

- THIS SUBMISSION IS ANONYMOUS -

Submission for: **SENATE ENQUIRY OF CENSUS 2016**

Date: **September 2016**

Introduction:

I'm speaking on behalf of Joe Citizen, who in 2016 has been failed by the Statistical Agency of the Australian Government - the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) because without proper public consultation, they changed the way in which they conducted, gathered, and retained the information of Census 2016.

When these sweeping changes were quietly snuck in pre-Christmas 2015, the broader community were simply unaware of the proposed changes and the serious long term impact of these changes and how it will affect them and their families in the years to come.

A Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) was conducted in December 2015 and using the services of an unnamed 'market research company' they conducted a series of 16 focus groups across the country to understand public attitudes and acceptability of the retention of name and address information from the Census.

This was not reported in any mainstream media, only 2 online reports from IT News and Public Service News. The question beckons why this wasn't reported by television news channels, AM radio, social media, or local newspapers.

As stated in the PIA, public feedback consisted of three responses from private citizens who all raised concerns with the proposal. Only 3 responses ?

Either no one knew about it, or no one cared. With so much media coverage and public backlash of Census 2016 it's clearly obvious that the reason there was so little feedback on the articles is because no one knew about them.

The ABS deliberately chose keep this out of the hands of mainstream media, by flying 'under the radar' and in doing so, knowingly deceived the Australian Public.

We did not consent to this use of our data. Names are not statistical data and should never have been made compulsory.

The real reason the ABS is interested in names and other personal information is to create a Statistical Linkage Key (SLK). The SLK, is a unique number that identifies each individual (including children) which will enable data-sharing between all Government entities and non-Government Companies who do work on behalf of the Government where our data may be 'needed' .

This was never what the census was created for.

How can this all be resolved ?

1. Scrap Census 2016 and start again
2. The ABS should make a statement acknowledging that they did the wrong thing, and announce steps they will take to prevent the same problems happening next time.
3. The ABS should undertake proper public consultation regarding the recent changes made to the retention of names and addresses collected in the 2016 Census.
4. Based on the above consultation announce their findings, which should be advertised on mainstream media, social media and accessible to everyone.
5. The ABS should make a statement about the SLK. Assure the Australian public that they are listening and confirm that the information collected from Census 2016 will not be used to create a SLK. The Australian Public does not want an Australian Card, SLK, or any other form of Digital ID.
6. If Census is to be compulsory, it needs to be completely Anonymous and the public needs to be reassured that it will be. Names can easily be cross matched against other government bodies so by only stating that names are not compulsory it is not enough. Both names and addresses should not be compulsory.
7. Allow users to access online form via VPN, no geoblocking.
8. Stop with misleading threats about fines, support the motion by Senator Scott Ludlam and scrap fines altogether.
9. Stop making people feel like prisoners in their own home harassing people by sending out doorknockers every 2 or 3 days.

- End -