



Review of 2021 Census topics

Disability and Carers

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on disability and carers.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via consult.abs.gov.au

What was included in the 2016 Census?

Disability and carers topics on the Census included:

- need for assistance
- unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person).

For more information view [2901.0 – Census Dictionary](http://2901.0-Census-Dictionary)

How is this information used?

The Census can help to determine the number and characteristics (for example, age and geographic location) of people requiring assistance or supervision to perform core everyday activities (self care, mobility and ability to communicate), whether due to a disability, long term health condition or ageing.

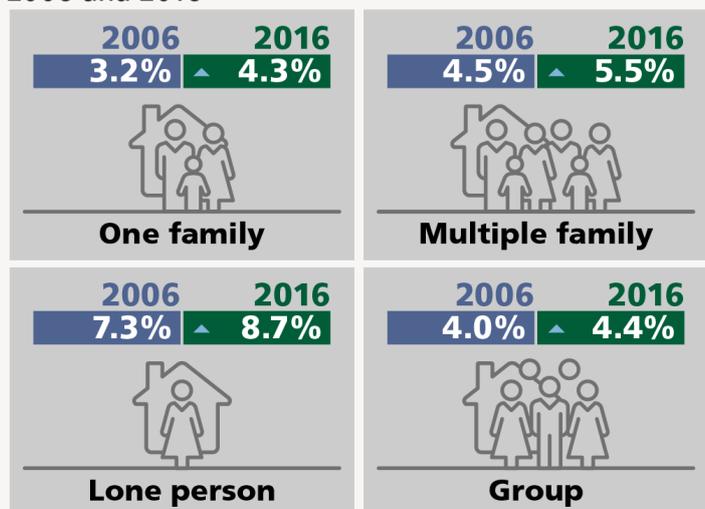
This information helps service providers and governments plan what local facilities, services and support are required, such as in-home support, respite care and support to carers.

The Census also collects information about the provision of unpaid care in the community. This helps provide an understanding of the assistance needed and the support being provided by informal or unpaid carers. For more information on unpaid care and other kinds of unpaid work, read the topic brief, ‘**Review of 2021 Census topics: Unpaid work and care**’.

The questions asked on the 2016 Census

- Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, self care activities?
- Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, body movement activities?
- Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, communication activities?
- What are the reasons for the need for assistance or supervision?
- In the last two weeks did the person spend time providing unpaid care, help or assistance to family members or others because of a disability, a long term health condition or problems related to old age?

Need for assistance by Australian household type – 2006 and 2016



Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing