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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS  
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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CENSUS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

30 JUNE 1966

SPECIAL STATEMENT - FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINES

STATES AND TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA

This statement contains preliminary results of the Census of 30 June 1966. It shows details of the number of full-blood Aborigines enumerated in each State and Territory of Australia together with figures obtained at the previous Census taken in 1961.

2. The 1966 figures are preliminary and subject to amendment.

Coverage

3. A full-blood Aborigine is defined as a person who describes himself as having more than 50 per cent Aboriginal blood.

4. Full-blood Aborigines have been enumerated in all Censuses of the Commonwealth. However, the degree of coverage and information obtained has varied substantially since 1911. Since the Census taken in 1933, the coverage and adequacy of the particulars obtained have improved progressively, as a result both of increased efforts to enumerate those full-blood Aborigines "out of contact" and of an increasing number of Aborigines coming into contact with more populated areas.

5. At the 1966 Census extensive arrangements were made to obtain as full a coverage of full-blood Aborigines as possible. Throughout Australia the assistance of Aboriginal welfare bodies, mission superintendents, station owners, patrol officers and police was sought in an effort to include all Aborigines and to obtain complete information about them. In particular, in the Northern Territory, which in 1961 accounted for 43 per cent of the Aboriginal population of Australia, information was obtained from missions and settlements concerning Aborigines normally resident at such locations but who were absent at the time of the Census, and of Aborigines resident at such locations but who normally reside elsewhere. The two sets of information were then reconciled to produce what is considered to be a fairly complete and accurate coverage of Aborigines in the Territory.

Form of the inquiry

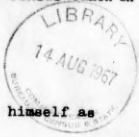
6. At Censuses prior to the 1966 Census the instructions relating to race were such that they allowed a relatively high degree of subjective judgment on the part of respondents. No definition of either full-blood or half-caste was contained in the Schedule. For example, from 1933 to 1961 persons were asked to state:

"For persons of European Race, wherever born, write "European". For non-Europeans state the race to which they belong for example, "Aboriginal", "Chinese", "Negro", "Afghan", etc. If the person is half-caste with one parent of European race, write also "H.C.", for example "H.C. Aboriginal", "H.C. Chinese", etc."

At the 1966 Census the instructions were redesigned as follows:

"State each person's race. For persons of European race wherever born, write "European". Otherwise state whether Aboriginal, Chinese, Indian, Japanese, etc., as the case may be. If of more than one race give particulars, for example,  $\frac{1}{2}$  European -  $\frac{1}{2}$  Aboriginal,  $\frac{3}{4}$  Aboriginal -  $\frac{1}{4}$  Chinese,  $\frac{1}{2}$  European -  $\frac{1}{2}$  Chinese".

7. From the responses made in accordance with the instructions used in the 1966 Census it has been possible to classify all persons correctly within the limits of the definitions adopted. At previous Censuses this was not possible.



8. This improvement in classification has resulted in a greater number of persons being correctly classified as "full-blood". However, investigation has revealed that some persons who answered "H.C." in 1961, answered "Aboriginal" in 1966, and were consequently classified as full-blood. This may have resulted in some degree of overstatement of the number of full-blood Aborigines in 1966.

9. There is also evidence that a number of Aborigines do not know their blood levels. This was evident particularly in cases where the blood levels of children of Aboriginal parents did not correspond correctly with those of the parents.

10. Nevertheless, statistics for 1966 must be regarded as a more adequate measure of the number of full-blood Aborigines in Australia and cannot be regarded as strictly comparable with those for 1961.

11. Totals of the number of full-blood Aborigines in each State and Territory of Australia are shown in the following table. At a later date it is proposed to undertake an analysis of all persons with Aboriginal blood as enumerated in the 1966 Census, and a publication containing the results of this analysis, which will include statistics of characteristics of full-blood Aborigines, will then be issued.

FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINES (a) : STATES AND TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA  
CENSUSES 1961 AND 1966

State or Territory	Census, 30 June 1961			Census, 30 June 1966		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
New South Wales	791	697	1,488	1,493	1,262	2,755
Victoria	141	112	253	146	168	314
Queensland	4,686	4,000	8,686	5,267	4,934	10,201
South Australia	1,181	966	2,147	1,578	1,353	2,931
Western Australia	4,243	3,878	(b)8,121	5,978	5,564	11,542
Tasmania	..	..	..	..	..	..
Northern Territory	7,857	7,585	(b)15,442	9,419	9,175	18,594
Australian Capital Territory	..	..	..	14	5	19
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>18,899</b>	<b>17,238</b>	<b>(b)36,137</b>	<b>23,895</b>	<b>22,461</b>	<b>46,356</b>

(a) Figures for 1966 are not strictly comparable with those for 1961. See above.

(b) It is estimated that, at the 1961 Census, 2,000 full-blood Aborigines in Western Australia and 1,944 in the Northern Territory (3,944 in total) were not contacted by census collectors and hence not included in the Census. In 1966, for reasons given in paragraph 5 and 8 above, coverage should be virtually complete.

**K. M. ARCHER**  
**COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN**

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

11 AUGUST 1967

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 41971, Extension 25 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.