



Census Data Enhancement Project

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On 26 April 2005, the ABS put forward a proposal to enhance the use of the Census of Population and Housing (Enhancing the Population Census: Developing a Longitudinal View Cat. no. 2060.0). This proposal included the creation of the Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset (SLCD), and bringing together the SLCD with ABS and specified non-ABS datasets. This discussion paper was put forward for public comment. On 18 August 2005, after consideration of all comments received, the Australian Statistician announced the future of the project, via the Census Data Enhancement - Statement of Intention. The potential benefits of this project are substantial. It will provide information on patterns in individual experiences over time and therefore provide insight into the effectiveness of policy or the need for new policy interventions. Examples of studies that could be undertaken are pathways undertaken by migrants in their early years of settlement, particularly in employment; links between employment outcomes and education qualifications; transitions to higher education and work for young people from low income households; and the extent of income and employment mobility. The project is currently investigating the feasibility of creating the SLCD. If feasible the SLCD will be:

- created by combining data from the 2006 Census with data from future censuses
- created by bringing together the data through statistical techniques (see Glossary), rather than matching based on name and address; and
- based on a 5% random sample of the population.

As part of the overall project and in line with the initial proposal and the statement of intention, the ABS is also undertaking several quality studies which involve linking specified datasets to the 2006 Census data. These datasets are: death registrations; birth registrations; DIMA's Settlement database; Overseas Arrivals and Departures; the Cancer Register; 2005 Census Dress Rehearsal; Labour Force Survey (LFS); and the Census Post Enumeration Survey (PES). Only aggregate data will be disseminated from these quality studies.