

Australian Privacy Foundation
<http://www.privacy.org.au>

Media Release

Thursday 2 August 2011

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) this evening released a Public Advisory Statement relating to the 2011 Census: <http://www.privacy.org.au/Resources/CensusAdvStmt-2011.html>

"Some people's Census data is kept indefinitely without consent, and can be connected back to the individual", said APF Chair Roger Clarke.

"Contrary to good practice, it appears that no privacy impact assessment (PIA) was performed on the design of the 2011 Census", he continued.

"Moreover, the APF has not even seen any evidence of briefings and consultations taking place with privacy advocacy organisations".

The Statement identifies steps that it is aware are being taken by some people, in order to avoid their personal data being captured and abused in this way.

It provides information on the possible consequences for people who ABS comes to know have not provided the data.

The Statement also provides estimates of the number of people who decline to complete the Census form.

The APF believes that the public should be informed about the privacy-intrusive nature of the 2011 Census, and the fact that some people are very concerned about it.