



**The Hon Greg Hunt MP  
Minister for Health  
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the  
Public Service and Cabinet**

Ref No: MC19-016625

The Hon Michael Sukkar MP  
Minister for Housing, Assistant Treasurer  
Member for Deakin  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**25 NOV 2019**

Dear Minister

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael".

I am writing to you in your capacity as Minister responsible for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

I read with interest about the outcomes of the recent independent review which describe the benefits flowing from Australia's national Census, particularly in relation to health. Australia has a world leading health system which is supported by a robust evidence-based approach to planning and allocation of resources, very much informed by information from national surveys such as the Census.

From a health systems perspective, access to a more complete and nationally inclusive data collection will be of immense assistance to the Australian Government as it develops policies that ensure access to appropriate health services for all Australians.

With early testing commencing ahead of the next Census in 2021, I am keen to emphasise the importance of continuing to build evidence and obtain information in relation to the more vulnerable and marginalised Australian population cohorts, including LGBTI people.

Despite much progress, incomplete information affects our ability to fully address the barriers that the LGBTI community faces in accessing appropriate health services. For that reason, I am supportive of including questions concerning sexual orientation and gender identity in the 2021 Census, as they will generate important demographic data.

Further, my Department and the Australian Bureau of Statistics are currently consulting with a range of experts in finalising the design of the National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing - part of the Intergenerational Health and Mental Health Study. The National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing includes questions on gender diversity and sexual orientation and will produce critical data on the prevalence of mental illness among LGBTI people.

Noting this, the availability of additional demographic data from the 2021 Census would enhance our understanding of the Intergenerational Health and Mental Health Study outcomes and better inform Government health service delivery.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Greg Hunt