



'Our Story. Our Future.' was created by proud Wiradjuri, Wotjobaluk, Yuin and Gumbaynggirr artist Luke Penrith and Maluuilgal people, Badu Island artist Naseli Tamwoy.

10 August 2021

Help tell our story – complete your Census tonight

The Census will count each person and household in Australia on Tuesday, 10 August.

Adrian Dodson-Shaw a proud Yawuru, Arrernte and Kaytetye man and Assistant Director at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics is encouraging everyone to participate.

“We need our mob to be counted in the Census to ensure that we’re heard. Census data is used to help create a better future for our younger generations,” Adrian said.

“The Census only happens once every five years. It’s a national count of every person and home in Australia – it highlights successes and what communities need to continue to grow.

“Census data is used to help plan services for our families and communities. Make sure you include everyone in your home on Census night. This includes Elders, babies and visitors.

“The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Australia has historically been undercounted. This is because some people have not been counted in a household Census form or some households have not been counted at all.

“If people who plan our services and programs don’t know where we are and how many of us live in a community, then they don’t know what services we need in the future to keep us strong and connected.

“Your personal information is protected by law and isn’t shared with anyone. This includes other government agencies. You can’t be identified by the information you share about yourself and your family in your Census.”

In remote areas, the Census is conducted between July and August. This allows time for remote teams to cover large areas and visit households to help people complete.

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

- Call 1800 512 441 to speak to someone.
- If you live in a remote community, there will be Census field staff in your community to help you fill in your Census.

Media notes

- For media requests and interviews, contact the ABS Media Team on media@abs.gov.au or **1300 175 070**.
- Subscribe to our [email notification service](#) and get media releases or products sent to you on release.

More information

What is the Census?

The Census, held on Tuesday 10 August 2021, is a snapshot of who we are and tells the story of how we are changing. It is one of the largest and most important statistical collections undertaken by the ABS.

How will people complete their Census?

People will be able to complete the Census online, on their mobile device, or on paper. There will be a number of options available for people who need assistance to complete their Census form including help from Census field staff, and phone and online help.

Census staff are available in remote communities during July and August 2021. Where possible, they'll be people who live in the community. Our staff will do face-to-face interviews with people living there.

What is new with the Census?

People can complete their Census as soon as they receive their instructions if they know where they'll be on 10 August. They don't have to wait until Census night. There are two new questions in the 2021 Census—the first changes to questions collected since 2006. The new questions are on long-term health conditions, such as arthritis and diabetes, and on defence force participation.

Conducting the Census in a COVID environment

We expect most people will complete their Census online with no in-person contact from us. Information on conducting the Census in a COVID-19 environment is available at [Keeping the community safe during COVID-19](#).

How do people know if the Census instructions are legitimate?

Census instructions will feature the official Australian Bureau of Statistics logo and the 2021 Census branding. Further information about what the public can expect from us is available at [Identifying and avoiding scams](#).

Census stories

Here are some Census stories that demonstrate the real, lived benefits of the Census for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, organisations, and communities:

[Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are leading the conversation](#) about the importance of Indigenous Australians participating in the next Census.

The [Coen Regional Aboriginal Corporation](#) used Census data understand the transport needs of people living in remote communities to help them stay connected.

Census data helps First Nation's surgeon [Professor Kelvin Kong](#) understand patient needs, and improve community health across Australia.

Census data helps [SEARMS Aboriginal Corporation](#) understand the housing needs of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and help them "age in place" in an appropriate home.

The [University of Sydney](#) uses Census data to help smooth the pathway to university for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

The [Walu-win Centre](#) uses Census data to understand the health services needed by the local community – helping local Aboriginal and Torres Strait residents to thrive.

Kalkadoon man, [Warren King](#) became a local engagement manager so he could help his community be Census-ready and understand the importance of being counted.

The [Institute of Urban Indigenous Health](#) uses Census data to inform expansion of its successful 'Birthing in our Communities' program. The program provides holistic support to more than 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mums in South East Queensland.