

[Home](#) › [About the Census](#) › [About the Census questions](#) › Details of people who are away

Details of people who are away

Information about details of people who are away questions in the Census and how to answer them.

About the Census questions

[Address](#)[People in the household](#)[Personal details](#)[Cultural background](#)[Personal characteristics and education](#)[Income and work](#)[Details of people who are away](#)

On this page

[People who are away](#)[Dwellings and housing](#)[National Archives](#)

People who are away

These questions help us understand more about the make-up of families and households in Australia. They make sure we count people who usually live at an address but were away on Census night.

Were there any people away on the night of Tuesday 11 August 2026 who usually live in this dwelling?

(Q58 in the Census Household Form)

This refers to anyone who usually lives at this address but was away on Census night, Tuesday 11 August 2026. The person may be away just for the night or for a longer period. Reasons why someone might be away include:

- being in hospital
- staying with relatives or friends
- being on a short-term work assignment

- being on holidays
- being a student away at boarding school
- being a child in shared care arrangements staying elsewhere on Census night.

Shift workers (including nurses, truck drivers and security guards) who spent the night of Tuesday 11 August 2026 at work, but returned home on Wednesday 12 August 2026, should be counted as present at this address, not as away. Details for these people should be completed in the form.

Remember that each person who was away on Census night, but still in Australia, must complete a Census form for the place where they were staying.

For each person away, complete the following questions

(Q59 in the Census Household Form)

- Name
- Date of birth and age
- Sex recorded at birth
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin
- Is the person a full-time student?
- Relationship to person 1/person 2.