

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

Issued by the authority of the Assistant Treasurer

*Census and Statistics Act 1905*

Proclamation appointing Census day

Subsection 8(1) of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (the Act) provides that the Census shall be taken in the year 1981 and every fifth year thereafter, and at such other times as are prescribed. Thus the next National Census is to be conducted in 2011.

Subsection 8(2) of the Act requires that the Census day shall be appointed for that purpose by proclamation.

The purpose of the Proclamation is to appoint the Census day for the 2011 Census. The previous Census, held in 2006, was conducted on 8 August 2006. To maintain comparability of the time series data it is important that the 2011 Census be conducted as close as possible to that date. The Census also needs to avoid school holidays to ensure as full coverage as possible of persons in their usual place of residence.

Thus, the Proclamation has appointed 9 August 2011 as the day on which the 2011 Census will be taken.

The Act specifies no conditions that need to be satisfied before the power to make the Proclamation may be exercised.

The Proclamation is a legislative instrument for the purposes of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*.

### **Consultation**

In February 2008, the Australian Statistician announced that the 2011 Census would be conducted on a comparable basis to the 2006 Census due to budgetary pressures. As a consequence of this decision, the public consultation process that had been underway was withdrawn.

The ABS values the support of the nation in conducting the five yearly Census of Population and Housing and will consider all submissions received for the 2011 Census as part of the preparations for the 2016 Census. The ABS will invite further comment at that time.