

Completing the 2026 Census while in transit

Census night is Tuesday 11 August

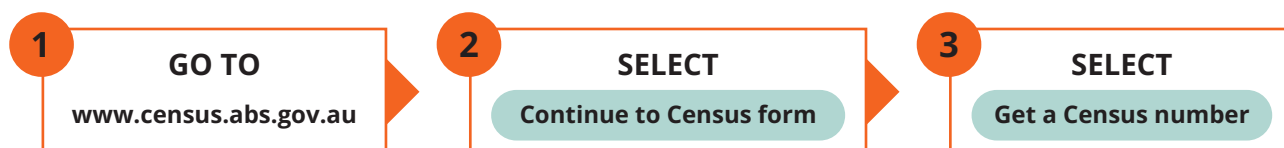
Every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) counts every person and household in Australia through the Census of Population and Housing.

The Census helps us to understand what we need now, and into the future. Census data informs planning for schools, health care, transport and infrastructure. It's also used to help plan local services for individuals, families and communities.

The Census is compulsory* for everyone in Australia on Census night. This includes anyone in transit on planes, trains, buses or trucks and not sleeping at their usual residence or accommodation. It also includes international visitors.

How to complete your Census form

You can complete your Census form online wherever you can access the internet, including through a tablet or mobile phone. You'll need to use a mobile phone to complete the process of getting a Census number and password.



If you don't have access to a device or the internet on Census night, you can complete the Census when you get home or to your destination.

If you completed your Census at home before travelling, you do not need to fill out another Census form.

How to answer the question 'What is the address of this dwelling?'

If you arrive at your destination earlier than 4.00am, you will need to specify the address you arrive at on your form.

'Travelling overnight' is defined as anyone travelling on Census night and arriving at their destination at 4.00am or later the following day. If you are travelling overnight on Census night and arriving at your destination at 4:00am or later:

- Select **Enter address manually** and click Next.
- Complete the **Suburb/Locality, State/Territory** and **Postcode** field of where you *currently* are, then click Next. You do not need to enter a street number or street name.
- In the **Property field**, specify what vehicle you are travelling in and include any details you have such as the route number. For example, 'On a plane, MELBOURNE-PERTH JQ970'.

Your personal information is safe

Your personal information is protected by law and isn't shared with anyone. The ABS is legally required to keep data secure and not release information in a way that is likely to identify an individual. Your data is protected by the *Privacy Act 1988* and the secrecy provisions of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The Census is compulsory

The Census is compulsory. Everyone in Australia on Tuesday 11 August 2026 must be included on a Census form. The ABS collects your information and keeps that information confidential in accordance with the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

*For more information go to www.census.abs.gov.au/privacy

Need help?



Go to
census.abs.gov.au/help



Call us on **1800 181 227**
from 6 July 2026



For help in your language,
call the Translating and
Interpreting Service
(TIS National) on **131 450**