

# Valuing libraries: the ABS sponsors LIW

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is proud to be a major sponsor of the 2006 Library and Information Week (LIW). In sponsoring LIW, the ABS is again expressing its appreciation for the very important contribution libraries make in educating and informing Australians. We first recognised the value of libraries when we established the Library Extension Program (LEP).

As the spotlight turns on libraries during LIW, this is a great opportunity to showcase ABS information in your libraries. See pages 4, 5 and 8 for ideas.

The LEP Excellence Award provides a platform for the ABS to recognise the great work being done by LEP libraries to raise their clients' awareness of ABS information. It's also a national platform for libraries to showcase their information sharing skills. Why not consider using your LIW ABS activities to enter for this year's Award? The prize: a trophy and \$1500 worth of ABS products and services. Entries close on 31 July. For more information about the Award, go to [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au), select 'Services We Provide', then 'Library Extension Program'.



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## Editorial



Welcome to this issue of the **LEP Newsletter**, coming to you early to help you celebrate Library and Information Week.

The ABS is a major sponsor for LIW 2006. As a librarian, I'm proud to be part of an organisation that values and supports the important information literacy role played by library staff.

We feature the Census in this issue, giving you information and ideas to keep you and your users informed about the 2006 Census to be held on 8 August. If you asked us for an ABS LIW kit, you'll find a range of Census promotional material. Tell us how you used the kit to promote ABS information.

Have you noticed that the ABS web site now uses Google? **NetNews** on this page summarises recent web site improvements and foreshadows future changes. Let us know what you think about the changes and how we can further improve your ABS web site visits.

Enjoy LIW!

Pat Stracey  
LEP National Manager (Acting)

## NetNews

The ABS has put significant resources into continually improving its web site over the past few years. For example:

- a) new look for the ABS web site
- b) reorganisation of statistical information so it is easier to find
- c) removing prices from on-line statistical information
- d) improving site-search

This is not the end – the improvements will continue. User feedback will be an important input for future improvements.

Many of the major changes planned will be seen with the dissemination of 2006 Census data.

*Output of the Census data has often been a catalyst for a major leap forward in dissemination technology used by the ABS – going back as far as the introduction of CD-ROMs for the 1986 Census*

2006 Census data output will lead the ABS web site to be more dynamic. The ABS is also looking at opportunities where dynamic presentations of data can be used to access other sources of data. Stay tuned.

If you would like to provide your feedback on the ABS web site or for more information please contact me at [mano.georgopoulos@abs.gov.au](mailto:mano.georgopoulos@abs.gov.au)



Mano Georgopoulos  
ABS Statistical Publishing Development

# 2006 Census: what's new?

## Complete your Census form on-line via the eCensus!

Census collectors will deliver unique eCensus access codes in a sealed envelope to each household when they deliver the paper forms. People can log in using these codes and submit their eCensus form on-line. They will then be issued with a 12-digit receipt number.

For those who do not have a PC at home, some libraries around Australia will be open on Census night, giving the public the facility and convenience of completing their Census form on-line. If people have concerns about security of a shared PC, or privacy of their information in a public space, they should complete the paper form. Any information lodged through eCensus will be protected by strong security once it is received by the ABS.

For the first time the Census form includes questions about unpaid work. These questions will include unpaid domestic work, unpaid care due to a disability, long term illness or old age, unpaid child care and voluntary work.

Find out more about which questions will feature on the 2006 Census form or how the ABS conducts the Census from the following publications:

**2006 Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content** (ABS cat. no. 2008.0)

**How Australia takes a Census** (ABS cat. no. 2903.0)

Access these from the ABS web site.

From **[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)** select the 'Census' link.

Neil Tackage  
Marketing Services  
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## Census community consultation sessions

The NSW Census Community consultations were launched on 11 April 2006 by the Chairperson of the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW, Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian. An information session and question and answer session followed. The event was well attended by a number of community organisations, service providers and religious leaders.

Over the next few months the ABS will be working with all sections of the NSW community to raise awareness of the Census. If your library is interested in being involved with promoting the 2006 Census in your area please contact Anne Freer, NSW LEP Coordinator on (02) 9268 4569. If you are in another state or territory please contact your local LEP Coordinator or email [library@abs.gov.au](mailto:library@abs.gov.au)



NSW Census Community Consultation, 11 April 2006.  
Pictured: Sue Phillips (Director NSW Census), Stepan Kerkyasharian (Chair, Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW), John Struik (Regional Director, NSW)



# Spotlight on the Census...

[www.abs.gov.au/census](http://www.abs.gov.au/census)

*Every five years the ABS counts the number of people who live in Australia, finding out how they live and what they do. As we are fast approaching the next Census on 8 August, LIW provides an excellent opportunity to help raise your clients' awareness of this very important Australian event. Here are some ideas to help you.*

## Promoting the Census

- ✧ Invite your clients to a Census Awareness session. Talk to your LEP Coordinator.
- ✧ Mount a display.
  - Use the ABS LIW kit or ask us for materials. Use Census print publications from your collection, including the **Social Atlas** for your capital city.
  - Focus on earlier census data for your local area. How has the community changed?
  - Ask us for a banner or display stand (supplies are limited – so get in quick)
- ✧ Run a Census Quiz. We can send you a prize. Use the FAQs on the Census web pages.
- ✧ Provide a link to the ABS web site and direct users to the 'Census' link.

*For more ideas check out the Shortcuts section on page 8.*

## Census data is vital!

Some uses:

- ✧ As a source of detailed data about small local areas.
- ✧ To support the planning, administration and policy development activities of government, business, researchers and community users.
- ✧ To determine the number of seats in the House of Representatives.
- ✧ To allocate Commonwealth funding to the States & Territories.
- ✧ As a basis for many regular ABS products, including population estimates, employment/unemployment statistics, etc.



## Census information resources. . .

These include:

- ✧ The Census web page. From [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au), select 'Census'
  - check out all the 2006 Census links on the left hand side including FAQs
  - **Census reference and Information** link for a range of useful information
  - For students: use the **CensusAtSchool** icon on the right hand side
- ✧ **How Australia Takes a Census** (ABS cat. no. 2903.0)
- ✧ **2006 Census of Population and Housing: Nature & Content** (ABS cat no. 2008.0)
- ✧ **Counting Us All – the Five Yearly Census** from the LEP web pages. Select the **Pathfinders (Beattie's Best)** link.
- ✧ Print material from your collection, including the **Social Atlas** for your capital city (ABS cat. no. 2030.x)

## A touch of Census history

- ✧ The first known census was taken by the Babylonians in 3800 BC, nearly 6000 years ago.
- ✧ Our modern Australian Census is directly descended from the colonial musters of 200 years ago, when convicts and settlers were counted on Sundays so administrators knew how many people had to be fed.
- ✧ Patterns in the 1911-1933 census data led to the discovery of the link between rubella and birth abnormalities.



## LEP Excellence Award:

include all your promotional activities in your entry.  
Entries close on 31 July 2006.

# Training news...

## ABS web site training in Tassie

The Tasmanian LEP Co-ordinator, Mary Eagle, conducted ABS web site awareness raising sessions in February and March for the **State Library of Tasmania**. The sessions included the new and improved ABS web site, including the 'Statistics' area. Once again, the feedback has been great, with librarians welcoming the changes and responding with many positive comments, including: "The fact that most material is now free was also seen as a great step forward by the ABS".

## ABS statistics @ Sale

Heather Burns, Victorian LEP Coordinator, visited Sale in regional Victoria to run ABS web site training in February. Cathy Carr, LEP Manager for the Wellington Shire, used the opportunity to invite library staff from surrounding shires of East Gippsland, West Gippsland and Latrobe. Four sessions on the new ABS web site were provided with many library staff attending from remote and rural regional Victoria. The feedback was enthusiastic, particularly for the ABS Quiz, the Theme pages, National Regional Profiles and the 2001 Census Community Profiles. There was overall amazement at the variety of data and how easy it is to access for remote users! A special thank you to Cathy for organising the training.



Heather Burns, VIC LEP Coordinator and Sale Library staff

## NSW and ACT LEP Coordinators join forces...

LEP Coordinators Anne Freer from NSW and Pat Stracey from the ACT recently visited **Queanbeyan City Library** to run the popular ABS Web Site Information Session. Library staff who attended were enthusiastic about the new layout and organisation of the ABS web site. Of particular interest was the ability to choose the appropriate census geography to get population characteristics for the City of Queanbeyan itself.

"The layout makes it easier for access", said Peter Conlon, Library Manager. "This information is great for council staff because there have been quite a few queries about statistics data from the planning areas of the council recently".



Caption: Anne Freer, NSW LEP Coordinator (left) with Queanbeyan City Library staff

Would your library like LEP training?

Contact your LEP Coordinator to find out when the next round of training is available.

# How Australia Takes a Census:

## YOUR WINDOW INTO THE 2006 CENSUS

Australia's fifteenth Census of Population and Housing will be held on 8 August 2006. The Census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the ABS and one of the most important.

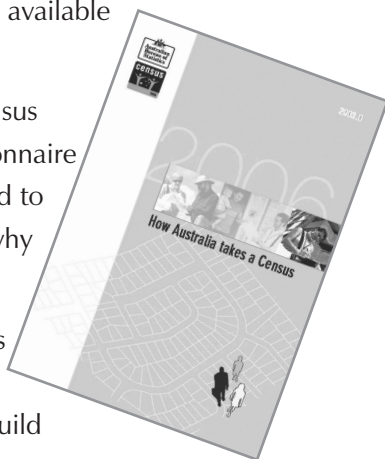
The publication **How Australia Takes a Census** (ABS cat. no. 2903.0) describes the history of the Census, how the 2006 Census was planned, how it will be conducted and processed, and the type of products and services that will be available following the Census.

A copy of the 2006 Census Household form questionnaire and a guide are included to help users understand why we ask for certain data.

You'll also find examples of how Census information is used to build a better Australia.

A very useful publication for general interest and a good reference guide for Census data users. Find out more by downloading it for free from the ABS web site.

[Adapted from *Census Update*, no. 38, April 2006.]



# New and forthcoming releases

These titles are a **selection** of what the ABS is currently releasing this quarter. They are available free on the ABS web site. Keep up to date by subscribing to the free ABS **Email Notification Service**.

## **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2004-05** (ABS cat. no. 4715.0)

This title contains the results of the largest ever national health survey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Topics include measures of health status, health actions taken and lifestyle factors which may influence health. Released April 2006.

## **Migration, Australia, 2004-05** (ABS cat. no. 3412.0)

This publication brings together statistics on international migration into and out of Australia, interstate migration within Australia and information on overseas-born residents of Australia. Provides estimated resident population by age, sex and birthplace. Released March 2006.

## **Managing Care and Work, New South Wales** (ABS cat. no. 4912.1)

A useful title for NSW libraries. It summarises results from the 'Managing Care and Work' survey, conducted during October 2005 throughout New South Wales. It presents information on the relationship between people's unpaid care responsibilities and their work situation during the six months prior to the survey. Released April 2006.

The April 2006 issue of the **Local Government and ABS Newsletter** includes:

- What is the population in your area?
- Recent improvements to the ABS Web Site
- New industry classification **ANZSIC 2006**
- **2005-06 Agriculture Census** – measuring the agricultural production in your area





## LEP team & contacts

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## shortcuts

# 10 Ways to Promote ABS Information

1. Feature an "All about our community" display, incorporating information about your local area from the Census. Use free Census data and the National Regional Profiles on the ABS web site.
2. Run a Census Awareness session in the lead up to the Census. See pages 4 & 5 or ask your LEP Coordinator for ideas.
3. Run a "Statistic of the day" event. What's topical in your community? Volunteering? Education? Agriculture? Use the **Theme pages** or Google on the ABS web site or try **Year Book Australia** (ABS cat. no 1301.0).
4. What about featuring a "Web site of the day" during Library and Information Week? Use the ABS web site as one of your featured web sites. Give guided tours of the site to your clients or feature a web site each day on your own library's web site.
5. Mount a Display. The LEP can lend you a display stand (numbers of these are limited, so book early). Use posters, mousemats and copies of your ABS publications to give your library's clients a taste of what ABS information they can expect to find in your library.
6. What about a quiz? The Education pages on the ABS web site have a range of activities for young people, including a "Don't be a drip – save a drop" water quiz. Use the Quiz in the LIW kit, design your own or ask us for one.
7. Include an ABS web site information session in your library's online services sessions.
8. Add a link to the ABS web site to your library's web site.
9. Promote the importance of your library using the facts and figures in Beattie's Best: **Counting on Libraries**. Go to the LEP web pages at [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) > Services We Provide > Library Extension Program > Advice and Support > Pathfinders (Beattie's Best).
10. Design your own ABS user guides focusing on topics of interest to your clients.

### Want your coordinator to visit?

Contact your LEP Coordinator or email us on [library@abs.gov.au](mailto:library@abs.gov.au).

