

2016 Census of Population and Housing: Submission Form for Content or Procedures, 2016

Before completing this form

Pre-submission reading: Before making a submission, please read the following information paper [Census of Population and Housing: Consultation on Content and Procedures, 2016 \(cat. no. 2007.0\)](#). This paper sets out initial proposals from the ABS on content and procedures for the 2016 Census and invites comment from the public.

Preparing your submission: Submissions for the inclusion of a new topic or the modification of an existing topic require detailed justification against the following criteria to facilitate assessment:

- The topic is of current national importance.
- There is a current need for data on the topic for small population groups and/or at the small area level.
- There are no other suitable alternative data sources available for the topic.
- The topic is suitable for inclusion in the Census.
- There is likely to be a continuing need for data on the topic in the following Census.

If you wish to make a submission on any aspect of the Census, you will need to complete the following form. **A separate submission will be required for each topic or aspect** of the Census you wish to address.

We advise that you look at the questions being asked and prepare your submission before starting your form. **The on-line submission form does not have a save function.** Therefore once you start you will need to complete it, or start over if you exit out of the form, unless you have saved your content in another location.

Lodging submissions

Please lodge your submission for the 2016 Census content or procedures using either this submission form or the online version at <https://secure.abs.gov.au/census/submissions.NSF>

Please return the completed form to 2016census@abs.gov.au (if completed electronically). If you are submitting a paper version of this form, please return it to:

2016 Census Submissions
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2616

Due Date

The submission period is open from 6 November 2012 - 31 May 2013.

Help

If you have any queries about the submission process please visit www.abs.gov.au/census, email 2016census@abs.gov.au or telephone 1300 135 070.

Contact details

Q1. Please provide contact details of the person to contact regarding this submission.

Note: These details must be completed as anonymous submissions will not be considered. * Denotes mandatory fields

Name: Submitted by economic Security4Women (eS4W) on behalf of the Gender Statistics Advisory Group (GSAG)

Title (e.g. Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr, etc): Ms

First name*: Dalma

Surname*: Jacobs

Postal address*:

PO Box/Apartment, Flat or Unit No (if any): PO BOX 591

Street No.:

Street Name:

Suburb: NORTH SYDNEY

State/Territory: NSW

Postcode: 2059

Country, if not in Australia:

Phone number: 07 3720 2500

Mobile number:

Email address*: dalma@dalmajacobs.com

Q2. Do you agree to allow the ABS to publicly refer to the information provided in this submission as a statement of your, or your organisation's, views on the relevant topics or procedures?*

Note: The ABS may make public the views put forward in this submission. However, the ABS will not publish the names of persons or organisations making submissions unless you have given permission to do so.

Please select a response below:

Yes, I agree

No, I do not agree

Preliminary information

Q3. Are you are completing this submission as a*:

Please select a response below:

- Private individual not representing any organisation? ▶ **Go to Q7**
- Representative of an organisation or government department? ▶ **Go to next question**

Q4. What is the name and address of your organisation?*

Note: For organisations with offices at more than one location please indicate the address where your head office is located.

Name of organisation: economic Security4Women (eS4W) submitting on behalf of
ABS Gender Statistics Advisory Group (GSAG)

Address of organisation*:

PO Box/Apartment, Flat or Unit No (if any): PO Box 591

Street No.:

Street Name:

Suburb: NORTH SYDNEY

State/Territory: NSW

Postcode: 2059

Country, if not in Australia:

Q5. What is your position in the organisation?

Position Title: Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) Representative

Designation/Level/Role: eS4W Council Member and member of GSAG

Q6. Which sector best describes your organisation?

Please select a response below:



Census
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- X Government Sector / Australian Government (GSAG)
- Government Sector / State / Territory
- Government Sector / Local
- Private sector (fewer than 20 employees)
- Private sector (20 or more employees)
- X Other (please specify): (eS4W) and (AFGW)
- Non Government Organisation (fewer than 20 employees)

Submission for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing

Please answer, in as much detail as possible, the following questions:

Q7. Does this submission relate to*:

Please select a response below:

- A new topic? ▶ **Go to next question**
- Change to an existing topic? ▶ **Go to next question**
- The exclusion of a topic? ▶ **Go to Q16**
- Some other aspect of the Census? ▶ **Go to Q19**

Q8. What is the name of the topic?*

Note: Please use the topic names listed in *Census of Population and Housing: Consultation on Content and Procedures, 2016* (cat. no. 2007.0), if appropriate. Please specify other topics.

Status of Employment

Q9. Please define the topic and/or describe modifications you are proposing to this topic for the 2016 Census.*

Status in Employment

The Status in Employment questions (refer to questions 34 to 37 in the 2011 Census) are proposed for review and GSAG supports their retention with some modifications. The existing questions only ask about the employment status of a person during the week before Census day. That information may not capture a true employment profile of respondents because at a specific point in time some workers may not be working (for instance casual employees or women, (particularly those of child bearing ages) who tend to have a lower employment rate during certain periods of their life). The picture is likely to be different if the time period is extended to the whole financial year. Understanding a true picture of employment profiles would help design better targeted policies, particularly in relation to women's workforce participation.

We recommend that a new question be added to the Census questionnaire which asks about the estimated proportion of time spent working on jobs in the last financial year (for instance in percentages or weeks/ months). This could replace the questions about time worked during the last *week*.

The data regarding entrepreneurship would be useful if it could be identified as part of the 'Status of Employment' questions. This has been identified as a gap in data from the OECD (*Closing the Gender Gap: Act Now 2012*) and would be useful to determine the reasons for self-employment. We would expect that gender disaggregated data would show a difference both in industry choice and the reasons behind the decision to be self-employed (for example, we understand from the OECD that many women become self-employed to enjoy more flexible working arrangements, whereas self-employed men tend to take bigger risks with their investments and work longer hours compared to those in typical employment situations).

Q10. Criteria 1: The topic is of current national importance.*

Note: What specific purposes will the data be used for? Please consider the following when addressing this criteria:

- Uses in policy-making, long-term planning, social and economic applications.
- What benefits will flow from this data.
- The consequences if this topic was not included in the 2016 Census.
- In particular, please consider what activities could not take place or would be significantly reduced or degraded in quality.

Status in Employment

With the proposed modification, these questions will provide a clear indication of workplace participation in Australia. In particular, it will allow GSAG to identify geographical cohorts of disadvantage and target policy accordingly. It will provide indications of sporadic work patterns, insecure work, and will identify the numbers of unemployed not accessing income support.

By including these questions with modifications, gender disaggregated data will provide further insight such as time spent out of the workforce due to the birth or adoption of a child which will indicate if appropriate return-to-work incentives are in place for new parents. From a women's workforce participation perspective, this is particularly important given women are generally the primary caregiver of children born into heterosexual families.

These questions also provide an indication of the employment status of carers within Australia. For instance, answers to these questions can provide indications of any disconnect with the workforce due to caring responsibilities. Census data will thus provide raw numbers, the age range, and employment status of carers, providing researchers and policy makers with information specific to carers who may or may not combine caring responsibilities and work.

Q11. Criteria 2: There is a current need for data on the topic for small population groups and/or at the small area level.*

Note: Please consider when addressing this criteria:

- At what geographic level will data from the topic be required?
- For which population groups will the data from the topic be required?

Please specify why the data would be useful at this level.

Status in Employment

This data can also be used to examine many small population groups including those in particular geographic locations or with particular socio-demographic characteristics (e.g. low income). On a larger scale, status in employment data disaggregated by gender allows Government to target policies based on any gender inequalities.

Q12. Criteria 3: There are no suitable alternative data sources available for the topic.*

Are there any alternative data sources available for the topic? If yes, please specify and consider the following in relation to these data sources when addressing this criteria.

- Why are these data sources not appropriate for the purposes indicated in the first criteria?
- Will these data sources provide high quality data for the entire population, and/or for small population groups and/or at the small area level?
- Name of alternative data source and organisation responsible if known.

Status in Employment

While the monthly Labour Force Survey contains estimates of employed and unemployed persons classified by sex, full-time/part-time status, states and territories and some age groups, and persons not in the labour force, it does not provide details on usual employment, business/ industry type, or the potential for entrepreneurial data.

Q13. Criteria 4: The topic is suitable for inclusion in the Census.*

Note: Please consider when addressing this criteria that Census topics should not:

- Upset people by invading their privacy to an unacceptable degree. The information you will get from such a topic would be subject to bias and will affect other data used and collected in conjunction with it.
- Be subjective (i.e. likely to have varying interpretations for individuals, such as "How would you rate your overall health status").
- Seek information which may not be generally known such as "where was your maternal grandmother born".
- Be complex to code or difficult to process. You should consider the way answers would need to be classified.
- Require people to remember things they are unlikely to be able to, for example "What was your income five years ago".
- Seek opinions or attitudes.
- Require more than one or two questions to obtain the required information.
- Require an overlong explanation or instructions to ensure an accurate answer. If the type of question needed cannot be understood with minimum of explanation, it is not suitable or appropriate for inclusion in the Census.

Status in Employment

Not applicable given it is in previous Census questionnaires.

Q14. Criteria 5: There is likely to be a continuing need for data on the topic in the following Census.*

Note: Please consider the following when addressing this criteria:

- Will there still be a need for data on this topic at the time of next Census in 2021, and into the future?

Status in Employment

There is an ongoing need for this data, particularly if it were modified to an estimate over one year, for researching trends in employment and workplace relations. Further links can be drawn to the health portfolio (relationships to health and employment) and the families portfolio (child bearing, fertility and the relationship to employment).

Q15. Please also consider the following points in relation to the topic and include in your submission*:

- What data output items will be required for the topic? (Please provide details of the output categories required and, if appropriate, ranges/descriptions for each category.)
- What cross-classifications will be needed with other Census topics?
- Could this topic be included on a 10-yearly cycle rather than a 5-yearly cycle?

Status in Employment

Data outputs would remain the same as in previous years, with a modification on the time period detailed in the questions. GSAG suggests these questions remain on a 5 yearly cycle to quickly track of any trends in employment and workforce participation.

Q16. Is there any topic which you consider should be excluded from the 2016 Census?

Please select a response below :

- No ▶ **Go to question 19**
- Yes ▶ **Go to next question**

Q17. What is the name of the topic which you consider should be excluded from the 2016 Census?

Note: Please use the topic names listed in *Census of Population and Housing: Consultation on Content and Procedures, 2016* (cat. no. 2007.0, if appropriate. Please specify other topics.

Q18. Why do you think that this topic should be excluded from the 2016 Census?

Q19. Would you like to provide any further comments on the proposals for the 2016 Census?

No

Q20. Would you like to attach a file to support your submission?

- Yes, I would like to attach a file
- No, I would not like to attach a file

Acknowledgement

Once the ABS has received your submission, we will send you or your organisation a letter of acknowledgement, either by post or email.

What happens after submissions close?

Following assessment of submissions, final recommendations on the nature and content of the 2016 Census will be discussed with the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) in late 2013. The ABS will then make a submission to the Government, including recommendations on the nature and content of the 2016 Census. A decision on the content of the 2016 Census is expected to be known by the end of 2014. People who have provided submissions will be advised of the outcome.

Thank you for your interest in the 2016 Census