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MEDIA STATEMENT

Our ref: 2026Census

Exclusion of 2026 Census Topics

Pride in Law is Australia's first and only national non-political LGBTIQ+ Law Association. We bring together lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning, and asexual (LGBTIQ+) members of the legal community and their supporters. Pride in Law is '*Law Focused, Pride Inspired*'.

One of the key objectives of our Board of National Directors is to advocate for positive change. We take a multidisciplinary approach to advocacy and collaborate across the profession to confront the things that matter to the LGBTIQ+ community and those around them.

The Australian Census provides an important snapshot of the Australian population and how it changes over time. These insights inform important decisions about the kinds of services Australians need. Census data affects individuals, community groups, organisations, businesses and governments.

In a 2024 study almost one fifth of the Australian population aged 16 – 24 years reported that they are not exclusively heterosexual and 2.3% of the same cohort reported a diverse gender. Studies in the United Kingdom show that 28% of the adult population and almost half of the population aged 18 – 24 years are not "exclusively heterosexual".

Pride in Law was concerned that despite calls to include questions on gender identity, sexual orientation, and variations in sex characteristics, these were excluded from the 2021 Census. This led to the Australian Bureau of Statistics issuing a statement of regret for the hurt caused.

With the announcement of the Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury and Assistant Minister for Employment over the weekend, it is even more disappointing that successive Governments have now failed to introduce these important changes to the Census topics.

"It is the decision of the Government that there will be no change to the topics in the next Census, which will be held in 2026," the Assistant Minister said in a statement.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has widely reported on the unique health and wellbeing challenges facing LGBTIQ+ Australians and the barriers to accessing health and support services. LGBTIQ+ youth are five times more likely to attempt suicide.

The ABS itself reports that 74.5% of the LGB+ community has experienced a mental disorder at some time in their life, compared to 41.7% of those who are heterosexual. More than a quarter of trans people experience a high level of psychological distress compared to one in six heterosexual people.

LGBTIQ+ Australians, their loved ones, and those who support them matter. Pride in Law calls on the Australian Government to add these important questions in the 2026 Census. We can only measure what matters through an inclusive approach such as this.

Contact: Cawley Hennings Email: externalaffairs@prideinlaw.org