

Final Report on Content

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Preface

This *Final Report on Content* outlines my decisions on topics to be included in the 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings.

In finalising the content for the 2006 Census, Statistics New Zealand has continued to recognise the pivotal role of the census in New Zealand's system of social statistics. This has been reinforced by central government agencies as they work together to establish a coherent longer-term Social Statistics Programme and has enabled Statistics New Zealand to focus on those topics that are most appropriate for inclusion in the census.

The decisions contained within this report are primarily based on those published in *Preliminary Views on Content*. Generally they are consistent with the previously stated focus for the 2006 Census; minimal topic change and an emphasis on continuity, data quality and outcomes. Some changes have nevertheless been made in response to the evaluation of issues raised through the process of public submissions and consultation. This document explains the basis for decisions on the final census content as background for those who made submissions as individuals, through organisations, or through consultation meetings.

The next stage of development of the 2006 Census involves Statistics New Zealand developing relevant questions and testing topic changes, as part of a general testing programme to ensure suitability of all proposed census content. This process may result in some re-evaluation of the 2006 Census content if, for example, it is not possible to devise a question on a topic so as to provide the required information.

Consequently, the questionnaire for the 2006 Census cannot be finalised until completion of the testing phase in March 2005, when a full dress rehearsal will be conducted. This full dress rehearsal, which will use the final census questionnaires, is designed primarily to rigorously test census enumeration, processing and output procedures. On past experience, I would anticipate little if any change to the questionnaires following the dress rehearsal.

It remains for me to thank everyone who participated in the consultation process. The information you provided helps us ensure that the 2006 Census is of great value to New Zealand in terms of measuring who we are, where we live and how our society continues to diversify and grow. It will help community groups and businesses, as well as local and central governments, to plan for the country's future.

I am confident that, with your participation, our next census in 2006 will again be a major success.



Brian Pink
Government Statistician

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Labour Market Statistics	

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*Chapter 1***Introduction**

All topics recommended for inclusion in *Preliminary Views on Content* will be included in the 2006 Census. This includes the cyclical topics of fertility and cigarette smoking. In addition, disability, which was initially not recommended as a topic for 2006, will now be included, but only as a filter question for a post-censal survey, subject to the availability of funding for a post-censal survey. Disability will not be an output variable from the 2006 Census.

Summary of Topic Evaluations

Included	Not Included
Population Structure	
Absentees 8	Accidental injury 29
Age 8	Alcohol and drug use 30
Fertility 9	Ancestry 11
Marital status 9	Bathrooms and toilets, number of 23
Name 9	Birthplace of parents 11
Number of occupants on census night 9	Boats, access to 29
Sex 10	Cats per household, number of 32
Location	Childcare 30
Address of dwelling 10	Citizenship 27-28
Address on census night 10	Diabetes 30
Usual residence 10	Drivers licences 30
Usual residence five years ago 10-11	Dwelling, age of 22
Years at usual residence 11	Early childhood education 30
Ethnicity and Culture	Farm activity 32
Birthplace 11	Fuels used for cooking 22
Ethnicity 12	Fuels used for heating water 23
Iwi affiliation 12	Gambling 30
Languages spoken 12	Health and well-being 30
Māori descent 12-13	Health insurance 30
Religious affiliation 13	Health services, access to 30
Years since arrival in New Zealand 13	Health status 30
Education and Training	Height and weight 30
Field of study 14	Housing quality 22
Highest secondary school qualification 14	International transfers of money 19
Highest qualification 14	Literacy 14
Level of post-school qualification 14	Marae association and usage 31
Participation in study 14-15	Marine fishing 32
Work	Migrant settlement patterns 28
Hours worked per week 15	Moves in the last year, number of 11
Industry 15	Moving, reasons for 11
Labour force status 15	Oral health 30
Main means of travel to work 16	Pacific businesses 31
Occupation 16	Participation in political process and awareness of local government plan 32
Sector of ownership 16	Physical activity 30
Status in employment 16	Public health issues 30
Unpaid activities 17	Quality of life indicators 31
Workplace address 16	Regional economic data 32
Income	Residency status 27-28
Personal income 18	Rooms used to run businesses from home, number of 23
Sources of personal income 18-19	Savings 19
Families and Households	Sexual orientation 28-29
Extended families 19-20	Usual residence one year ago 11
Family type 20	Veterans population 31
Household composition 20	
Housing	
Access to telecommunication systems 21	
Dwelling type 21-22	
Fuel types used to heat dwelling 22-23	
Number of bedrooms 23	
Number of rooms 23	
Number of motor vehicles 23	
Rent paid by household 24	
Sector of landlord 24	
Tenure holder 24	
Tenure of household 24-25	
Health	
Cigarette smoking 25	
Disability* 25-26	

* This is subject to funding being available to hold a post-censal survey.

Focus for the 2006 Census

As outlined in the report *Preliminary Views on Content* (published 17 April 2003), the focus on topics for the 2006 Census will be one of minimal change. This focus has been driven by a need to concentrate on continuity, data quality and outcomes. In addition, Statistics New Zealand has considered the pivotal role of the census in New Zealand's wider system of social statistics, and the availability of data from additional sources within that system. Some topics may be more suitable for inclusion in other social surveys, or may be available from administrative data sources. In considering topics for inclusion, Statistics New Zealand has focused on those that are most appropriate for inclusion in the census.

A major feature of the census is that, through comparison with earlier censuses, it enables us to trace the evolution of our nation over time. Users have indicated that they require comparable data from census to census in order to measure change over time. While this need can conflict with the need to ensure that the census remains relevant to current information needs, Statistics New Zealand considers that maintaining the current range of census topics will maximise continuity with past censuses. However, in saying this, the need to ensure data remains relevant has resulted in the identification of potential changes within some topic areas and the addition of a topic.

The addition of any new topic areas to the census had to be considered carefully in light of the increasingly difficult environment for data collection (eg it is harder to find people at home). Analysis of census data shows that, in addition to some people not filling out the form, some others only get part way through the form, finding it too long to complete. For the 2006 Census, Statistics New Zealand will be concentrating efforts on encouraging people to respond to the census and complete all questions, thereby improving the quality of data. Many of the submissions received during content consultation endorsed Statistics New Zealand's focus on improving quality.

Improvements in data quality will ensure that data is 'fit for use' in terms of the outcomes or uses that will be made of the data by central and local government, as well as those businesses and community groups that rely on census information for critical decisions. High quality data is essential, not just because of the immediate uses made of census data, but also because of the long time period over which census data is used. Data of high quality will reinforce the value and position of the census as a core element of the wider statistical system.

The Consultation Process

Consultation with users is an integral part of determining census content. For the 2006 Census, this process involved a round of consultation meetings with key policy agencies to assist Statistics New Zealand to formulate an initial view on content. This was set out in the document *Preliminary Views on Content*. The publication of this document marked the beginning of a wider round of consultation, and an invitation to members of the general public to make their views on content known by completing a submission. This consultation phase closed on 27 June 2003, thereby giving interested parties two months in which to consider Statistics New Zealand's initial recommendations and outline their specific information needs.

During this two-month period, Statistics New Zealand undertook consultation meetings with census expert data users, Māori users of statistics and representatives from the Pacific peoples, and Asian communities. There were also follow-up meetings with key policy agencies. Representatives from local government were invited to participate in the consultation process. In addition, meetings were held with individuals and special interest groups, and workshops were conducted that brought together people with common topics of interest.

In the consultation process for the 2006 Census, Statistics New Zealand adopted a new approach for consulting with the general public. For the 2001 Census consultation process, there was a series of nationwide public meetings, but these were poorly attended. During consultation for the 2006 Census, no public meetings were held, rather the public consultation process was advertised in metropolitan and provincial newspapers (23 and 26 April 2003); the national Sunday papers (27 April); and in three Asian newspapers. A media release was also published (22 April). Posters were sent to every library in New Zealand and all depository libraries received copies of *Preliminary Views on Content* and submission forms.

The Statistics New Zealand website (www.stats.govt.nz) was used to advertise the opportunity to comment on the 2006 Census content. An electronic submission form went live on the same day *Preliminary Views on Content* was published on the website. The newspaper advertisements listed the Statistics New Zealand website address for interested people to make electronic submissions and written submissions were also accepted. A freephone number and email address were provided, enabling people to request a copy of the report, which included a submission form, or to seek further information.

Submissions Received

A range of media were used by submitters. As well as completing the traditional paper submission form, people contributed to the content process via letters, email, meetings and Internet forms. This was the first census content round where people could make submissions via the Internet and it proved to be a popular method.

Statistics New Zealand received around 350 formal submissions. However, this number does not include minutes taken from meetings, workshops and focus groups. All formal submissions and the topics and issues raised within the various forums (ie informal submissions) were taken into account in determining final content of the 2006 Census.

Criteria for Determining Census Content

All topics raised during consultation have been evaluated against the standard set of criteria for determining census content, as presented in *Preliminary Views on Content* and outlined below.

Criteria for Inclusion

Is the census the most appropriate information source?

The census should be the most appropriate source for the information. Important points to note about the census in this regard are:

- it is a survey of the entire population so topics need to have wide relevance
- it can provide information on small areas and small population groups and allow comparisons with the total population where data of sufficiently robust quality is gathered to facilitate these comparisons
- it is carried out once every five years
- it allows analysis of trends over time if concepts and coverage are consistent
- it may not provide timely information as there is a delay between data collection and output
- it cannot provide information about underlying causes of a trend or event.

It is possible that information to meet a particular data requirement may already be available from an alternative source.

Is there public acceptance of the topic?

A topic should be widely accepted by the New Zealand public, as the success of a census depends on the cooperation of the whole population. As completion of the census is statutory, it is important that it excludes topics that may be perceived as intrusive or offensive, or that require complex questions.

Will the topic produce quality information?

When considering a proposed topic, it must be possible to formulate a question that will provide information of an acceptable quality. This needs to take account of the fact that the census is completed largely without assistance by the entire population of New Zealand.

Questions need to be formulated in simple language and be easy to answer. They should not depend on respondent memory nor require respondents to refer to documents.

When considering whether quality information can be produced, the complexity of the processing required needs to be taken into account. If the information will be complex to process, it is likely to be more difficult to produce data of high quality.

Does the topic have significant community value?

The Statistics Act requires that official statistics should provide information of significant community value. Such statistics should be used “for the purpose of making policy decisions, and to facilitate the appreciation of economic, social, demographic, and other matters of interest to the said Government, Government Departments, local authorities, businesses, and to the general public” [Statistics Act 1975 s. 3(1)].

Constraints

In planning the 2006 Census, it is necessary to consider not only the suitability of individual topics for inclusion, but also the factors that place constraints on census content.

Some topics are required by law

Under the Statistics Act, certain topics must be collected in the census. These are:

- the name and address, sex, age and ethnic origin of every occupant of a dwelling
- the location, number of rooms, ownership and number of occupants on census night of every occupied dwelling.

Other legislation, such as the Electoral Act 1993, implicitly requires topics to be included in the census. Examples of these are the Māori descent topic and the ‘usually resident’ population.

The collection of data must be cost-effective

The value of the information collected and the cost-effectiveness of the census as a source of information have to be fully demonstrated for each topic. In some cases, for example, it may be more cost-effective to collect the data using a sample survey.

The length of the questionnaire is limited

Factors that limit the length of the questionnaire are the time required answering it, and the costs and practical issues associated with collecting, processing and disseminating the information. Consequently, the number of questions that can be included in the census is finite. In order to make the best use of limited space, each topic considered for inclusion was evaluated against all other topics. This evaluation assisted Statistics New Zealand in ordering topics by how best they fit the criteria for inclusion. As discussed previously, Statistics New Zealand’s focus on minimal change in order to concentrate on data continuity and quality necessitates a focus on improving existing topics, rather than adding new topics to the census.

Respondent burden and resistance must be minimised

The census forms must be designed so that all people in New Zealand on census night are willing to complete them. This means that topics that offend or annoy, or are complex and difficult to answer, cannot be included in the census. It is also very important that respondents can complete the forms in a reasonable amount of time. For the 2006 Census, Statistics New Zealand has made a commitment that the time taken to answer the questionnaires will not increase from the time taken during the 2001 Census.

Continuity and relevance need to be balanced

There is a need to strike a balance between the historical continuity of census data and current relevance. Users of census data require both. The census must retain its ability to monitor demographic, social and economic change over time, while being able to measure new phenomena as they arise.

The frequency with which a topic is included in the census is affected by the rate of change of the data being measured. If the rate of change is slow, it may not be necessary to include the topic in every census. Such topics are referred to as cyclical.

The need for data consistency

The census plays a central role in New Zealand's wider system of social and economic statistics. Data from the census is used together with data from other sources to calculate a wide range of measures. This means that the questions, concepts, definitions and classifications used in the census need to be consistent with those used in other data collections.

The Evaluation Process

Evaluation of topics for the 2006 Census is a three-phase process. Phases one and two have been completed and have resulted in the decision to include or exclude particular topics from the 2006 Census. These results are presented in this report. The final inclusion of any topic in the 2006 Census will still be dependent on satisfactory testing of the questions themselves. While some topics were evaluated as not suitable for inclusion in the 2006 Census, research has shown further work is required to evaluate their feasibility for future censuses and/or consideration of the topic as part of the wider Social Statistics Programme.

Phase three will involve assessing possible changes within topics as part of the programme of testing that will continue until a full dress rehearsal is held in March 2005.

Issues raised during consultation which were not specifically topic based (eg response categories, outputs) will be considered during the relevant development phase of the census (eg questionnaire design, output development).

Phase One

Even before Statistics New Zealand published *Preliminary Views on Content*, an extensive consultation round with key policy agencies was undertaken. This was to ensure that the major issues and emerging data trends had been identified, and to gain feedback on the proposed approach for 2006, of minimal change with a focus on quality and consistency. There was overwhelming support for this approach during this pre-consultation phase, confirming that users required good quality data and the ability to analyse trends over time.

Once the closing date for submissions had passed, phase one of the evaluation process commenced. All topics were evaluated against the specific criteria outlined previously. These guidelines were developed in recognition that there are limits on both the number of topics that can be covered by a census and the amount of detail which can be sought on any topic.

Phase Two

At the conclusion of the initial phase, some topics were assessed as suitable for inclusion and some as unsuitable for inclusion. There were also a number of topics for which a second phase of more in-depth analysis was required in order to assess their suitability for inclusion. Further evaluation of cyclical topics was also undertaken as part of this phase of evaluation. This phase considered factors such as known quality issues, emerging needs, the availability of non-census data sources and how well they meet data needs, current overseas practice, who the users would be and what uses had been identified.

Phase Three

The next phase will involve assessing possible changes within topics as part of the programme of testing that will continue until a full dress rehearsal is held in March 2005.

Statistics New Zealand recognises that there will be interest in the outcome of this phase. We will investigate the best method to convey this information to ensure interested parties are kept informed of any developments.

*Chapter 2***Topics to be Included in the 2006 Census**

This chapter outlines the topics that will be included in the 2006 Census, subject to satisfactory testing. They are generally grouped into areas of interest and the issues raised during consultation are discussed and evaluated under each appropriate topic.

In determining the final content for the 2006 Census, the pivotal role of the census in New Zealand's system of official statistics has been considered, particularly as identified by central government agencies in the Social Statistics Strategy. This approach of positioning the census as part of the wider official statistical system is intended to help users identify alternative sources and methods for some of their data needs. It also assists Statistics New Zealand to focus the content on those topics that are most appropriate for inclusion in the census. Because of the evolving nature, and as yet uncertain status of the Social Statistics Strategy, a number of topics can be viewed as transitional in that they are more appropriate for inclusion in a social survey, rather than the population census. They are to be included in the 2006 Census because suitable social surveys have not had funding agreed to as yet. The topics that fit into this category include cigarette smoking and unpaid activities.

Population Structure

The following topics are covered within this category: absentees; age; fertility; marital status; name; number of occupants on census night and sex.

Users of population structure data include central government agencies, local authorities, private organisations and businesses, researchers, communities and individuals.

Absentees

Information on absentees (ie people who are temporarily absent from their usual residence) is not required under the Statistics Act, but does provide essential data in terms of ensuring the accuracy of population counts. Absentee data is needed for collection purposes, deriving family and household composition, and is an important input to population estimates methodology.

During consultation it was suggested that people away from home on census night should be 'repatriated' (classified back) to their actual usual residence (ie the dwelling), rather than the current practice of coding to the meshblock of their usual residence. Whether it is feasible to repatriate absentees requires further investigation, as there may be practical difficulties and resource issues. Although this was seen as one way of improving the quality of family and household data, there are users who would prefer data continuity. These issues will be addressed in the development and testing leading up to the 2006 Census when the implications of this change will be considered.

The topic of absentees will be included in the 2006 Census.

Age

There is a statutory requirement under the Statistics Act for the census to collect age data (date of birth). Age is a key variable for analysis and is one of the most commonly used census variables. Age provides (either directly or indirectly via population estimates) the base variable for many derived series. Age, along with other key demographic variables, helps form the cornerstone of population outputs.

No content issues were raised for this topic during consultation. However, there was a request for single year of age outputs, as opposed to five or ten year output categories. This will be considered as outputs for 2006 are developed.

The topic of age will be included in the 2006 Census.

Fertility

Fertility is a cyclical topic that was last included in the 1996 Census. It has important policy and research value. Fertility is a key component of population growth and data on fertility is used to improve the quality of population projections. It contributes indirectly to our understanding of present and future population structure, as childbearing changes over time are central to analysis of population change. Fertility data allows users to understand the flow-on implications of an ageing population. Its inclusion in the census gives us more socio-demographic detail and different types of information (eg overall reproductive history and childlessness) than is available elsewhere. This is the only source of information on women who have not had children. Childlessness is an important area of policy interest.

During consultation this topic was generally supported, though it was deemed by some to be sensitive. The question on fertility used in the 1996 Census contained an 'object to answer' response category. This will also be the case for 2006.

The topic of fertility will be included in the 2006 Census.

Marital Status

Marital status includes both legal and social marital status. Legal and social marital status responses provide valuable information on how society is structured and allow analysis and understanding on family size and changes in family structures. Therefore, along with fertility data, this information indirectly contributes to the quality of population projections and our understanding of present and future society.

Issues raised during consultation centred mainly on same-sex couples and requests that Statistics New Zealand consider asking more explicit questions in order to capture this information more accurately. Currently, Statistics New Zealand does not explicitly collect information on same-sex partners. Information is derived from the questions on relationship to reference person and living arrangements. This is seen as leaving room for misunderstanding, incorrect reporting by respondents, and thus an undercount in the output data. It was suggested that more accurate data may be obtained if an option that clearly applies to same-sex partners was provided in the census. In evaluating these submissions, Statistics New Zealand considered the proposed legal recognition of same-sex relationships. The feasibility of amending the current marital status topic to meet this information need will be further evaluated. Any change would be subject to satisfactory testing of any amendments.

The topic of marital status (legal and social) will be included in the 2006 Census.

Name and Number of Occupants on Census Night

Name and number of occupants on census night are statutory requirements under the Statistics Act. Name is not stored and does not form part of the final computerised information. Name is used along with addresses in the collection phase to ensure everyone has filled in a form, and during processing to determine family and household structures. Similarly, number of occupants on census night is used as a check to ensure that the correct number of individual forms is received from each household. Information on number of occupants on census night is output. Both these topics are valuable in terms of improving the accuracy of family and household statistics.

The removal of name was suggested during consultation as a way to improve response rates to the census and ensure privacy of information. Statistics New Zealand has a legal obligation to include name on the census form. The department is acutely aware of respondent's privacy concerns and puts strict confidentiality procedures in place during all phases of the census.

The topics of name and number of occupants on census night will be included in the 2006 Census.

Sex

There is a statutory requirement under the Statistics Act for the census to collect every person's sex. It is a key variable for analysis and is one of the most commonly used census variables. Sex, along with other key demographic variables, helps form the cornerstone of population outputs.

The only issue raised for this topic during consultation was the suggestion that 'sex' be changed to 'gender'. Although, the term 'gender' is commonly substituted for the term 'sex' they are not interchangeable. Gender refers to the socially perceived or expected dimensions of behaviour associated with males and females. Sex refers only to the distinct biological characteristics of males and females and allows a conceptually consistent comparison of data across datasets and through time.

The topic of sex will be included in the 2006 Census.

Location

The following topics are covered within this category: address of dwelling; address on census night; usual residence; usual residence five years ago; years at usual residence.

Users of location data include central government agencies, local authorities, private organisations and businesses, researchers, communities and individuals.

Address of Dwelling and Address on Census Night

There is a statutory requirement under the Statistics Act for the census to collect address on census night. There is also a statutory requirement under the Statistics Act for the census to collect address of dwelling. Dwelling address is the primary piece of information used to ensure every dwelling is counted and counted only once.

No issues were raised during consultation on these topics.

The topics of address of dwelling and address on census night will be included in the 2006 Census.

Usual Residence

While there is no legal requirement under the Statistics Act to collect usual residence data, the Electoral Act 1993 does require the derivation of usually-resident based electoral populations for the revision of electoral boundaries. This topic provides the only means of distinguishing between New Zealand residents and overseas visitors, and those usually living in an area or just present there on census night. Usual residence helps form the cornerstone of population outputs and provides a base for national and sub-national population estimates and projections.

The topic of usual residence was raised repeatedly during consultation. There were two main areas of interest: overseas students studying in New Zealand; and New Zealand students who are away from home on census night. There are known difficulties with this topic, such as a respondent's interpretation of the word 'usual'. Statistics New Zealand will be using the development and testing phases to try and improve the quality of responses to this topic.

The topic of usual residence will be included in the 2006 Census.

Usual Residence Five Years Ago

While there is no statutory requirement to collect this information, usual residence five years ago is an important census topic. It provides information on movements within the country, and is useful for understanding geographic population changes. Information on usual residence and usual residence five years ago is vital in the preparation of population estimates and projections, and is important to local authorities for planning and development. There is significant research value in terms of internal migration, and some interest in the country data, from the usual residence five years ago topic.

During consultation there was mention of a need for usual residence one year ago information, as well as number of moves in the last year, and reasons for moving. Usual residence one or five years ago information can be difficult to process as they require detailed responses to produce good quality data. Number of moves and reasons for moving could be difficult to answer in those situations where the question was relevant and may be sensitive for some respondents. It would be difficult to formulate a simple question on reasons for moving, and there is no existing framework for doing so. These quality and relevance issues, combined with the limited questionnaire space available means that only one of these topics can be included in 2006. It is considered that usual residence five years ago gives the best indication of intercensal migration. This means that usual residence one year ago, number of moves in the last year, and reasons for moving, will not be included in the 2006 Census.

The topic of usual residence five years ago will be included in the 2006 Census.

Years at Usual Residence

This is an important census topic for assessing population stability. As part of the topic of internal migration, it is used in many policy formulation, planning, monitoring and research activities at the sub-national level.

A suggestion was made that the topic be amended to include length of stay at usual residence, broken down in months for stays of less than a year. While topic amendments will be considered during the later evaluation phase, current thinking is that the suggested change is likely to yield small if any improvement in the quality of the data, and that it would complicate the question and increase processing costs.

The topic of years at usual residence will be included in the 2006 Census.

Ethnicity and Culture

The following topics are covered within this category: birthplace, ethnicity, languages spoken, Māori descent, iwi affiliation, religious affiliation and years since arrival in New Zealand.

Users of this data include central government agencies, local authorities, private organisations and businesses, researchers, communities and individuals.

Birthplace

Data on birthplace is used to develop, monitor and evaluate settlement programmes for immigrants, and analyse their socio-economic status and demographic characteristics. It is widely used by government agencies and researchers and is of considerable interest to immigrant groups themselves. It is of particular importance given increases in immigration to New Zealand in recent years and the growing significance of immigration as a social issue.

No issues regarding the inclusion of the birthplace topic were raised during consultation. It was suggested that collecting data on ancestry, ancestors' countries of origin, generations resident in New Zealand and birthplace of parents would also be of use. Responses to ancestry type questions are likely to yield data of relatively poor quality and will not be included in 2006. While it is considered that the quality of data to a 'birthplace of parent' question would be better, the best quality data comes from asking the birthplace of the respondent. With limited questionnaire space, it has been decided that birthplace of parent will not be included in 2006.

The topic of birthplace will be included in the 2006 Census.

Ethnicity

There is a statutory requirement under the Statistics Act for the census to collect ethnicity information. It is a basic socio-demographic variable and is used extensively by government agencies, non-government organisations and individual ethnic groups. It is used to compile a wide range of demographic estimates and projections, and to derive measures for monitoring the well-being of ethnic groups, particularly in the health sector (eg morbidity rates). The census is an important source of ethnicity data for small areas and small ethnic groups. The data is widely used with other characteristics of the population to inform research and policy development.

During consultation there was general support for retaining the ethnicity topic. There were suggestions during consultation that this topic should be removed on the grounds that the information was not relevant or was used for discriminatory purposes. However, this is not supported by the uses outlined above and the interest that was expressed in the topic during consultation meetings.

Several suggested changes to the ethnicity topic were raised during consultation. The most common of these was that people should be able to identify themselves as New Zealanders. Respondents are already able to do this by writing in a response and, if the draft recommendations of the Review of the Measurement of Ethnicity (RME) are adopted, these responses will be coded and output as New Zealander for 2006. The ethnicity topic will not be changed to include New Zealander as a mark-box option in 2006 because of the strong desire of most users to maintain time series continuity for this topic.

Some issues raised during consultation reflected confusion between the concepts of ethnicity and ancestry, supporting the RME's conclusion that the concept of ethnicity is not well understood by respondents. However, despite this limitation, ethnicity data is widely used and essential for a variety of purposes.

The topic of ethnicity will be included in the 2006 Census.

Languages Spoken

Data on languages spoken is used to monitor knowledge of languages other than English among different groups. It can assist in measuring the impact of language change and the impact of government initiatives, such as the government's Māori language revitalisation programme. Local authorities have used language information to determine what languages to provide services in. Information on the use of New Zealand sign language is important for policy development and service planning for the deaf community. Language information from the 2001 Census was also used to help select the sample for a survey about knowledge of te reo Māori.

Support for retaining the language topic was expressed during consultation. There were some suggestions for amendments to the topic, given that respondents' interpretations of it may vary and that it does not measure actual use of language or levels of fluency or proficiency. Possible changes may be considered in the future but it is advisable to retain the existing question for 2006 to enable time series comparisons.

The topic of languages spoken will be included in the 2006 Census.

Māori Descent and Iwi Affiliation

While there is no legal requirement under the Statistics Act to collect Māori descent data, the Electoral Act does require the derivation of Māori electoral populations, which are used in determining the boundaries of Māori electoral districts. In previous censuses, Māori descent has been used as a filter question to collect information on iwi affiliation. The census provides the most comprehensive source of information on the size and distribution of the Māori descent and iwi populations. The data is being used to monitor Treaty of Waitangi obligations, allocate funds and resources to iwi, and assist with economic and social planning by iwi.

During consultation no issues were raised with the Māori descent topic.

Issues raised for iwi affiliation related to the inclusion of particular iwi, the introduction of a question on Ngāi Tahu, and the suggestion that a category in the census for 'urban Māori' should be considered. The importance of identification was discussed in reference to the Waitangi Tribunal's acknowledgement of the existence of a large group of urban Māori and the need to have relevant official demographic information on them in order for urban Māori authorities to be able to contest for devolved government services and assets. Statistics New Zealand is currently exploring whether urban Māori can be identified and measured in the population census.

There was mixed support for expanding the topic of iwi affiliation to include the collection of information on hapū. Some groups saw this as a way of improving the quality of information available – particularly in situations where respondents provide the name of a waka. However, it was also acknowledged that a significant number of people would not be able to respond if hapū were added. Given the likely low response to such a question, it is not deemed feasible to collect information on hapū in the census.

The topics of Māori descent and iwi affiliation will be included in the 2006 Census.

Religious Affiliation

Religious affiliation is used by religious, ethnic and community organisations to endorse cultural and ethnic identity and for capacity planning. Research organisations use this information to monitor the changing cultural structure of New Zealand society such as the increase in non-Christian religions and the decline of affiliation to the mainstream religions. Government organisations use religious affiliation data to supplement ethnicity data in order to identify policy and planning issues associated with different ethnic groups.

The limitation of the data for purposes other than measuring the change in religious pluralism was the main issue raised during consultation. However, in line with other census topics that have a qualitative component, the practice of religious commitment or depth of belief is too complex to be included in the census.

The topic of religious affiliation will be included in the 2006 Census.

Years since Arrival in New Zealand

This is an important census topic that provides information on the number of years that immigrants have been living in New Zealand and supplements the birthplace topic. Years since arrival in New Zealand has a number of uses, such as distinguishing recent immigrants from those who have lived in New Zealand for some time, monitoring changes in the characteristics of the immigrant population over time, and assisting in evaluating and developing immigration policies and programmes. It is used to develop, monitor and evaluate settlement programmes for immigrants and to analyse their socio-economic status.

There were no issues raised during consultation for this topic, although there was strong interest in the general area of immigration.

The topic of years since arrival in New Zealand will be included in the 2006 Census.

Education and Training

The following topics are covered within this category: field of study; highest secondary school qualification; highest qualification; level of post-school qualification; and participation in study.

Users of this data include central government agencies, local authorities, private organisations and businesses, researchers, communities and individuals.

Qualifications

Census data on educational qualifications is used by government agencies to measure the stock of qualifications in the population and in sub-population groups and how this is changing over time. In conjunction with other variables, educational qualifications are often used as a measure of socio-economic status. More generally, data on educational qualifications is used to measure the impact of educational reforms; to develop, implement and evaluate immigration policy; and to identify over- and under-supply in skill areas.

The level of attainment portion of the standard classification of educational attainment is currently under review, with the aim of aligning the classification with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) Register. Among the proposals being examined is the possibility of mark-box response options. Given the major change to the classification between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses, and consequent negative effect on time series comparability, the potential impact on time series will be an important consideration in evaluating changes to the topic.

During consultation there generally was support for the change in the classification to match the NZQA Register. However, consultation also made clear the importance of time series continuity. Despite the blurring of the division between school and post-school qualifications, there was a call that they not be combined, to provide continued information on education pathways. Statistics New Zealand agrees on the need for time series continuity and the continued separation of the school and post-school qualifications.

Consultation also suggested that additional information on the qualifications themselves, such as when and at what institution they were gained and in what country they were earned, is useful in understanding the range and source of qualifications and skills in New Zealand. The census is not an efficient method to collect this information, as it would complicate the qualification questions. A better approach would be a targeted survey such as the 1996 Education and Training Supplement. The year a qualification was gained would be useful in measuring the depreciation of skills in human capital calculations. Year of qualification was collected in the 1996 Census; however, the variable was subject to data quality concerns and was dropped for the 2001 Census. These quality concerns mean it is unlikely to be included in 2006.

Some users asked for the two highest post-school qualifications to be collected. In the 1996 Census there was an attempt to collect this information, but this proved to be extremely complicated because the information only applied to a small proportion of the population. A specialist, interviewer-administered survey or targeted survey would be better for collecting such detailed information.

Field of study is a component of the level of attainment classification. This data is important in identifying skill shortages, over-supply, and mismatches between people's skills and occupations (eg the current occupation of those with teaching qualifications). It is also used in conjunction with level of attainment information for human capital analysis.

Consultation revealed a desire to know about people's skills (eg literacy levels) as opposed to their qualifications. However, ideas around concepts, definitions and measurement of skills are still in the very early stages and qualifications are typically being used as a proxy in the interim, particularly for human capital measurement.

The topics field of study, highest secondary school qualification, highest qualification and level of post-school qualification will be included in the 2006 Census.

Participation in Study

Participation in study was not a separate question in the 2001 Census but was collected under unpaid activities. See page 17 for discussion on the unpaid activities topic.

The strength of collecting information on participation in study in the census is the ability to provide indicative information for the total population, as well as foreign fee paying students (an increasingly important group) and at-risk groups. The census study data can also be analysed with a wide variety of other census variables (eg income).

Census data quality on study suffers from timing issues (the census date is around the time of the start of academic year) and its inclusion at the bottom of the unpaid activities question. However, the continuity of information on participation in study is also an issue. Over the past three censuses there have been a number of changes in the question format, question wording and reference period.

Issues raised during consultation centred around the general need for detailed data on who is studying, especially by labour force and employment status. There were submissions for a separate question to be asked on study, as it was thought data quality suffered in its combination with unpaid activities. In particular there was a call for the question to revert to the 1996 Census question. There are known quality issues with the 2001 Census data on study that will be examined during the development of the census questionnaire.

During consultation it was suggested that the study question be able to identify participation in workplace-based training, as well as study in specific areas (eg early childhood education, refresher courses, tutoring). Emphasis on such sub-groups of the studying population would be better addressed in a specialist survey such as the 1996 Education and Training Supplement. The complexity of such data needs cannot be addressed in the census given the practicalities of its data collection.

Submissions also suggested that it would be helpful to better differentiate between those enrolled at school and those enrolled at post-school establishments. However, this information can be estimated fairly accurately, without the need for further questions, using study information in conjunction with other census variables.

The possibilities for improving time series comparability in the study topic and for collecting this information in a separate question will be considered during the development of the census questionnaires.

Work

The following topics are included within this category: hours worked per week; industry; labour force status; occupation; sector of ownership; status in employment; workplace address; main means of travel to work; and unpaid activities.

Users of this data include central government agencies, local authorities, private organisations and businesses, researchers, communities and individuals.

Paid Work

Paid work information from the census is used extensively by a variety of organisations, from central and local government to community groups and businesses, to analyse the labour market position of population groups and small geographic areas. The data can be used to analyse occupation and industry composition, the size and characteristics of the labour market, the links between income, qualifications and labour market outcomes, and to measure changes over time. Labour force status is also used as a broad indicator of socio-economic status.

While the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) is the official source of information about paid work in New Zealand, the census plays a key role in providing this information for population sub-groups and small geographic areas. Such detailed information is not available from the HLFS because it is a sample survey with a limited capacity for disaggregation.

For the 1991 Census a decision was made to align – as much as possible – the labour market definitions and derivations with those used in the HLFS. These in turn are based on International Labour Organization (ILO) guidelines. This decision resulted in additional questions and more complicated routing in the census questionnaire. This has affected non-response levels. However, the use of the ILO guidelines are important for data comparability, both with the HLFS and internationally. While there was some support during consultation for simplifying labour market questions, other users required comparability with both past censuses and with other labour market measures.

A key point that arose out of the consultation on the paid work topics was a desire to better identify the changing nature of work, and specifically measure non-standard work (eg measures of fixed-term and contractual work, casual work, temporary work and multiple job holding, as well as details of second jobs, (such as occupation)). Non-standard work has two aspects: positive non-standard work characterised by self choice, and negative non-standard work characterised by some degree of compulsion (eg precarious employment).

There is anecdotal evidence of increased non-standard work patterns over the past decade and Statistics New Zealand is interested in monitoring these shifts in the nature of work. Further research is required to get a clear definition of non-standard work – currently there is no existing framework/classification. What is known about non-standard work (ie its multi-dimensionality) suggests that it is better measured in a dedicated survey (eg an HLFS supplement), rather than in the census.

The topics hours worked per week, industry, labour force status, occupation, sector of ownership, status in employment and workplace address will be included in the 2006 Census.

Main Means of Travel to Work

This topic is used for town (especially transport) and civil defence planning. Transport planning in particular is increasingly important, with issues such as congestion in Auckland. It is also used in some research for defining hinterland areas.

The main means of travel to work topic has limitations. The information collected relates to a single day only (and so can be affected by the weather or one-off events) and is limited to people who travelled to paid employment on that day. (Note this is travel to a user-defined ‘work’ rather than to, for example, the main job.) During consultation there were numerous requests for the topic to be extended to include travel to study, travel to unpaid work or all travel.

The topic, main means of travel to work, gains its value from being combined with workplace address data, also collected in the census. In combination this data enables analysis to be done on travel patterns between home and work for those who are in paid employment. If the topic were extended to cover destinations other than paid employment then, to gain value, the address of the destination would also need to be collected. It is currently not possible within the constraints of the census form to collect address information on other destinations. Address data is difficult and costly to process. Therefore the topic will only cover main means of travel to work in 2006.

There was also a call to include time taken in travel. In order to produce quality information on this topic, by providing contextual information to the time variable, it is likely a complex set of questions would be required. This is not appropriate in the census and is better collected in an interviewer-administered survey such as a time use survey.

The current travel to work topic asks for main means of travel to work on census day and a number of submissions suggested changing this to normal or usual means of travel to work. Options for increasing the usefulness of the information collected without major disruption to time series will be evaluated during development of the census questionnaires.

The topic, main means of travel to work, will be included in the 2006 Census.

Unpaid Activities

The unpaid activity topic, as used in 2001, comprises unpaid work and study components. The unpaid work categories complement the paid work questions in the census as they allow people to record the work they do for their own households, relatives, friends, neighbours and the community in general. This information provides indicative data on the nature of unpaid work undertaken as well as the characteristics and location of those involved. Unpaid work has value in economic statistics, particularly in estimating the extent to which unpaid work underpins total economic activity (gross domestic product). Without unpaid work, certain activities will not take place. Unpaid work has value in developing social indicators such as social capital (unpaid work as a measure of interconnection between individuals). For some ethnic groups, unpaid work is an indicator of their social and cultural capital that is otherwise missed in the current range of available statistics.

The main strength of the census in collecting unpaid work data is its ability to show the number, characteristics and location of people involved in this type of work. Time series comparisons of census data have been limited by frequent changes to questionnaire wording. It is generally agreed, however, that the 2001 Census questions meet the requirements of international standards, which are now becoming firmer. The categories in the question used in 2001 were comparable with those used in the 1999 Time Use Survey.

The unpaid activity topic was generally supported during consultation. There was a call for hours spent on unpaid work to be collected and also for a more detailed breakdown of the unpaid work categories (in particular to further examine the nature of unpaid activities of a voluntary nature, ie not for immediate family). It was also noted that the current question limits the view of voluntary work. Voluntary work and unpaid work are not necessarily the same thing and need to be better defined (ie there is a degree of choice in voluntary work that may not be there for other types of unpaid activities). There is also a formal and informal aspect. While the census can provide a benchmark measure of unpaid activities, the issues raised reinforce the complexity of this topic. Detailed information on types of unpaid and voluntary work and hours spent doing unpaid work is better collected in an interviewer-administered survey such as a time use survey.

In 2001, categories on part-time and full-time study were included in the question on unpaid activities. Further discussion on the topic participation in study can be found on page 14. The feasibility of removing the study portions from this topic and covering them elsewhere will be considered during the development of the census questionnaires.

Although this topic would be better suited to a specialist time use survey or similar, Statistics New Zealand acknowledges the value of this data in measuring social capital, providing recognition of the importance of this work and in allowing people who do not undertake paid work to record their participation in unpaid activities. In the 2001 Census, study questions were included with unpaid work questions for pragmatic reasons. If suitable social surveys were developed under the Social Statistics Strategy, these surveys would provide more appropriate vehicles for the topic of unpaid activities than the population census.

The topic of unpaid activities will be included in the 2006 Census.

Income

The topics of personal income and sources of personal income are covered within this category.

Income and sources of income statistics are used extensively for formulating social and economic policy, planning, monitoring programmes and research. Users of this data include central government agencies, local authorities, private organisations and researchers. The Ministry of Education, for example, uses annual income data at meshblock level when calculating decile ratings for schools. Statistics New Zealand uses income as a key variable when designing samples for surveys. Census information contributes to measures such as the New Zealand Deprivation Index and the New Zealand Socio-economic Index.

Personal Income

During consultation there was general support for the inclusion of this topic in the census with the majority supporting Statistics New Zealand's focus on improving the quality of data, investigating reasons for non-response, and recognising the need to retain time series continuity. There was also support for reviewing the income bands. As indicated in *Preliminary Views on Content*, the possibilities for reviewing the \$30,001–\$40,000 and \$100,000 and over income bands will be investigated as part of the testing programme for the 2006 Census.

Another issue raised during consultation was whether the census could collect exact dollar income and dollar per hour income. Exact dollar income is not considered suitable for inclusion in the census because people may not know their exact dollar income and/or they may consider this question to be too sensitive/intrusive. The current census income question collects information in fairly broad bands, making it less intrusive and easier for respondents to remember, thereby encouraging people to answer the question. Exact dollar income and dollar per hour income are irrelevant for a large percentage of the population who receive income from sources other than paid employment. Statistics New Zealand notes that alternative, and more appropriate, data sources such as the Quarterly Employment Survey and the New Zealand Income Survey provide detailed information on these topics.

Consultation participants also noted that the census and tax bracket income bands should match. In order for the census to provide data that is relevant and to enable comparisons over time, Statistics New Zealand needs to keep the income brackets comparable from census to census whereas tax brackets are subject to change.

The issue of identifying the principal income earner was raised also. It was not clear how 'main income earner' would be defined and therefore identified, presumably by person in receipt of the highest income. This is possible with the existing income data – provided the person in receipt of the highest income falls into another income band. Another question would have to be added to identify 'main income earner' for the occasions when respondents in the household receive income in the same income band. Adding more questions and more complexity to the income topic is not considered to be viable at this point in time, given the existing concerns about data quality. There was general agreement that the census is not the place to collect detailed or complex information about income – this is better left to specialist income surveys.

The topic of personal income will be included in the 2006 Census.

Sources of Personal Income

A number of issues were raised during consultation around the topic of sources of income. Statistics New Zealand was asked not to combine New Zealand Superannuation with benefit sources of income as most recipients do not view superannuation as a benefit. The response category in the 2006 Census will be the same as that used in 2001, ie New Zealand Superannuation and Veterans Pension. This will enable comparisons over time to be made.

The identification of income from homestays as a separate category was also raised during consultation. This issue will receive further investigation in the questionnaire development phase.

A request for separate identification of child maintenance, which falls into the category of an inter-household transfer of money payment and is currently collected as an 'other source of income', would require extra questions added to the census. This type of detailed and complex information would not be suitable for inclusion in the census.

International transfers of money, or remittances, were mentioned during consultation as a topic that should be considered for inclusion. While it is acknowledged that this issue is of interest to the Pacific community in particular, it would increase the number of questions in the income topic and have limited relevance for the rest of the population. It is therefore not suited to collection in the census.

Irregular cash income was also raised as needing to be separately identified in the census because of the increasing casualisation in employment. This information is considered too complex to be included in the census and is already covered in the Household Economic Survey.

Income by source was also requested during consultation. While this would be useful data for users, it would place a large burden on respondents to complete and is therefore not considered suitable for inclusion in the census.

The topic, sources of income, will be included in the 2006 Census.

General

There was some concern about confidentiality, and beliefs that the personal income question is intrusive. A number of people believe that information is shared with other government departments. Under the Statistics Act, Statistics New Zealand cannot share information about individuals with other agencies. This ongoing concern indicates that Statistics New Zealand needs to continue its work informing respondents of confidentiality provisions.

There were also requests to have information collected about savings. Statistics New Zealand notes that alternative data sources exist for this information (eg the Household Savings Survey). This topic of savings is considered to be too complex for the census and will not be included in 2006.

Families and Households

The following topics are covered in this category: extended families, family type and household composition. These topics are considered together as they have strong interrelationships with each other.

Users of family and household data include central government agencies, local government, private organisations and researchers. Family and household data is a key area for informing social policy (at the regional and national level) and is used in planning, monitoring programmes and research. Census information about families is also used in the New Zealand Deprivation Index. Statistics New Zealand uses household and family data to derive household and family projections.

Issues Raised

Throughout the consultation there was strong support for the inclusion of these topics in the 2006 Census, with some wanting changes or additions to the information collected. It was noted that the way in which families are classified and measured in the census may have been appropriate for New Zealand in the 1960s, but is increasingly failing to provide an adequate or accurate picture of family circumstances in New Zealand today. Current information may misdirect users of data (eg because some children classified as being in one-parent families have two active parents). Users would like better quality and more detailed information. There is a need to work through specific options for making the family information from the census more relevant. The need for a clear and consistent definition of families across data collections was also raised. Time series data is used constantly, so although there is a call to make the data more relevant, there was support for the focus on minimal change.

An important issue raised during this consultation was the representation of two-household children (ie children who have two active parents living in separate households and spend time living with each parent). In addition to the classification issues relating to this, there was an indication of a specific need for accurate information about children in this situation. Users would like information about situations in which family members who do not live in the household provide significant support to people within the household. The role of non-resident parents in providing support towards children who live with the other parent is of particular interest.

Data on multigenerational households is also of interest, particularly for certain ethnic groups, such as Māori. Information on multigenerational households is already available from the census in extended families data. Users are also interested in finding out detailed information on grandparents raising grandchildren. Some information on grandparents in a parenting role is available from what is currently collected in the census, although a limitation of this data is that it excludes situations in which the parent(s) of the child are living in the household.

Another aspect of families and households that users are interested in is the relationships between household members. It needs to be sufficiently detailed to allow step-parents and step-siblings to be identified and to distinguish these situations from those in which all family members are biologically related. Currently in New Zealand there is very little information available on biological households and blended households. A related issue raised was the need for output on living arrangements.

Other issues raised during consultation concerned the treatment of people who were temporarily absent from their usual residence on census night and the way in which data about same-sex couples is collected. These issues are covered on pages 8 and 28–29, respectively, of this report.

The topics of extended families, family type and household composition will be included in the 2006 Census.

Possible Solutions and Further Work Required

Although there is clearly a need for more detailed information on families and households, users' views on whether this information could be obtained from the census were mixed. Some made suggestions for changes or additions to census questions, but others felt that the complexities of contemporary families and households would be more accurately captured through a separate sample survey, or that this information should only be obtained from the census if the census was the sole option for collecting it. Also raised was the issue that better use of existing information should be undertaken before making any changes to the census.

An alternative perspective given during consultation was that the issues relating to family measurement could be overcome if the users of the data recognised its limitations, and that the difficulty lies in what is done with census data (eg using information about the proportion of one-parent families as a measure of social deprivation or 'risk') rather than in the data itself, and that this should not be regarded as a significant issue for the census. In any case, it is important that users understand the data, and Statistics New Zealand will explore ways of informing users about the limitations of the family and household data.

Further work is required to investigate possible amendments and determine how users' needs can best be met. During consultation there was support for further research into issues relating to families and households. Statistics New Zealand has already made some progress on this work. A review of information needs in the families and households area is currently underway. It seems unlikely, however, that there will be time to implement any recommendations from this work in the 2006 Census. A specialist family survey may be the best option for collecting complex family information.

Housing

The following topics are covered within this category: access to telecommunication systems; dwelling type; fuel types used to heat dwelling; number of rooms/bedrooms; number of motor vehicles; rent paid by household; sector of landlord; tenure of household; and tenure holder.

Housing statistics are used to help central and regional government formulate and evaluate housing policy and legislation with respect to the six dimensions of housing: adequacy; affordability; suitability; habitability; tenure security; freedom from crowding; and freedom from discrimination. The main users of this data are central government agencies, local authorities, private organisations and businesses, researchers, communities and individuals.

Access to Telecommunication Systems

This topic is used to gather information about a range of communication systems and therefore various levels of access to flow-on services. Communication information is also used, in conjunction with other census variables, as a measure of social connectedness and contributes to measures such as the New Zealand Deprivation Index. Information on access to a telephone was obtained from the census from 1966 until 1981 and again in 1996. In 2001, this topic was extended to cover telecommunication systems, acknowledging technological advances in telecommunications.

Issues raised during consultation focused on maintaining the consistency of the telecommunications question between censuses. However, there were suggestions to remove fax machine as an option, and to distinguish between cellphone and landline phone access. This proposal will be considered during the development of the census questionnaires.

There was also interest in discerning whether respondents had access to a computer either at home or via other places (eg marae). The Internet access option encompasses computer access adequately. The addition of computer access is likely to yield small if any improvement in the quality of the data, and would complicate the question and put data continuity at risk.

During consultation it was suggested that a question on the number of telephone lines a household has access to should be asked. Access to telecommunication systems is the ability of residents in a private dwelling to communicate with people outside the dwelling and to use services provided through these media. Access to at least one telephone line indicates that residents have access to adequate communication facilities, without the need to collect the number of lines.

The telecommunications question has historically been asked at the household level rather than the individual level and there are no plans to change this for the 2006 Census, however, such a change will be considered for 2011.

The topic of access to telecommunication systems will be included in the 2006 Census.

Dwelling Type

Dwelling type classifies dwellings according to their structure, location and function. Information on dwelling type is used to monitor trends and developments in housing and institutional dwellings, in order to plan for the future housing and service needs of the community.

During consultation it was proposed that the census include industrial and commercial buildings. The inclusion of such buildings that no one is living in on census night is outside the scope of the census. The census enumerates industrial and commercial buildings only if they are used for residential purposes.

It was also proposed that the age of dwellings be collected. A question on the age of the dwelling is unlikely in the census as the quality of this sort of data from a self-completed form would be inadequate, with many respondents simply not knowing the answer or guessing. An interviewer-administered survey or Quotable Value New Zealand data would provide more accurate information on the age of dwellings. Similarly, the topic of quality of housing, mentioned in another proposal, would be unlikely to produce quality data. Such a question would be open to interpretation by respondents and would be difficult for people to answer.

Additionally, consultation raised the issue of collecting data on whether or not a dwelling is situated on a farm. This was seen as a way to improve the information collected for, and coverage of, farming households and rural communities. The inclusion of a question on farms in the census will be considered during the development of the census questionnaires. A related submission asked whether it would be possible for enumerators to allocate reasons for vacant dwellings. This was in order to improve the quality of information on whether a dwelling is owned with a mortgage, owned without a mortgage, or is an unoccupied rental dwelling, and, in particular, an unoccupied rental farm. This suggestion would be difficult to implement, and unlikely to work comprehensively.

A review of the dwelling type classification is underway in response to users' requests for more accurate dwelling type data. It is proposed that the 2006 Census will incorporate this review. The two proposed new dwelling type classifications code dwellings according to their structure and function. This will represent a break in time series. However, links between the current and the new classifications will be available to make the transition as straightforward as possible. There was general support for the revision of this topic to code dwelling type according to structure and function, with as minimal a break in time series as possible.

The topic of dwelling type will be included in the 2006 Census.

Fuel Types Used to Heat Dwelling

Information on fuel types used in dwellings is used with other variables, to forecast energy requirements, plan distribution, and to monitor trends in energy efficiency and conservation.

Issues raised during consultation centred mainly around the reintroduction of cyclical questions regarding fuels used for cooking and fuels used specifically to heat water. Additionally, there was a proposal to split the bottled gas option into small (9kg or less) and large bottles (45kg). This proposal would make the census form more complicated for the respondent to complete and increase processing costs. At this stage the data needs are not sufficient to justify this change.

During consultation, the fuels used to heat dwelling topic was generally supported and there were requests that definitions for the heating fuel options be included on the census form or in the help notes (in particular mains gas and solar heating). The development and inclusion of clear definitions as to what constitutes main gas supply and solar heating will be investigated during the development of the census questionnaire and help notes. In relation to gas, the heating fuel question changed in 1996 to make the distinction between mains gas and bottled gas. In 2001, there was a further amendment when (at street) was added after the mains gas option. In neither year was any information given in the help notes to explain what a mains gas supply is, because it was seen as self-explanatory. However, there is evidence that some respondents are confused as to what constitutes a mains gas supply.

The topic of fuels used for cooking was first asked in 1945; withdrawn in 1951; then reintroduced in 1956 until it was withdrawn again in 1986. The last time the question was asked was in 1996. Although information on fuels used for cooking is of interest, it is no longer seen as essential in comparison to fuels used for dwelling heating and water heating. Fuels used for cooking will not be included in 2006.

The topic of fuels used for heating water was first asked in 1966. Thereafter each census included a question until the question was withdrawn in 1991. The question was again asked in the 1996 Census; however, it is not cyclical. Fuels used for water heating, in conjunction with those used for the heating of a dwelling, comprise the major energy requirements of a household and as such can inform future energy policy decisions. With limited questionnaire space, it is not possible to accommodate both fuels used to heat a dwelling and water heating fuels. It is considered that the need for data on fuels used to heat a dwelling has a more widespread application, therefore fuels used for heating water will not be included in 2006.

The topic of fuel types used to heat dwellings will be included in the 2006 Census.

Number of Rooms and Bedrooms

There is a statutory requirement under the Statistics Act for the census to collect number of rooms. The number of rooms and bedrooms topic provides an indicator of the size of a private dwelling, and in conjunction with the number of usual residents, provides an indication of crowding and space utilisation in private dwellings. This is essential for monitoring housing adequacy in New Zealand. Bedroom occupancy is used, in conjunction with other census variables, to create measures such as the New Zealand Deprivation Index.

Reference to this topic during the consultation phase related to the additional collection of data on the number of bathrooms and toilets, and rooms used to run businesses from home. Currently, service areas such as bathrooms, toilets and laundries, are excluded from the count of rooms as they are not considered to reflect the living space that is available to household members. This definition is consistent with the United Nations' recommendations. Likewise the addition of a question on whether a room in the dwelling is set aside purely for running a business from home (not just as an office, or study, or a room with a dual purpose) presents difficulties for a self-completion form. These suggested changes would complicate the questions, compromise current data quality and increase processing costs, consequently they will not be incorporated for 2006.

The topic of number of rooms/bedrooms will be included in the 2006 Census.

Number of Motor Vehicles

Information on the number of motor vehicles is used to assist in the location of public transport services, commercial and welfare facilities, the study of energy conservation and, in conjunction with other variables, as a measure of deprivation.

During consultation it was proposed that the number of motor vehicles question be expanded to include a wider range of vehicles such as motor bikes, motor scooters and bicycles. The suggestion to include a wider range of vehicles, while of value, has potential drawbacks that include the increased complexity of the question, increased respondent burden and potential risk to current data quality. It is unlikely the range of motor vehicles will change in 2006.

It was also suggested to amend the highest number of motor vehicles category to include either additional response categories of 'four, or five or more motor vehicles', or space for respondents to state the number of motor vehicles available per household. A change to the highest number of motor vehicles category has the potential to measure increasing car ownership and its impact on demand for road space and congestion. The feasibility of this amendment will be considered during the development of the 2006 questionnaire.

Additionally, interest was expressed in obtaining data based on motor vehicle petrol consumption, the physical condition and reliability of motor vehicles and whether or not respondents who did not have a motor vehicle available for use actually desired access. The census is not the appropriate place to collect this type of detailed data. This information is too complicated for a self-completion survey and better quality data could be collected through a designated transport survey or through an interviewer-administered survey.

The topic of number of motor vehicles will be included in the 2006 Census.

Rent Paid by Household

The weekly rent paid variable is collected and used in formulating residual income, rent equivalence for owner occupied housing, and gross output for residential rental activity. It is also used in the formulation and monitoring of housing policy by central and local government.

There were no issues raised for this topic during consultation.

The topic of rent paid by household will be included in the 2006 Census.

Sector of Landlord

Sector of landlord identifies the groups (sectors) that own rented and leased dwellings. The data is used in the formulation and monitoring of housing policy by central and local government and to assess market dominance in rental housing. Within Statistics New Zealand this information provides a reliable measure of each sector's supply of housing. This information is used for weighting the outlets providing rental accommodation in the Consumers Price Index (CPI). It is also used in conjunction with other information on housing in the national accounts. The principal cross tabulations for this variable are with rent paid, income and receipt of income support.

During consultation it was proposed that the sector of landlord be expanded to collect the number of rental properties owned and rented out by real estate companies and private property managers and the approximate value of mortgages held over them. While topic amendments will be considered during the later evaluation phase, the suggested change is likely to yield small if any improvement in the quality of the data. The suggested change would complicate the question, increase processing costs and may compromise current data quality. It should be noted that Statistics New Zealand is currently working with the Ministry of Housing to develop tenancy bonds data as a statistical data set. This project will improve the collection; processing and output of this data and look to produce official statistical time series tables during 2004. These tables will contain the number of rental properties and sector of landlord.

The topic of sector of landlord will be included in the 2006 Census.

Tenure Holder

Tenure holder was asked for the first time in 2001. Data obtained from this topic allows analysis of the individual characteristics of people who own or do not own their homes. Unlike other topics in the housing category it is asked on the individual, rather than dwelling, form.

During consultation it was proposed that the tenure holder question be retained and extended to gather data on whether an individual owns more than one dwelling; how many dwellings an individual owns; whether or not the dwellings are rented out; and where each dwelling is geographically located. Given the space limitations on the census questionnaire, and the need for establishing a time series, it is not proposed to amend the tenure holder topic in 2006.

The topic of tenure holder will be included in the 2006 Census.

Tenure of Household

There is a statutory requirement under the Statistics Act to collect information on ownership of dwelling. Tenure of household is a key social variable, which is used by central and local government, to help assess current and future housing needs. Tenure of household is used, in conjunction with other census variables, to create measures such as the New Zealand Deprivation Index. Within Statistics New Zealand, information on tenure is used, in conjunction with sector of ownership, rent paid and number of rooms, to establish weights in the CPI for the rental of dwellings and home ownership costs. It is used in the national accounts, together with number of rooms and rent paid, to compile estimates of the value of imputed rental income from owner-occupied homes, and to establish a reference benchmark for the production account of the residential sector of the rental industry. These in turn provide input to the estimates of the value of household consumption and the contribution to the gross domestic product of the rental industry.

During consultation it was proposed that households that live in a home owned by a family trust (where one or more members of the household are settlors of that trust) be regarded as owning that home for the purposes of the census and be identified by a separate question in the census. It is important that census directs respondents on how to treat homes that are owned by a family trust either on the form or in the help notes and this will be considered during the development of the census questionnaire. However, whether a separate question on family trusts is actually required, to achieve the desired results in 2006, will depend on testing.

The topic of tenure of household will be included in the 2006 Census.

Health

Cigarette Smoking

Cigarette smoking is a cyclical topic, which was first asked in the 1976 Census and repeated in 1981 and 1996. Cigarette smoking is recognised as a leading health issue. The data is used by health and community organisations to identify and monitor changes in smoking prevalence among high-risk groups in New Zealand. Information on current and ex-smokers is used to target health education programmes and evaluate the success of these programmes. In spite of a wide range of policies, programmes and advertising campaigns aimed at reducing cigarette consumption, smoking continues to be a major health issue. The prevalence of smoking is particularly high among young women and Māori.

During consultation there was strong support for the inclusion of the cigarette smoking topic. Many respondents requested changes or additions to the topic. Suggested amendments to the topic related to the limitations of the data from just two questions on smoking. The limitations included lack of information about the age of smoking initiation, patterns of quitting smoking, the number of cigarettes smoked and the exclusion of information about other tobacco products. However, a more complex question or set of questions may affect the response rate and quality of data obtained. It could also affect response rates to other subsequent questions and would disrupt the time series, which users have indicated is important. Questions that seek to capture more detailed and personal information about smoking habits would be better suited to an in-depth survey on smoking.

Although the topic of cigarette smoking is to be included in the 2006 Census, in the future it is considered more appropriate to include it in new social surveys developed under the Social Statistics Strategy.

Disability

The topic of disability has only been included in recent censuses to aid the selection of a sample for a post-censal disability survey. Two filter questions on disabilities were included in both the 1996 and 2001 Censuses. The data from these two filter questions were used to identify a large proportion of the population with disabilities, prior to the undertaking of a post-censal disability survey.

There is increasing demand for relevant and current information about people with disabilities and disability issues for policy and planning purposes. With recent changes within government, particularly with the implementation of the New Zealand Disability Strategy (released in 2001), government departments are now required to monitor the impact of policy changes relating to disability issues. Disability data is used by government agencies, service providers, researchers, people with disabilities, disability-related interest groups and others involved with or interested in people with disabilities in New Zealand. Service providers are interested in the location of people with disabilities, the nature of their disabilities, and the effect disability has on an individual's ability to participate in work, education, and society in general. There is also interest in the pool of potential carer support in the community for people with disabilities.

Demand for a post-censal disability survey was highly advocated during the consultation phase. The focal point of many submissions from government organisations and leading disability-related interest groups referred to the objectives of the New Zealand Disability Strategy. Objective 10, which relates to the requirement to collect and use relevant information about disability issues, was frequently cited.

Subject to obtaining funding for a post-censal disability survey, the topic of disability will be included in the 2006 Census as a filter question. Disability will not be an output variable from the 2006 Census as the data produced is not of high quality. Thirty-eight percent of people in the 2001 Census who had identified themselves as having a disability were found not to have a disability on more detailed questioning. Also, 12 percent of those surveyed who had identified themselves as not having a disability were found to have one. An in-depth survey, in which more detailed questioning by an interviewer is possible, is a more reliable method to ensure consistent and accurate information on disability is collected. Moreover, the detailed nature of the information needed by users requires a more detailed set of questions than can be included in a census.

Chapter 3

Topics Not Included in the 2006 Census

This chapter outlines a number of topics that were proposed during consultation. Each has been carefully considered and evaluated against other topics and the criteria for inclusion. As a result of this investigation they are not to be included in the 2006 Census.

During submission evaluation, a series of topics were identified as needing further evaluation before a final decision could be made. These topics then underwent further research and evaluation, taking into account a wider range of factors. This process identified that the topics of citizenship/residency status and sexual orientation had clear information needs but were not suitable for inclusion in the 2006 Census. The findings from the evaluation of these topics are summarised here. It is followed by brief discussions on a number of other topics that emerged from the evaluation process as clearly unsuitable for census inclusion.

Topics Where Further Analysis was Conducted

Citizenship and Residency Status

The topics of citizenship and residency status are closely interrelated and hence have been evaluated together here.

There was strong support for these topics during consultation. The information needs identified have arisen because of recent growth in immigration, particularly in the numbers of people in New Zealand on temporary permits (eg visitor, student, work). There is a need to differentiate between temporary residents and those who have acquired permanent residency status. This is because the two groups have different needs in the community, and different services are available depending on whether people are arriving here with the intention of staying temporarily or permanently. Some countries collect information on citizenship in their censuses, eg Australia, Canada and the United States.

Due to the strong interest in citizenship and related topics, as expressed by a number of key government policy agencies, Statistics New Zealand organised a workshop to discuss information needs and potential data uses. The workshop participants were selected from a group that Statistics New Zealand already knew had a strong interest in these topics; namely the Labour Market Policy Group of the Department of Labour, the New Zealand Immigration Service, the Department of Internal Affairs, and Waikato University. However, it was recognised that other agencies and community groups would also have an interest in this topic and the minutes from this workshop were subsequently disseminated to a wider group.

From the workshop, Statistics New Zealand concluded that citizenship and residency are complex topics and it would not be possible to meet the full information needs of the group with one simple question. Some users would have been satisfied with a simple measure of citizenship, while others thought that citizenship data would only be valuable if residency status was collected as well.

The workshop touched on issues such as data frequency and accuracy. In regard to data frequency, it is doubtful that a point-in-time survey, that collects information only once every five years, and publishes that information some 12 months after the date of collection, would be useful in measuring topics related to the highly seasonal and volatile environment of immigration. A related issue is that the topics of citizenship and residency status do not have wide applicability – they are relevant to quite a small (albeit important) part of the community.

In regard to data quality, there was concern as to whether respondents would understand highly technical and specialised topics such as 'residency status'. Work done for the Longitudinal Immigration Survey of New Zealand (LisNZ) suggests that migrants do not always know their residency status and that it would be difficult to get this information from a single question.

In addition, there are concerns that questions on citizenship and/or residency status could alter responses to the ethnicity question, as nationality can be one of the factors that people consider when thinking about the ethnic group(s) with whom they identify. Statistics New Zealand has made a strong commitment to maintaining time series continuity for the ethnicity question in the 2006 Census and it would be unwise to put this at risk by adding preceding questions on citizenship or residency status.

Cognisance was also taken of the recently implemented changes to migration cards and the range of information Statistics New Zealand receives from Customs that will improve the depth of detail on migrants. From 1 July 2003, permanent and long-term migrants are being split into three different classes: permanent migrants; long-term visitors; and New Zealand residents overseas for a long-term absence. From 1 July 2003, Statistics New Zealand has been receiving permit-type information with the passport details about migrants that are received from Customs. Combining the new permit-type variable and the extra classes with variables such as age, occupation and location should give a significantly improved insight into migration flows, and go a long way towards satisfying the information needs that have been expressed during consultation for the 2006 Census. The first release of this data will be in October 2003. It is important to note that there are a range of existing census topics that can help profile the immigrant population in New Zealand (eg birthplace, years since arrival in New Zealand, languages spoken, and usual residence five years ago).

While an information need has been established, the census is not seen as the best vehicle for collecting this information, nor is it clear that the census would provide timely, useful, or accurate information. The new information sources noted above and better use of existing data should go some considerable way towards meeting this unmet information need. The proposed Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants will also provide a rich source of information about the settlement patterns of migrants.

Sexual Orientation

No proposals for including the topic of sexual orientation in the 2006 Census were received from government policy agencies. While many of the individuals and community groups who raised the issue of sexual orientation during consultation supported the inclusion of this topic in the census, noting that little information currently exists on sexual orientation in a New Zealand context, there were others who opposed its inclusion. The data availability situation is similar internationally, although many countries now include topics on sexual orientation in supplements to general social surveys or in surveys collecting information about relationships. No country has included questions on sexual orientation in its population census.

Focus group research on sexual orientation conducted by Statistics Canada in 2001 sought public opinions on different terminology in different contexts. They found that the public did not regard the census as an appropriate vehicle for collecting information on sexual orientation. This was due to concerns about privacy and confidentiality; undercounting; the compulsory nature of the Canadian census; and concerns about proxy reporting (in Canada, one person per household generally completes the census form).

In *Preliminary Views on Content*, Statistics New Zealand cited this research in its assessment that sexual orientation not be included in the 2006 Census. A number of submissions questioned the relevance of this research in a New Zealand context because in New Zealand there is an individual form for each member of the household, as well as a household form. In addition, not all questions are compulsory in the New Zealand census (some can have an 'object to answer'). Some submissions noted that the Canadians had focused on the public not accepting the topic of 'behaviour', which was thought to be more personal than 'orientation'.

As a result of these applicability questions, Statistics New Zealand commissioned focus group research in New Zealand looking at public attitudes towards questions on sexual orientation in the 2006 Census. This research showed that most people would be either accepting, or grudgingly accepting, of a question on sexual orientation in the population census. Groups most accepting included younger people, middle-aged people, and members of the 'out' gay and lesbian communities. Those less accepting included Pacific peoples, Asian people, rural people, and older people – some of these are key policy interest groups that Statistics New Zealand already has difficulty eliciting adequate responses from. All of the groups canvassed in this research were able to identify data quality and accuracy issues – particularly, but not exclusively, in relation to 15–20 year-olds. A copy of the report outlining this research is available on the Statistics New Zealand website or by contacting the department.

Enough issues were raised in the focus group research for Statistics New Zealand to have concerns about the extent of public acceptability of this topic in the census, at this point in time, and the accuracy of any data that might be collected. Some submissions received on this topic acknowledged that data would probably not be representative or usable for the first few censuses after it was introduced, but the wider implications of an undercount for the gay and lesbian community (and Statistics New Zealand) were not considered.

In summary, Statistics New Zealand does not consider this topic as suitable for inclusion in the 2006 Census. However, an information need is acknowledged, and the Social Statistics Programme may provide the opportunity to collect relevant and more accurate data on sexual orientation. In the medium-term, Statistics New Zealand has noted that the Ministry of Health will be collecting information on sexual orientation, attraction and behaviour as part of the Health Behaviours Survey – Sexual and Reproductive Health, which is expected to go into the field in late 2004. The experiences of the Ministry of Health will be invaluable in terms of building an understanding of the issues in asking questions on sexual orientation.

Other Topics

The following topics were raised during consultation. During evaluation against the criteria for inclusion they were found to be unsuitable for the census and will not be included in 2006.

Access to Boats

It was requested that the topic of pleasure boats and related questions be asked in the census. The stated uses of this information related to understanding the demands for all services associated with recreational boating activities, and also to assessing the scale of potential adverse environmental effects. The topic of access to pleasure boats is only applicable to a small percentage of the population. In addition, the required information would take up too much space on the questionnaire, would not be cost-effective to collect, and could be difficult for some respondents to answer. This topic would be better suited to a specialist survey.

Accidental Injury

The topic of accidental injury was raised, suggesting the inclusion of questions on injuries. While it is acknowledged that there is value in this information, the census would not appear to be the most appropriate place to try and accommodate such complicated and wide-ranging questions. It is noted that alternative sources of information on this topic already exist, ie the annual Workplace Accident Insurance Report (produced by Statistics New Zealand). This report currently covers people receiving regular payments from ACC after a workplace accident, but will shortly be expanded to include all accidents and will be produced on a quarterly basis.

Alcohol and Drug Use

It was noted during consultation that alcohol and drugs are significant problems in the Pacific community. However, the census has never asked highly personal questions related to topics such as alcohol and drug use, or gambling. A targeted health survey may be a more appropriate vehicle than the census for collecting such sensitive information.

Childcare and Early Childhood Education

There was a request for the census to collect information on childcare in relation to being able to determine where children are when parents are in paid work. It would also be useful in terms of indicating the demands on women's time in terms of paid work, unpaid work, childcare, study and so on. The requirements were to have questions that would include multiple arrangements and costs for each child. Similarly, there was a desire for the inclusion of a question on access to early childhood education, noting the benefits of early childhood education, and suggesting that this information would be useful in highlighting areas that lack access to services. While childcare and early childhood education are topics of general interest to society, this sort of detailed information would be better collected in a specialist survey such as the 1998 New Zealand Childcare Survey.

Diabetes

The topic of diabetes was included in the 1971 Census – however, there were major quality problems. Diabetes could potentially be suitable for inclusion if the quality problems experienced previously could be overcome and there were indications that the data would be widely used. However, while this topic is of interest, there does not currently appear to be wide demand for including it in the 2006 Census. In addition, the inclusion of this topic has to be balanced against the need for other health topics. For example, the uses indicated for cigarette smoking data appear much stronger than the data uses suggested for diabetes.

Drivers Licences

The inclusion of a question on drivers licences was requested. Both the nature of the license (eg full, restricted, international) and the expiry date were sought. This information was seen as a way to quantify the number of people driving on expired licenses. The Land Transport Safety Authority already has details on drivers licences (including those driving on international licences). In a self-completed questionnaire, such as the census, the quality of responses, particularly from people driving with either an expired licence or no licence, would be poor.

Gambling

It was noted during consultation that gambling is an important issue for the Māori, Pacific and Asian communities. However, as noted above, the census has never asked highly personal questions related to topics such as gambling, alcohol, or drug use. The issues of defining gambling, as well as measuring severity, indicate that the census would probably not be the best vehicle for collecting this sort of highly sensitive information. Experience in a New Zealand context has shown that a targeted survey is the best way to collect data on gambling because of the complexity of this topic and the difficulty in obtaining accurate information.

Health Issues

Various submissions and comments related to unmet information needs about health issues. Examples include: access to health services, health insurance, physical activity, health and well-being, health status, public health issues, oral health, and height and weight information. In 2002, the Ministry of Health launched the New Zealand Health Monitor (NZHM). This is an integrated health survey programme operating over a 10-year cycle that will provide a continuous stream of relevant time series data. The NZHM will comprise surveys on general health, the health of specific age groups, health behaviour, nutrition (adult and child), mental health and rapid response. The level of detail required to produce quality data on health issues, such as those topics raised during consultation, makes them unsuitable for census inclusion.

Marae Association and Usage

It was suggested that the census could include the topics of marae association and usage, related to the need to know about the amount of cultural participation and the level of attachment to marae. These topics are too detailed and too specific for the census.

Pacific Businesses

The topic of Pacific businesses was proposed during consultation, where there was an expressed need to be able to identify, and get a clear picture of, Pacific economic activity. This is already possible in the census to a certain extent; it is possible to match ethnicity information with status in employment information (ie identify whether a person is self-employed or employing others). However, this type of information would be better suited to collection through a business survey and Statistics New Zealand is currently exploring the possibilities for this. While this work has arisen through the need for information on Māori businesses, it is recognised that other ethnic groups would also be interested in this type of information. If a definition can be developed that would satisfy user needs, it may be possible to then develop and test some questions in a business survey. This development and testing phase will be progressed into 2004.

Quality of Life Indicators

The issues raised for this topic related to the need for information on well-being and quality of life indicators. It was noted that while information is available on economic well-being, little is available on social, cultural and environmental well-being. This information would be useful in terms of developing sustainable communities. While this topic has considerable merit and there is demand for this type of information on a regional basis, it needs to be remembered that 'quality of life' is very subjective. Local developments, recent political debate and media focus, or short-lived events could influence respondents. In addition, recent immigrants may have a different perspective on quality from those born in New Zealand. Therefore, the topic could not provide a national benchmark against which communities could gauge their performance. Moreover, if respondents viewed the topic as assessing and ranking their local community, then this could well result in parochial or competitive responses. The census is not suitable for measuring qualitative information.

Veterans Population

The need to know about the number and characteristics of the veterans population in New Zealand was expressed during consultation. Veterans' Affairs have responsibility for providing services to those people who have seen active service in a war, including those in a peacekeeping role. The issue is that the total number of people, and therefore the total liability, is not known to the government. While Veterans' Affairs have good information on more recent veterans, there is no information on the numbers of older veterans that are not accessing services. The profile or characteristics of the veterans population is also changing over time, making it more difficult to predict the nature of services that might be needed in the future. A question on this topic was last asked in the 1971 Census. While the information needs explicit in this submission are acknowledged, currently there is insufficient demand for a question about veterans.

Topics Out of Scope

These topics were deemed to be outside the scope of the census in terms of its statutory requirement to collect information on the characteristics of people and dwellings in New Zealand. They will not be included in the 2006 Census.

Farm Activity

It was requested that information be collected on whether the occupants of each household operate a farm and if so, the size of the farm and the predominant activity of the farm. This information would be used to help improve farm coverage in the annual Agriculture Survey. It is clear that significant work would be needed to develop clear and unambiguous questions on farming activity. An example would be the significant problem in defining and identifying 'life-style blocks'. There is also a question as to the relationship between farming activity – which is about business activity, and the census – which is essentially about the characteristics of people and dwellings.

Marine Fishing

It was seen that this information would enable an estimate to be produced that would show the percentage of the population that recreationally fished for marine species in the previous year. Apart from being beyond the scope of the census, this topic would require a number of related questions to be asked in order to provide usable information, and would therefore be more suited to collection via some other means.

Number of Cats per Household

Collection of data on the number of cats per household was requested during consultation. The submitter noted the importance of this information in relation to issues around conservation and damage to native species, health and asthma, and controlling numbers. Some cat owners would perceive that the only possible motives for the topic would be to restrict cat ownership, introduce licensing, or force neutering, which may lead to high non-response. It is likely that the resulting data would be of questionable quality.

Regional Economic Data

Although this topic was raised during content consultation, it did not relate to information from the census, but to the need for IRD administrative data about businesses. The submission noted the need for robust sector and regional economic information to inform regional planning decisions, and the lack of robust information on economic performance at a regional level. It was suggested that Statistics New Zealand's Regional Economic Indicator Series (REI), which provides information on GST sales figures, had been discontinued. The REI is currently produced as an experimental series, available on request. The most recent data available at the time of writing is March 2003.

Participation in Political Process and Awareness of Local Government Planning

New topics that were of interest to local government included participation in political processes and awareness of local government planning. However, it was acknowledged that these topics were probably not appropriate for the census, given its focus on the characteristics of people and dwellings in New Zealand.

*Chapter 4***Issues Raised during Consultation**

The content consultation process was focused on census topics. However, during the submission and consultative process, a number of issues were raised which were not topic- or census-based. While not within the scope of content development, some of these issues will be revisited, where appropriate, during the remaining phases of designing and testing the 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings. They are included here for reference.

Key Issues**Archiving**

At the 2001 Census, Statistics New Zealand gave respondents the choice of whether or not to archive their individual form. All dwelling forms were destroyed. This approach applied only to the 2001 Census, meaning that a decision on archiving needs to be revisited for 2006.

During consultation strong support for the retention of both individual and dwelling forms was provided by some historians, genealogists and genealogical societies.

Statistics New Zealand has begun investigations into preparing for a decision on archiving for 2006. The primary issues of concern for Statistics New Zealand are to determine what effect archiving may have on cooperation with the census as indicated by respondent behaviour (including response rates) and data quality. In addition, Statistics New Zealand must make its decision with full regard of existing legislation (Statistics Act and Privacy Act). To assist Statistics New Zealand to gain more insight into the perceived importance of archiving census questionnaires, Archives New Zealand is currently undertaking an appraisal of census questionnaires and content and will deliver its appraisal report in late December 2003.

This information will be considered alongside other statistical information, such as previous investigations into the impact of archiving on respondent behaviour, and views of the public concerning confidentiality and privacy. Information provided by a number of overseas statistical agencies, who have been asked about their approach to archiving of census material and the relevant legislation influencing their archival decisions, will also be considered.

Confidentiality and Privacy

During consultation there was repeated reference to concerns over confidentiality and privacy. These concerns persist in spite of the fact that the Statistics Act places a legal obligation on the department to ensure that information identifying individuals is never released. Statistics New Zealand is forbidden, under this Act, from sharing information about individuals with other agencies. This obligation has never been breached in the 150-year history of the census.

Statistics New Zealand is acutely aware of respondents' privacy concerns and its legal obligations and puts strict confidentiality procedures in place during all phases of the census. The department will continue its work on informing respondents of confidentiality provisions.

In publishing census data, Statistics New Zealand employs a number of measures to protect the confidentiality of individual information. The information collected in the census is released to the public as aggregated data. All outputs are randomly rounded and subject to restrictions where there are small geographies and/or small populations.

Non-response and Undercount

Statistics New Zealand is constantly seeking ways of maintaining and improving response rates to its surveys, particularly the census. During consultation, feedback on ways to improve response rates was actively sought and participants have provided some good suggestions for Statistics New Zealand to evaluate further.

Other Issues

- Abolition of census
- Access to census data
- Census frequency
- Data coding
- Data quality
- Enumeration issues
- Metadata
- Multilingual and bilingual census forms
- Output tool
- Outputs
- Post-censal surveys
- Post-enumeration survey
- Review census role and structure
- Short / long form
- Statistics New Zealand data (non-census)
- Street facet geocoding.