

Keeping your information safe and secure

Every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducts a Census. This counts every person and household in Australia. The next Census is on **Tuesday 11 August 2026**.

The Census form asks questions about you and your household. Protecting your privacy and keeping your information secure is our highest priority. It's a key part of how the ABS designs the Census and collects and stores data.

How we protect your information

The information you provide for the Census is confidential. It is protected by the *Privacy Act 1988* and the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. We will never release information in a way that will identify any individual or household.

Information collected from your Census form is not shared with any other government agencies. Census information is collected and used only by the ABS for statistical purposes. This includes if you subscribed to access the Census through myGov. We do not share information with direct marketing companies.

The Census website and online form were built in line with industry best practice, informed by leading industry partners and experts on data security.

You can save and resume completing your online form at any time.



The online form features the strongest encryption security technology available



The paper form includes a reply paid envelope to return the form safely to ABS



We store all Census information collected on Australian-based cloud infrastructure



We do rigorous testing and 24/7 security monitoring of ABS IT systems

Completing separately from your household

You can request a form if you want to complete separately from your household. To request a separate form, call the Census Contact Centre on 1800 181 227. They can give you a Census number to complete online or send you a paper form.

If someone is included on two forms, we keep the form that is the most complete. This means it's important to answer as many questions as possible in your separate form.

Use the same name, date of birth and sex recorded at birth as recorded on the household form, where possible. This will make sure your separate form is counted. You can then respond to other questions on the Census form in the way that best reflects you.



Find out more about how your Census information is kept safe and secure at census.abs.gov.au/privacy