

Frequently Asked Questions



workingaustralia.org.au

QJ What is the Working Australia Census? Who is it being conducted for/by?

The Working Australia Census is the biggest ever survey of workers in Australia's history. It is open to all Australian workers. It is being conducted by the ACTU on behalf of all Australian unions. It is open at workingaustralia.org.au. The survey is being hosted on a secure online server by research company Your Source.

The census is also being proudly supported by ME Bank.

QJ When is it being held?

The survey is open to the public from Monday, 2 May until Friday, 1 July, 2011.

QJ Can only union members do the survey?

The survey is open to everyone, but only union members, or non-members expressing a genuine intention to join a union, are eligible for the prizes.

QJ Why are unions running this survey?

Unions want to hear from working Australians about the issues that matter to them: challenges in the workplace, job security, balancing work and family, cost of living pressures and fairness in the workplace and society. The information will be used to help shape the future agenda, campaigns and policies of Australian unions.

QJ What kinds of questions are you asking?

The topic areas covered include employment status, hours of work, job satisfaction, attitudes to work, working conditions and pay, household economics, and union activism.

QJ How long does the survey take to complete?

The survey should take about 20 minutes to complete online. Most questions are multiple choice, but some provide the option of written answers. There is no

“save and return” function in the survey. Once you start the survey you must complete it. However there is no time limit, so you can take as long as you need.

QJ What will happen to the results?

The survey provide a valuable resource about challenges in the modern workplace, job security, cost of living, work/life balance, the role of unions, and fairness in Australia that will be used to shape union campaigns and policies.

The ACTU also intends to publish a report about the results of the survey.

QJ How many people do you want to complete the census?

There is no specific target, but the Working Australia Census is expected to far exceed previous surveys by unions, which have had response rates as high as 10,000.

QJ What if people do not have access to the internet, can they still participate?

Yes, some unions in industry sectors without widespread internet access will be producing paper copies. If you wish to complete the survey, but do not have internet access, you may also contact Unions Australia on 1300 4 UNION.

QJ What are the prizes? What is the eligibility for prizes?

There are three prizes worth \$1000 available. In NSW the \$1000 will be available in voucher form to either Coles group or Woolworths groups. In all other states it will be a \$1000 cash. This prize draw is being made possible by the support of ME Bank.

Union members who complete the survey and leave their contact details are eligible to go in the prize draw. ACTU staff and their immediate family are not.

For full terms and conditions see www.workingaustralia.org.au

Q] Are you asking for contact details?

Yes, the census does ask for contact details for people entering the prize draw. The census also asks for the contact details if people indicate they would like to be more involved or they are interested in joining a union.

Q] How will contact details be used?

The contact details will only be used for the purpose stated in the questions, either to enter the prize draw or if a respondent has indicated they would like to be more involved or join a union.

If a respondent has indicated they would like to join their union, that will either be done through Unions Australia or the details will be provided to the relevant union for follow up.

If a respondent has indicated that they are a member and are interested in being more involved their details will be passed along to the relevant union where that can be determined, or they will be contacted by the ACTU.

Q] Is all the information private?

Yes, responses to the survey will remain private and confidential and only be available to the ACTU, Your Source and EMC who will write the initial headline report. The information collected will only be used by the ACTU in its ongoing campaigns to improve the position of Australian workers or a directly related purpose.

Contact details will only be used for the purpose stated in the question.

Q] Why aren't you asking what union respondents are a member of?

Often people are not clear what union they are a member of or confuse branches. A decision was made not to include this question as the data collected would not be accurate.

Q] Is the survey available in languages other than English?

At this stage no, but in limited circumstances translators can be made available through the ACTU. Call 1300 4 86466 for more information.

Q] Who do you contact if you experience technical problems?

Your Source is hosting the survey and maintaining the technical support. If you experience technical difficulty or others reports technical problems email workingaustralia@yrsource.com

Q] When does the census finish?

The census closes Friday, 1 July 2011.

Q] Can union staff do the survey? Are they eligible for the prize?

Yes, union staff can do the survey and are encouraged to so they know what is being asked in the survey. Union staff, apart from employees of the ACTU, are also eligible to go into the prize draw.

Q] Can I forward the census to my family and friends?

Yes, absolutely. You are encouraged to forward the census information to family and friends and any other networks. Also feel free to post the link on your Facebook or Twitter as well and encourage people to participate and also to promote the census.

Q] When is the real census?

The ABS census is being conducted this year and census night will be on 9th August.

Further information

For more information about the Working Australia Census 2011,
go to workingaustralia.org.au, or phone 1300 486 466

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