

Executive Council of Australian Jewry

**The Representative
Organisation of
Australian Jewry**



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MEDIA RELEASE

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Press Release: The 2006 Census will benefit the Jewish community

The peak body of the Australian Jewish community is urging all Jewish Australians to fully participate in the next Census which will be held on 8 August 2006.

Grahame Leonard, the President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, said today, "Census data affects Government's allocation of resources to assist the Australian community in a host of vital areas. The Jewish community also depends on the Census for accurate planning information for services in fields of such as education, welfare and aged care."

Leonard continued, "The estimate of the number of Jews in Australia comes from Question 19 on the census form that asks "What is your religion". There is no box you can tick marked: 'Jewish'. In the past many Jewish people did not answer the religion question, or even selected another religion to mask their identity. In Australia today, Jews do not need to worry about privacy or discrimination. Individual records are seen only by a data entry operator, and the form then is destroyed (unless the individual asks for it to be kept for genealogical research). The Census will provide vital data for all Australians including the Jewish community. Hence I ask all Jewish Australians to complete the form as thoroughly as possible."

**For further information or to arrange interviews, contact:
Grahame Leonard on 0411 462 242.**