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## INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

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David Gruen AO  
Australian Statistician  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Locked Bag 10  
Belconnen ACT 2616

Dear Mr Gruen

### COMPLIANCE ADVICE ON THE PROPOSED 2026 CENSUS CAMPAIGN

The Independent Communications Committee (the Committee) considers proposed advertising campaigns with expenditure expected to be \$250,000 or more and provides independent advice to the relevant Chief Executive.

On 13 February, the Committee considered the 2026 Census campaign being developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. As part of its consideration of this campaign, the Committee met with your officers and reviewed the following supporting documentation:

1. communication strategy
2. developmental communications research
3. draft media strategy and indicative media plan overview
4. a statement against Principles 1 to 4 of the *Australian Government Guidelines on Advertising and Information Campaigns by non-corporate Commonwealth entities* (Guidelines).

The Committee is satisfied that the campaign is relevant to government responsibilities (Principle 1), and that the campaign is being developed in line with Principles 2 to 4 of the Guidelines. The Committee has concluded the proposed 2026 Census campaign is capable of complying with Principles 1 to 4 of the Guidelines, noting this view has been formed at the communication strategy stage and the Committee has not considered the advertising materials.

As legal and procurement matters relating to the campaign are not considered by this Committee, you will need to seek advice and assurance from your entity with respect to compliance with Principle 5 of the Guidelines.

This letter will be published on the Department of Finance website after the campaign is launched.

Any additional phases of the campaign will require separate consideration by the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Meredith Fairweather  
Chair  
Independent Communications Committee

13 February 2026