



For a brighter future

2016 Australian Census

Information for the **Macedonian** Community



This leaflet was prepared by:
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Disclaimer: The information and suggestions provided in this leaflet are the suggestions of the Australian-Macedonian Human Rights Committee Inc. Individuals are free to answer any question as they wish.

Australia's 17th national Census of Population and Housing will be held on **Tuesday 9th August 2016.**

Its objective is to accurately measure the number and certain key characteristics of people in Australia on Census night, and the dwelling in which they live. The census collects information relating to each person and household in the country but it is not concerned with information about individuals as such.

The public expects that the information they provide will be kept confidential and this protection is given by provisions in the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. All employees of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) are legally bound to secrecy and to never release identifiable personal information to any person or organisation outside the ABS. Should a person breach this secrecy requirement they face a fine and/or imprisonment.

In order to ensure that the Macedonian Community in Australia is accurately identified, it is essential that each and every person takes care in the manner in which they answer the questions in Census 2016.

The Australian-Macedonian Human Rights Committee (AMHRC) after consultation with the relevant government authorities has identified the four questions featured in this leaflet to be of particular relevance to the Macedonian Community.

If you are completing the census online you will need to type your answers in the relevant fields. If you are completing the census by paper forms you will need to write your answers.

QUESTION 12: COUNTRY OF BIRTH

If you were born in what is now the Republic of Macedonia, you should:

In the space below the category “Other – Please specify” write/type: “**MACEDONIA**” or “**REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**”.

Important Information!

Even though you may have been born in the Republic of Macedonia during the period that it was a part of Yugoslavia, it is very important that you do not respond to this question with an answer of “Yugoslavia”, as a separate category exists for this answer and you will therefore NOT be counted as originating from the Republic of Macedonia.

The following information for Question 12 (Country of Birth) only applies to those individuals born in Aegean Macedonia or Pirin Macedonia

In order to highlight the existence of ethnic Macedonians outside the borders of the Republic of Macedonia, you must respond accurately.

If you were born in “Aegean Macedonia” you may answer this question by writing/typing: “**Aegean Macedonia**” OR by writing/typing “**Greece**”. Answering either way will result in you being counted as having being born in Greece.

If you were born in “Pirin Macedonia” you may answer this question by writing/typing “**Pirin Macedonia**” or “**Bulgaria**”. Answering either way will result in you being counted as having being born in Bulgaria.

Important! Please note that by declaring your country of birth to be Greece or Bulgaria, you are NOT declaring your ethnic identity to be “Greek” or “Bulgarian”. A separate question exists for ancestry (Question 18) where you can declare your ancestry Macedonian.

QUESTION 16: LANGUAGE

If you speak Macedonian, regardless of how fluently, you should in the space below the category “Other – please specify”, write/type: “**MACEDONIAN**”

QUESTION 18: ANCESTRY

Regardless of where you were born (Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Australia or elsewhere) your ancestry (heritage/background) is Macedonian.

For this question, you may count back three generations (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents).

In the space below the category “Other – please specify” write/type: “**MACEDONIAN**”

QUESTION 19: RELIGION

If you identify as belonging to the Macedonian Orthodox religion you should:

In the space below the category “Other – please specify” write/type: “**MACEDONIAN ORTHODOX**”

Please note that if you respond simply “Orthodox”, a separate category exists for this and you will not be counted as “Macedonian Orthodox”.

Also, if you have a different religion (eg: Methodist, Islam, Jehovah’s Witness) or have no religious affiliation, you should answer this question accordingly.