

What you need to know about the Census

Census night is 10 August 2021.

What the Census is

Every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics counts every person and home in Australia. This is called the Census. It asks questions about things like your age, country of birth, religion, ancestry, language used at home, work and education. Everyone who is staying in your home on **10 August 2021** must be included. This includes international visitors and babies.

Why you need to do the Census

The Census helps us understand what we need now, and into the future.

Information from the Census helps communities, businesses and governments across the country make informed decisions. It also helps plan local services for individuals, families and communities. For example:

- libraries use Census data to understand languages spoken in the area so they can stock in-language books for their readers
- supermarkets use Census data to inform the products to stock for their customers, including international foods
- broadcasters use Census data to determine which in-language radio and media services are needed for their listeners.

Who needs to complete the Census

The Census is compulsory.* This means everyone in Australia except diplomats and their families must complete the Census wherever they are on Census night. This includes visa holders, tourists and international visitors like students studying at Australian universities.

*See the 2021 Census Privacy Statement at www.census.abs.gov.au/privacy



How and when to complete the Census

You can complete your Census online, by paper, or with help from us. You can start as soon as you get instructions, if you know where you'll be on Census night.



Most households will get instructions in the mail to complete online.

This will have your unique Census number and temporary password. Go to www.census.abs.gov.au when you receive your instructions in early August 2021. If you want to use a paper form, call the 24-hour automated paper form request service on **1800 130 250**. You will need your 16-digit Census number from your Census letter.



Some households will receive a paper form.

This also applies to international students and visitors staying in venues such as hotels, camping grounds or student accommodation. Once completed, return to us using the reply-paid envelope that will be provided. There are instructions on the form if you prefer to complete online.

The Census form is in English only. You can ask family or friends to help with your Census. There will also be Census staff who can show you how to fill in the form.



Where can I get help?

There is support available if you need help to complete your Census.

- Visit www.census.abs.gov.au
- Go to www.census.abs.gov.au/findus to find face-to-face help near you.
- Call us on **1800 512 441** to speak to someone in English.
- For help in your language, go to www.census.abs.gov.au/language or call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450**.

