



What about me?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will hold the next Census of Population & Housing across Australia on 9 August 2011. Chances are, if you are a young person you have already stopped reading this and have moved onto something else. Apparently, you're not interested in the Census.

If that's true, it means you're missing out. That's because the Census is like a portrait of Australia and it will not be complete if you're not part of it.

So what is a Census and why does it value you so much? Imagine your mates are planning a big night out. They'd want to know where everyone would like to go and what to do. But if you don't put your hand up, how can you be included in the plans? How would that make you feel?

In a way, that's a bit like the Census because it aims to count everyone in Australia, including people who are homeless at that time. The information you provide about yourself can then be used to plan for what services might be needed, such as refuges for young people experiencing homelessness.

"So tell me what you want me to do", I hear you say:

If you are homeless at Census time, its important for you to answer **"None"** to the question on the census form about what is your usual address.

This includes those who are **'couch surfing'** – staying temporarily with friends or relatives, or at a friend's parents' house. Young people who are homeless are important, so its also important to know *how many* young people are homeless.

It probably takes no more time to answer the questions on the Census form than it does to get ready for that big night out. Also, the information you give is kept strictly private and confidential.

Personal information that could identify you is **NOT** provided to the Police, Centrelink, your Auntie Nellie, or anyone else for that matter.

Let's be honest! Taking part in the Census will not make you better looking or turn you into a rock star! What it can be used for is to put in place many of the services you and friends might need at some point in your life. Like a refuge, a youth centre, and maybe even somewhere to go for that big night out.

During the 2011 census

Count yourself in!

More information on the Census and how it relates to people experiencing homelessness will be available closer to August 2011 from the ABS website www.abs.gov.au