

Terms of reference

On 7 May 1997 the Treasurer, the Hon Peter Costello MP referred the following matter:

The Committee shall look at the current practice of destroying name-identified forms collected in population censuses and make recommendations for future censuses taking into account: -

- the effect retention would have on the quality, and hence the value, of data from future censuses and other ABS collections;
- the privacy concerns relating to the storage and use of name-identified census data;
- the value of name-identified records for medical, social and genealogical research released after a significant period of time; and
- the cost of retention.