



# the CensusAtSchool

## NEWSLETTER

Edition Number: 5

Date: September Quarter 05

### CensusAtSchool:

#### September quarter newsletter



#### Key Dates

##### CensusAtSchool Project Dates

The CensusAtSchool project has five key phases. Mark the dates down, or join the email list to be notified as they occur.

Complete	✓	Project Development
Now	✓	Release Testing
03 Oct 05		Registration Opens
30 Jan 06		Questionnaire Opens
07 July 06		Questionnaire Closes
11 July 06		Data Usage opens

In October, all Australian schools will receive a CensusAtSchool 'Introduction Pack'. These packs will be addressed to the Principal and contain information about the project. The pack will also contain a registration form which should be completed by the schools project coordinator and signed by the Principal. Once registered, your school will be able to participate in the project.

The CensusAtSchool website is ready to go 'live' on 3 October. Planning is well advanced for the national launch of the project which is scheduled for 20 October at the Melbourne Museum. The project will be officially launched by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, The Honourable Chris Pearce MP. The Australian Statistician Dennis Trewin and Adam Spencer will also be speaking at the launch.

The release testing phase of the CensusAtSchool project has just been completed. Real data from this phase of the project has been accessed by students through the random sampler for their investigation. Teachers have been provided with draft lesson plans also based on data samples derived from the questionnaire.

### TEACHERS' FORUM

#### What teachers said about the Release Testing ...

"... I was impressed enough to want our school to participate"

"... easy to navigate. The links worked. Colours highlighted relevant sections ..."

"... the information came up very quickly... it was clear to read through ..."

"... it took me less than 2 minutes to complete the process. Instructions easy to follow ..."

Next year, by the time school begins, the project will be in full swing. Teachers should plan to complete the questionnaire by 7 July, before the opening of the data usage phase on 11 July.

### Project UPDATE

Over the past three months, we have been conducting a release testing program with schools across Australia. The objective of the program was to emulate the project out in the real world as it will be run during 2006.

We had over 100 schools from the country register and participate in the testing program. From these schools, over 120 teachers created CensusAtSchool accounts and 2,700 students completed and submitted the online questionnaire.

After completing the program, teachers provided feedback about how the program worked for them in their classroom. The overall response has been very positive. The software performed well and general feedback from teachers was that the project was easy to understand and simple to implement.

We would like to thank all schools who participated in the release testing program - your feedback has been very valuable.

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## Subscribe to the Email List!

You can subscribe to the CensusAtSchool newsletter online!

The URL for the CensusAtSchool website is:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/cashome.nsf/home/home>

Click on the 'Teacher Area'. Select the CensusAtSchool Email list tab. Enter your email address and click 'Subscribe'. A confirmation email will be sent. You must respond to this email to complete the subscription process. Look at the information and resources contained in both the Teacher and the Student areas before exiting the site. For further information about the project or to provide us with feedback about the site please contact us via phone or email.

### General Project Support Enquiries

Please contact the ABS, National Education Services Unit, on free call 1800 623 273, or email [Censusatschool@abs.gov.au](mailto:Censusatschool@abs.gov.au)