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Counting the population: enumeration strategies to cover a diverse community

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The ABS puts in place a number of strategies to ensure an accurate count of the population. These are directed at communities and population groups for which some extra effort is required to explain the nature of the Census data and so gain their cooperation. Special procedures are also implemented to cover people who are otherwise difficult to contact. The special groups include the indigenous populations in remote communities and in rural and major urban areas; the homeless and those living in supported accommodation; the diverse multicultural community and recent migrants in particular; residents in secure apartment buildings; and the transitory population - travellers on holidays, seasonal migratory workers and temporary service populations associated with the mining and construction industries. As well, there are sections of the population that are traditionally under-enumerated, eg young males aged 20-29 years. This presentation provides an overview of the special enumeration strategies developed and implemented for the 2006 Census. The framework for evaluating the quality of data from the Census will also be discussed.