

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 the
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
For a brighter future

- 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) (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.

Unpaid Work

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

Unpaid Work

GSAG understands that the unpaid work sections of the Census (questions 48 to 50 in the 2011 Census) are currently up for review in terms of the importance of each particular question. GSAG considers these questions very important in its labour market analysis, particularly in relation to women's workforce participation, and the workforce participation of carers for the disabled, frail aged, or ill.

For this reason, we strongly support the retention of the unpaid work questions. GSAG also suggests the question on the time spent looking after a child without pay is further expanded to include the number of hours this was undertaken in the last week. This will also give a good indication of the amount of care men are undertaking of children who may or may not be their own.

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.

Unpaid Work

Unpaid work is a topic of national importance because of its close relationship to paid work. These questions provide valuable data on gender differences relating to unpaid work, allowing for analysis on issues relating to women's workforce participation and how people balance paid and unpaid work.

Further, these answers indicate how much informal care is taking place (for instance, grandparents looking after children whilst their parents work), how other caring responsibilities impact on workforce participation, and whether there are any cultural shifts regarding the sharing of unpaid domestic 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.

Unpaid work

The primary use of this information for GSAG is to compare data disaggregated by gender, however it is also used to study smaller cohorts such as carers, new mothers, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from remote areas not captured in previous Time Use Surveys.

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.

Unpaid work

While the ABS collects labour force data through other surveys such as the monthly Labour Force Survey which 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, Census data is valuable in terms of tracking changes over time, and ascertaining the social value placed on unpaid work. GSAG considers that all elements of unpaid work are important to ask, in particular time spent caring for others (be they children or others). In terms of domestic work, this gives an indication of any time burden difficulties that are preventing people from working

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.

Unpaid Work

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?

Unpaid Work

There is an ongoing need for this data from a GSAG perspective. Currently, this data is accessed to develop policy in both employment and workplace relations areas. From a gender perspective, GSAG uses this data to study the working profile of men and women and examine the impact of unpaid work on their workforce participation.

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?

Unpaid Work

Data outputs would remain the same as in previous years, with the exception of a question on the number of hours spent caring for children which is not currently asked in the Census

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