



# 2011 Census Content Report

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### **Citation**

Statistics New Zealand. (2009). *2011 Census content report*.  
Wellington: New Zealand

### **Published in October 2009 by**

Statistics New Zealand  
Tatauranga Aotearoa  
Wellington, New Zealand

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ISBN 978-0-478-35368-6 (online)

## Preface

The *2011 Census Content Report* outlines my decisions on the content to be included in the 2011 Census of Population and Dwellings. They are based on a comprehensive process of consultation, questionnaire development, testing, and classification development.

Overall, the decisions are consistent with the content strategy for the 2011 Census that was released in May 2008: minimal change, no new topics, and the improvement of data quality with a continuing emphasis on addressing the needs of users for continuity and comparability with previous census outputs. Some changes will also occur as a result of previously scheduled Statistics New Zealand reviews of classifications and/ or standards, including the *Final Report of a Review of the Official Ethnicity Statistical Standard 2009*.

In determining the content for the 2011 Census, Statistics New Zealand has continued to recognise the central role of the census in the Official Statistics System. Official statistics provide information for government departments, local authorities, and businesses to use in making policy and service-delivery decisions. They also provide measures of New Zealand's economic, social, and environmental situation. The work of the Programme of Official Social Statistics enables Statistics New Zealand to identify those topics that are most appropriate for inclusion in the census, and to assist users in identifying alternative data sources that may meet user needs.

Finally, thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation process. The information provided will help to ensure that the 2011 Census continues to be of great value to New Zealand society, meeting the data quality expectations of users from government, business, community, and academic sectors. The feedback received in the consultation process will also provide a basis for planning and development of the 2016 Census, as Statistics New Zealand looks to the future and responds to the data requirements of a changing society.

I am confident that, with your participation, the 2011 Census will be a success.



Geoff Bascand  
Government Statistician

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## **1. Topics to be included in the 2011 Census**

In keeping with the minimal content change strategy for the 2011 Census of Population and Dwellings, all topics that were included in the 2006 Census will be included in the 2011 Census. No new topics will be added. See table 1 for the full list of 2011 Census topics.

The cigarette smoking and fertility topics are retained. Although these cyclical topics were not due to be included in the 2011 Census, the retention of these topics is consistent with the minimal content change strategy for the 2011 Census and they will meet important information needs.

The disability topic will continue to be included as a filter question for a post-censal survey, but will not be an output topic from the 2011 Census.

**Table 1**  
**2011 Census content topics**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Population structure	Age Sex Absentees Number of occupants on census night Marital/relationship status Number of children born Name <sup>(1)</sup>
Location	Census night address Dwelling address Usual residence Usual residence five years ago Years at usual residence
Ethnicity and culture	Ethnicity Iwi affiliation Māori descent Birthplace Language Religious affiliation Years since arrival in New Zealand
Education and training	Highest qualification Post-school qualification Highest secondary school qualification Study participation
Work	Status in employment Work and labour force status Hours worked in employment per week Industry Main means of travel to work Sector of ownership Unpaid activities Occupation Workplace address
Income	Total personal income Sources of personal income
Families and households	Family type Extended families Household composition
Housing	Access to telecommunication systems Fuel types used to heat dwelling Number of motor vehicles Occupied dwelling type Weekly rent paid by households Sector of landlord Tenure of household Tenure holder Number of rooms/ bedrooms
Health	Cigarette smoking
Disability	Disability

(1) Name information is collected in the census to ensure everyone has filled out a form and to determine household and family structures. Under the Public Records Act 2005, Statistics NZ must archive this information. Statistics NZ does not release or share this personal information. This topic is not discussed further in this report.

## 2. Introduction

The next Census of Population and Dwellings will be held on 8 March 2011. This report outlines the decisions of the Government Statistician on content for the 2011 Census. The decisions are based on a comprehensive process of consultation, evaluation, questionnaire development, testing, and classification reviews which are described in the report.

The 2010 Census Dress Rehearsal provides the last opportunity to test and evaluate the content decisions that have been made by the Government Statistician ahead of the 2011 Census. A 2011 Census questionnaire design report will outline the final decisions on content and will be published in late 2010.

### Focus for the 2011 Census

The overall goal of the census is to produce the best possible count of the population and dwellings in New Zealand every five years, as required by the Statistics Act 1975. This, along with other related statistical information, is delivered to users through a useful and accessible range of products and services. The census is a cornerstone of New Zealand's Official Statistics System.

The strategy for the 2011 Census is for minimal change to census content, to emphasise data quality and maintain consistency, within budget constraints. Within this context the Government Statistician announced in May 2008 that there will be no new topics or questions in the 2011 Census.

This focus is a reflection of the three key elements that must be balanced across the five-year cycle of the census: time limitations, cost constraints, and ensuring data quality. The census programme operates under very strict timeframes and content development must be completed before moving into the operational phase of the census. Budgetary constraints mean that proposed content changes must be weighed against other improvements in collection and processing systems, which also offer the potential for improved data quality.

In particular, Statistics New Zealand is concentrating its efforts on encouraging the use of the Internet response option in 2011. Increased use of the Internet option is a reflection of real-world technological change and the preferences of many respondents for using electronic rather than paper forms. Analysis of the 2006 Census has shown that the quality of data from Internet forms is significantly higher than for paper forms.

Census content development also occurs alongside classification and standard reviews that are undertaken periodically by Statistics NZ. These reviews can have impacts on both the content and costs of the census, particularly where classification changes may lead to changes in the processing systems. Decisions on whether to include classification and standard changes in the census must balance the timing of reviews with the development phases of the census, and so not all changes can be incorporated. One significant review that has been recently completed by Statistics NZ is the review of the official ethnicity statistical standard, the recommendations of which will be adopted for the 2011 Census.

### 3. The 2011 Census content development process

The process used to determine content for the 2011 Census is described below.

#### Phase 1 – Internal and initial external consultation

During this phase, census staff worked closely with Statistics NZ topic experts to develop an initial position within the context of the Programme of Official Social Statistics and its associated surveys. Meetings were held with key policy agencies and expert data users. This consultation led to the publication of the *2011 Census Content: Consultation guide*.

#### Phase 2 – Public consultation and evaluation of submissions

The public consultation phase began in late May 2008 with the publication of the consultation guide. Public consultation closed in July 2008. Some consultation with interest groups, ethnic groups, government agencies, and expert users also took place following the release of the consultation document. An evaluation of submissions from the public consultation phase was published in the *2011 Census Content: Submissions report* in November 2008.

At the close of the public consultation phase, all submissions were summarised and evaluated by Statistics NZ's topic experts. Evaluations were carried out within the context of all known information on a topic at that stage and recommendations for further action were made. To ensure a consistent approach to evaluation, a group of moderators independently assessed the recommendations for further action against the criteria detailed in the *2011 Census Content: Consultation guide*.

Submitters were generally supportive of Statistics NZ's minimal content change strategy for the 2011 Census, recognising the need to maintain consistency between censuses while reflecting changing data needs over time.

#### Phase 3 – Questionnaire development, testing, and classification reviews

As a result of the evaluation process, some topics were moved into the next phase of the content development process. This involved assessing the value and cost of implementing any change, analysing the effectiveness of proposed questionnaire changes through cognitive testing, and evaluating the results from the March 2009 Census Test.

In order to maintain relevance, the outcomes of Statistics NZ classification and standard reviews and their impact on the census have also been considered. Where updated classifications and standards have the potential to improve data quality, and can be incorporated into existing processing systems, they will be used for the 2011 Census. A key consideration when determining census content is the impact any changes will have on the subsequent parts of the census process, particularly the cost of altering collection and processing systems.

Most importantly, all changes have been assessed in terms of their effectiveness in improving the quality of the data collected for that topic. The outcomes of this phase of content development are outlined in this report.

#### Quality management and 2011 Census content development

Census topics and variables are ranked in terms of three 'quality levels' based on uses of the data and constraints of the census process. The three levels – foremost, defining, and supplementary – are used to guide delivery of quality data and products throughout the census life cycle. Their use ensures census data is fit-for-use, and assists in the allocation of time and money for reaching data quality standards for particular variables.

The three quality levels are described more fully below.

**Foremost** topics/variables are core census variables and their outputs are the key reasons for conducting a census. They need to be included in the census to meet the requirements of the Statistics Act 1975 and the Electoral Act 1993. The outputs for these variables are used for maintaining the accuracy of population estimates. They are given the highest priority in terms of quality, time, and resources across all phases of the census.

**Defining** topics/variables define key subject populations that the census provides measures for. These are important for policy development, evaluation, and monitoring. Defining variables are used frequently in cross-tabulations with foremost variables. They represent key sub-populations and measures that are of high public interest. These variables are closely linked to the main purpose of a census of population and dwellings, and in the New Zealand context, data from them may only be available in detail, for example at subnational level, from the census. These variables have second priority in terms of quality, time, and resources across all phases of the census.

**Supplementary** topics/variables do not fit directly with the primary purpose of a census of population and dwellings, but are important to certain groups. These variables have third priority in terms of effort and resources. However, there are minimum quality standards to be met in order to make the output data fit-for-use.

The focus on data quality for the 2011 Census has been a key component in determining the topics that were the basis of the consultation and submissions process in 2008. The three quality levels have also informed the testing and evaluation of proposed changes that have occurred since the close of the submissions process. The results of this stage of content development are contained in the following section.

## 4. Content decisions by topic

This section provides more detailed information on specific content decisions for all topics to be included in the 2011 Census, and background information on key uses of the data. Seven topics (see list below) will be addressed first, as these were the only ones for which changes were proposed by Statistics NZ during public consultation. Comments for all other topics follow.

- marital/relationship status
- number of children born
- total personal income
- cigarette smoking
- access to telecommunication systems
- fuel types used to heat dwelling
- number of motor vehicles.

### 4.1 Proposed changes

#### 4.1.1 Population structure

**Table 4.1.1**  
**Quality level of population structure topics**

Topic	Quality level
Marital/relationship status	Defining
Number of children born	Supplementary

#### **Marital/relationship status**

Changes to this topic include updated classification category codes and descriptors, and naming terminology and definitions, which will be used for the 2011 Census.

Statistics NZ investigated public understanding of civil unions during census questionnaire development. This was in response to the civil union data from the 2006 Census not being fit-for-use due to significant data quality issues. The investigation has led to a change in the wording of the legal marital / relationship status question, living arrangements question, and the census guide notes, to improve respondent understanding. Updates were also made to the questionnaire to reflect real world changes that were included as part of the classifications and standard review. These questionnaire changes will be tested in the 2010 Census Dress Rehearsal.

Legally registered relationship status is a person's status with respect to their relationship, which has been registered according to the laws or customs of the country in which they entered into that relationship. People in New Zealand can enter into two types of legally registered relationships: marriage and civil union. Partnership status is a person's status with respect to their current relationship. Marital/relationship status data from the census is used:

- to provide valuable information on how society is structured, allowing the analysis and understanding of family size and changes in family structures. This information contributes to our understanding of present and future society
- in a variety of planning and monitoring activities, including the estimation of the future demand for central government and local body services, the development of housing and welfare systems
- to contribute to some demographic time series, such as fertility rates (nuptial and ex-nuptial) and family formation rates.

Note: Questions 19 and 23 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relate to marital/relationship status.

### Number of children born

The minimal content change strategy and the outcome of the consultation process have resulted in this topic being retained for the 2011 Census.

In the *2011 Census Content: Consultation guide*, Statistics NZ proposed the exclusion of this topic from the 2011 Census. Number of children born has been a cyclical topic and was last included in the 2006 Census. A 10-yearly cycle of inclusion was thought sufficient for user needs.

However, users and Statistics NZ's Population Statistics Unit made a very strong case for retaining this topic in the 2011 Census. It was noted that there is a very important transition period in fertility and childlessness occurring now. To have to wait until the 2016 Census means taking the risk of not having evidential data for some key demographic changes that are currently taking place.

Number of children born refers to the number of children born alive to each female aged 15 years and over usually residing in New Zealand. Foetal deaths and stillborn children are not included. Stepchildren, adopted children, foster children, and wards of the state are also not included. Number of children born data from the census is used:

- to help build accurate models of the population structure and changes to it to inform research and policy
- in combination with other census variables to provide valuable insights into the different population profiles between groups and small areas in New Zealand
- to provide information on changes in the population age structure, the changing dynamics of family and family size, childlessness, comparisons between subgroups, differences in fertility between ethnic groups, age groups, and other key variables and as an indicator of women's roles over time.

Note: Question 25 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to number of children born.

### 4.1.2 Income

**Table 4.1.2**  
**Quality level of income topics**

Topic	Quality level
Total personal income	Defining

#### Total personal income

The development of the statistical standard for income bands has been completed, and an updated classification will be used in the 2011 Census.

The new classification will allow the addition of a higher income band beyond the current top category (\$100,001 and over) to capture income data between \$100,001 and \$150,000 and above \$150,001.

In addition, the current \$50,001–\$70,000 income band will be split into two separate income bands (\$50,001–\$60,000 and \$60,001–\$70,000) to allow for more detailed statistics.

Due to space constraints, it was thought initially that the addition of these two extra income bands would require the aggregation of bands at the lower level. During consultation, however, users expressed strong opposition to this aggregation and therefore, no changes will be made to these categories (\$1–5,000 and \$5,001–\$10,000). Space constraints have been managed by altering the typesetting of other messages on the form.

Total personal income data, collected in the census using income bands, is used to derive total household income, total family income, total extended family income, and combined parental income for couples with children. Income bands are a convenient way of collecting income information when income is not the prime focus of a survey. Bands reduce respondent burden by providing a simple way to obtain contextual information about income. Income bands are often tabulated with other variables such as age, occupation, and education qualifications to provide information on the relationship between these variables and the income distribution of the population. Income band statistics are used:

- to formulate social and economic policy and monitoring programmes
- by the Ministry of Education in determining decile rankings for schools receiving government funding
- in developing the New Zealand deprivation index
- for research and planning by central and local government agencies.

Note: Question 31 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to total personal income.

#### 4.1.3 Health

**Table 4.1.3**  
**Quality level of health topics**

Topic	Quality level
Cigarette smoking	Supplementary

#### **Cigarette smoking**

The minimal content change strategy and the outcome of the consultation process have resulted in this topic being retained for the 2011 Census.

Statistics NZ proposed the exclusion of this topic from the 2011 Census. However, the submissions process showed there was considerable support from data users to include it in the 2011 Census, as smoking remains the major cause of preventable disease in New Zealand.

Cigarette smoking refers to the active smoking of one or more manufactured or hand-rolled tobacco cigarettes per day. Data on smoking prevalence is used by those working in the health sector. Census data on current and ex-smokers is used to:

- monitor changes in smoking prevalence among the adult population of New Zealand
- understand the profile of smokers, to better target at-risk groups in the community with future health education programmes
- target health education programmes and evaluate the success of these
- monitor changes in smoking prevalence among high-risk groups in New Zealand
- examine the inter-relationships between smoking and other socio-economic variables and how these change over time.

Note: Questions 21 and 22 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relate to cigarette smoking.

#### 4.1.4 Housing

**Table 4.1.4**  
**Quality level of housing topics**

Topic	Quality level
Access to telecommunication systems	Supplementary
Fuel types used to heat dwelling	Supplementary
Number of motor vehicles	Supplementary

##### **Access to telecommunication systems**

There will be no change to the access to telecommunication systems topic for the 2011 Census.

The submissions process showed there is still support for collecting data on fax access. This data will continue to be collected in the 2011 Census. Other submissions indicated an interest in expanding the topic to include collecting data on the type of Internet access (broadband or dial-up) and digital television. However, it is expected that the need to distinguish between broadband and dial-up access will become less relevant by 2011.

Information on broadband and dial-up access can be obtained from the Household Use of Information and Communication Technology Survey, although it is acknowledged that this data may not meet some users' needs due to the limited amount of regional information available. The census is not considered to be the best place to collect data on digital television as the information would not be available quickly enough and does not fit the purpose of the census.

No additional telecommunications categories will be included in the 2011 Census, so the scope of this topic will remain the same as in 2006.

Access to telecommunication systems measures household access to a cellphone/mobile phone (that is in the dwelling all or most of the time), a telephone, a fax and/or the Internet, to communicate with people outside the dwelling and to use services provided through these media. The device needs to be in working order and have a working connection. Data from the census on access to telecommunication systems is used:

- to provide an indication of living standards
- in developing the New Zealand deprivation index
- as an indicator of respondents' ability to obtain access to services such as social and health care in an emergency
- to monitor the use of different types of telecommunications
- to evaluate the methods used for collecting survey data and contacting respondents, and assess the coverage and bias of telephone surveys.

Note: Question 17 on the 2006 Census Dwelling Form relates to Access to telecommunication systems.

##### **Fuel types used to heat dwelling**

There will be no change to the fuel types used to heat dwelling topic for the 2011 Census.

Separate categories for mains gas and bottled gas will be retained for the 2011 Census. Submissions received in the consultation process indicated the importance of distinguishing between 'mains gas' and 'bottled gas'. Further consideration of the way in which respondents interpret the mains gas and bottled gas categories indicates that they are consistent with the definitions used and meet quality requirements.

Some submissions supported the collection of more detailed information and expanding the scope of the topic to include fuel costs and the form of technology and equipment used (eg home ventilation systems). However, the census is not the best method to collect this information.

Fuel type used to heat dwelling measures the type of fuel used to heat an occupied private dwelling. More than one fuel type may be used to heat the dwelling. Examples of fuel types are electricity, gas, coal, and wood. Insulation is not a fuel type. Data from the census on fuel types used to heat dwelling is used:

- to forecast energy requirements and plan distribution
- to monitor trends in energy efficiency and conservation
- to analyse resource management issues relating to air quality
- as an indicator of the habitability of housing
- in developing the New Zealand deprivation index.

Note: Question 16 on the 2006 Census Dwelling Form relates to fuel types used to heat dwelling.

### Number of motor vehicles

Information on which vehicles to count has been added into the questionnaire guide notes to help respondents answer the question and improve data quality. The submissions process showed there is interest in expanding the topic to include frequency of use, main reason for use, distance travelled, and other forms of transport, such as bicycles. However, it may be difficult for the census to obtain good quality data on distance travelled, frequency of use, and main reason for use. Collection of this information is better suited to a specialist transport survey. Information on the number of bicycles that households have is already available from the New Zealand Travel Survey.

Number of motor vehicles refers to the number of motor vehicles that are mechanically operational, but not necessarily licensed or having a current warrant of fitness, and are available for private use by the usual residents of private dwellings. Number of motor vehicles data from the census is used:

- by local government and transport planners to plan transport services
- to assist in the location of public transport services, commercial, and welfare facilities
- to study energy conservation
- in developing the New Zealand deprivation index.

Note: Question 18 on the 2006 Census Dwelling Form relates to number of motor vehicles.

## 4.2 Other topics

The following topics will also be included in the 2011 Census. These have not undergone significant change from the 2006 Census. In keeping with the minimal content change strategy, changes are restricted to classifications and standard reviews, and questionnaire wording.

### 4.2.1 Population structure

**Table 4.2.1**  
**Quality level of population structure topics**

Topic	Quality level
Age	Foremost
Sex	Foremost
Absentees	Defining
Number of occupants on census night	Defining

## Age

There will be no change to the age topic for the 2011 Census.

Age refers to the length of time a person has been alive, measured in complete elapsed years. It is measured as the difference between 'date of birth' and 'data collection date'. If date of birth information is missing, age is imputed using various other responses, for example, whether the respondent is legally married, and the known distribution of ages in the population. Age data from the census is used:

- by central government agencies, and regional and local authorities for the allocation of funding, town planning, population estimates, and projections
- by the Representation Commission to determine the adult/child split for electoral population calculations and to establish the boundaries of the Māori and general electoral seats
- by universities for population research
- by marketing and private organisations, and businesses.

Note: Question 4 on the 2006 Census Individual Form and questions 6 and 21 on the 2006 Census Dwelling Form relate to age.

## Sex

There will be no change to the sex topic for the 2011 Census.

Sex refers to the distinction between males and females based on the biological differences in sexual characteristics. Sex data from the census is used by:

- local authorities and central government agencies for the development and evaluation of policies, programmes, and services
- market researchers and other research organisations for research into and monitoring of socio-economic changes in the population
- private organisations and businesses in compiling population structure data
- the Ministry of Women's Affairs for policy planning and for monitoring the status of women.

Note: Question 3 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to sex.

## Absentees

There will be no change to the absentees topic for the 2011 Census.

An absentee is a person who is identified on the Census Dwelling Form as usually living in a particular dwelling, but who did not complete a Census Individual Form at that dwelling because they were elsewhere in New Zealand or overseas at the time of the census. In the census, absentees include children away at boarding school, and people away on business, holiday, in hospital, and so on. Absentee data from the census is used:

- in conjunction with the 'number of occupants on census night' variable to estimate current populations and forecast future populations. This data is used for a number of public policy decisions on health, welfare, income support, and housing.
- for enumeration purposes, such as working out family and household composition.

Note: Questions 19, 20, 21 on the 2006 Census Dwelling Form relate to absentees.

### Number of occupants on census night

There will be no change to the number of occupants on census night topic for the 2011 Census.

Number of occupants on census night information is used:

- in conjunction with the 'absentees' topic to estimate current populations and forecast future populations
- in the census collection phase to ensure the correct number of individual forms have been received from a household.

Note: Question 3 on the 2006 Census Dwelling Form relates to number of occupants on census night.

### 4.2.2 Location

**Table 4.2.2**  
**Quality level of location topics**

Topic	Quality level
Census night address	Foremost
Dwelling address	Foremost
Usual residence	Foremost
Usual residence five years ago	Defining
Years at usual residence	Supplementary

### Census night and dwelling address

The statistical standard for dwelling address has been updated. Changes were confined to creating consistency, terminology updates, and additional explanations for use of the standard.

Census night address is the meshblock of the dwelling where a respondent is located on census night. Dwelling address consists of the distinguishing details of the physical location of a dwelling and can include street number, name, and type; suburb or rural locality; and city, town or district. Census night and dwelling address data from the census is used:

- to formulate, monitor, and evaluate central and local government policy
- as a critical input to population estimates and projections
- to provide information on how communities are changing
- for accurately counting dwellings and their occupants for the geographic coding of personal and dwelling records, and for assigning dwellings to neighbourhoods and regions.

Note: Question 8 on the 2006 Census Individual Form and question 2 on the 2006 Census Dwelling Form relate to census night address and dwelling address.

### Usual residence

The statistical standard for usual residence has been updated. Changes were confined to creating consistency, terminology updates, and additional explanations. For example, an inconsistency on how overseas-born respondents should answer this question was corrected; children in 'joint care' was changed to children in 'shared care' to align with the Care of Children Act; and an explanation was added to the guidelines to describe how people with 'no fixed abode' are counted for enumeration and recording purposes.

Over recent decades New Zealand society has become increasingly mobile. More New Zealanders are away from home within New Zealand or temporarily overseas on census night. In addition, there are more New Zealanders with multiple residences or seasonal lifestyles, reflecting movement for work, study, holidays, and family reasons.

These situations present challenges for the way Statistics NZ defines usual residence.

A small number of submissions suggested the development of a new question on 'second residence' to better reflect and respond to this emerging trend. While there will be no new topics in the 2011 Census, given the importance of the measurement of usual residence in the census, second residence has been identified as a key topic for further investigation and a research programme is currently underway.

Usual residence is the address of the dwelling where a person considers themselves to usually reside. Usual residence data from the census is used:

- to provide the base for national and subnational population estimates and projections
- as the basis for identifying the location of the usually resident population and the foundation for data about neighbourhoods, communities, and regions
- in conjunction with usual residence five years ago to produce data on mobility and internal migration
- in determining electoral boundaries as required under the Electoral Act.

Note: Question 5 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to usual residence.

### **Usual residence five years ago**

As a result of the review of the statistical standard for usual residence and its related standards, the 'usual residence five years ago' indicator classification now includes the residual category 'New Zealand not further defined' to enable more consistent and accurate coding for vague responses.

There will be no other changes to the usual residence five years ago topic.

Usual residence five years ago is the usual residence of a respondent five years before the census date, when the data is collected. Usual residence five years ago data from the census is used:

- by central government agencies, and regional and local authorities for planning and development purposes
- to contribute to the quality of population estimates and projections
- for a general understanding of migration dynamics.

Note: Question 7 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to usual residence five years ago.

### **Years at usual residence**

There will be no change to the years at usual residence topic for the 2011 Census.

Years at usual residence is the length of time up to census day, expressed in completed elapsed years (including short-term absences, but excluding long-term absences), that a respondent has lived at their usual residence.

Years at usual residence data from the census is used:

- by local authorities for planning and development purposes
- to contribute to the quality of population estimates and projections
- for a general understanding of community dynamics.

Note: Question 6 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to years at usual residence.

### 4.2.3 Ethnicity and culture

**Table 4.2.3**  
**Quality level of ethnicity and culture topics**

Topic	Quality level
Ethnicity	Foremost
Iwi affiliation/Māori descent	Defining
Birthplace	Defining
Language	Supplementary
Religious affiliation	Supplementary
Years since arrival in New Zealand	Supplementary

#### Ethnicity

Following a formal review of the ethnicity statistical standard used across the Official Statistics System, the Government Statistician has decided there will be no change to the ethnicity question for the 2011 Census.

A review of the official ethnicity statistical standard was initiated by Statistics NZ in 2008, after 'New Zealander' responses in the last census rose to 11.1 percent, from 2.4 percent in 2001. The scope of the review was wider than census but was used in conjunction with the census cognitive testing and research programme in decision-making for the 2011 Census. For more information about the research completed by the review and what this involved, see the [\*Final Report of a Review of the Official Ethnicity Statistical Standard 2009\*](#).

In the review, most key users of census data stated that the format of the census ethnicity question should remain unchanged. They emphasised the importance of consistency in statistics across the Official Statistics System and the comparability of the ethnicity measure over time. These views reflect concerns that even a minor change in a questionnaire's format can have unintended but significant impacts on responses and subsequent statistical outputs.

Some submissions to the review expressed a desire for greater visibility for 'New Zealander' responses. As with outputs from the 2006 Census, this will be done by having 'New Zealander' as a separate category (under 'Other') in several of the 2011 Census outputs. For an example of how 'New Zealander' responses in the 2006 Census were output, see [QuickStats About a Place](#) on the Statistics NZ website.

Statistics NZ will not be adding a 'national identity' question or related measure to the 2011 Census. Results from cognitive and other question testing for the 2011 Census indicates that the inclusion of a national identity question as a filter to the ethnicity question would have no notable effect on respondents' approach to the latter, and would add little value in terms of producing output data that is fit-for-use.

Ethnicity refers to the ethnic group or groups that people identify with or feel they belong to. Ethnicity is a measure of cultural affiliation, as opposed to race, ancestry, nationality, or citizenship. Ethnicity is self-perceived and people can affiliate with more than one ethnic group.

An ethnic group is made up of people who have some or all of the following characteristics:

- a common proper name
- one or more elements of common culture which need not be specified, but may include religion, customs, or language
- unique community of interests, feelings, and actions
- a shared sense of common origins or ancestry
- a common geographic origin.

The collection of ethnicity information in the Census of Population and Dwellings is a requirement under the Statistics Act 1975. The census provides a baseline count for all official ethnic statistics, which is used with other demographic characteristics

to inform research and policy development.

Ethnicity data from the census is used:

- to compile a wide range of demographic estimates and projections, and to derive measures for monitoring the well-being of ethnic groups, particularly in the health sector (eg morbidity rates)
- to determine ethnic group well-being based on analysis against other census variables such as income, employment, education, and housing
- as an important source of demographic information for small areas and ethnic groups with small populations within New Zealand
- by a range of organisations and groups to determine whether there is a need for services, or whether these need to be delivered in another manner, for example, targeted health services, or services in another language
- in the allocation of health funding, development of tailored programmes, and monitoring of results across different ethnic groups
- by local governments (particularly those in regions experiencing demographic, economic, and social change) to effectively target consultation with the community, and in the planning and delivery of services
- by Māori and other ethnic groups in planning and engaging with government agencies
- to produce time series data on how ethnic groups have changed over time, and to show the changing patterns of immigration
- by central government for the compilation of population statistics and information on the key drivers of demand for health services, and for decision-making on funding provisions to district health boards
- by politicians to help them better understand the demographic make-up of their electorate
- to assist in meeting policy commitments related to the Treaty of Waitangi
- in conjunction with data from other sources, such as schools and hospitals, to monitor trends in areas such as educational achievement and disease.

Note: Question 11 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to ethnicity.

#### **Iwi affiliation and Māori descent**

Several minor changes have been made to the routing instructions in the questionnaire. These changes are expected to improve responses to the Māori descent question, which is required for iwi affiliation information.

An update to the Statistics NZ iwi classification has been completed. This update addressed minor changes to existing categories, and the consideration of a small number of groups who put in applications before 14 July 2008, when public consultation on the 2011 Census content closed. The iwi classification update highlighted the need to investigate approaches to the production of iwi statistics, and to review the Statistics NZ statistical standard for iwi, including its current assessment criteria. In 2010, Statistics NZ will work with Māori stakeholders to establish a process for the investigation.

A person has Māori descent if they are of the Māori race of New Zealand; this includes any descendant of such a person. The term 'Māori descent' is based on a genealogical or biological concept, rather than on cultural affiliation to the Māori ethnic group. Information on cultural affiliations, or ethnicity, is collected in the census question on ethnic group. Māori descent data from the census is used:

- in conjunction with electoral registration data to calculate Māori electoral populations and provide information to the Representation Commission on the number of Māori seats required, as well as information for use in reviewing and establishing electoral boundaries
- in projections for the Māori descent population
- as a filter to the iwi question (in all censuses since 1991).

The concept of 'iwi' has changed over time. Today, it is the focal economic and political unit of the traditional Māori descent and kinship-based hierarchy of waka (founding canoe), iwi (tribe), hapū (sub-tribe) and whanau (family). Iwi affiliation data from the census is used:

- to monitor the performance of Treaty of Waitangi obligations by the Crown and iwi
- as a basis for the allocation of resources and funds to iwi
- to assist in iwi planning and social and economic development
- to assist Waitangi Tribunal decisions on land ownership and fishing rights.

Please note: Statistics NZ's classification of iwi is used to collect information for statistical purposes only. The classification is not an official register of iwi.

Note: Questions 14 and 15 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relate to iwi affiliation and Māori descent.

### **Birthplace**

Results from the 2006 Census showed that India is now one of the eight most common birthplaces. To reduce respondent burden, 'India' is being tested as a response option to this question, replacing 'Scotland'.

The birthplace classification has been updated. Changes include the addition of 4-digit codes for Pitcairn Island and Spanish North Africa, and splitting Montenegro and Serbia into separate codes.

There will be no other changes to the birthplace topic for the 2011 Census.

Birthplace is defined as the country where the respondent was born. It refers to the current name of the country at the time of the data collection. Birthplace data from the census is used to:

- provide useful indicators of the social and economic status of immigrants
- provide information about cultural diversity within communities and aid in planning for services by local authorities
- develop, monitor, and evaluate settlement programmes for immigrants.

Note: Question 9 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to birthplace.

### **Language**

There will be no change to the language topic for the 2011 Census.

Language refers to information on whether a person can speak and understand spoken or sign language(s). Language data from the census is used:

- to formulate, target, and monitor policies and programmes that promote the use of Māori language
- to evaluate and monitor existing language education programmes and services
- as a socio-cultural variable in analyses of the New Zealand population
- as an indicator of ethnic vitality.

Note: Question 13 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to language.

### **Religious affiliation**

There will be no change to the religious affiliation topic for the 2011 Census.

The current religious affiliation classification (RELIGAFF V1.0) will be used. Any future review of the classification will not be completed in time for the 2011 Census.

Religious affiliation is the self-identified association of a person with a religion, denomination, or sub-denominational religious group. Religious affiliation data from the census is used:

- by researchers and religious organisations, to trace the changes in values and belief systems in New Zealand society
- to assess the need for various types of religion-related or religion-sponsored services, including those of churches, mosques, temples, and religious schools, and for the care of the aged and other disadvantaged groups
- by churches to assess their level of penetration
- as an explanatory variable for studies on topics such as marriage formation and dissolution, educational attainment, and income
- by Māori, Pacific peoples, and other ethnic groups for whom this information is an important aspect of their culture.

Note: Question 18 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to religious affiliation.

### **Years since arrival in New Zealand**

There will be no change to the years since arrival in New Zealand topic for the 2011 Census.

Years since arrival in New Zealand is the length of time in completed years (including any intervening absences, whether temporary or long term) since a respondent who was born outside of New Zealand first arrived to live in New Zealand, as a permanent or long-term resident, until the date of data collection (census night). Years since arrival in New Zealand data is used in conjunction with birthplace data from the census:

- to provide useful indicators of the socio-economic status of immigrants
- to provide information about cultural diversity within communities, which will assist local authorities to plan for services
- to develop, monitor, and evaluate settlement programmes for immigrants
- in conjunction with the age, sex, marital status, ethnic group, birthplace, income, education, industry, occupation, work and labour force status, hours worked, usual residence, and usual residence five years ago variables, to identify changes in the characteristics of New Zealand's immigrant population over time.

Note: Questions 9 and 10 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relate to years since arrival in New Zealand.

#### 4.2.4 Education and Training

**Table 4.2.4**  
**Quality level of education and training topics**

Topic	Quality level
Highest qualification	Defining
Post-school qualification	Defining
Highest secondary school qualification	Defining
Study participation	Defining

##### Highest qualification

There will be no change to the highest qualification topic for the 2011 Census.

The highest qualification variable combines the responses to the highest secondary school qualification question, and the level of attainment information from the post-school qualification question, to derive a single highest qualification by category of attainment. Highest qualification data from the census is used:

- by the Ministry of Education in determining decile rankings for schools receiving government funding
- to measure the impact of educational reforms on skill levels
- to examine the link between qualifications (level and field of study) and occupation, income, etc
- to identify potential skill gaps in the labour market and plan education and training programmes
- to develop, implement, and evaluate immigration policy, and to identify over- and under-supply in skill areas.

Note: Highest qualification is derived from questions 26, 27, and 28 on the 2006 Census Individual Form.

##### Post-school qualification

The New Zealand Standard Classification of Education – Field of Study (NZSCED.FIELD) has been updated up to the most detailed level. Changes include the addition of three new fields of study and a number of updated descriptors and definitions. This update will be used for the 2011 Census.

There will be no other changes to the post-school qualification topic for the 2011 Census.

Post-school qualification is the highest qualification gained over and above any school qualification. It includes qualifications awarded by training and educational institutions, and those gained from on-the-job training. Post-school qualification data from the census is used:

- to identify the oversupply or shortage of particular skills
- to identify mismatches in the economy between people's skills and occupations
- in conjunction with level of attainment information for human capital analysis.

Note: Questions 27 and 28 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relate to post-school qualification.

##### Highest secondary school qualification

A minor change has been made to the question on highest secondary school qualification. Level 4 has been removed from the descriptor for 'NZ scholarship' as this is now a level 3 qualification.

There will be no other changes to the highest secondary school qualification topic for the 2011 Census.

Highest secondary school qualification refers to the highest secondary school qualification gained by category of attainment. Highest secondary school qualification data from the census is used:

- in conjunction with post-school qualification and level of attainment to derive highest qualification
- extensively by the Ministry of Education to track long-term changes in the levels of qualification in the general population, to determine teacher supply projections, and to prepare qualification profiles for planning
- by government and research agencies to measure the impact of educational reforms, and to examine the link between qualifications, level and field of study, and occupation and income.

Note: Question 26 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to highest secondary school qualification.

### Study participation

There will be no change to the study participation topic for the 2011 Census.

Study participation measures those attending, studying, or enrolled at school or any other educational institution, such as a polytechnic or university. Study participation content from the census is used:

- by central government agencies to monitor changes on those participating in study, and for policies targeting at-risk groups
- with a wide variety of other census variables, such as income, age, and ethnic group to understand the education participation rates of different groups.

Note: Question 29 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to study participation.

## 4.2.5 Work

**Table 4.2.5**  
**Quality level of work topics**

Topic	Quality level
Status in employment	Defining
Work and labour force status	Defining
Hours worked in employment per week	Defining
Industry	Supplementary
Main means of travel to work	Supplementary
Sector of ownership	Supplementary
Unpaid activities	Supplementary
Occupation	Supplementary
Workplace address	Supplementary

### Status in employment

There will be no change to the status in employment topic for the 2011 Census.

Status in employment content from the census shows the relationship between labour and the means of production: relating workers, their jobs, and the economic entities to which they provide their labour. It also links to the different types of income: paid employees receive earnings which can be directly linked to their labour input, while self-employed people receive payment for entrepreneurial input as well as their labour input. Status in employment information from the census is used:

- by Statistics NZ in the labour cost index weight derivation, and the production of the official productivity statistics
- to provide information on the economic and social structure of the labour force
- to help explain changes in many of the other work variables
- to analyse some of the effects of changing employment and unemployment levels
- to measure some of the effects of government's social and economic policies.

Note: Question 34 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to status in employment.

### Work and labour force status

There will be no change to the work and labour force status topic for the 2011 Census.

Work and labour force status classifies people aged 15 years and over according to their inclusion or exclusion from the labour force. For people who are employed, it distinguishes whether they are employed full-time (30 hours or more per week) or part-time (fewer than 30 hours per week). For people who are not employed, it classifies them as either 'unemployed' or 'not in the labour force'. Work and labour force status content from the census is used:

- to compare numbers of unemployed, employed, and those not in the labour force
- extensively by a variety of organisations, from central and local government to community groups and businesses, to analyse the labour market position of population groups and small geographic areas
- as a broad indicator of socio-economic status
- by Statistics NZ to generate the number of people employed, unemployed, and not in the labour force, as well as labour force participation rates and unemployment rates for different subgroups in the population. A key strength of the census is being able to provide this information at very low levels of geography.

Note: Questions 32, 40, 43, 44, and 45 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relate to work and labour force status.

### Hours worked in employment per week

There will be no change to the hours worked in employment per week topic for the 2011 Census.

Hours worked in employment per week is the total number of hours worked in employment per week by all people aged 15 years and over who, at the time of the census, worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, or payment in kind, in a job, business, farm, or professional practice; worked without pay for one hour or more in work that contributed directly to the operation of a business, farm, or professional practice operated by a relative; or had a job or business they were temporarily absent from. Hours worked in employment per week content from the census is used:

- by organisations involved in policy formulation such as government departments (eg Treasury, Department of Labour, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs), economic research institutions, and local government
- widely within Statistics NZ outputs, and generally cross-tabulated with age, sex, ethnic group, industry, occupation, and sector of ownership. For example, hours worked data is used in the official productivity statistics.

Note: Question 40 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to hours worked in employment per week.

### **Industry**

There will be no change to the industry topic for the 2011 Census.

Industry is the type of activity undertaken by the organisation, enterprise, business, or unit of economic activity within which a person aged 15 years or over is employed in their main job. Industry content from the census is used:

- by Statistics NZ in conjunction with other variables from the work topic (occupation, industry, status in employment, sector of ownership, and hours worked) to reweight the labour cost index. This index provides a measure of wage inflation and is used in wage negotiations, contract escalation clauses, economic research, and policy-making
- by central and local government agencies, and social and economic researchers in the monitoring of industry trends and rates of change
- to evaluate qualification levels in different industry sectors.

Note: Questions 37, 38 and 39 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relate to industry.

### **Main means of travel to work**

There will be no change to the main means of travel to work topic for the 2011 Census.

There were several submissions with an interest in broadening the means of 'travel to work' question to extend to means of 'travel to education'. Local authorities have a particular interest in this data to aid transportation planning.

The New Zealand Travel Survey is an existing source of data on travel to education. The survey is commissioned by the Ministry of Transport with a sample of 2,800 households from all over New Zealand.

Data for main means of travel to work gains its value from being combined with workplace address data, also collected in the census. Together, this data allows the analysis of travel patterns between home and work for those in paid employment. If this topic was extended to cover destinations other than paid employment, to gain value the address of the destination would also need to be collected. Address data is difficult and costly to process.

Therefore, it has been decided that the main means of travel to work question will not be altered to include the means of travel to education.

Main means of travel to work is the mode of transport used on census day by the respondent to cover the greatest distance on the journey to their workplace. Main means of travel to work data from the census is used:

- in conjunction with workplace address content to measure traffic flows of the employed population
- extensively by transport planners to plan and manage transport, particularly in large cities like Auckland and Wellington where congestion is a problem
- to gauge the growing number of people working from home
- to apportion urban transport levies between local authorities
- by Statistics NZ to produce analytical reports on trends in travel to work patterns, such as *Commuting Patterns in New Zealand: 1996–2006*.

Note: Question 41 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to main means of travel to work.

### **Sector of ownership**

There will be no change to the sector of ownership topic for the 2011 Census.

The sector of ownership variable identifies the sector of the economy that owns an organisation or business, such as whether it is owned by central government, local government, or private. Sector of ownership content from the census is used:

- by the State Services Commission to analyse public service trends, such as qualification levels
- by Statistics NZ to verify other sector of ownership sources
- in conjunction with other paid work variables to reweight the labour cost index.

Note: Questions 37, 38, and 39 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relate to sector of ownership.

### **Unpaid activities**

There will be no change to the unpaid activities topic for the 2011 Census.

Unpaid work in the census covers unpaid activities performed in the four weeks before the census, for people living in the same household as the respondent, or for people outside the respondent's household (for which the performance of those activities is not paid). Unpaid activities data from the census is used:

- by central government, territorial authorities, and the non-profit sector to understand the level of unpaid work carried out in New Zealand households, particularly by women
- to understand the demographics of those who perform unpaid activities
- to estimate the extent to which unpaid work underpins total economic activity
- in the development of social indicators such as social capital
- by Statistics NZ to ensure comparability with the General Social Survey.

Note: Question 46 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to unpaid activities.

### **Occupation**

An update of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) was completed. Structural changes were limited to the most detailed level of the classification and included the addition of new occupations, the merging of some occupations, and changes to the titles and/or codes for some occupations. There were several definitional changes to some categories. The updated version of ANZSCO will be used for the 2011 Census.

Occupation refers to the main job held by individual. A respondent should describe the tasks or duties they spend most of their time on. The census is the only data source capable of providing detailed occupational statistics for all regions. Occupation information from the census is used to:

- analyse and monitor structural changes in the labour market, and plan for new demand in occupation resulting from technological or economic changes
- plan educational and training programmes
- make international comparisons
- analyse and classify socio-economic status in studies of social disadvantage, poverty, and equity
- study occupational accidents, mortality, and morbidity rates.

Note: Questions 35 and 36 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relate to occupation.

### **Workplace address**

The statistical standard for workplace address was updated. Changes were mainly confined to terminology updates, creating consistency, and the rationale for the standard.

A workplace is a respondent's place of employment for their main job. Workplace address consists of the distinguishing details of the physical location of a workplace, and can include the name of a building; street number, name, and type; suburb or rural locality; and city town or district. Workplace address data from the census is used to:

- code industry and sector of ownership variables from Statistics NZ's Business Frame
- measure traffic flows for those who are employed (together with main means of travel to work)
- assess daytime population in specific areas for town and traffic planning and civil defence purposes.

Note: Questions 32, 37, 38, and 39 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relate to workplace address.

### **4.2.6 Income**

**Table 4.2.6**  
**Quality level of income topics**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Quality level</b>
Sources of personal income	Defining

#### **Sources of personal income**

There will be no change to the sources of personal income topic for the 2011 Census.

Sources of personal income refers to the various sources from which an individual received their total personal income. In the census, it is generally only realistic to collect information on money income. This is what the individual respondent can usually recall or readily retrieve from their financial records. Sources of personal income data from the census is used to:

- derive sources of family income, sources of extended family income, and sources of household income, both by type and number of sources. This data is used with total income data for formulating social and economic policy, planning, monitoring programmes, and research. In particular, cross-tabulating income with sources of income gives a better indication of the socio-economic status and well-being of individuals and households
- distinguish market and non-market sources of income in income distribution analysis. There is also considerable interest in the various sources of non-market income, for example by the Ministry of Education and for the New Zealand deprivation index.

Note: Question 30 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to sources of personal income.

#### 4.2.7 Families and households

**Table 4.2.7**  
**Quality level of families and households topics**

Topic	Quality level
Family type	Defining
Extended families	Defining
Household composition	Defining

#### Families and households

There will be some minor changes to the families and households topic in the 2011 Census.

Census variables used under these topics, excluding extended families, have undergone an extensive classification and standard review. Variables include family type, household composition, child dependency, and various derivatives.

The latest updates to the variables under these topics are based on the review of the classifications and standards and will be used in the 2011 Census where relevant and/or feasible. The updates will involve changes within the census programme, including the adoption of updated classification category codes and descriptors, naming terminology and definitions.

Family type is a derived variable that classifies family nuclei according to the presence or absence of couples, parents, and children. An extended family is a group of related persons who usually reside together and consists of a family nucleus and one or more other related persons, or two or more related family nuclei, with or without related persons. Household composition is a derived variable that classifies households according to the relationships between usually resident people in households. Family and household data from the census is used:

- by central government agencies, local authorities, private organisations, and researchers in the formulation of social policy, for planning and monitoring programmes, and for research purposes
- by Statistics NZ to derive household and family projections
- in developing the New Zealand deprivation index.

Note: Questions 6 and 21 on the 2006 Census Dwelling Form, and questions 5, 8, and 19 on the Census Individual Form relate to families and households.

## 4.2.8 Housing

**Table 4.2.8**  
**Quality level of housing topics**

Topic	Quality level
Occupied dwelling type	Defining
Weekly rent paid by households	Defining
Sector of landlord	Defining
Tenure of household	Defining
Tenure holder	Supplementary
Number of bedrooms	Supplementary
Number of rooms	Supplementary

### Occupied dwelling type

The classification review for this topic has resulted in some changes to the definitions and guidelines used to classify certain types of dwellings. The purpose of these changes is to provide census collectors with better guidance on classifying dwellings, and improve the quality of the occupied dwelling type data.

Minor changes will be made to the occupied dwelling type questions in the 2011 Census to improve data quality.

Occupied dwelling type classifies all occupied dwellings according to their structure and function. Occupied dwelling type data from the census is used:

- to monitor trends and developments in housing and institutional dwellings
- to plan for the future housing and service needs of the community
- to monitor dwelling density patterns at a local level
- to formulate and evaluate housing policy and legislation
- as an administrative aid for census collectors and processing staff.

Note: Questions 4 and 5 and the office use box on the 2006 Census Dwelling Form relate to occupied dwelling type.

### Weekly rent paid by households

Minor changes to the questionnaire wording and layout will be made to this topic for the 2011 Census. The purpose of these changes is to improve data quality.

Weekly rent paid by households is the total weekly monetary amount spent by the household on obtaining shelter in a private dwelling. Weekly rent paid by households data from the census is used:

- to provide information on housing affordability
- to produce data on median rents at a regional level
- to formulate and monitor housing policy
- in conjunction with household income data to estimate the residual income available for expenditure by the household.

Note: Questions 11 and 12 on the 2006 Census Dwelling Form relate to weekly rent paid by households.

### Sector of landlord

There will be no change to the sector of landlord topic for the 2011 Census.

Sector of landlord refers to the institutional unit to which the owners of rented or leased private dwellings belong to. Landlord refers to the type of organisation or person from whom households rent or lease private occupied dwellings. Sector of landlord data from the census is used to:

- formulate and monitor housing policy
- assess market dominance in rental housing
- measure shifts in the approach taken by government to housing assistance, and study the consequences of change
- enable Housing New Zealand to assess whether it is meeting its social objectives as required by law
- analyse the characteristics of households renting through different landlords.

Note: Question 10 on the 2006 Census Dwelling Form relates to sector of landlord.

### Tenure of household

A classification review of this topic has resulted in minor changes to the wording of classification categories.

Information on what counts as owning a dwelling or having a mortgage will be added to the guide notes. The purpose of adding this information is to improve the quality of the tenure of household data.

Tenure of household refers to the nature of the occupancy of a household in a private dwelling, at the time of the survey. Tenure of household is used to determine if the household owns the dwelling, holds it in a family trust, or does not own the dwelling, and whether payment is made by the household. Tenure of household data from the census is used to:

- monitor trends and changes in home ownership rates at the household level
- measure trends and changes in housing affordability
- formulate and monitor housing policy
- assess current and future housing needs.

Note: Questions 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13 on the 2006 Census Dwelling Form relate to tenure of household.

### Tenure holder

There will be no change to the tenure holder topic for the 2011 Census.

Tenure holder measures whether an individual owns or partly owns the dwelling they usually live in. Tenure holder data from the census is used to:

- measure shifts in the approach taken by government to housing assistance and study the consequences of policy change
- enable Housing New Zealand to assess whether it is meeting its social objectives as required by law
- formulate and monitor housing policy by central and local government.

Note: Question 24 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relates to tenure holder.

### Number of rooms and number of bedrooms

There will be no change to the number of rooms and number of bedrooms topic for the 2011 Census.

A 'room' is defined as a space in a dwelling that is used, or intended to be used, for habitation and is enclosed by walls reaching from the floor to the ceiling or roof covering. A 'bedroom' is defined as a room in a dwelling that is used, or intended to be used, for sleeping in. Number of rooms and number of bedrooms data from the census is used to:

- give some indication of the size of a dwelling
- give information on changing housing occupancy patterns over time and between various socio-economic groups
- estimate future demand for housing
- help create the New Zealand deprivation index, in conjunction with other census variables (Otago University and the Ministry of Health)
- derive a household crowding measure that feeds into calculating the socio-economic decile ratings for schools, which are used to allocate funding by the Ministry of Education.

Note: On the 2006 Census Dwelling Form, question 14 relates to number of bedrooms, while question 15 relates to number of rooms.

#### 4.2.9 Disability

**Table 4.2.9**  
**Quality level of disability topics**

Topic	Quality level
Disability	Supplementary

#### Disability

The topic of disability will be included in the 2011 Census for the purpose of identifying a sample for a post-censal disability survey. As with previous censuses, disability data will not be output. Statistics NZ will continue to produce disability data only from a post-censal disability survey.

A new filter question to replace the 2006 question on a respondent's difficulty with activities (question 16 in the 2006 Census) has undergone testing to evaluate whether a wording change will improve the quality of the responses. Question 17 has been modified by removing the word "handicapped". The 2010 Census Dress Rehearsal will provide an opportunity to further test and evaluate these changes.

Note: Questions 16 and 17 on the 2006 Census Individual Form relate to disability.

## **5. Next steps**

Submissions that were received on topics outside the scope of the consultation process have been recorded and will be considered in statistical development including future censuses.

A full dress rehearsal will be conducted in March 2010. The dress rehearsal will use the approved census forms, and will test the enumeration, processing, and output procedures that have been designed for implementation in the 2011 Census. Only essential changes will be made to the census forms after the dress rehearsal.

In late 2010, Statistics NZ will publish the 2011 Census questionnaire design report. This report will update users on final changes to the 2011 Census forms.

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