**2022 Major Review of Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) and Religious Affiliation Standard (RAS)**

**Survey Questions**

1. What is your name?

How ABS manages your privacy: [Privacy at the ABS | Australian Bureau of Statistics](https://www.abs.gov.au/about/legislation-and-policy/privacy/privacy-abs)

1. Please ensure that you include contact details in your submission. By providing this information, you agree that the ABS can contact you to ask any follow-up questions, if required.
2. What is your email address and contact phone number?
3. What is your organisation?
4. Which state or territory do you live in?
   * ACT
   * NSW
   * NT
   * QLD
   * SA
   * TAS
   * VIC
   * WA
   * Outside Australia (please specify)
5. How did you find out about the 2022 review of ASCRG and RAS?
   * Direct approach from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
   * Direct approach from another government agency
   * Found information on the ABS website
   * Stakeholder network
   * Personal networks
   * Other (please specify)
6. What does your feedback relate to?
   * [Religious Affiliation Standard](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/religious-affiliation-standard/2016)  (RAS; the way the question is asked in the Census of Population and Housing)
   * [ASCRG (Classification)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-religious-groups/2016)
   * Both

Your answers to the questions below will be used to inform the review and preparation for the 2026 Census.

1. The Census of Population and Housing asks a question about a person’s religion, with the paper form shown below. In response, a person can either mark a check box on the pick list; or write their response in a text box (Other, please specify).

Image of Religion Question on the 2021 Census form



1. Does the way this Religious Affiliation question is asked impact you or your community?

If “yes”, provide a description of why and how this impact occurs.

1. Do you have any other feedback on RAS?
2. Please list any religious groups that are not accurately represented in the [ASCRG](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-religious-groups/2016).

In the ASCRG a religious group is the most detailed level of the classification and has a four-digit code.

For each religious group that is not accurately represented, please provide your suggestions for the following:

1. Accurate title
2. Describe the religious group’s beliefs and practices, and relationship to other religious groups.
3. Please include evidence to support the proposed change; for example surveys or data that indicate the number of people affiliated with the group.
4. Is there a group that is not currently identified as a Religious Group (the four digit level) in the ASCRG that should be identified separately?   
   For example, is there a group within Buddhism (1011) or Hinduism (3011) that should be created as a separate Religious Group in the ASCRG?

For each group, please provide the following information:

1. Describe the group’s beliefs and practices, and relationship to other, similar groups.
2. Indicate the number of people that are affiliated with the group you are proposing should be separately identified. What is the source/basis for your estimate?
3. Outline how you currently classify this group using the existing classification
4. Would adding this group to a ‘Not Elsewhere Classified’ category in the classification meet the needs of this group? Why, why not?
5. Explain how the omission of this Religious Group as a separate category in ASCRG impacts the community ([link to the ASCRG webpage](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-religious-groups/2016))
6. Do you use Census religious affiliation data?

* No
* Yes

If “Yes”, please provide the following:

1. Please describe how you/your organisation uses the religious affiliation data from the Census. For example, is the data used for any policy analysis, development or reporting purposes?
2. Do you have any concerns about the quality of data collected by RAS?
3. Do you find there are limitations when using the data?
4. Is there any additional analysis or reporting that you would like to do using Religious Affiliation data? Please provide a description.
5. Are there any other comments you would like to provide regarding this review? (Word limit 500)

If you have any questions about this consultation process, please email [standards@abs.gov.au](mailto:standards@abs.gov.au?subject=ASCRG%20Review%20enquiry)