



A guide to Census 2011 for the Australian Sikh Community

Census Date:
Tue 9 Aug 2011

Census information will be used by Government and other organizations to plan and allocate funding for services like language (*Punjabi interpreters*), health (*special needs for Sikh elderly*), culturally sensitive services (e.g., employment, law enforcement and child care), housing, roads, community projects etc. Your local Council will spend money on the Sikh community based on statistics from this Census.

The next census will be held on 9th Aug 11 – it is important that every Sikh family, student and tourist is counted this year!!

By filling out your Census form correctly, you will be helping the Sikh community, - especially the elderly and the next generation.

LET'S GET COUNTED

Did you know that according to 2006 Census, there were only 26,429 Sikhs in Australia?

Even more surprising is the number of Punjabi speaking people in Australia – only 23,164!!

Whereas, as per anecdotal evidence collected by Sikh Council of Australia Inc, there are approximately 100,000 Sikhs in Australia, and the number of Punjabi speakers is even higher.

Why this discrepancy?

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics the primary reason for this undercount is the lack of understanding of the importance of Census (about 20% of people born in non-English speaking countries do not participate in Census). Many people fill NIL or incorrect entries (writing *English* as language spoken at home, instead of *Punjabi* or writing *Indian* instead of *Sikh* for ancestry) in their Census forms. This guide will assist Australian Sikhs in filling THREE important questions that relate to this discrepancy in the statistics.

Your help is needed to ensure that Australian Sikhs get counted!!!

Three Important questions:

You can complete the Census by filling out either the Household form (upto 6 people) or the Personal form or on line through eCensus (upto 10 people). The questions below are taken from the Household form. Note that these questions are numbered differently on the Personal form (Language-Q18, Ancestry-Q20 and Religion-Q21).

LANGUAGE

Please use CAPITAL letters only. 06 Person 1

16 Does the person speak a language other than English at home?

- Mark one box only.
- If more than one language other than English, write the one that is spoken most often.
- Remember to

Yes, English only ☐ **Go to 18**

Yes, Italian ☐

Yes, Greek ☐

Yes, Cantonese ☐

Yes, Arabic ☐

Yes, Mandarin ☐

Yes, Vietnamese ☐

Yes, other – please specify

For Language specify PUNJABI

PUNJABI

ANCESTRY

18 What is the person's ancestry?

- Provide up to two ancestries only.
- Examples of 'Other – please specify' are: GREEK, VIETNAMESE, HMONG, DUTCH, KURDISH, MAORI, LEBANESE, AUSTRALIAN SOUTH SEA ISLANDER.
- Remember to mark boxes like this: ☐
- Visit www.abs.gov.au/censushelp for more information.

English ☐

Irish ☐

Scottish ☐

Italian ☐

German ☐

Chinese ☐

Australian ☐

Other – please specify

For ANCESTRY specify SIKH

SIKH

RELIGION

19 What is the person's religion?

- Answering this question is OPTIONAL.
- Examples of 'Other – please specify' are: SALVATION ARMY, HINDUISM, JUDAISM, HUMANISM.
- If no religion, mark the 'No religion' box.
- Remember to mark box like this: ☐

Catholic ☐

Anglican (Church of England) ☐

Uniting Church ☐

Presbyterian ☐

Buddhism ☐

Greek Orthodox ☐

Islam ☐

Baptist ☐

Lutheran ☐

Other – please specify

For RELIGION specify SIKHISM

SIKHISM

For more information or assistance with Census 2011, please contact Sikh Council of Australia on info@sikhcouncil.org.au or visit www.sikhcouncil.org.au or www.facebook.com/sikhcouncil.

