

Completing the 2026 Census from a private boat on a waterway

Census night is Tuesday 11 August

Every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics counts every person and home in Australia. This is called the Census of Population and Housing.

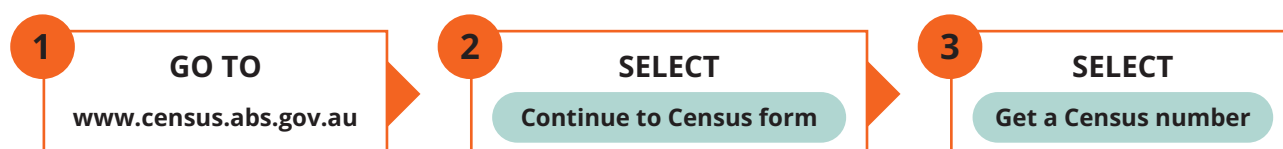
The Census helps us to understand what we need now, and into the future. Census data informs planning for schools, health care, transport and infrastructure. It's also used to help plan local services for individuals, families and communities.

The Census is compulsory* for everyone in Australia on Census night. This includes anyone sleeping on a moored or anchored houseboat, yacht or motorboat.

How to complete your Census form

If you are staying on a boat on Census night, we encourage you to complete the Census online.

You can complete your Census form online wherever you can access the internet, including through a tablet or mobile phone. You'll need to use a mobile phone to complete the process of getting a Census number and password.



How to answer the question 'What is the address of this dwelling?'

Include as many details as you can about where you are on Census night. If you are staying on a boat overnight, this will include details of the waterway you are staying, the state, suburb and postcode.

- Click **Enter address manually**.
- Complete the **Suburb/Locality, State/Territory and Postcode** fields closest to where your boat is moored on Census night.
- You will need to enter the words 'On a boat' in the **Property field**, including the name of the waterway you are staying in. For example, 'On a boat in Brisbane River'.

I don't have access to a device, how can I complete the Census?

If you don't have access to a device on the night of the Census, you can complete it when you get home, but it will need to indicate that you were on a boat on Census night.

Your personal information is safe

Your personal information is protected by law and isn't shared with anyone. The ABS is legally required to keep data secure and not release information in a way that is likely to identify an individual. Your data is protected by the *Privacy Act 1988* and the secrecy provisions of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The Census is compulsory

Everyone in Australia on Tuesday 11 August 2026 must be included on a Census form. The ABS collects your information and keeps that information confidential in accordance with the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

*For more information go to www.census.abs.gov.au/privacy

Need help?



Go to
census.abs.gov.au/help



Call us on **1800 181 227**
from 6 July 2026



For help in your language,
call the Translating and
Interpreting Service
(TIS National) on **131 450**