

EXPOSURE DRAFT

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Issued by authority of the Minister for Housing and Assistant Treasurer

Census and Statistics Act 1905

Census and Statistics Amendment (Statistical Information) Regulations 2019

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (the Act) governs the taking and administration of the Census, including the statistical information that is to be collected.

Section 27 of the Act provides that the Governor-General may make regulations prescribing matters that are required or permitted by the Act to be prescribed, or necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to the Act. Section 8 of the Act provides that regulations may prescribe the matters in relation to which the Statistician shall collect statistical information.

The purpose of the *Census and Statistics Amendment (Statistical Information) Regulations 2019* (the Amendment Regulations) is to amend the *Census and Statistics Regulation 2016* (the Census Regulations) to update the list of topics in relation to which the Statistician shall collect statistical information.

The next Census is scheduled for 2021. Some of the questions from the last Census are not as relevant to policy making and government planning today. Further, there are new topics which would provide helpful information to ensure informed decision making in Australia. Schedule 1 to the Amendment Regulations updates the list of topics for the next Census so that the statistics collected from the Census continue to provide useful information to assist with planning, policy-making and service delivery.

Details of the Amendment Regulations are set out in the [Attachment](#).

The Act does not specify any conditions that need to be satisfied before the power to make the Amendment Regulations may be exercised.

The Amendment Regulations are a legislative instrument for the purposes of the *Legislation Act 2003*.

The Amendment Regulations commence on the day after it is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation.

Details of the Census and Statistics Amendment (Statistical Information) Regulations 2019

Section 1 – Name of the Regulations

This section provides that the name of the Regulations is the *Census and Statistics Amendment (Statistical Information) Regulations 2019* (the Amendment Regulations).

Section 2 – Commencement

This section provides that the instrument commences the day after it is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation.

Section 3 – Authority

The Amendment Regulations are made under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (the Act).

Section 4 – Schedule

This section provides that each instrument that is specified in the Schedules to this instrument will be amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedules, and any other item in the Schedules to this instrument has effect according to its terms.

Schedule 1 – Amendments

Items 1 and 2 insert two new topics into the list of topics in relation to which the Statistician shall collect statistical information.

Item 1 requires the Statistician to collect information about service in the Australian Defence Force from persons 15 years and older. Collection of this topic on the Census will allow for a better understanding of the circumstances of Australia's veteran community, and will facilitate targeted services and support related to this community's health, economic and social wellbeing.

Item 2 inserts a topic relating to health conditions diagnosed by a doctor or a nurse. This topic will be answered by all respondents and assist health service planning and service delivery at the local level.

Item 3 repeals the topic related to access to the internet at the dwelling from the list of topics. The growth in internet access outside of the home on mobile and other personal devices has rendered the current topic collecting *household* internet access as less relevant.