

To contact HPLS

Visit one of the HPLS Clinics.

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For an electronic copy of this newsletter send us an e-mail to the above address.

**Contributors to this edition of
*STREETRIGHTS NSW***

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THE HPLS CLINICS

| Day (weekly) | Time | Location |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | 10:00 am - 12:00 noon | The Station Ltd 82 Erskine Street, Sydney |
| Monday | 10:00 am - 12:00 noon | Wayside Chapel 29 Hughes Street, Potts Point |
| Tuesday | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm | Matthew Talbot Hostel 22 Talbot Lane, Woolloomooloo |
| Tuesday | 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm | Norman Andrews House 77 Roscoe Street, Bondi |
| Wednesday | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Parramatta Mission 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta |
| Wednesday | 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm | Salvation Army Streetlevel Derby Lane (off Albion St), Surry Hills |
| Thursday | 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Vincentian House 361 Crown Street, Surry Hills |
| Thursday | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Edward Eagar Lodge 348a Bourke Street, Darlinghurst |
| Friday | 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm | Women's & Girls' Emergency Centre 361 Riley Street, Surry Hills |
| Friday | 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm | Newtown Mission 280a King Street, Newtown |

Counting the homeless

On 9 August this year the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will be doing the Census. The Census aims to count everyone in Australia on Census night, including homeless people.

The Census happens every 5 years. It's an important event because if it's done properly the Census gives us a snap shot of what's really going on in Australia, not just what we think or hope is going on.

This is why the Census form asks so many questions. We need to know how many people have a job, how many people struggle to survive on low incomes or on Centrelink. And we also need to know how many people are homeless.

If we know how many people are homeless, then this helps in planning for the services homeless people need.

**How are homeless people counted?**

The Census will count different types of homelessness:

- rough sleepers and streeties
- people in temporary accommodation, such as hostels, refuges and boarding houses
- couch surfers

The ABS has different ways to count these people.

Rough sleepers

For rough sleepers the count will happen over a few days either side of Census night (9 August) with teams of Special Collectors going to places where rough sleepers are likely to be found.

These Special Collectors will have experience working with homeless people and may even be homeless themselves. The count of rough sleepers will be done using a very short Census form, which only takes a few minutes to complete with the Special Collector to help.

People in temporary accommodation and couch surfers

People living in temporary accommodation and couch surfers will be given either an orange or a purple Census form.

The **orange** form is for households to fill out. The **purple** form is for individuals to fill out.

Whichever form you get, you will need to answer a question about your usual address (see the Census form). On the **orange** form it's question 8. On the **purple** form it's question 10.

If you are staying in temporary accommodation or you are couch surfing it's really important you write 'NONE' in the suburb/locality box. If you write 'NONE', this means you will be counted as homeless. If you write a suburb in this box, you will not be counted as homeless.

Please use CAPITAL letters only.

2 Name of this person.
First or given name
Surname or family name

3 Is this person male or female?
• Mark one box, like this: Male Female

4 What is this person's date of birth (or age last birthday)?
• Example for date of birth: 23 05 1970
• If date of birth not known, give age last birthday.
• Example for age last birthday: 41 Years

5 Is this person living in, or visiting, a private home?
 No ▶ Go to 6
 Yes ▶ Go to 7

6 Residential status in this dwelling
• For a person staying in accommodation such as a hotel, hostel, hospital, staff or student quarters on the night of 9 August 2011, mark one of the following:
Residents in these premises
 Guest ▶ Go to 8
 Patient ▶ Go to 8
 Inmate ▶ Go to 8
 Resident ▶ Go to 8
 Other ▶ Go to 8
Persons employed in these premises
 Owner, proprietor or manager ▶ Go to 8
 Staff (e.g. porter, cook, teacher, warden) ▶ Go to 8
 Family of owner, proprietor, manager or staff ▶ Go to 8
 Other ▶ Go to 8

7 For a person living in, or visiting a private home on the night of 9 August 2011, mark how he or she is related to Person 1/Person 2 (as shown on the household form):
• Remember to mark box like this:
 Husband or wife of Person 1
 De facto partner of Person 1
 Child of both Person 1 and Person 2
 Child of Person 1 only
 Child of Person 2 only
 Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1
Other relationship to Person 1 – please specify

8 What is this person's present marital status?
• 'Married' refers to registered marriages.
 Never married
 Widowed
 Divorced
 Separated but not divorced
 Married

9 Is this person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
• For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.
 No
 Yes, Aboriginal
 Yes, Torres Strait Islander

10 Where does this person usually live?
• For persons who usually live in another country and who are visiting Australia for less than one year, mark 'Other country'.
• For other persons, 'usually live' means that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in 2011.
• For persons who now have no usual address, write 'NONE' in the Suburb/Locality box.
• For boarders at boarding school, give address at boarding school or college.
 The address shown on the front of this form
 Elsewhere in Australia – please specify address
Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any)
Street number
Street name
Suburb/Locality
State/Territory Postcode
 Other country

How can I help?

Homeless people or people who have been homeless before can help the ABS count the homeless.

Having homeless people participate in the Census is important as community groups rely on Census information to plan local facilities and services

The more accurate Census information is, the better homeless organisations will be able to help homeless people in their local communities.

If you work or volunteer in a homeless service, are or have been homeless, you can also apply

Please use CAPITAL letters only.

2 Name of each person including visitors who spent the night of Tuesday, 9 August 2011 in this dwelling:
• Record details for all adults, children, babies and visitors present.
• Include any person who usually lives in this dwelling who returned on Wednesday, 10 August 2011, without having been counted elsewhere.
• For all other cases of persons absent, please include them in Questions 52 and 53 ONLY.

3 Is the person male or female?
• Mark one box for each person, like this: Male Female

4 What is the person's date of birth (or age last birthday)?
• Example for date of birth: 23 05 1970
• If date of birth not known, give age last birthday.
• Example for age last birthday: 41 Years

5 What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?
• Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.
• Remember to mark box like this:

6 What is the person's present marital status?
• 'Married' refers to registered marriages.
• Remember to mark box like this:
 Never married
 Widowed
 Divorced
 Separated but not divorced
 Married

7 Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
• For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.
 No
 Yes, Aboriginal
 Yes, Torres Strait Islander

8 Where does the person usually live?
• For persons who usually live in another country and who are visiting Australia for less than one year, mark 'Other country'.
• For other persons, 'usually live' means that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in 2011.
• For persons who now have no usual address, write 'NONE' in the 'Suburb/Locality' box.
• For boarders at boarding school, write the address of the boarding school or college.
• Remember to mark box like this:
 The address shown on the front of this form
 Elsewhere in Australia – please specify address
Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any)
Street number
Street name
Suburb/Locality
State/Territory Postcode
 Other country

A message for couch surfers

Some people – including hosts of “couch surfers” – might not realise they are homeless because they have a roof over their heads and choose to write down the address of where they are staying rather than “NONE”.

Other people might think the ABS will pass their personal information to a third party such as Housing NSW, Centrelink, DoCS or the police. Your privacy is protected by law! (see below)

Another reason is that some young people who are homeless might think they should put down their parents' address because that seems to be the official answer wanted, even if they have no intention of returning there.

Couch surfers are homeless and we need to know how many of you are out there!

But there are things I don't want anyone to know about!

You might be worried that the ABS will tell the police, Housing NSW, Centrelink or someone else stuff you don't want them to know about. They won't!

The information people provide on Census night is protected by law. Your personal information is guaranteed to remain absolutely confidential. ABS workers can be fined or jailed if they break the law. In addition, Census forms are destroyed once the information in them has been processed.

for the paid Special Collector positions.

Special Collectors can help by providing valuable insight and advice about where homeless people often hang out and sleep.

If you would like to know more about the count of people who are homeless for the 2011 Census in NSW, please contact Dougie Wells at the NSW Census Management Unit on (02) 9268 4242 or email Gemma Lockett on gemma.lockett@abs.gov.au.