

Colleagues

The *Census and Statistics Amendment (Statistical Information) Regulations 2020* (the Regulations) were tabled in Parliament. The Regulations outline what information can be collected in the 2021 Census.

The changes to the Regulations will allow the Census to collect important new data on long-term health conditions, service with the Australian Defence Force and remove the outdated internet access question.

**New long-term health conditions question**

Through the Census, the ABS is seeking to collect high level information on long-term health conditions. This includes arthritis, asthma, cancer, dementia, diabetes, stroke, heart disease, kidney disease, lung conditions and mental health conditions.

Information on long-term health conditions will inform preventive health programs and funding for local services.

**New Australian Defence Force service question**

The inclusion of the Australian Defence Force service topic will enable better delivery of services and support for veterans. Veterans are a vulnerable group with potential to experience homelessness and have specific health and disability needs.

Privacy of all data is critical to the success of the Census. Under the Census and Statistics Act 1905, no identifiable information can be released. This will apply to any new data collected regarding health conditions or defence force participation.

To be incorporated into the 2021 Census, the Regulations must be passed in the first half of 2020, to enable sufficient time to produce the large number of paper forms required. If this does not occur, the key data collected in the Census will be the same as it was in the Censuses of 2006, 2011 and 2016.

Regards

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