

### How can I help?

Your organisation can assist the ABS by raising awareness of the Census and the importance of Australia's homeless population writing 'None' in the 'Suburb/Locality' box for the usual place of residence question. You can raise awareness by placing editorial in your newsletters/magazines or on your website. You could also disseminate key messages to your networks and people who access your services. Editorial and key messages can be requested from your regional Census Management Unit.

### When will data from the Census be available?

The first round of data from the 2011 Census will become available from mid 2012.

### More information

For more information on the 2011 Census, contact the Census Inquiry Service on **1300 338 776** or visit **[www.abs.gov.au/census](http://www.abs.gov.au/census)**. The Census Inquiry Service is open 8:30am to 8:00pm, seven days a week from 18 July to 5 September 2011.



## Shed some light on Census night

9 August 2011



Information about  
the Census  
and homelessness  
in Australia



2011 Census  
Australia



@2011Census



CensusAustralia



For a brighter future



For a brighter future

### **What is the Census?**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will be conducting the next Census of Population and Housing on Tuesday, 9 August 2011.

The Census provides a 'snapshot' of Australia every five years. It aims to accurately measure the number of people in Australia on Census night and collects vital information on the social, economic and housing characteristics of Australian society.

### **Why is it important?**

The Census provides a critical indicator of homelessness in Australia. The information collected from the Census provides important information that government and decision makers use when forming policy, determining funding allocations and the need for services in your community.

Community organisations, service providers and business all use Census information to plan community facilities, services and support programs, such as emergency shelters for individuals and families, domestic violence programs, transitional housing and specialised programs serving homeless youth.

### **Who is included in the Census?**

Everyone who is in Australia on Census night, 9 August 2011, needs to participate in the Census, except foreign diplomats and their families. This includes people in hostels, refuges, people sleeping rough and couch surfers. It is important that everyone across the country takes part because the information collected allows government, community and business to allocate funding and services designed to combat homelessness.

### **Is the personal information provided shared with anyone else?**

All information provided is kept strictly confidential by law. The ABS does not share any personal information with government or private agencies. All Census workers are legally bound never to share any information they find out while working on the Census.

The ABS has a very long record of keeping the information it collects confidential and has retained its reputation for maintaining the highest level of privacy for more than 100 years.

### **How is the Census conducted?**

In July 2011, over 29,000 Census Collectors will begin delivering Census forms to every household and accommodation service in Australia. Individuals can either fill out the Census form delivered to their household or accommodation service, or complete Census online using eCensus.

The ABS recognises that homeless Australians face a unique set of circumstances and special procedures have been put in place to help address the transient nature of homeless people and ensure they are included in the Census.

ABS staff from state and territory offices will work with organisations and groups providing services to homeless Australians to identify locations where homeless people are likely to be staying on or around Census.

### **Marking 'None' as usual place of residence**

It's important that all people who have no usual permanent address write 'None' in the 'Suburb/Locality' box for the usual place of residence question on the Census form, regardless of where they are staying on Census night. This is especially important for people who are staying in temporary accommodation, including emergency accommodation, refuges or hostels, caravan parks, motels, or even with family or friends.

