



Census



What should the 2026 Census ask people?

We want to know what you think

February to April 2023

Easy Read version



How to use this document



The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) wrote this document. When you see the words 'we' and 'our', it means the ABS.



We wrote this document in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 14.



This Easy Read document is a summary of information on our website. This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the information we used to make this document on our website.

www.abs.gov.au/census/2026-census-topic-consultation



You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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What is the Census?



The **Census** is a way to count all people and homes in Australia.

The Census counts every:



- person



- household.



Your household includes everyone staying in your home on Census night.



The Census happens every 5 years.



The next Census will be in 2026.

The Census asks questions about:



- your age



- where you were born



- how many people you live with



- what languages you use at home



- what you do for work.

Why do we do the Census?



The Census helps us understand how Australia changes.

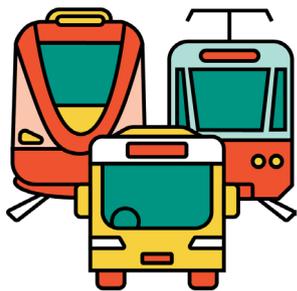
It can also help governments and businesses plan for services such as:



- schools



- hospitals

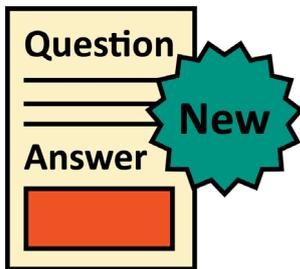


- transport



- support for your community.

What is a topic?



We are asking people if they want new **topics** in the 2026 Census.



A topic is a piece of information that the Census will ask people about.

For example, a topic we had in the past was about using languages other than English at home.



But you might want the Census to ask different questions about the languages people use.



For example, you might want to know about all the languages people use.

Not just the ones they use at home.

The Census would then give us information about:



- how many people use languages other than English in their home



- what other languages people use across Australia.



After the Census, governments and organisations might use this information.

They could create better services for people who use languages other than English.

For example, they could train more **interpreters**.



An interpreter is someone who:

- speaks your language
- helps you understand what someone is saying.

How can you tell us what you think?

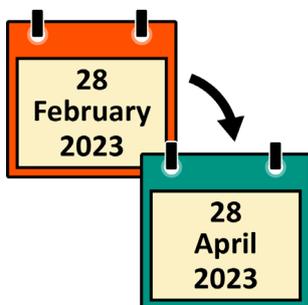


We want to know what new topics you think should be in the 2026 Census.

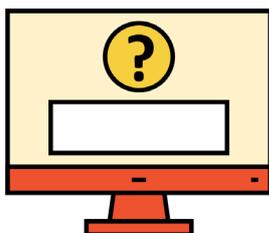


You can tell us what you think on our website.

consult.abs.gov.au



Please share your suggestions between 28 February 2023 and 28 April 2023.



We will ask you some questions about why you think the Census should ask people about your topic.

You can tell us what you think:



- by yourself



- as part of a group or organisation.

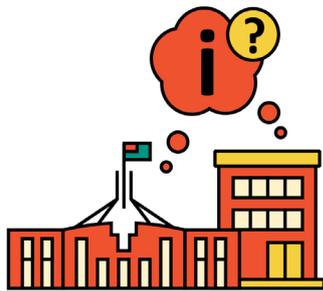


You can learn more about how we are finding out what people think on our website.

www.abs.gov.au/census/2026-census-topic-consultation



What happens after you share your ideas?

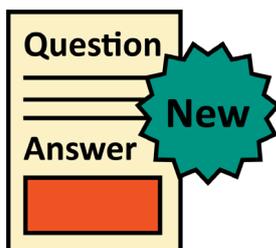


After you share your ideas, we will choose topics that could help governments and organisations make good decisions.



In late 2023, we will share what we learnt.

We will then ask what you think about:



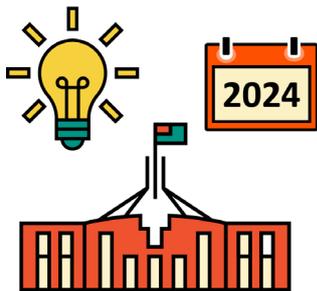
- the new topics we are thinking about for the 2026 Census



- any old topics we could remove.



We will then make sure people can easily answer questions about the topic.

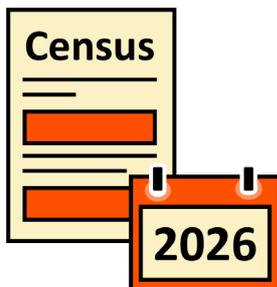


After that happens, we will give our suggestions to the Australian Government.

This will happen in 2024.



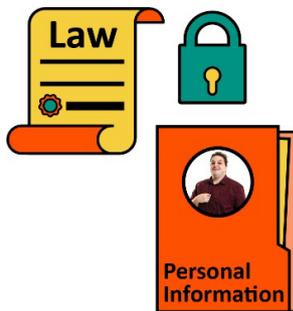
The Australian Government will make the final decision about the topics.



And the 2026 Census will ask people questions about those topics.



What do we do with your personal information?



The law protects your personal information.



This means we must keep your personal information:

- safe
- **private.**



When we keep your personal information private, it means we cannot share your personal information with anyone.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Census

The Census is a count of all people and homes in Australia.



Household

Your household includes everyone staying in your home on Census night.



Interpreter

An interpreter is someone who:

- speaks your language
- helps you understand what someone is saying.



Private

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Topic

A topic is a piece of information that the Census will ask people about.

Contact us



You can email us if you want support to share your suggestions about Census topics.

census.content@abs.gov.au



You can also visit our website for more information.

www.abs.gov.au/census/2026-census-topic-consultation



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