



Australian Government

Department of Health

Secretary

Mr David Kalisch
Australian Statistician
ABS House
45 Benjamin Way
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

Dear Mr Kalisch *David,*

2021 Census submissions and prioritisation of a *chronic conditions* topic

I would like to thank you and the ABS for seeking submissions on topics to be covered in the 2021 Census. I would like to endorse my Department's submission covering four topics, with the following priority: *chronic conditions; smoking; clan and mob; and sex, gender and sexual orientation*. The *chronic conditions* topic is the priority and would provide the first definitive profile of the prevalence of long term health conditions, for both small geographic areas, and for small demographic groups.

Census level chronic conditions information would dramatically improve the data available to service delivery groups such as Primary Health Networks, Local Hospital Networks, local governments, and Linguistically and Culturally Diverse services. It would be a valuable tool for State, Territory and Commonwealth policy and planning purposes. It would inform partnerships across government and the community to address the rise in chronic conditions and the burden it places on citizens, health services and national productivity.

I wish you success in the oversight of the Census, which continues to be the definitive source of information on the Australian population due to the professional efforts of the ABS.

Yours sincerely

G. A. Beauchamp
Glenys Beauchamp

21 June 2018