



Census

2026 Census Field Recruitment

# Local Engagement Officer



### Local Engagement Officer

- ▶ \$42.65 per hour (including 25% casual loading), plus superannuation.
- ▶ Work flexibly and work with communities
- ▶ Roles available across Australia

## About the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS):

We are Australia's national statistical agency. Our purpose is to understand Australia's social, economic and environmental data needs and inform important decisions about our nation's future.

To learn more about the ABS, visit the [ABS website](#).

## About the Census of Population and Housing:

The Census of Population and Housing (the Census) is the most comprehensive snapshot of Australia and tells the story of how we are changing. It helps us understand what we need now, and into the future.

The Census is run every 5 years. It's one of the largest and most important collections to count the number of people and houses in Australia. The Census asks questions about your age, country of birth, cultural background, living situation, work and education. It's used to estimate Australia's population, distribute government funds, and plan services for individuals, families and communities.

The next Census will be held in August 2026.

To learn more, visit the [Census website](#).



Supermarkets use Census data to decide which products to stock for their customers, including international foods.

## About this role:

The Local Engagement Officer role is critical to ensure the Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS) delivers on its commitment to improve the quality and relevance of Census data for all Australians.

Local Engagement Officers contribute to their community and Australia. They help the Census to collect data and make statistics, which informs services for their community and helps build a better future for everyone.

Local Engagement Officers will represent the ABS and be its direct link with community groups and key stakeholders. As a Local Engagement Officer you will work a mix of weekdays, evenings and weekends and will be responsible for supporting engagement and Census collection activities with population sectors including, people living with disability, older persons, disadvantaged youth and other community and population groups.

## As a Local Engagement Officer, you will:

- ▶ Interact with the public to raise awareness and respond to questions about the Census. This may include running Pop-up Hubs, and delivering information and fill-in-the-form sessions where required.
- ▶ Be responsible for engaging with venues and following procedures to organise Census events and Pop-up Hubs (including Work Health and Safety (WHS) checks).
- ▶ Recruit, train, and manage a team of field staff and ensure they are well equipped to support people to complete the Census, particularly at Census events.
- ▶ Participate in training and receive and distribute field materials as needed.
- ▶ Complete all relevant administrative duties, including completing and approving timesheets for your team.
- ▶ Look after your own health and safety and make sure your actions do not put others at risk, including fellow Census field workers.
- ▶ Connect with diverse communities through respectful and inclusive engagement.
- ▶ Work independently and travel to various work areas across your area of responsibility.
- ▶ Work both from home and in the field, using your own vehicle to move around the work area.
- ▶ May be required to assist with follow up when Census forms are not returned.

## Key capabilities and experience:

- ▶ Lived experience and/or experience working with and supporting any of the following groups:
  - people living with disability,
  - older Australians,
  - disadvantaged youth, or
  - other key community and population groups.
- ▶ Experience working with local councils, community services and other related areas.
- ▶ Experience in community engagement and developing relationships at a local level.
- ▶ Self-motivated, able to work and make decisions independently.
- ▶ Ability to communicate effectively with people from different backgrounds.
- ▶ Good attention to detail and a keen eye for accuracy.
- ▶ Skills in administration, including proficiency in Information Technology (IT) and implementing processes according to prescribed procedures.
- ▶ Ability to lead and manage a team in a busy, high-volume environment operating with tight deadlines and working variable hours.
- ▶ Ability to organise, promote and run local events, liaise with venue providers and conduct WHS assessments on the safety and suitability of event venues.
- ▶ An ability to use electronic devices such as mobile phones and tablets.
- ▶ An ability to manage deliveries, distribution and return of Census materials from multiple locations.

## Language requirements:

If you speak multiple languages, we would love to see your application.

The Census collects information from all people in Australia on Census night and all people need to be supported to participate in the Census. This includes people who use a language other than English including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. If you are proficient in any languages other than English, and confident in your ability to speak with others in the language(s) as part of your job, please list those languages in the language section of your application.

## Working hours:

Local Engagement Officer roles are casual positions, and your working hours will vary. Initially, the role may involve a limited number of hours; however, during the Census period, you can expect a significant increase in workload. Flexibility is essential, as you may be required to work during the day, in the evenings, and on weekends. Work times will vary, and you may need to work at different times to ensure engagement aligns with community and venue availability. Further details regarding expected workloads and assigned locations will be provided later in the recruitment process.

## Travel requirements:

You will be required to use your own vehicle to travel to work areas in your geographical area.

### Your area of responsibility:

- ▶ You will generally be allocated work within a reasonable distance from your allocated region. In metropolitan areas, work is typically spread across several suburbs and may include surrounding regional areas. In rural areas, workloads may cover a wide geographical area. When selecting applicants, proximity to the chosen work region will be considered.
- ▶ When travelling for any Census work-related activities deemed necessary you will receive a travel allowance.
- ▶ When using your personal vehicle for approved Census work purposes, you will receive a Motor Vehicle Allowance.

## Eligibility requirements:



### Citizenship

It is generally expected that employees of the Australian Bureau of Statistics are Australian Citizens.

In some circumstances this requirement can be waived by a delegate of the Australian Statistician, including but not limited to:

- ▶ No Australian Citizens with the required skillset are readily available
- ▶ No Australian Citizens are capable of completing the required duties in a certain area/location



### Health and Character Checks

You will be required to undergo pre-employment checks, which may include a police records check and health check.

The results of your health and character check will not necessarily preclude you from being considered for the role.



### Age

All Census field employees must be over the age of 18 at the time of employment.



### Location

Work in your local area and be able to travel and work alone. Where agreed some LEOs may be required to travel outside of their local area, including in regional areas.



### Driver's licence

Hold and maintain a valid Australian driver's license for the duration of your employment.



### **Vehicle**

For some locations you may be required to have access to a comprehensively insured vehicle.



### **Four-wheel drive (4WD)**

Some roles may require the use of a 4WD vehicle due to the nature of travel in regional areas. In these cases, candidates must either possess a 4WD vehicle or have experience and knowledge to safely operate a 4WD.



### **Storage**

Be able to securely store Census materials, when required. Have a safe, weatherproof and lockable area in your residence. This could be a garage, shed or room in your home.



### **Availability**

We are an inclusive organisation that values flexibility. This is a casual position, so your working hours will vary, and you'll have the ability to fit your schedule around family, cultural, and personal commitments. While we prefer that you are available for the entire contract period, we are flexible with working hours to support your needs.



### **Device system requirements**

You must have access to a mobile device or tablet which meet minimum operations system requirements:

- ▶ Android: Version 13 and above
- ▶ iOS: Version 16 and above

Other devices include Google, Sony, Nokia, Motorola, LG, Asus, Lenovo, HMD, and HTC.

For help finding your device software version, follow the steps in the applicable instructions below:

- ▶ Check & update your Android version – [Android Help](#)
- ▶ Find the software version on your iPhone or iPad – [Apple Support \(AU\)](#)
- ▶ Find Information About Your Windows Device – [Microsoft Support](#)

## Physical and psychological requirements:

You can use the following checklist to ensure you meet the physical and psychological requirements of this role and can safely perform the following duties:



Ability to drive to/from work areas. Some locations may require a 4WD due to regional travel conditions. Candidates for these areas must have the capability and experience to safely operate a 4WD.



Repeatedly getting in and out of a vehicle.



Walking in different weather conditions, possibly on steep, uneven or slippery terrain, navigating obstacles.



Carrying Census materials in a satchel, including a mobile device and paperwork.



Lifting boxes of Census materials up to 9kg.



Working at a home workstation for several hours with regular breaks.



Using a desktop computer or tablet, and mobile phone.



Potential for overnight or extended travel to regional areas, involving rural driving conditions.



Taking reasonable care that you and your actions do not adversely affect your health and safety or the health and safety of others.

---

# What to expect in the recruitment process:

## Applying

When expressing interest in the Local Engagement Officer position, you will be asked to nominate your preference for the region where you would like to apply.

**Tip:** You don't have to upload a resume, but it's a good idea. A resume and details about your work history help us understand your skills and experience and give you the best chance to show why you are right for the role.

You will then be placed into a talent pool aligned with your location. When you log into the recruitment system, this may appear as "Location Selection – Local Engagement Officer" under the 'My Jobs' tab. You can track the progress of your application against this job.

## Shortlisting

Our Census Field Recruitment team reviews your application against key eligibility criteria and refers your application to the field operations management team for consideration.

## Interview

If progressed, our management team may invite you for an interview. Depending on your location, interviews may be held virtually via Microsoft Teams video chat or face to face. These are roughly 30 minutes and are a great opportunity for us to learn more about your skills and experience.

## Pre-employment checks

To ensure our staff's safety in the field and to gain a deeper understanding of your skills, experience and character, you will be asked to nominate one referee and complete a medical self-assessment and national police check. These services are free of charge, and your information will remain confidential.

Disclosing that you have a medical condition and/or criminal history may not prevent you from progressing in the recruitment process.

## Contract offer and acceptance

Once you have successfully completed all pre-employment checks and received approval from the management team, an email will be sent to you with a contract offer.

The email will contain detailed instructions on how to download your letter of offer and other onboarding documents that you are required to complete and sign. Once you have signed all the documents and uploaded them back onto the system, you will have confirmed your contract acceptance.

***\*We aim to communicate with you every 2-3 weeks via email to provide an update on your application***

## Recruitment timeline:

Assessment stage	Key dates
Applications open	5 January 2026
Shortlisting	From 27 January 2026
Interviews	From 9 February 2026
Referee report and police check	From 23 February 2026
Contract start date	From 13 April 2026
Contract end date	30 September 2026

## How to apply:

Select "***I'm Interested***" and create an account with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census. Creating an account and applying takes 10-15 minutes!

In the application form, you will be asked to nominate your preference for the region where you would like to apply. Please see the attached PDF maps to assist in selecting the right location preference.

Please upload your resume into the system, including details about your work history and experience which will help us assess your suitability for the role.

## Other opportunities

Join our [Talent Community](#) to stay informed about upcoming opportunities near you.

We will be recruiting **Field Manager** roles from **28 January 2026**.

Stay connected; your 2026 Census opportunity could be just around the corner.