

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

**Question: BET 20**

**Topic: 2016 Census Categories**

**Hansard Page: Tuesday 4 June 2013, Page 101**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

**Senator BUSHBY:** Are you aware of the proposed changes for the industry of employment and occupation categories in the 2016 census?

**Mr Sutton:** Are you talking about the ones that this submission has indicated it would like to see changed?

**Senator BUSHBY:** They are of the opinion that there is discussion about changing the definitions.

**Mr Sutton:** It may well be that in the discussion paper that we put out prior to seeking submissions, we may have mentioned that there was some consideration of making some changes in that area, because there is a range of things that we are looking at in that area.

**Senator BUSHBY:** I think that is what they are referring to—proposals that you had put out in your discussion paper and they were responding to that. Does anybody here know what those proposed changes were?

**Mr Sutton:** I cannot remember them off the top of my head.

**Senator BUSHBY:** So the industry of employment and occupation?

**Mr Sutton:** Nobody with me is aware of that. I am happy to take that on notice and come back to you with any information that would clarify it.. We have indicated in our paper a number of areas of potential change but none of that is locked in.

**Senator BUSHBY:** If they did become locked in they have raised issues with us and in their submission to you as to what that might mean and some of the consequences.

**Mr Sutton:** On our website we have listed all of the submissions received and it is open for the public to see who has provided submissions on the next census.

**Answer:**

The ABS invited public comment in the publication *Census of Population and Housing: Consultation on Content and Procedures, 2016* (cat. no. 2007.0) on whether there is sufficient user demand to continue the current practice of coding topics 'Industry of employment' and 'Occupation' to the most detailed level in the relevant classification. Excerpts from this publication are below:

**Industry of employment**

The ABS will consider whether there is sufficient user demand for the Census to continue coding industry at the most detailed level (four-digit level) of the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification* (cat. no. 1292.0), or whether the unit group (three-digit) is sufficient.

**Occupation**

The ABS will consider whether there is sufficient user demand for the Census to continue coding occupation at the most detailed level (six-digit level) of the *Australian and New*

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*Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations* (cat. no. 1220.0), or whether the unit group (four-digit) is sufficient.