

# Foreword

The Committee is pleased to present the report of its inquiry into the retention of census forms.

Commonwealth censuses, supported by legislation, have been held in Australia since federation. The inquiry was the first major public examination of the practice of destroying name-identified census forms. The level of public response to the Committee's inquiry illustrates that the issues the subject of this inquiry are of interest not only to government officials and academics but to a large number of ordinary Australians.

The aim of the Committee has been to consider the competing views of interested parties and to make reasonable proposals, in all the circumstances, for future censuses. The Committee believes that saving the census for future research, with appropriate safeguards, will make a very valuable contribution to preserving Australia's history for future generations.

Kevin Andrews MP  
Chairman

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