 9
More senators declare plans to snub controversial Census requirements		The Age	August 9
Census 2016: Error messages hinder completion of online census	Georgina Mitchell	Kinship Digital	August 9
ABS Census Bot Fuels Fire of #censusfail Storm	Walter Adamson	News.com	August 9
ABS dismisses senators' census fears	Belinda Merhab	The Wire	August 9
CENSUS NIGHT: THE COST OF PRIVACY		Reuters	August 9
Australia's census facing boycott over privacy worries		Crikey	August 9
RSL joins ranks of census opponents		The Guardian	August 9
Census controversy shows ABS 'needs to do better', says Statistical Society	Paul Karp	The Monthly	August 9
Statistical error	Michael Lucy	The Conversation	August 9
#CensusFail: the ABS hasn't convinced the public their privacy is protected	David Glance	Crikey	August 9
Keane: how the census went from snapshot to surveillance	Bernard Keane	Independent Australia	August 9
2016 Census and the erosion of trust	Ingrid Matthews	Hack for Privacy	August 9
Why the ABS won't be able to protect our census data		The Guardian	August 9
Census 2016: Labor urges all Australians to include their names	Paul Karp	RN Breakfast	August 9
Census: ABS has upset the 'delicate balance' between anonymity and valuable data, says former Deputy Privacy Commissioner	Fran Kelly	Business Insider	August 9
Tonight's Australian census is starting to look like a train wreck	Simon Thomson	Crikey	August 9
Senators come to their census		QUT	August 9
Fright night: Australia's creepy census threatens privacy and our civil liberties	Niki Widdowson	Vice	August 9
We Asked an Expert What Would Happen if Australia Got Together to Boycott the Census	Katherine Gillespie	Medium	August 9
#CensusFail—Time for a National Information Policy	Tim Watts	ABC	August 9
Census 2016: Christopher Pyne criticises politicians withholding details	Stephanie Anderson		

over privacy fears			
Trying to make sense of the census, but I'm still not convinced on privacy	Jenna Price	Canberra Times	August 8
Australian Gov't's Stupid Census Plans Puts Privacy At Risk, May Destroy Their Own Census	Mike Masnick	IT Dirt	August 8
Census privacy fears: Nick Xenophon to withhold name in push for 'test case'	Gareth Hutchens	The Guardian	August 8
Jacqui Lambie on 18c and Census	Patricia Karvelas	RN Drive	August 8
How controversial is the simple act of providing your name?	David Lipson	Lateline	August 8
ABS On Census Charm Offensive As Privacy Concerns Ramp Up	Eoin Blackwell	Huffington Post	August 8
How To Keep Your Name Off The Census Without Getting Fined	Spandas Lui	Lifehacker	August 8
South Australian senator Nick Xenophon dares ABS to come after him over 2016 Census	Jackson Gothe-Snape	Adelaide Now	August 8
Census C*ck Up: From Hero To Zero In A Brief But Concerted Social Media Backlash	Chris Graham	New Matilda	August 8
Census 2016: ABS bosses discussed secret plans to crossmatch private data	Natasha Bita	Daily Telegraph	August 8
Trust and the Census – who (definitely) benefits?	Ingrid Matthews	imatthews.com	August 7
IT analyst: Oz census data processed as plain text	Richard Chirgwin	The Register	August 7
Fake census workers try to trick people into sharing their personal details	Kathryn Powley & Rob Harris	Daily Telegraph	August 7
Expert gives government six months before it chases data	Scott Sawyer	Sunshine Coast Daily	August 6
Too 'sick' for Census? Sorry, no excuse!	Scott Sawyer	Sunshine Daily	August 6
DO I HAVE TO PROVIDE MY NAME ON MY CENSUS FORM?	Carolyn Henckels	Castan Centre	August 6
Why I'm taking leave of my Census: a privacy expert's reluctant boycott	Anna Johnston	Salinger Privacy	August 6
Ask LH: Will I Really Be Fined For Not Completing The Australian Census?	Chris Jager	Lifehacker	August 5
Same-sex parents organisation slams Australia's online census for being non-inclusive	Jerico Mandybur	Mashable	August 5

ThoughtWorks slams ABS for census data retention “risk”	Daniel Palmer	Delimiter	August 5
Not Home On Census Night? The ABS Will Still Find You	Chris Jager	Lifehacker	August 5
You share your life on Facebook…	Ben Dechai	BenDechai.com	August 5
Everything You Need To Know About The Census	Ben Fordham	2GB	August 5
Online census to make a two month and seven minute difference	Primrose Riordan	AFR	August 5
How has privacy been endangered by the Australian Census?	Ian Woolf	Diffusion Science (Audio)	August 5
ABS quietly drops Census data security claim	Stilgherrian	ZDNet	August 5
The census is too important to boycott, despite serious privacy concerns	Tim Singleton Norton	SMH	August 5
2016 Census risks becoming a ‘debacle’ says Nick Xenophon	Jarred Owens	The Australian	August 5
The racialised amnesia of #CensusFail	Jordy Silverstein and Katherine Ellinghaus	Overland Journal	August 5
The Greens Say Fines For Not Providing Your Name In The Census Must Be Scrapped	Rae Johnston	Gizmodo	August 5
What you risk when you boycott the census	Michael Bradley	Crikey	August 5
Census boycott would hurt public policymaking across government	Miriam Donald & David Donaldson	The Mandarin	August 5
ABS: trust us!	Michael Bradley	Crikey	August 5
Is Bernard Keane going to jail for telling you to boycott the census?	Michael Bradley	Crikey	August 5
Census boycott would hurt public policymaking across government	Miriam Donald & David Donaldson	The Mandarin	August 5
Australians threaten to take leave of their census	Jennifer Baker	ARS Technica	August 5
Do you fill out your Census?: Girt by CNET podcast 81	Luke Lancaster	CNET	August 4
Decision to retain personally identifying information puts Australian census under threat	Cory Doctorow	Boing Boing	August 4
Privacy Furore As Australians Prepare For Census	Justin Warren	Forbes	August 4
Census print run slashed	April Glover	ProPrint	August 4

OUR FAMILIES COUNT! RAINBOW FAMILIES SAY CENSUS NOT	CEC Busby		August 4
Open Letter to David Kalisch of the Australian Bureau of Statistics	Tom Sulston	ThoughtWorks	August 4
ThoughtWorks urges ABS to reverse Census names policy	Allie Coyne	ITnews.com.au	August 4
Census 2016: Your guide to privacy and completing the survey (or not)	Claire Riley	CNET	August 4
Australians should be worried': Concerns over Census privacy		Yahoo7 News	August 4
Scott Ludlam: the census should be delayed to restore trust and confidence	Scott Ludlam	The Guardian	August 4
Hundreds referred for prosecution since 1990 for failure to complete census	Paul Farrell & Nick Evershed	The Guardian	August 4
Government admits organisers of Census were not prepared for flood on enquiries		News.com.au	August 4
Confusion and anger over the Census	Pat McGrath	ABC (Video)	August 3
Australia's top statistician David Kalisch says ABS is 'ready' for census 2016	Lucy Cormack	SMH	August 3
ABS tells Australian government there will be no Census data breaches in future	Chris Duckett	ZDNET	August 3
David Kalisch ABS Chief Statistician discusses the Census	Sabra Lane	730 Report ABC (Video)	August 3
People Are Going Absolutely Nuts About The Census	Mark di Stefano	Buzzfeed	August 2
#censusfail gathers momentum and the genetic link to depression	Tom Tilley	TripleJ	August 2
Census should not collect names, everyone should have a number instead: Labor		ZDNet	August 2
Is this the most intrusive Census ever?	Leith Huffadine	Dailymail.co.uk	August 2
#CensusFail: Why people are worried about the census		ABC News	August 2
The Australian Bureau of Statistics has made a hash of the census	Richard Chirgwin	The Register	August 1
Securing the censusAre we doing enough on cybersecurity?	Anthony Wong	Australian Computer Society	August 1
The 2016 census is a huge threat to your privacy -- boycott it	Bernard Keane	Crikey	August 1

Census 2016- the digital Australia Card	Rosie Williams	The Little Bird Network	July 30
Australian Bureau of Statistics reports 14 data breaches since 2013	Paul Farrell	The Guardian	July 29
Here's what the ABS doesn't want you to know about the 2016 Census	Rosie Williams	The Little Bird Network	July 28
Census stress to hit the elderly Editorial		Herald Sun	July 27
Privacy and the 2016 Census	Bill McLennan	Independent Australia	July 26
Settlement Guide: how safe is your census data?	Chien-Yu Wang	SBS Radio	July 25
Census 2016: Australians who don't complete form over privacy concerns face fines	Paul Farrell	The Guardian	July 25
Why you shouldn't boycott the Census	Patricia Karvelas	Radio National	July 25 (Audio)
What's wrong with the 2016 Census and what can we do?	Rosie Williams	The Little Bird Network	July 23
Census 2016: Privacy advocates say people's names should not be retained	Jessica Longbottom	ABC	July 22
Census: The ABS has been quietly holding on to our names for years	Peter Martin	The Age	July 21
The Bureau of Statistics endangers the census by asking for names	Peter Martin	The Age	July 20
Lost our Census: Why the biggest hit to privacy this year is all about you	Claire Reilly	CNET	May 22
I don't trust ABS with my personal data: ex-ABS staffer	Noel Towell	Canberra Times	May 20
Census no longer anonymous	Jackson Styles	New Daily	April 10
If you're worried about privacy you should worry about the 2016 census	Chris Berg	The Drum	March 15
Why you should boycott the census	Bernard Keane	Crikey	March 30
2016 is census year! But you can stick your census in your ear you won't get any data here	First Dog on the Moon	The Guardian	March 30
Why you might want to become a Jedi Knight for this year's Census	Anna Johnston	Salinger Privacy	March 17
Federal Government scaling back census is a "retrograde step" says demographer	Chris Change	News.com	February 19

Timeline

[1971](#) | [1976](#) | [1981](#) | [1986](#) | [1991](#) | [1996](#) | [2001](#) | [2006](#) | [2011](#)

<p>History of privacy and data surveillance in Australia</p> <p>The list of agencies applying to be considered law enforcement under the Telecommunications Interception Act 2015 is obtained via FOI and found to be excessive and in no way limited to the investigation of terrorism or child pornography.</p> <p>After failing to get the legislation to abolish the OAIC through parliament, the OAIC is re-funded in the May 2016 budget.</p> <p>Australia's first National Action Plan in Open Government drafted in April, put under embargo during election period and re-opened for consultation in August.</p> <p>Standing Committee on Law & Justice delivered Report on Remedies for the Serious Invasion of Privacy in NSW.</p>	<p>Year</p> <p>2016</p>	<p>History of Census synthesising statistical use with surveillance.</p> <p>November 24: Senate Inquiry report into issues surrounding the 2016 Census due.</p> <p>September 30: MacGibbon Report into the technical problems experienced by the Census online form due.</p> <p>September 21: Closing date for public submissions to the inquiry into the preparation, administration and management of the 2016 Census by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.</p> <p>Census is attempted on August 9, experiencing significant popular backlash and technological issues which make world headlines.</p> <p>Backlash against retention of names & addresses in the 2016 Census begins after FOI by James Smith outlining how the decision was made and intended uses of the data are revealed. The FOI specifies that the ABS is retaining names & addresses for the purpose of creating a unique linkage key to link multiple administrative datasets (para 23), in effect, creating a digital Australia Card. In this scenario, Census data is no longer being used solely for statistical purposes but for administrative purposes including for purposes of surveillance and law enforcement.</p>
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<p>Malcolm Turnbull signs on to the Open Government Partnership, launching Australia into a nationwide consultation to 'co-create' the first National Action Plan in Open Government for implementation from July 2016 which received almost no mainstream media.</p>	<p>2015</p> <p>2014</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2012</p> <p>2011</p> <p>2010</p>	<p>Retention of names & addresses in 2016 Census is announced for a period of 4 years for the purpose of linking Census data to multiple administrative datasets.</p> <p>Census is held in August.</p>
<p>Plan to abolish OAIC part of bigger secrecy picture, The Saturday Paper, 24 June, 2015</p>		
<p>Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Act 2015 introduces statutory obligation for Australian telecommunication service providers to retain communications metadata for two years to provide warrantless access to government agencies for purposes of law enforcement.</p>		
<p>Abbott government introduces legislation to abolish the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner. the agency is almost completely de-funded, leaving the Information Commissioner working from home.</p>		
<p><i>Information Privacy Act 2014 (ACT)</i> <i>Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 ()</i></p>		
<p>Australia announces intention to join the Open Government Partnership then nothing is heard about this till late 2015.</p>		
<p>Attorney General publishes report Equipping Australia against emerging and evolving threats</p>		

<p>ALRC report Secrecy Laws & Open Government (modified on 7 October 2015) 'The ALRC identified 506 secrecy provisions in 176 pieces of legislation, including 358 distinct criminal offences'</p>	<p>2009</p>	<p>Census is held in August.</p>
<p>Information Privacy Act 2009 (QLD)</p>	<p>2005</p>	<p>CENSUS INFORMATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2005 Senate Second Reading Census Information Legislation Amendment Act 2006 'The main purpose of the bill is to codify the circumstances in which name-identified information collected in the 2006 census and all subsequent censuses may be obtained by the ABS and stored by the National Archives of Australia. The bill sets out that name-identified information will only be retained for those households which provide explicit consent.' Strict liability is restored to the Census and Statistical Information Act to increase penalties for non-compliance with the Census.</p>
<p>Labor wins office and abandons the Access Card.</p>	<p>2008</p>	<p>The ABS keeps names and addresses of 5% of Census participants without their informed consent for the purposes of data linkage with the longitudinal data set.</p>
<p>ALRC report Privacy Laws & Practice 'This 28-month inquiry looked at the extent to which the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) and related laws continue to provide an effective framework for the protection of privacy in Australia. It resulted in the Final Report, <i>For Your Information: Australian Privacy Law and Practice</i> (ALRC Report 108).'</p>	<p>2006</p>	<p>Independent Privacy Impact Assessment commissioned by ABS into proposed retention of names and addresses finds that names and addresses collected via Census should not be retained due to privacy and security concerns.</p>
<p>Not put off the idea of a national identity card by the Australia Card debacle of 1988, the Liberal government attempts to bring in the 'Access Card'.</p>	<p>2005</p>	
<p>Australia Card Debate Flares Again, ABC, 9 Mar, 2006</p>		

<p><i>Personal Information and Protection Act 2004</i> (Vic)</p>	<p>2004</p>	
<p><i>Information Act 2003</i> (NT)</p>	<p>2003</p>	
<p><i>Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002</i> (NSW)</p>	<p>2002</p>	
<p>Australia Card could be revived, ABC PM Radio, 3 Oct, 2001 <i>Health Records Act 2001</i> (Vic)</p>	<p>2001</p>	<p>Census is held in August. This is the first Census in which participants can opt in to have their personal information stored by National Archives to be released in 99 years.</p>
<p>QLD Premier pushes the Australia Card, ABC AM Radio, 15 Nov, 2000</p>	<p>2000</p>	<p>Government response to 1998 Inquiry Report into the destruction of names and addresses in the Census of Housing and Population. Act changed to put Census data into the public domain after 99 years from the year of that Census data for those who opt into this for the 2001 Census.</p>
<p>Privacy in Queensland Report published by the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee (QLD) <i>Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998</i> (NSW)</p>	<p>1999</p>	<p>Census Information Legislation Amendment Act 2000 THE SENATE CENSUS INFORMATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2000 Second Reading SPEECH</p>
<p><i>Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997</i>(ACT)</p>	<p>1998</p>	<p>Saving our Census & Preserving our History Inquiry Report published</p>
	<p>1997</p>	<p>House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs Inquiry into the destruction of names and addresses in the Census of Housing and Population</p>

<p><i>Australian Law Reform Commission Act 1996</i>(Cth) (the ALRC Act) takes over from <i>Law Reform Commission Act 1973</i></p>	<p>1996</p>	<p>Census held 30 June.</p>
	<p>1995</p>	
	<p>1994</p>	
	<p>1993</p>	
<p>QLD OAIC established under the repealed <i>Freedom of Information Act 1992</i>(Qld), it continues under the <i>Right to Information Act 2009</i> (Qld) (RTI Act) and <i>Information Privacy Act 2009</i>(Qld) (IP Act)</p>	<p>1992</p>	
<p><i>Freedom of Information Act 1992</i> (WA)</p>		
	<p>1991</p>	<p>Census held 30 June.</p>
	<p>1990</p>	
	<p>1989</p>	
<p>As an alternate to the Australia Card, the Hawke Government introduces new provisions for the Tax File Number scheme and the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> which introduces an Australian Privacy Commissioner. Both bills pass the Federal Parliament.</p>	<p>1988</p>	
<p>Australia Card Bill defeated and laid aside.</p>		
<p>Tax Office computer 'waiting for ID card', Canberra Times, 12 Sept, 1987</p>		
<p>Liberals set up task force to fight Australia Card, Canberra Times, 20 Aug, 1987</p>	<p>1987</p>	
<p>MP urges boycott of Australia Card, Canberra Times, 17 Aug, 1987</p>		

<p>Legislation for Australia Card lost in Senate, Canberra Times, 3 April, 1987</p>		
<p>Australia Card bomb ticks away, Canberra Times, 9 Mar, 1987</p>		
<p>Australia Card legislation introduced to parliament</p>		
<p>Report on Australia Card backs broad data access, Canberra Times, 26 Feb, 1986</p>	<p>1986</p>	<p>Census held 30 June.</p>
<p>ID Card bill attacked by civil liberties council, Canberra Times, 17 Nov, 1986</p>		
<p>National identity card concept proposed by Labor at Tax Summit. Intentions are to police immigrants and catch welfare and tax cheats through using a unique number to join together multiple administrative datasets to track individual behaviour.</p>	<p>1985</p>	<p>Census destruction 'wasteful', Canberra Times, 20 Sept, 1985</p>
<p>Identity Card would be a huge threat to privacy, Canberra Times, 23 Oct, 1985</p>		
<p>The Federal Government agrees to the OECD Guidelines, however no significant privacy protective actions are taken during this period.</p>	<p>1984</p>	
<p></p>	<p>1983</p>	
<p>The OECD expert group delivers its findings to Prime Minister Bob Hawke.</p>	<p>1983</p>	
<p></p>	<p>1981</p>	

<p>Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) expert group is established; Sir Michael Kirby is elected chairman of the expert group. The group's purpose is to develop OECD Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data.</p>	<p>1980</p>	<p>Census held 30 June.</p> <p>Access to Census forms rejected, Canberra Times, 11 Sept, 1980</p> <p>Law Reform Commission report Privacy and the Census of purpose and procedures of Australian Census recommends against an anonymised Census.</p> <p>Census details 'too private to keep', Canberra Times, 18 May, 1979</p> <p>Census changes proposed, Canberra Times, Apr 12, 1979</p> <p>Census Questions: privacy to be protected, Canberra Times, 4 Jan 1979</p> <p>Privacy Plea on National Census, Canberra Times, 16 May, 1979</p>
<p>Coalition Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser gives the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) reference to research privacy concerns.</p> <p>Privacy (1976–83)</p> <p>'The ALRC received a wide-ranging reference on privacy from the federal Attorney-General in April 1976. At the same time,</p>	<p>1978</p> <p>1977</p> <p>1976</p>	<p>Census held 30 June.</p> <p>For and Against the Census, Letters, Canberra Times, 30 Jun, 1976</p> <p>Answers to Questions, Canberra times, 26 June, 1976</p> <p>Workers Party urges Census boycott, Canberra Times, 21 June 1976</p>

public controversy arose in relation to certain aspects of the census to be held on 30 June 1976, therefore, the Attorney-General requested that the implications of the census for individual privacy be taken into account in the Commission's general reference.

The ALRC released a discussion paper *Privacy and the Census* (ALRC DP 8) in 1978 and its first report, *Privacy and the Census* (ALRC Report 12), was tabled in federal Parliament in November 1979.

ALRC Report 12 reported that the aim of the census was to produce valid statistical information for use by governments, by industry and by voluntary organisations in planning and in making decisions that affect the welfare of all Australians. The report concluded that there were enormous benefits to be gained from the information in the census, however the report recognised that public concerns were valid as existing law only provided haphazard protection for personal information.'

The Morrison report results in the Liberal Government led by Premier, Tom Lewis introducing *NSW Privacy Committee Act 1975*, creating a complaints/investigation/research organisation.

The Law Reform Commission is established under the *Law Reform Commission Act 1973*.

First Australian statutory privacy committee established, the NSW Privacy Committee.

Morrison recommends the establishment of a permanent committee and staff to undertake research and handle complaints called the NSW Privacy Committee.

1975

1974

1973

Criticism of Census, Canberra Times, 31 May, 1976

National Census begins and ends but never stops, Canberra Times, 26 May, 1976

Judge sees Census as intrusion of Privacy, Canberra Times, 23 April 1976

The threat to privacy and what can be done about it, Canberra Times, 15 Mar, 1976

NSW Attorney General, John Madison commissions a report into privacy law by Professor Bill Morrison	1972	
		<p>Census held 30 June.</p> <p>Census forms destroyed from the 1971 - 1996 Census inclusive.</p> <p>Census Secrecy, Letters, Canberra Times, 17 June, 1971</p>
Invasion of Privacy Act 1971 (QLD)	1971	<p>Anonymity in Census is Considered, Canberra Times, 16 June, 1971</p> <p>Census Data to be kept Secret, Canberra Times, 26 May, 1971</p> <p>Campaign Against Census, Canberra Times, 24 May, 1971</p> <p>Census Secrecy, Letters, Canberra Times, 17 June, 1971</p>
	1970	
	1969	Privacy Invaded: MP Attacks new Census Paper, Canberra Times, 18 July, 1969
	1968	

Question 3 Responses

time	responses
8/31/2016 1:46 PM	#censusfail
9/2/2016 4:23 PM	#CensusFail says it all.
9/1/2016 7:09 PM	#censusfail thanks to hax0rs (aka incompetence)
9/1/2016 6:31 PM	Ambiguity
9/3/2016 7:30 PM	ambiguous questions
9/12/2016 6:42 PM	Anger that I was duped by abs re: plan to sell the data
9/2/2016 8:39 AM	Arrogance Bluster Threats
9/3/2016 11:55 AM	Attempted multiple times online to see if the site worked (although with no intention of completing the census online). It didn't work at any attempt....
8/30/2016 8:13 PM	Average
8/30/2016 8:03 PM	bad handwriting!
8/30/2016 7:11 PM	Being put in the invidious position of potentially breaking the law or being tracked by my government
9/3/2016 12:20 AM	binned The Resident letter with logon number
9/2/2016 9:00 AM	Can be identified by name
9/1/2016 9:44 AM	Can't recall any
9/3/2016 11:49 AM	cannot get to the website and my computer/browser are upto date and fully capable
9/3/2016 2:05 PM	census turned off when I went to fill it in. Then I found out about the data tracking for life so not doing it.
8/31/2016 1:37 PM	Census website down
9/3/2016 1:14 AM	Code letter was thrown out as junk mail.
9/1/2016 7:03 PM	completed the paper form initially but local rep kept complaining it was not done so did online as well if the paper form turns up hopefully they will work it out
8/30/2016 8:00 PM	Concern for privacy being shared with unknown parties
9/3/2016 4:55 PM	Concerned that the form has a number which will probably be used for identification purposes.
9/1/2016 5:38 PM	Conflicting info from ABS website vs Census collector re whether to use same/different form as another dwelling on the same rural lot
8/30/2016 9:37 PM	Confusion insecurity doubt
9/8/2016 5:08 PM	Connection failed on night of collapse and an other attempt
8/30/2016 6:00 PM	Could not complete it on the day or the day after as the website was down
9/1/2016 8:58 PM	Could not even load the webpage. I did the previous two census forms on line. That is 10 and 5 years ago.

9/2/2016 11:27 AM	Could not get onto website
8/30/2016 6:58 PM	Could not log in on initial evening
8/30/2016 6:58 PM	could not log on when the census twitter account said i could. days later it turns out the site was not available at all. HELPFUL!
9/7/2016 1:23 PM	Couldn't access site on 9 Aug
9/1/2016 10:30 PM	Couldn't access site on census night.
8/31/2016 10:16 PM	Couldn't access the online form for days
9/1/2016 9:16 PM	Couldn't access the website on the night - tried twice. Did it the next day
8/30/2016 7:56 PM	couldn't connect to site
9/4/2016 2:30 PM	Couldn't do it on the night. But on the online form it doesn't provide many options to give proper answers and some of them are overly invasive (where did you live exactly 5 years ago today and who are your parents that you don't actually know?)
9/1/2016 9:21 PM	Couldn't fill it in until many days had elapsed from the census date. Visitor from OS on the night wasn't around to ask questions of when filled it in
8/30/2016 6:53 PM	Couldn't get onto website
9/1/2016 9:17 PM	Couldn't get the online site to load.
8/30/2016 8:24 PM	Couldn't lodge after filling in for 5 people. All data lost. Not doing it again.
9/1/2016 9:17 PM	Couldn't log on
9/1/2016 8:21 PM	Couldn't log on to do it on either iPhone or iPad
8/30/2016 6:01 PM	Couldn't log on.
8/31/2016 11:57 AM	Crashed google DNS blocked
8/31/2016 7:40 AM	crashed site
9/2/2016 8:21 AM	Crashed website
9/1/2016 5:57 PM	Daze wasted
8/30/2016 7:22 PM	Ddos
8/30/2016 7:00 PM	Deciding whether or not to fill in my name.
9/2/2016 12:43 PM	Deciding whether to use my real name
9/1/2016 5:48 PM	Delay didn't get access till weeks after the original deadline
9/2/2016 11:50 AM	Delayed access to the site. Completed it four days later.
8/30/2016 7:31 PM	Deliver of papers was not on time
9/8/2016 4:47 PM	Did not attempt
9/4/2016 2:07 AM	Did not attempt

8/31/2016 12:55 PM	did not fill out the census
9/9/2016 2:00 PM	Did not perceive trust in process per the lack of mention on the census paper of either the longitudinal study or the new policy to keep and link names to any/all available datasources without informed consent to each linkage.
9/3/2016 11:08 AM	Did not receive my initial login code or follow up letter
9/2/2016 8:45 AM	Did not suit my life experience. Could tick the box on many occasions
8/30/2016 7:13 PM	Did not try to fill it out.
9/2/2016 12:13 PM	Did not want to complete online due to issues around secure data transmission tried to order a paper form before the 9th with no luck. A few days ago a form was dropped off by a random census collector (we were not home and did not request it) so decided at that point to fill it out
9/1/2016 7:32 PM	Did not want to provide name and address knowing gov was going to store/link
9/2/2016 11:43 AM	didn't even try the online version
9/1/2016 6:34 PM	Didn't receive a code web site didn't work
8/31/2016 2:40 PM	Didn't try
9/8/2016 3:05 PM	Didn't try fill it out did laugh when it was down though
9/1/2016 6:02 PM	Didn't try.
9/1/2016 6:12 PM	Didn't work on the night
8/31/2016 6:25 PM	didn't try boycotting
8/30/2016 6:54 PM	Do not consent to data collection from other government agencies
9/1/2016 5:50 PM	Down time. Took 4 days before I could complete it
9/1/2016 6:04 PM	easy
9/1/2016 9:03 PM	Failed on the first night. Successful once site restored.
8/30/2016 10:04 PM	Failure on census night mandatory name.
8/31/2016 11:45 AM	Fear
8/30/2016 6:05 PM	filling it out online won't submit for me Says there's a missing response for Person 3 but doesn't highlight that missing response. Trawled through ALL of person 3's answers several times can't find. How ridiculous. finding a suitable writing implement.
9/2/2016 9:22 AM	form arrived a week after census night then another one the next week.
9/1/2016 8:06 PM	Four error messages
9/1/2016 5:21 PM	Frustration at the lack of detailed information provided by the ABS around data privacy and security.
9/6/2016 3:32 PM	General site failures. Browser incompatibility. DNS issues.
8/31/2016 9:26 AM	Getting through on the line to request a paper form took several attempts.
8/30/2016 7:08 PM	

9/3/2016 12:11 PM got halfway through and then page wouldn't load for about 5 hours.
9/1/2016 7:09 PM Got paper form as didnt trust online submission
9/1/2016 5:54 PM Ground rules changed. Statistics have morphed into Surveillance without consultation
9/2/2016 8:45 PM had to apply for a paper form as web site failed
9/1/2016 6:07 PM Had to wait days like everyone
8/30/2016 6:08 PM Had to write in description of my gender and of my relationships to other people in my household
9/1/2016 6:36 PM Have not attempted to fill out census.
9/1/2016 6:25 PM Have now received four paper copies: one of which went to my neighbour who filled it out before they realised the mistake

9/1/2016 5:56 PM Havent
9/1/2016 5:11 PM I asked for a paper form so I could leave name off
9/2/2016 4:56 PM I could not fill in my correct legal gender X because the phone lines to get the login code were closed.
9/3/2016 11:01 AM I did not try
9/1/2016 5:56 PM I don't want to do it this year because of privacy&security concerns.
9/3/2016 6:53 PM I DONT TRUST THE GOVERNMENT
8/30/2016 7:33 PM I felt the requests for name and date of birth was intrusive. There was an option to include year of birth however which I opted for.

9/1/2016 5:49 PM I got 3 copies and 3 codes.
9/2/2016 4:23 PM I have not attempted the census
9/1/2016 6:11 PM I live in a new apartment complex and received no login information. I had to ring three times over 10 days before they sent my code by SMS.

9/4/2016 11:04 AM I only accurately fill in statistically relevant questionns. The rest they can guess.
9/2/2016 6:23 PM I tried to complete it online on 9 August but was unable to save or submit the form. A paper form was subsequently left at my address.

9/2/2016 2:28 PM I was unable to access the website on census night and then had to wait until the site was restored days later.

8/30/2016 11:49 PM I'm 21. I'll note my mother (58) most likely blithely included me in her form despite me explicitly saying I don't agree with it and attempting to inform her. Doesn't seem to care. That said she had to attempt a few times because the site was down.

8/30/2016 6:57 PM Inability to record my gender using the default form necessitating a five day wait for a special login
9/1/2016 5:14 PM Initially got on ok but unable to complete as someone not home then unable to get back on for several days.
9/7/2016 5:32 PM Invasion of Privacy

8/30/2016 7:15 PM	It asked for my name and address
9/1/2016 9:10 PM	It crashed several times. When it was going it was really boring
8/30/2016 10:03 PM	It took me over a dozen attempts over the course of a week to actually obtain a paper census form which did not arrive until after census night
9/7/2016 6:12 PM	It was broken.
9/1/2016 6:00 PM	It was difficult to get through on the phone to order a copy of the paper form.
9/4/2016 2:26 PM	It was down
9/1/2016 5:57 PM	It was not an intuitive form. When I entered an address I had to enter St. name suburb state postcode etc. Why couldn't I just put in my street name and then a list comes up and I pick mine and then the state post code etc. is automatically filled out? It CAN be done you know
9/3/2016 1:41 PM	It was unavailable when I made my one attempt
8/30/2016 7:47 PM	it's [REDACTED]
8/30/2016 6:48 PM	Major privacy issues names bring retained although they are not statistical data
8/31/2016 2:41 PM	Mandatory Name / Street Address. They only need Post Code and Suburb for stats.
8/30/2016 9:10 PM	Many poor questions but the online process was fine. i did it the weekend following census night
9/7/2016 9:43 AM	Many questions seem irrelevant to modern Australia
9/2/2016 12:04 PM	Many ways to be identified.
9/6/2016 2:13 PM	Multiple. Received Temp stay form (incorrectly) as my apartment is in same complex as a hotel. Could not access census website to check rules. Also received login in mail but could not access. Tried online access for the next five days with no luck. Census twitter account advised all was well then that it was a problem with my minimum requirements however the link they provided to check this did not work (my internet and PC are high speed / top of the range new). Census in media advised all working after 2 days I do not use a VPN but I believe my ISP was blocked for days after this.
9/1/2016 5:46 PM	My personal information name address & DOB
9/1/2016 9:52 PM	n/a
9/1/2016 6:04 PM	N/a
9/2/2016 8:11 AM	Name should have been optional
9/2/2016 12:45 PM	Needed to look up how to answer the gender question
9/8/2016 6:19 PM	Nil
9/1/2016 6:19 PM	Nil
9/1/2016 5:53 PM	nil
9/1/2016 9:44 AM	nil

9/1/2016 6:16 PM	Nil. Did it at 1800. No issues
9/2/2016 8:03 AM	no code for free camping
9/4/2016 1:58 PM	No issues
8/31/2016 7:28 PM	No issues – did it a week prior
8/30/2016 6:36 PM	no log received till the late afternoon of the census.
9/1/2016 5:59 PM	No negative issues
9/3/2016 7:31 PM	No problems
9/10/2016 2:44 PM	None
9/9/2016 5:01 PM	None
9/7/2016 7:43 PM	None
9/7/2016 6:18 PM	None
9/7/2016 5:47 PM	none
9/6/2016 1:36 AM	none
9/3/2016 7:11 PM	none
9/3/2016 12:55 PM	None
9/3/2016 11:50 AM	none
9/3/2016 11:46 AM	None
9/3/2016 11:03 AM	None
9/3/2016 11:00 AM	none
9/3/2016 1:54 AM	None
9/2/2016 5:59 PM	None
9/2/2016 4:48 PM	None
9/2/2016 4:05 PM	None
9/2/2016 1:41 PM	None
9/2/2016 12:51 PM	none
9/2/2016 10:39 AM	none
9/2/2016 9:45 AM	None
9/2/2016 8:44 AM	none
9/2/2016 8:35 AM	None
9/2/2016 6:49 AM	none
9/1/2016 9:21 PM	none
9/1/2016 7:01 PM	None

9/1/2016 6:42 PM	None
9/1/2016 6:36 PM	None
9/1/2016 6:29 PM	None
9/1/2016 6:02 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:53 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:53 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:53 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:48 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:46 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:42 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:30 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:19 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:18 PM	none
9/1/2016 4:42 PM	None
8/31/2016 10:29 PM	None
8/31/2016 9:45 PM	none
8/31/2016 7:08 PM	None
8/31/2016 8:36 AM	none
8/30/2016 11:44 PM	none
8/30/2016 9:59 PM	None
8/30/2016 8:57 PM	None
8/30/2016 7:45 PM	none
8/30/2016 7:06 PM	None
8/30/2016 6:57 PM	none
8/30/2016 6:54 PM	none
8/30/2016 6:34 PM	None
9/13/2016 9:03 AM	None
9/1/2016 6:13 PM	none (did it early)
9/3/2016 9:34 AM	None - it was quick and smooth the online form guides you through the questions very easily. took about 20 minutes for a family of 5.
8/30/2016 5:45 PM	None as I filled it out before Census day (when demand broke it)
8/30/2016 8:26 PM	None because paper

8/30/2016 8:24 PM	None it was easy
9/7/2016 1:27 PM	None once it was back online
9/4/2016 8:49 AM	None other than privacy concerns
9/7/2016 9:09 AM	None- filled in early but wanted to retract after all the security and ethical concerns hit home..
9/1/2016 7:18 PM	None- i did it at 5pm on the day before the problems started.
9/1/2016 6:53 PM	None.
9/1/2016 5:54 PM	None. Beat the crash by minutes
9/8/2016 2:56 PM	None. Did it in the afternoon on the day no submission problems.
8/30/2016 4:57 PM	None. didnt want to fill out online asked for a form to be sent then census worker came to door and asked if anyone was home on 9/8. I said i had filled it out elsewhere he ticked that off on his smart phone and that was it.
9/2/2016 4:47 PM	None. I did not try to fill it in. I will continue to refuse (politely) for as long as I am asked to supply the information. I haven't decided yet whether to allow prosecution if the ABS want to go that far. I doubt it if there were enough of us who refused to give our personal details and it does seem as if there are.
9/3/2016 4:49 PM	None. I filled it out a few days before census day
9/8/2016 8:44 PM	None. I was able to get through and request a paper form easily and it arrived promptly
8/30/2016 6:58 PM	None. Went very smoothly.
9/1/2016 8:50 PM	nonr
9/1/2016 7:01 PM	Not able to send on Census night
9/3/2016 12:19 PM	Not available on 9 August
8/30/2016 7:08 PM	Offline first time. Havent bothered trying since
8/30/2016 7:06 PM	Online couldn't connect.
8/30/2016 7:08 PM	Online fail. Census person door knocked I asked for paper & was given
9/6/2016 1:57 AM	ordered paper form by phone 2 august not received. couldn't access website on 9th. gave up in disgust
9/1/2016 9:44 AM	Out of country
8/31/2016 5:10 PM	Overreach in breadth of questions
9/2/2016 7:00 PM	Page wouldn't load on day one. A few days later it did and I completed it.
8/30/2016 5:05 PM	Paper form did not allow opting out of name/address.
9/1/2016 4:07 PM	Paper form had my address on it I did not want to provide these details.
8/30/2016 7:00 PM	Paper form requested arrived days late
8/30/2016 6:23 PM	phone line unavailable for days. Got form after the actual census date. Have been totally lied to and pollies and ABS are still lying. ABS was one of the good guys! Not any longer.

9/3/2016 9:40 AM	PN blocked
9/2/2016 8:16 AM	Privacy
9/3/2016 3:45 PM	Privacy - linkage keys esp connected to health records
9/3/2016 12:37 PM	Privacy Invasion
8/30/2016 6:35 PM	Questions that don't relate to my life - too broad or too narrow or too binary in scope (I contain multitudes!)
9/7/2016 9:00 PM	Rage.
9/1/2016 4:40 PM	Rampaging disregard for individuals' privacy.
9/1/2016 5:29 PM	Same as 90% of the population on the night post 19:30hrs. Completed the next week.
9/1/2016 6:53 PM	■ questions
9/9/2016 4:11 PM	Since learning of the privacy issues early this year I never intended to fill it out :-)
8/30/2016 8:17 PM	Site broken phones engaged
9/1/2016 6:21 PM	Site crash - it wasn't until several days later that I was able to access the site
9/6/2016 9:55 PM	site crashed
8/30/2016 7:06 PM	Site crashed!
9/3/2016 2:26 PM	site down
9/3/2016 1:48 PM	site down
9/3/2016 11:02 AM	Site down down down....site was down.
8/30/2016 9:24 PM	site down. javascript not enabled error.
9/1/2016 9:15 PM	Site failed on first attempt at 11 am on census day.
9/1/2016 6:05 PM	Some questions are nonsensical.
9/1/2016 8:42 PM	SUPERFICIALLY:Dumb / useless questions (how wll does some one speak english FOUR POINT SCALE? While insufficient room available for (say) transgender. I absolutely would NOT have IDed myemployer (am retired). Heaps of issues but cant recall.
9/1/2016 5:09 PM	Taking 3 days to even get through to ABS to order the form
9/2/2016 12:56 PM	Technical Failure. Failure of trust. Deception by ABS & Government.
9/8/2016 11:21 PM	The generic form was never posted to my house prior to census date. It arrived six days later making it IMPOSSIBLE for me to complete the census on census night. A collector dropped off more forms three days later.
9/1/2016 6:57 PM	The given timeframes for some Q's did not adequately reflect the past 5yrs.
8/30/2016 9:30 PM	The site was down
9/1/2016 6:42 PM	The system crashed just as I hit save and exit after filling in all of the data

8/30/2016 7:09 PM	The web site didn't work for many days
8/30/2016 11:47 PM	The website was non existent. They required names.
9/3/2016 5:04 PM	There were several answers required that were not statistically relevant: Name mother's maiden name genealogical antecedents languages spoken etc.etc.
8/30/2016 8:02 PM	Too many to list...couldn't login when I did could save or transmit. Couldn't get through to the call centre and the ABS are not replying to my letters.
9/2/2016 11:07 AM	Took 4hrs on the night then eight attempts over the next two weeks to complete
9/1/2016 6:32 PM	took weeks before I could access
9/2/2016 11:39 PM	Tried online first but site was down for hours
9/4/2016 11:52 AM	Tried online one week before census night. When submit form selected web page timer began. Waited over one hour. Redid whole form again. Submitted ok.
8/31/2016 5:03 PM	Trust
9/2/2016 8:34 AM	Unable to access website
8/30/2016 7:39 PM	Unable to access website
9/2/2016 5:48 PM	Unable to complete on census night waited two weeks
8/30/2016 10:13 PM	Unable to submit after completion the first time. Some questions did not have a relevant answer for me.
8/30/2016 6:31 PM	Unable via the online form to omit intrusive questions (eg. Name DOB) so reverted to paper form.
9/3/2016 10:59 AM	Unnecessary questions – asked if anyone in household used Internet when we were completing census online. Also poor business logic in other questions bordering on offensive (asking young people about whether they were married)
9/5/2016 10:45 AM	Waited 2 days
9/1/2016 9:07 PM	Waiting for servers to be stable
8/30/2016 7:03 PM	Was provided 3 separate login codes for the 1 residence. when I called hotline to ask which of 3 to use the operator snidely commented that I shouldn't complain (which I wasn't) because they 'over serviced' me and are only guilty of 'being too efficient'.
9/1/2016 5:56 PM	Was shown message 'Forbidden. You don't have permission to access on this server's. I took them at their word.
8/31/2016 8:40 AM	We live in a two dwelling property. Only one code received and when attempting to complete second household – not possible. Filled in online tech error form. Received email advising a form will be posted. Never received.
9/2/2016 3:01 PM	web site down
9/9/2016 9:19 PM	Website crash

9/1/2016 7:31 PM	Website crash
8/30/2016 8:17 PM	Website crashed
9/1/2016 7:10 PM	Website crashed on census night
9/9/2016 1:32 PM	Website down
9/8/2016 4:27 PM	Website down
9/3/2016 12:08 PM	Website down
8/30/2016 8:00 PM	website down
9/1/2016 6:38 PM	website down / slow
9/8/2016 2:32 PM	Website down ABS advice through twitter was to keep trying.
8/30/2016 9:13 PM	Website down plus privacy
9/3/2016 5:01 PM	Website down. Could not refuse name/address when it was up.
8/30/2016 7:57 PM	Website down. Requested paper forms following day
8/30/2016 11:55 PM	Website either down or crashed repeatedly
9/1/2016 8:56 PM	Website failure
9/1/2016 5:52 PM	Website frozen many times
8/31/2016 10:25 AM	Website had been shut down but people were still being urged to log on and try and complete the census
9/8/2016 4:49 PM	Website inaccessible
9/1/2016 5:30 PM	Website kept crashing
9/3/2016 11:51 PM	Website not workong
9/3/2016 4:11 PM	website offline but too concerned re privacy to do the census now
8/31/2016 3:16 PM	Website out for days. Difficulty remembering data about Census night. Badly designed forms compelled me to make up data at the risk of an \$1800 fine.
9/6/2016 12:19 PM	Website was down
8/30/2016 7:16 PM	Website was down
8/30/2016 6:59 PM	Website was down
8/30/2016 6:53 PM	Website was down for about a week.
8/30/2016 7:10 PM	Website was down on census night
8/30/2016 6:54 PM	Website wouldn't load
9/12/2016 6:49 PM	Did not attempt.
9/7/2016 10:19 AM	Couldn't do it on the night
9/12/2016 11:49 AM	Form arrived about a week after Census night so couldn't have done it online anyway
9/4/2016 7:30 PM	Privacy

9/13/2016 2:23 PM

System froze

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Question 4 Responses

time	responses
9/1/2016 8:06 PM	address only.
8/30/2016 8:17 PM	Blank address- name The Householder
9/3/2016 2:05 PM	census not done. Not going to be done either
8/30/2016 11:44 PM	completed address- left names blank
9/2/2016 6:49 AM	created a new persona for street address
9/1/2016 5:19 PM	Current address was already on the form- provided suburb and postcode for other addresses.
9/1/2016 7:10 PM	False name
9/4/2016 11:04 AM	False name- address- and some personal details. Only what I consider relevant to stastical analysis was completed approximately accurately.
9/1/2016 9:25 PM	false name- correct address
9/1/2016 5:38 PM	Filled in address but gave name as UNDISCLOSED
9/1/2016 6:53 PM	First name only. Make the computer work that little bit harder.
8/30/2016 6:35 PM	Gave correct address- no name
8/30/2016 7:08 PM	Gave first name- not last
9/3/2016 5:04 PM	I cut out NAD and identifying bar codres before returning the form
9/3/2016 10:59 AM	I did- but am unhappy about having to do so under threat of a fine
9/2/2016 5:48 PM	I didn't put my real name
8/30/2016 8:17 PM	I do not intend to use my name or address
9/3/2016 7:07 PM	I included a false name for privacy and security reasons.
9/1/2016 8:42 PM	I included it in the palest of blue coloured pencil- so it could not be scanned but required dedicated effort AND inckuded cover letter saying it was complited under duress asnd in great anger at them compromising such an important process.
9/1/2016 6:25 PM	I intend to leave name and address blank
8/30/2016 10:03 PM	I intend to leave name- all addresses (both current and past)- and age blank- to frustrate creation of an SLK or any possible link to past census data
9/3/2016 2:04 PM	I left name blank but the address was already printed on the form
9/1/2016 5:49 PM	I made a statement of objection but I gave Postcode.
9/7/2016 9:09 AM	I made my address suburb only with previous addresses
8/30/2016 7:33 PM	I provided a false name but address and other details were true

8/30/2016 5:05 PM	I put in my postcode and suburb only.
9/2/2016 11:50 AM	I put not necessary for purpose of Census data
9/3/2016 1:54 AM	I redacted identifying information and competed the data section truthfully
9/1/2016 9:15 PM	I used a false name but real address. [This should be a category]
9/6/2016 9:55 PM	i will be using a false name
9/8/2016 5:08 PM	I will do it but am unhappy about it and have no wish to take it seriously again. I think the info will be used for any purpose the govt wants and fear lack of security.
9/1/2016 4:07 PM	I will fill in the Census form when asked to in writing by the Chief Statistician. When I fill it in- I will omit my name and address details.
9/2/2016 11:35 AM	I will leave blank space for my name on the paper form.
9/3/2016 1:12 PM	I will not fill in the form if this is required.
8/30/2016 8:02 PM	I would never provide my name. The ABS is only authorised to hold statistical dat!
9/3/2016 3:45 PM	I'll use false name if/when I do it
8/30/2016 7:08 PM	If I complete the paper form- I will be leaving off my name and address. Still debating whether to do this or boycott.
8/30/2016 7:49 PM	if instructed by chief ABS to complete form- I will not include my name and add
9/1/2016 6:04 PM	Just address as it was printed on the form won't get names though as I feel names make the census a data trawling tool.
9/3/2016 7:27 AM	Misrepresentation of the depth of data linkage-cross referencing and retention
8/30/2016 6:56 PM	No name. Correct address
9/1/2016 6:29 PM	Not in Aus
9/2/2016 8:11 AM	Put initials
8/30/2016 8:20 PM	Real address but a blank name
9/1/2016 5:18 PM	Real address- as it was printed on the paper- fake names.
8/30/2016 6:05 PM	Removed all tracking items on form
9/1/2016 5:30 PM	silent voter ...omitted name
9/1/2016 5:57 PM	Tossed up + in the end did a variation
9/7/2016 5:32 PM	Used a very runny ink from a fountain pen which might 'accidently' smear
9/1/2016 9:21 PM	used married name- which I don't use in real life
9/1/2016 6:21 PM	Yes I did- but reluctantly!!
8/30/2016 6:58 PM	yes- but i didn't really want to
8/31/2016 10:36 PM	Names and DOB blank

9/10/2016 2:44 PM

Stated suburb-postcode-age and gender.

Question 5 Responses

time	responses
9/12/2016 6:49 PM	A general protest at the growth of data matching- without any meaningful conversation about it in public.
9/2/2016 12:36 PM	ABS arrogance in not addressing legitimate concerns
9/4/2016 7:30 PM	ABS gives me no confidence in their capabilities- nor comfort they are concerned about the issues
8/30/2016 8:02 PM	ABS is not complying with the Act. And it has shown that it is IT technically incompetent.
9/1/2016 11:29 PM	ABS lie that it is compulsory when Sect 10 (3) of Census Act active. It is not compulsory. Form and website lie. ABS cannot be trusted.
9/4/2016 8:49 AM	Absolutely do not trust any government with that much crossmatchable information - now and especially in the future.
9/2/2016 8:12 AM	After the big stuff up on census night- I can't feel safe filling it out.
9/3/2016 4:23 PM	All data held by the state will eventually be used against the citizenry.
8/30/2016 7:49 PM	Also was overseas!
9/3/2016 9:53 AM	Arrogance and lies from the ABS
9/8/2016 7:17 PM	Arrogance of ABS
8/30/2016 6:48 PM	Arrogance of ABS and LNP regarding the public's legitimate privacy concerns was another dealbreaker
9/3/2016 7:27 AM	As far as I'm aware- many dollars are being spent on a campaign and workforce to deliver info and harry people to comply...if I need to chase up the paperwork myself what the hell are all those people being paid for out of my tax dollars!
9/3/2016 4:11 PM	being tracked esp medical records being linked and the risk of personal information being publicly available to god know who
8/30/2016 6:29 PM	Biggest concern is the linking of all possible data sets and what will be done with that data. Once linked it is linked forever. Any protection we have under law now will change as the law is changed in future.
9/3/2016 11:49 AM	Changing the census from a snapshot to a lifelong digital record of all my digital info (medical- gov- etc)
9/12/2016 9:45 PM	Civil liberties concerns - the change to the census is actually an attack on human rights and free will.
9/1/2016 6:45 PM	Concerns for purity of statistics with names & other identifiers.
9/1/2016 6:04 PM	Data linkage
9/3/2016 10:58 PM	Data matching by government/file generation for citizens
9/2/2016 12:56 PM	Data should not be sold by the ABS/government for commercial purposes of ANY type. This data is not just about us. It is US and it is OURS.

8/30/2016 3:50 PM	did complete- but left name and address off for these reasons
8/30/2016 8:17 PM	Didn't work on the night. Haven't got back to it.
9/2/2016 8:02 AM	Disrespect for public concerns
9/6/2016 7:39 PM	Disrespect of public concern
9/3/2016 5:01 PM	Do not want name and address linked to data. Happy to fill in census if data remains anonymous.
9/1/2016 4:10 PM	extreme right wing governments that are completely alien to this country
8/30/2016 5:10 PM	Fear of being 'Tracked' by government/s
9/9/2016 4:11 PM	Fear. DV victim with suppressed ABN and Business Registration (ATO and ASIC approved)- silent elector status (AEC approved). I cannot risk being found...
8/31/2016 9:26 AM	General lack of trust with ABS that they will use my data in an ethical manner.
9/3/2016 11:19 AM	Gross lying and mis-information about how the ABS and federal government intends to use census data especially since so much private and personal details are requested.
8/30/2016 7:02 PM	Have not received it
9/8/2016 4:03 PM	Haven't decided if I will complete it.
8/30/2016 9:24 PM	I actually cannot even start it
8/30/2016 7:15 PM	I am a privileged wealthy WASP. I can afford to protest on behalf of those who cannot.
9/12/2016 11:49 AM	I am not filling it out accurately because of privacy concerns
9/2/2016 4:47 PM	I do not intend to supply details for an SLK. This is so simple that I broke the code in under three minutes. Once that is done- it is pitifully easy to work out who is who. I was not asked- nor did I give my permission for this to happen. Since then I've done a bit of research- and discovered that in fact- the linkage between us and our census data actually began two census ago. Our details were kept and linked together. This one has been planned to be the biggie. Kalisch has been planning this for some time- and if successful- the data from this census will potentially make him the most powerful person in Australia. That's why he is being paid more than the PM.
9/4/2016 12:00 AM	I do not trust the ABS because they lie
9/3/2016 11:34 AM	I don't trust the whole idea of an SLK. ABS have a poor history of data security. Their past history of keeping slk from last census for 5% of us was underhand & sneaky
9/1/2016 8:20 PM	I have no faith in the ABS' ability to de-identify my data. I don't want it going to 3rd parties- the whole Census was a [REDACTED] from the way people's concerns were dealt with in the lead up to it- to the actual Census night and beyond.
9/1/2016 6:36 PM	I have not seen a compelling reason to include names or to use unique and persistent IDs linking names and data.

9/1/2016 6:02 PM I haven't yet decided what to do.
9/1/2016 9:30 AM I refuse to participate in something that may be used to marginalise others in the future
8/30/2016 9:01 PM I still have time- and the gov might change their mind- re fines for no names
8/30/2016 6:36 PM I sure was tempted to use another name
9/3/2016 1:12 PM I think any changes that will significant impact on the potential privacy of citizens should be discussed clearly and at length in the public domain and should only be implemented if there is a clear mandate of support. The ABS clearly is stocked with data nerds lacking any empathy to the legitimacy of the concerns in the community on whose cooperation they rely.

9/2/2016 8:25 PM I used to love doing the census. Not anymore. The clown now in charge has rendered the data set useless. Absolute custard duck from the get go.

9/1/2016 8:05 PM I used to trust the ABS. Their sneaky pre-Xmas announcement- their inadequate internal 'review' and their bullying threats to fine people so they can create a lasting personal record has caused my test to evaporate. They have wrecked the trust that made the census work.

9/1/2016 5:56 PM I was Forbidden
8/30/2016 5:58 PM I was ready to complete on Census night. ABS weren't and have missed their window when I may have been prepared to do it. Also- am not satisfied with ABS capability to secure private data

9/8/2016 2:31 PM I went to NZ for the night as it was cheaper than the fines.
9/4/2016 2:07 AM I will be a 'conscientious objector' in an effort to make the government realise it must consult the public before it makes decisions that affect our personal rights and freedoms. The government has been deceptive regarding the changes to the 2016 census.

8/30/2016 7:49 PM I've seen the paper form and there's no really valuable data there - by linking you to other data sources they are indulging in mass surveillance of the entire population
8/30/2016 1:24 PM inadequate consultation- no media or public awareness- concerns that focus groups have been used to make complex and significant decisions regarding the retention of names and addresses for the purposes of data linkage rather than experts

9/6/2016 1:57 AM incompetence of ABS led me to believe others' concerns re privacy & security.
8/30/2016 11:16 PM It is a protest against public concerns being disregarded and threats of fines being made. I have seen several elderly people afraid of being fined if they were even a day late. Will fill it in if I am directly told to- but will not give names.

8/30/2016 6:53 PM It's just none of their damn business
9/2/2016 9:10 PM It's not a census- it's not a snap shot- it's run by a private US company- it's evil- there are no safeguards.

8/31/2016 11:08 PM Just wanted to add that I'm still not sure whether I will complete the census...

8/30/2016 6:59 PM Lack of informed consent

8/30/2016 7:05 PM Lack of transparency about how data will be tracked and potentially sold.

8/30/2016 7:22 PM Lack of trust in ABS

9/3/2016 3:11 PM Lack of trust in an organisation which sneaks through these changes without proper consultation- then bullies citizens with misleading threats of fines (knowing that most will not read the legislation and regulations and see their bluff). The well-reported technical and organisational incompetences also destroy trust- made worse by the leaders' apparent lack of awareness of their incompetence.

8/31/2016 7:08 PM Legal concerns

9/3/2016 3:45 PM Linkage keys esp connected to health records

8/31/2016 10:15 PM Making the decision on behalf of my teens who are Aboriginal and thus more likely to be harassed by govt

9/2/2016 11:35 AM May complete it without identifying myself

9/3/2016 3:46 PM Most people (including the media - no surprise there- them being drip-fed their careers by government) are missing the issue. Government directed ABS to use a census (compulsory) to obtain our names (not compulsory)- and attach an SLK to every one of us (way beyond the scope of all previous census'). An SLK which government intends to use at some point- to bring all data into one location- accessible by all departments (and anyone else they deem fit to access it). It should be MY decision who sees MY data. Not theirs. Separation between government departments should not only remain firmly in place- but be further separated. (Not just 'section off' parts of the same database using different clearance levels. e.g. Hospitals not being able to see ATO info- and ATO not seeing medical info.) Because as this debacle (and multiple other security breaches in other departments prove)- government is incapable of being a trusted caretaker of our personal data. ABS attempted to deceive in order to obtain something they neither sought- not had legal go ahead to take. ABS claims they will separate the SLK from the data. But anyone with basic knowledge can reconnect the dots. Additionally- if data needs to be secured in such ways- then obviously it isn't safe for government collect and retain it in the first place. Census was meant to be only slightly more invasive than a simple head count. ABS instead has turned census into the Australia Card - once again - which Australians have given a clear NO to several times. Government asked us- we said no- they asked again- we said no again- so they said- Stuff you lot - you're going to have it- like it or not - how can we sneak it in? By implying names and SLK are compulsory- by attaching them to a compulsory census. THIS is why people have refused. NOT because a computer crashed- even though most media is putting that spin on it at the direction of government.

9/3/2016 11:02 AM	n/a
9/2/2016 8:39 AM	No need for names to provide demographic data.
9/1/2016 9:45 PM	No recognition is same sex parents in the options given. We are two women with children and were told to fill it out like one of us is the father
8/31/2016 10:36 PM	Non-disclosure RE: use of data via stat link code
9/2/2016 4:48 PM	None of your business
9/1/2016 5:11 PM	Not personal concern. I was worried that census collectors personal phones were used & they weren't necess safe people- was concerned for single women living alone. I'm also concerned it may be misused against minority groups in future
8/30/2016 6:09 PM	over-reach with data linking this becomes longitudinal study that has not been adequately explained or sought consent for
9/1/2016 6:29 PM	Overseas
8/31/2016 8:40 AM	Pointless now. Too late. And- security concerns.
8/30/2016 6:05 PM	Politics overturns data
9/3/2016 11:55 AM	Primarily due to the generation of an SLK particularly for my children which will pervade for rest of life. No one can anticipate legislative or technological changes in the future- even if data is 'secure'- and not being 'abused'- now.
8/30/2016 4:57 PM	Really uncomfortable with dataset linking into the future (and the past) i never consented. Other than that im pro census so its a bit sad its come to this...
9/3/2016 11:01 AM	scope creep
9/3/2016 11:13 AM	Serious concerns about the planned statistical linkage key and association with Medicare data ect
9/6/2016 9:55 PM	slk
9/5/2016 11:01 AM	SLK
9/3/2016 9:36 AM	SLK
9/3/2016 2:05 PM	SLK number that follows you for life?? no not happening. It's a back door mandatory Australia card. I will take my chances on getting fined.
9/3/2016 9:38 AM	Statistical Linkage Key
9/3/2016 1:47 PM	Technically it's not a Census
9/2/2016 4:23 PM	The 2016 Census feels far more like a duplicitous covert operation in support of creeping techno-fascism than an honest gathering of facts to support good democratic governance. As a previous census supporter- I'm both appalled and frightened by the future this development suggests we're heading toward. The ABS should only deal with statistics- not be transformed in ongoing population surveillance

8/30/2016 7:43 PM agency..
The ability for future (and current) governments to identify and segregate large parts of the population based on undesirable traits

9/2/2016 4:49 PM The absolute contempt shown by the government and ABS to people's genuine concerns- and thuggery of collectors

9/6/2016 2:13 PM The arrogant contempt shown for the Australian people- lying- asscovering nonsense given as reasons for what was a predictable overload of the system and the threats of fining me for their mistakes. The emerging vague info about datamatching and use of my data. The absence of any reasonable solutions presented by ANY political leaders (ie CEO or PM could advise that Names are now optional- please complete it -so sorry we screwed up) Frankly they not got my back up and I have traditionally been a great supporter of the census.

9/10/2016 1:37 PM They refused to answer an FOI on the linkage key system in use

9/4/2016 2:32 AM unlawful questions concerning race religion

9/1/2016 6:28 PM We need ethical limits on the linked data analyses the ABS may perform for companies in the future.

8/30/2016 7:08 PM With today's technology- almost all data collected can be collected via other sources. No longer relevant

9/13/2016 12:43 AM Don't trust government

9/1/2016 6:22 PM I will but without certain details. Or I may say that I posted it- & wonder why they didn't get it. Bloody Aust Post ;-) Haven't made up my mind yet.

Question 6 Responses

time	responses
9/8/2016 6:19 PM	Accidental compliance. I intended not to do it- my wife did it while I was working. I normally do this sort of stuff in our family and I had not told her then of my intention that we should refuse to do it (privacy concerns)
9/2/2016 6:49 AM	act of civil disobedience due to personal privacy issues and concerns re function creep/future uses of retained data - see Q4
9/1/2016 8:06 PM	adding to the 'no religion' count.
8/30/2016 6:46 PM	An anonymous census counting people per electorate is sufficient to fulfill the ABS's constitutional obligations. Collecting any other data (especially name and address) should be strictly voluntary. And I think the so-called risk totally overblown
9/1/2016 5:53 PM	because otherwise these corrupt people will find me
9/3/2016 6:53 PM	Believe Census data is important and valid- but can't see any practical way of preventing privacy infringements in the short/medium term - so let's collect in 2016- and fight to protect in future years
8/30/2016 6:35 PM	Believe census is important so filled out truthfully just leaving name and address off
8/30/2016 6:28 PM	Believe in Census but not in provision personal information
9/1/2016 5:46 PM	Believe in the benefits- but not that they outweigh the risks- hence blank fields
8/31/2016 5:10 PM	Believe it's important but refused to provide identifying information
8/30/2016 10:39 PM	Both of the above but refused to comply with unreasonable demands.
8/30/2016 6:23 PM	Both options- but I am increasingly concerned for the 2021 census
8/31/2016 7:28 PM	Can't afford the fines
8/30/2016 8:20 PM	Can't hack the stress at the moment & I figure the gov already knows all about me anyway.
9/1/2016 5:46 PM	Census data minus name which isn't data. Data essential.
9/1/2016 7:01 PM	Census important so prepared to do it but withhold name and addresses
9/9/2016 5:01 PM	census is very important- however I do not agree to ghaving my name being part of the dataset
8/30/2016 11:44 PM	Concern over upsetting the hosts I was staying with.
8/31/2016 3:16 PM	curious
8/30/2016 7:47 PM	Data good- privacy & security bad
9/2/2016 8:16 AM	Data is important. Name is irrelevant.
9/1/2016 7:10 PM	Data other than my name and identifiable information are still important for governance.
9/1/2016 9:15 PM	Did not provide name
8/30/2016 9:13 PM	

8/30/2016 6:58 PM Don't distrust government in this function
9/12/2016 6:42 PM Duplicity of abs re: data retention- selling population data
8/31/2016 10:36 PM Evidence based policy matters- partial completion sends a clearer message than non-collection
9/1/2016 8:42 PM Feel absolutely ferocious about them hijacking such an important public service and monetising it / us- but dare not risk fines. Would prefer jail- but fear they would garnishee pyments etc...

9/10/2016 2:44 PM Filled in truthfully. Withheld name and street address.
9/2/2016 12:13 PM Filled it out on my terms - agree the data is useful but don't want my personal info to be profiled / matched.

9/4/2016 11:52 AM Habit.
9/1/2016 9:10 PM happy to provide non personal identifiable information.
9/8/2016 4:03 PM Haven't decided if I will complete it.
8/30/2016 9:10 PM I am a demographer and felt obligated but they really stuffed up and I don't approve with linking census data to other sources

9/1/2016 9:44 AM I am not a citizen but a guest here. If I were a citizen I would have refused to participate- but...
9/2/2016 11:39 PM I believe in the benefits of Census data but value my right to privacy so left my name and address blank
9/2/2016 1:41 PM I believe in the benefits of the Census and am comfortable with the ABS' approaches to privacy and data integration

9/8/2016 4:49 PM I believe in the benefits of the Census- but refused to provide name details.
9/8/2016 8:44 PM I believe the census is important but I withheld my name and DOB due to privacy concerns
9/1/2016 5:09 PM I believe the data is worthwhile- not for Govt- I reckon they ignore- but Local Govt & other community groups need it. So filled out all that info correctly- just not the personal identifiers.

9/3/2016 1:54 AM I believe the demographic data is important- but my personal details are not. Therefore- I gave the correct demo data and removed any identifying data.

9/1/2016 6:22 PM I believe this data is important but not my personal data- I don't trust the Gvt using it for commercial purposes- spy on me or for it to get into the wrong hands.

9/2/2016 4:56 PM I can't afford to be fined- but I'm also a historian & queer/trans/disability activist and I think accurate data is terrifically important. It is however also very important that the data be handled sensitively.

9/2/2016 12:51 PM I did not want to complete the census. My partner (a teacher) believed it was valuable in education planning so we completed it

8/30/2016 10:03 PM I do not feel that census outweigh the risks to privacy in its current form. However- having withheld identifying information- I believe the benefits probably do outweigh the risks from undesired disclosure of my (unidentified) information (though lacking full information on the uses- I wouldn't say I've given

8/30/2016 6:00 PM properly informed consent).
I felt very conflicted about it but recognise the importance of the census although I hate how they went about collecting names this time

9/1/2016 6:04 PM I filled it in however it didn't actually ask anything relevant and questions worded very poorly.

9/8/2016 11:21 PM I have no issue with concept of the census- just its administration this time

9/3/2016 7:27 AM I have not yet received our registration number nor recieved a paper form

8/30/2016 10:26 PM I hoped the paper form would not have the same security issues

8/30/2016 7:31 PM I omitted my name so I was comfortable providing the information

9/4/2016 11:04 AM I only accurately answered the questions which I believe do not relate to my individual personal details. Statistical analysis is broadbrush and does not require my persoanl details to be collected and especially stored for cross matching purposes.

9/3/2016 12:37 PM I only gave selective information

8/30/2016 5:45 PM I still remain deeply concerned about using Census to leverage a WoG database- and it was only for future genealogical researchers (I opted for Archives) that I bothered to fill out at all

8/30/2016 5:05 PM I think that post-code specific data can be very useful. But not name and specific address.

9/1/2016 5:11 PM I think the worth of it is irreparably compromised due to poor management of Census. I use it in my work & regret the mess they made of it.

9/3/2016 5:04 PM I thought it was a legal requirement to provide STATISTICALLY relevant information

9/1/2016 5:18 PM I understand the benefits of teh census - future planning etc - but had to be convinced by family members to actually fill it in due to privacy concerns

8/31/2016 10:16 PM I was somewhere in between doing it and not but didn't want to be nagged with follow ups so I did it

9/1/2016 9:03 PM I work for the government and a conviction would end my public service career.

9/1/2016 6:21 PM I'm a researcher - I use that data- my colleagues use it even more. It's this weird research karma thing - I want people to participate in my work so I participate in theirs. That's why I'm doing this too! :-)

9/1/2016 5:19 PM I'm in a low risk demographic when it comes to negative consequences from government surveillance

9/1/2016 6:07 PM I'm the control group. If it goes bun- then I can complain.

9/1/2016 11:18 PM Incomplete for privacy

8/30/2016 7:12 PM It serves some purpose but is drastically overreaching.

9/7/2016 9:09 AM It used to be a worthy cause

9/8/2016 2:56 PM Laziness. vs the bother of consequences for not doing so.

9/3/2016 12:11 PM Most of the data is important to public policy- but not names.

9/1/2016 5:38 PM My rental shares a title with another (hence same form) -- too complex to avoid

9/1/2016 6:57 PM Never had a previous issue with Census data. This one prompted far too much for/against dialogue.
9/10/2016 1:37 PM No external privacy review done prior to implementation
8/30/2016 7:10 PM No privacy concerns and the ABS wants it
8/31/2016 8:36 AM not a concern
9/2/2016 11:50 AM Not adding my name reduced my privacy concerns and I do think the Census is important tool for targeting services.

9/1/2016 9:44 AM Note that benefits outweigh risks only as I did not include name or address
9/2/2016 8:44 AM nothing in the census that is sensitive
8/30/2016 7:33 PM Only submitted with false name after census collectors came 2 days in a row
8/30/2016 8:07 PM Other than the few strange creepy questions I answered with half-truths: there wasn't a lot I gave up that (name| address| income| ancestry etc). However I refuse to transmit this information to them online.

9/1/2016 5:54 PM Partial response only
9/2/2016 12:04 PM Partially filled out. Privacy concerns.
8/30/2016 7:00 PM Possible fine. It's traditionally been something I have always done.
9/1/2016 7:01 PM Saw no obvious issues - but 'knew' system would crash
9/3/2016 9:34 AM Sick of the negativity around the 2016 Census - it's a very minor change to retention in order to make the data more useful- and ABS are fastidious about not releasing confidential information about individuals. Those of us who use the data regularly rely on a quality Census and too many people encouraging others not to fill it in will result in a poor quality dataset for the next 5 years.

9/2/2016 8:11 AM Some of this info is beneficial. But I object to the onselling/sharing of this info to other agencies
8/31/2016 2:41 PM Stats are good for planning - Identifiable information is irrelevant. Spiritual preference is irrelevant.
9/2/2016 9:45 AM Still afraid of being fined for not supplying names
9/1/2016 5:14 PM Still important to try and be counted so after weighing up privacy risk- decided to do it.
8/30/2016 3:50 PM Support the census process for this reason- but not the retention of named data.
9/2/2016 9:22 AM the census is still a valuable exercise.
9/1/2016 5:49 PM The Data is valuable for planning- however my personal details are not necessary for a useful data set
8/30/2016 6:58 PM The govt already has all this info.
8/30/2016 7:11 PM There is a legitimate question about the ABS' power to require me to provide my name. The appropriate place for that to be resolved is the Ombudsman- not a Magistrates' Court

9/1/2016 8:58 PM There is no information on the census form that isn't available already to almost any level of government. Parakeelia scandal for instance. If I was years younger I would have been more rebellious.

8/31/2016 11:46 AM They need some data for planning services

9/3/2016 12:05 PM
9/13/2016 9:03 AM
9/1/2016 5:57 PM

Would have preferred less privacy intrusion
Believe that the census data is important but concerned about the risks to privacy and individual rights
Why in the hell not - the data is going to be useless anyway

Question 7 Responses

time	responses
9/2/2016 8:21 AM	0
9/1/2016 11:29 PM	2 dinnertime visits so far. Said she has to call 5 times. Bureaucratic harassment.
8/30/2016 6:09 PM	2 householder letters delivered- collector at door asked if I had filled in census. I said we were all away. (Lied to avoid further follow up). Filled out census in 2011 but very concerned about privacy in 2016. Do not believe adequate informed consent has been asked for. This is a real shame as census data is important for planning and as a snapshot.
9/9/2016 9:19 PM	3 return visits- not home each time. Final notice.
9/4/2016 11:04 AM	3 visits even after I told them on the first that I had completed the census.
9/5/2016 9:47 AM	3 visits. Paper form and 2 cards left. No personal contact.
9/9/2016 4:11 PM	4 visits (1 leaving form- 2 reminders- 1 final notice) but I have not answered the door on any occasion.
9/12/2016 6:49 PM	A form left under doormat.
9/3/2016 10:21 AM	A form was placed in my letter box along with an unsigned and blank note. I don't believe any attempt was made to knock on my door.
9/8/2016 8:44 PM	A second paper form and two cards left at the door
8/30/2016 7:49 PM	A worker came to door and asked if anyone was home on Census Night. We said no and she ticked a box said thanks and left
9/1/2016 5:56 PM	Absent
8/31/2016 7:08 PM	Absolutely no interaction at all
9/8/2016 2:40 PM	Aggressively knocking at the door and trying to gain entry. Notes left 3 times.
8/31/2016 1:37 PM	All positive.
9/3/2016 12:37 PM	Amiable
9/3/2016 4:23 PM	Annoying wankers.
8/30/2016 8:17 PM	Arrogant- ignorant- incredibly rude
9/1/2016 6:53 PM	██████████
8/30/2016 6:35 PM	Avoidance - I think one knocked (very softly) on my door last Sunday- but I didn't answer
8/30/2016 6:57 PM	Aware they exist- that is all
9/1/2016 8:58 PM	Bit brusque but well trained and efficient.
9/12/2016 9:45 PM	Brief interaction where I was told I would be 'referred to a supervisor' because I stated I was

9/1/2016 4:10 PM
8/30/2016 7:33 PM
9/1/2016 5:54 PM
9/2/2016 8:26 AM
8/30/2016 7:56 PM
8/30/2016 6:54 PM
9/3/2016 12:43 AM
9/1/2016 4:00 AM
9/8/2016 5:08 PM
8/30/2016 7:06 PM
8/30/2016 7:58 PM
9/1/2016 5:14 PM
8/31/2016 10:15 PM
8/30/2016 6:57 PM
9/7/2016 7:43 PM
8/30/2016 5:10 PM
8/30/2016 6:05 PM
9/2/2016 9:00 AM
9/3/2016 7:11 PM
9/2/2016 11:43 AM
9/2/2016 7:56 AM

concientiously objecting to the census.
brought second form 2 days ago and threatened my partner with Fines etc
Buzzed our apartment at 9am on Sunday- ignored it- buzzed again on Monday and answered. Collector was stern and we instructed form was completed by paper form. A neighbour was approached outside the building by the field officer and was asked if they lived at this address- the neighbour was apprehensive to answer and they had an argument (the neighbour was apprehensive in disclosing any information and the field officer threatened to call police)
Called. Luckily wasn't at home
Came by asking for it- I lied- told him I had already sent it. He didn't believe me- but wrote what I said and left.
Came to the house 29/08 & gave me the paper form
Census collector was a bit scared of my neighbour- which is unsurprising. (He's a bit feral.) I had to reassure the census bloke that the neighbour looked more aggro than he was.
Collector called and left paper form- claimed that nothing's changed- data is safe and ABS has always collected and kept names.
Collector knocked on weekend. Ignored her. She left a form under the doormat. One week later the unfilled form still in same spot. Won't participate in another Census again.
Constant nagging
Did not see or speak with them- form arrived in post without needing too.
Didn't have a box on his form for refusers
Didn't have any collectors so no experience.
Dropped off a paper form
empowering and excellent
Excellent when you finally saw one
Feeling harrassed: Have been 'visited' 15/8- 20/8- 23/8- 29/8(twice!)
First contact was yesterday- knock on door. Told him I'd nearly completed online- just waiting on details from daughter. He chatted- then got WAY too chatty about weird stuff.
Found out Australia Post has lost my census papers- sent early on and they have not freceived it. Now really worried about my details be exposed!
friendly and helpful
friendly and local
good

9/4/2016 11:52 AM	Good communications.
9/1/2016 5:53 PM	Good. Polite.
8/30/2016 11:41 PM	Gruff
9/1/2016 5:38 PM	Had a post-census visit. Unintrusive- so no issue.
9/2/2016 9:10 PM	Happless slaves
9/2/2016 4:49 PM	Harassing- banging doors repeatedly- shouting when I left the house
8/31/2016 8:18 AM	Harrasment every 2 days to complete form with threats of fines
9/2/2016 8:34 AM	Harrassment
9/4/2016 2:07 AM	Have been visited twice. Was not home. Did not pick up census form from where it was left.
9/8/2016 4:47 PM	Have not encountered
9/2/2016 12:13 PM	Have not met any in person
9/3/2016 3:46 PM	Have not seen one. Have received 1 census form- and 1 reminder letter. (Neither of which I have bothered to open and are still inside the mailbox.) No door knocks. (I live only slightly north of Newcastle- NSW. Hardly 'the sticks'.) Not that this matters- as I would not speak to them anyway.
8/30/2016 6:48 PM	Haven't had the pleasure to run into any of them (yet)
8/30/2016 11:16 PM	Haven't seen any collectors at all anywhere.
9/3/2016 2:04 PM	haven't seen any- form was posted after using the automatic request line
9/1/2016 6:42 PM	Haven't seen one
9/1/2016 5:18 PM	Haven't seen one
8/30/2016 7:32 PM	Haven't seen one so far
9/6/2016 1:57 AM	home visit- gave me another form (different number to my login) & blamed australia post
8/31/2016 7:47 PM	I am trying to avoid them by pretending not to be home. I notice that the Census collector is knocking on most doors in my street.
9/8/2016 11:21 PM	I explained the situation to the census collector who seemed resigned to the situation
8/30/2016 9:24 PM	I feel kinda threatened. I don't like that they are allowed access to my secure apartment area.
8/30/2016 10:13 PM	I got a reminder letter- which felt a little threatening given the talk of fines.
9/3/2016 11:46 PM	I have not seen one yet I have had 2 cards left
9/1/2016 4:07 PM	I have not seen or heard from one- but I have had a new census form dropped in my mailbox.
8/30/2016 8:00 PM	I ordered a form via phone- It arrived- Then received another one in my letterbox yesterday
9/1/2016 9:15 PM	I was incredibly surprised that there was absolutely zero presence in my area.
8/30/2016 8:02 PM	I'd like to share letters I've sent to the ABS- Christopher Pyne and the PMs office with you. Today I was told that I've refused to comply and face fines. I tried to discuss the relevant provisions and the

young lady gave me a blank look and left. How can ABS threaten to fine me when they wrote TO THE RESIDENT - I've not been asked to do anything by the ABS I'm just one of 4 people who live in this residence.

9/8/2016 2:45 PM I've actively avoided them

8/31/2016 3:27 PM I've had one ask if I've completed the form. I've told them I haven't made a decision on whether I will.

9/1/2016 5:56 PM I've never seen one

9/3/2016 1:14 PM I've not been home when they've visited- they've left a form and 4 reminder cards to date

9/3/2016 1:12 PM I've persistently ignored them.

9/2/2016 3:01 PM Idiot census worker left papers at my front door- advertising to the world the house was vacant for the days I was out of town.

9/1/2016 10:55 PM Just a note and additional materials

9/2/2016 11:35 AM Just visited house- husband said we would complete by 23 Sept. They said ok & made a note of that.

9/1/2016 5:46 PM Knocked at door asking why we haven't filled it out yet. Also left reminder note in letterbox

9/2/2016 4:47 PM Knocked at my door. Partner (non-residential) answered. Census man then wrote down that there were TWO people living at this address and that they were home on Census night. When queried he said the garden was well-maintained- thus we were home. Not seen since.

9/3/2016 5:26 PM Knocking unnecessarily loudly on door- driving past house and staring strangely down driveway coming past to look in mailbox.

9/1/2016 5:49 PM Laughing at them through the window cos the gate's padlocked...

9/3/2016 4:11 PM Leaving unsigned/undated notes on cars in drive and rear entrance to property- could just be visitors cars

8/31/2016 6:25 PM left a form at door- no other contact

8/30/2016 11:44 PM left census form and now two cards 5 days apart

9/7/2016 1:23 PM Left gate open and dogs escaped- accused us of being lazy for not completing- told us to just put in anything and to not include the whole family so it would take less time- told us the final date to complete was 16 Sept (23 Sept?!)

9/2/2016 9:15 PM Left reminders in the mail

9/8/2016 2:31 PM Little bits of paper keep showing up. I live in shared accommodation so maybe they're hassling my flatmates? It is a mystery.

8/30/2016 6:56 PM Live in apartment block (restricted access)- everyone got paper forms by default!

9/1/2016 6:38 PM Lovely lady who lives locally

8/31/2016 2:41 PM Mail drops with threatening reminders. (Sent it- dim-wit- bugger off!)

9/3/2016 9:34 AM	Managed 10 of them. Some are more competent than others- but all are trying to do a good job. They are now called field officers- not collectors.
9/1/2016 7:31 PM	Met one at work.
8/30/2016 8:13 PM	Multiple visits by the same lady. 3 or 4 times until we told her we sent it
9/2/2016 11:50 AM	n/a
8/30/2016 8:26 PM	N/A
8/30/2016 6:58 PM	N/A
9/1/2016 9:16 PM	na
8/31/2016 9:45 PM	NA
9/2/2016 11:07 AM	Never left online number despite repeated attempts to get one- no paper copy
9/1/2016 7:03 PM	nice but working in a bad situation
9/8/2016 6:19 PM	Nil
9/7/2016 5:47 PM	nil
9/6/2016 9:55 PM	nil
9/3/2016 11:02 AM	nil
9/2/2016 11:51 PM	nil
9/1/2016 9:10 PM	nil
9/1/2016 9:44 AM	nil
8/30/2016 7:57 PM	Nil
8/30/2016 7:12 PM	Nil
8/30/2016 6:34 PM	Nil
9/1/2016 6:07 PM	Nil. Delivered a paper form days after census day.
9/1/2016 6:19 PM	Nil...travelling in Outback at the time
9/7/2016 10:19 AM	Nine
8/30/2016 7:13 PM	No confrontation- I was friendly- he was businesslike. But I didn't tell him my concerns in the expectation of being given the same ABS statements.
8/30/2016 6:08 PM	No contact (yet)
9/6/2016 2:13 PM	No contact at all- think my address may be misclassified as temporary
9/3/2016 5:11 PM	No contact to date- just reminders in the post and paper form left.
9/2/2016 12:56 PM	No contact whatsoever at this point.
8/30/2016 6:29 PM	No contact. 1 visit notice in letterbox. If contacted I will say my dwelling was unoccupied on census night. If asked if I was included on a form at another dwelling I will say that's my business.

8/30/2016 6:59 PM	No envelope to return paper
9/3/2016 12:20 AM	no experience
9/3/2016 7:27 AM	No letter to household yet- no reg number- no paper drop- no visitor... still waiting to see if we exist!!!!
8/30/2016 9:01 PM	no probs yet
8/30/2016 5:57 PM	no visit
9/8/2016 4:49 PM	None
9/8/2016 3:05 PM	None
9/6/2016 1:36 AM	none
9/5/2016 4:32 PM	none
9/4/2016 8:49 AM	None
9/3/2016 11:51 PM	None
9/3/2016 4:55 PM	None
9/3/2016 11:03 AM	None
9/3/2016 10:59 AM	None
9/2/2016 4:48 PM	None
9/2/2016 4:23 PM	none
9/2/2016 1:41 PM	None
9/2/2016 1:29 PM	none
9/2/2016 12:51 PM	none
9/2/2016 11:27 AM	None
9/2/2016 8:44 AM	none
9/2/2016 8:12 AM	None
9/2/2016 5:44 AM	None
9/1/2016 9:21 PM	None
9/1/2016 8:56 PM	None
9/1/2016 8:21 PM	None
9/1/2016 8:06 PM	none
9/1/2016 7:01 PM	None
9/1/2016 6:42 PM	None
9/1/2016 6:38 PM	none
9/1/2016 6:32 PM	none

9/1/2016 6:31 PM	None
9/1/2016 6:29 PM	None
9/1/2016 6:13 PM	none
9/1/2016 6:02 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:59 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:54 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:54 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:53 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:48 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:30 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:21 PM	None
9/1/2016 5:13 PM	none
9/1/2016 4:42 PM	None
9/1/2016 9:44 AM	None
9/1/2016 9:44 AM	None
8/31/2016 7:28 PM	None
8/31/2016 5:03 PM	none
8/31/2016 3:16 PM	None
8/31/2016 8:36 AM	none
8/30/2016 9:10 PM	None
8/30/2016 8:57 PM	None
8/30/2016 8:17 PM	None
8/30/2016 7:31 PM	None
8/30/2016 7:16 PM	None
8/30/2016 7:11 PM	None
8/30/2016 7:09 PM	None
8/30/2016 7:06 PM	None
8/30/2016 7:00 PM	None
8/30/2016 6:54 PM	None
8/30/2016 6:23 PM	None
8/30/2016 6:01 PM	None
8/30/2016 6:00 PM	None

9/1/2016 6:04 PM	None - didn't even receive the requested paper form
8/30/2016 5:45 PM	None - live in country area
9/3/2016 3:11 PM	None - my front door camera confirms no visits- and I haven't seen any while driving around. If issued with a notice of direction (unlikely)- I would demand a paper form and omit my name. Other answers would appear plausible but not necessarily accurate enough to allow identification.
9/3/2016 1:41 PM	None - nobody has turned up
9/3/2016 12:55 PM	None as I did it online
8/30/2016 10:03 PM	None as of yet
9/9/2016 5:01 PM	None as yet
9/2/2016 8:04 PM	None at all
9/1/2016 7:09 PM	None have called
9/2/2016 9:45 AM	None have visited
8/31/2016 10:29 PM	None haven't seen on
8/30/2016 9:37 PM	None haven't sighted one
9/3/2016 11:08 AM	None so far
9/1/2016 6:25 PM	None so far
8/30/2016 3:50 PM	none so far
9/3/2016 11:01 AM	none so far (-:
9/1/2016 6:00 PM	None so far.
8/30/2016 6:54 PM	None visited
8/31/2016 12:55 PM	none yet
8/30/2016 7:15 PM	None yet
9/3/2016 11:49 AM	None yet- but have been sent an arm load of forms
9/3/2016 1:54 AM	None yet.
9/1/2016 6:45 PM	None- had a possible knock on door which I generally don't answer.
9/1/2016 6:39 PM	None- never seen.
8/30/2016 6:53 PM	none- none have shown up.
9/1/2016 9:17 PM	None.
8/31/2016 9:26 AM	None. 1st letter with codes- then reminder letter that got binned.
9/1/2016 6:53 PM	None. Are there any?
9/1/2016 5:53 PM	None. I enquired online for them to post the form. I posted it back
9/1/2016 6:05 PM	None. I got a card without collector details when they delivered paper census on 31st August.

9/1/2016 5:57 PM	None. It helps to live in a security block
9/7/2016 5:32 PM	None. Letters shoved under doors
9/2/2016 12:43 PM	None. Someone slipped the paper form under our door in the days prior to Census night.
9/2/2016 8:25 PM	None. Thankfully.
9/1/2016 8:50 PM	nonr
9/3/2016 10:58 PM	Not talked to one yet
9/1/2016 5:25 PM	note left under door mat
9/2/2016 6:49 AM	officially none to date
9/2/2016 12:27 PM	Officious badge-flasher (all of 1/2 second: she showed it) quizzing me about form and name from the footpath.
9/8/2016 2:35 PM	One appeared claiming I had not returned my paper form when I had.
8/30/2016 9:30 PM	one called while we were out.
8/30/2016 9:30 PM	One came to my door but I pretended I wasn't home
9/2/2016 12:36 PM	One came to the door. Told him I had a paper form but wasn't going to complete it due to privacy and security concerns.
8/30/2016 8:17 PM	One came today and dropped a paper form. She was nice enough.
8/30/2016 7:08 PM	One knocked on Sunday morning. Said he'd return every 3 days
8/30/2016 5:05 PM	One knocked. I handed my form to him.
9/1/2016 6:11 PM	One note left saying I hadn't completed form
9/3/2016 11:55 AM	One occasion multiple door bell rings (unanswered) with new form dropped at front of house and letter stating they would return.
9/1/2016 5:30 PM	One reminder- two reminder- three...with another census form...before I filled in first one and posted it...
9/1/2016 5:09 PM	One trying to pick it up & not believing us when w said had been mailed in.
9/12/2016 11:49 AM	One visit - I explained that I had privacy concerns and had plenty of time before deadline and would do it at last mionute andwas hoping they would scrap it in the meantime. Had 2 cards left since- one totally unsigned or date- the next signed and dated but with a first name only so not valid
9/3/2016 10:25 AM	One visit advising to complete census
9/6/2016 3:32 PM	One visit in late August - collector asked whether we had completed census online and offered paper form - said would have to return unless we submitted it.
8/31/2016 6:39 PM	One visit since census night. Gave us a form and asked for our name - we refused. Collector said Oh. Well if you don't want to put your name on the form just put John Doe. !!!

9/1/2016 9:52 PM	One visit so far - hedged...
8/30/2016 8:24 PM	One visit so far.
9/3/2016 2:05 PM	only 1 visit that I know off. Door not answered - form left under door.
9/1/2016 6:32 PM	only one- we didn't answer the door he went away. Left [REDACTED]
9/1/2016 6:21 PM	Other than overhearing one complaining loudly about how difficult international students were- none
9/3/2016 12:05 PM	Paper form delivered without request
8/30/2016 6:59 PM	Paper form in post box- nothing else.
9/1/2016 5:42 PM	Paper form was delivered by 2016 Census employee. Informative and pleasant.
8/30/2016 6:05 PM	Persistent
9/1/2016 6:36 PM	Persistent buggers but I'm dutifully ignoring them.
8/31/2016 2:18 PM	Persistent: rings the doorbell multiple times within a 1 minute period- aggressive
8/30/2016 7:07 PM	pleasant but not informative - cannot answer questions re: privacy and security
9/1/2016 5:53 PM	Polite and helpful
9/3/2016 5:04 PM	Polite female left the form outside- did not identify herself - nor did I. Since posting the form- I've had at least one reminder card in the mail box
8/31/2016 2:40 PM	Politely asked if I had filled it out & left a paper form for me when I said I hadn't. Recorded the number of the form.
9/7/2016 9:43 AM	Poor. Coming to home late on Sunday night. Census officer is son of neighbour - a nosy and untrustworthy one. Should not allow a neighbour to do this job.
8/30/2016 9:40 PM	Pushed paper form under my front door.
8/30/2016 5:58 PM	Pushy
9/8/2016 4:03 PM	Pushy. Hassled my autistic son.
8/30/2016 6:46 PM	Pushy. Ill-informed.
9/9/2016 2:00 PM	Rang for paper census form a week before census- and never received it. Three weeks after census an ABS collector arrived at our door asking about census and we said we had asked for a paper form and not received it- so he gave us one after suggesting that we do the online form. No further contact so far after mailing form back.
9/1/2016 6:58 PM	Received letters
9/1/2016 6:02 PM	Reminder notices left at my apartment door.
8/30/2016 6:25 PM	Reminders in mailbox only. Plan to avoid them.
9/1/2016 6:22 PM	Rude- abrupt have visited twice so far. The first time was on Sunday & the second time was tonight. He lied & said he left papers. He had not- I lied on Sunday through the intercom that I was staying

9/1/2016 5:46 PM here & that the residents were away. He really wanted to be let into the building!
9/2/2016 8:11 AM Rude- bullying
8/30/2016 7:03 PM Rural location. He didnt believe that I had actually posted it.
9/2/2016 8:35 AM See q3
9/1/2016 5:11 PM Seemed like a rasp able human being
9/9/2016 1:32 PM Several times have left cards- even tho I posted ages ago
She asked if I'd completed census. I replied that I'd tried but website was down- and social media reports said it was still done days later. She gave me a form. Have also received unsigned reminder note in mailbox.
8/30/2016 7:08 PM She was efficient- sympatheitic to the system failure
9/2/2016 8:02 AM So far managed to avoid.
8/31/2016 11:08 PM So far: once when they dropped off the form- and yesterday when someone left a calling card when I was (mercifully) out.
9/2/2016 12:04 PM Someone buzzed twice on one night. They looked suspicious- I didnt open the door. Maybe Census or maybe not.
9/4/2016 2:26 PM Terrible
9/1/2016 7:15 PM The collector delivered the form with an envelope to return it.
8/30/2016 8:03 PM the person who visited was polite- and noted down my Policy Objections on her *personal* device. I'm awaiting a visit from her supervisor.
9/2/2016 4:23 PM They areThreats and coercion make them seem more like Gestapo agent than 'reasonable representatives' of a formerly trusted and benign organisation.
9/1/2016 5:57 PM They came around but I wasn't home- so they left a note
9/8/2016 4:27 PM They came constantly and unnecessarily harassed my wife about completing the paper version.
8/30/2016 7:08 PM They came to my mother's place at 7pm (after dark) to check if she'd completed it. Freaked her out. I spoke to them through the door (don't open up after dark). It seemed like an odd time to make an official call.
8/30/2016 8:07 PM They delivered the forms 3 weeks after census night.
9/1/2016 8:20 PM They entered my front gate- opened a steel security door that was unlocked- opened a wooden door that was also unlocked and left a new form outside the door of my flat. They ignored the sign saying only parcel deliveries allowed to enter.
8/31/2016 9:46 PM They have grown more aggressive over every visit.
9/8/2016 7:17 PM They have knocked on my door three times- I have not answered.

9/1/2016 5:47 PM	They keep coming back!
9/3/2016 6:53 PM	they keep coming over dropping off notices
9/2/2016 4:57 PM	They keep dropping stuff off and skulking away even when we are there
9/1/2016 9:30 AM	They keep leaving forms
8/30/2016 7:43 PM	They knock- I don't answer
8/30/2016 4:57 PM	They knocked once- i lied to them- havnt seen them since (see comment above)
8/30/2016 7:01 PM	They left a paper form at my door so far.
9/10/2016 1:37 PM	they left some forms
9/1/2016 6:04 PM	They never appeared
8/31/2016 7:40 AM	they put reminder in the letterbox
9/2/2016 8:39 AM	They seemed annoyed
9/7/2016 9:00 PM	They simply drop cards and forms.
9/4/2016 2:30 PM	They were polite though I don't like people coming to knock on my door.
9/7/2016 1:27 PM	They're all lovely
8/30/2016 6:21 PM	They're tenacious.
9/1/2016 6:04 PM	They've been here 3 times to try to get our form.
9/10/2016 2:44 PM	To date- no facial contact- only one reminder note.
9/3/2016 7:30 PM	told me to post it back asap
9/2/2016 11:35 AM	Too aggressive and devious
8/31/2016 11:57 AM	Turned up at 7pm Sunday night- explained I had done it on the night it crashed and wasn't doing it again- threatened with fines. Got a paper form and left it on the table.
9/2/2016 2:14 PM	Two follow-ups
9/8/2016 2:56 PM	Two subsequent weekend visits from collectors looking for my form (but I haven't heard them knocking). I was at my parents' on Census day and put myself on their form.
9/1/2016 11:18 PM	Used an ipad- not appropriate
8/30/2016 7:34 PM	Using avoidance tactic.
8/30/2016 7:05 PM	Very polite 2 visits. Plus 3 visits when I was not home- leaving a flier saying Act now before it's too late.
9/1/2016 5:56 PM	Was caught at front door as I was leaving home- felt hounded. Now trapped into having to do form I object to.
9/1/2016 8:42 PM	Was present for delivery of form. innocuous . Was further angered to find he used his own smartphone to scan my form.

8/30/2016 11:47 PM
9/1/2016 8:05 PM

Was told the single census collector had another 200 houses to check on
When they came to collect the form- we told them we weren't home on census night. They seemed relieved and went away

8/30/2016 7:00 PM
9/1/2016 5:43 PM
8/31/2016 8:40 AM
9/13/2016 2:23 PM

Woman came to collect form. Friendly. Agreed the whole thing had been a stuff up.
You do realise that there could be hefty fines if you don't fill it in?
Zero.

9/13/2016 9:03 AM
9/13/2016 9:03 AM

I am one. I can see that they are likely to be acting inconsistently. The information and training provided was clearly prepared before #censusfail. They are focusing on completions at all costs, and have not done anything about the residents who dud submit online but the system has lost them. No advice on trespassing either and that will leave some doing the wrong thing.
They simply dropped off a form as we were late completing the census on line
They simply dropped off a form as we were late completing the census on line

Question 9 Responses

time	responses
9/1/2016 5:38 PM	Absolutely not! The additional data retention/linking has ZERO social licence
9/3/2016 4:23 PM	Doesn't matter. The changes are unacceptable.
9/1/2016 6:45 PM	Don't know had my head in sand until 2016 election day- for last 25 years.
9/1/2016 5:30 PM	Got had no intention ... lacks transparency emphasis on secrecy
9/4/2016 2:32 AM	government or junta ?
9/2/2016 8:39 AM	Heavy handed Orwellian Animal Farm quality about whole tracking issue
8/31/2016 2:41 PM	Hell no! This is a matter of supreme importance. Even Senators didn't disclose names- which makes you wonder if they think the rest of us a complete idiots.
9/2/2016 4:23 PM	It is increasingly obvious that public consultation was avoided due to an expected backlash. This is precisely why the government and ABS have lost public trust and raised suspicions about the real function of this census.
9/2/2016 1:41 PM	My view is that the ABS did what was required under existing privacy frameworks and government practices. If there is a desire for there to be a different process- that is a different issue.
9/3/2016 3:11 PM	No - and the way the changes appear to have been deliberately rushed through without publicity or public discussion serves only to arouse suspicion even in those who aren't naturally suspicious.
9/3/2016 11:49 AM	NO and NO again its shocking the way the government (LAB & LIB) have destroyed or rights to privacy over the last few years. I rallied against the Australia Card in the 80's and we are now seeing the last steps to implementing it by stealth.
8/30/2016 11:49 PM	No- and I don't think the changes should have happened in the first place.
9/3/2016 11:55 AM	NO- and it appears to have been a deliberate effort to minimise public awareness to avoid unwanted consultation and negative feedback.
8/30/2016 5:45 PM	No- not at all- although I blame Kalisch (and his motives) at ABS more than the polities
8/30/2016 8:02 PM	Not at all. Keeping information that links my name and address to my spiritual preference is a disgrace. To know that ABS is IT technically incompetent is every worse. Hackers will soon know the name and address of every Catholic or Jew or whatever in Australia. What fool made this decision I ask....
9/2/2016 7:00 PM	Not of any concern to me.
9/1/2016 6:58 PM	Only found out through the good folks on Twitter
9/3/2016 3:46 PM	Publicising (not enough spin through advertising) is not the issue. Media/government are definitely putting that filter over people's eyes though. Australians are not morons. Many are refusing- not because we

didn't receive enough advertising to understand but because do understanding – we're sick of government encroaching on our lives unnecessarily. People are realising government actively attempted to bypass privacy laws through deception with this census. Attempted to make us believe laws say something they do not. i.e. Census is compulsory. government want every person identified and given an SLK. so rather than do that openly (which would require legislation etc.) lets simply imply identifying yourself by providing your name is compulsory too – by attaching what isn't compulsory to what is – whilst removing the option to not provide your name.

9/1/2016 4:10 PM
8/30/2016 6:31 PM

shouldn't have ever happened

The changes would have been rejected by the public if they were publicised during the consultation period.

9/2/2016 4:47 PM
9/7/2016 5:32 PM
9/4/2016 11:04 AM
9/4/2016 2:30 PM
9/2/2016 4:57 PM
8/30/2016 7:15 PM
8/30/2016 6:48 PM

The government had no intention of telling us about the implications of this census.

They actively tried to hide their changes.

They deliberately hid these changes – total lack of trust now for any future census.

They publicised the changes but disagreed it meant anything.

They should have retained it as it was

They took deliberate measures to obscure and delay publication of the changes

They were silent and secretive about the changes– hoping the public would willingly agree with having a dossier created about every person in the country

9/7/2016 5:47 PM
9/8/2016 6:19 PM

thought they should have just shut up and said nothing.

I was aware of the changes so yes. But they had not convinced me of the need to do so.