



Benefits of conducting the school census online

Anonymity and Privacy

- No student particulars are sent to **goVote**, and none of the questions in the survey require students to identify themselves, or their school. Students authenticate themselves by using individual PIN numbers, which are allocated by their teacher.
- From the moment students press the “submit” button, the **goVote** system ensures that their responses remain anonymous.
- All responses are cleared from the student’s screen immediately after they submit, so that nobody can see what they submitted.
- Responses are also immediately cleared from the cache of the student’s browser, so that nobody can use the “back” button to see what they submitted.
- The **goVote** system processes PINs separately from the responses, and it is impossible to correlate a set of responses with a particular PIN.
- **goVote** complies with the privacy Act, and our privacy policy is available for public scrutiny on our web site: <http://www.govote.com.au/privacy.htm>

Security

- No data is sent via e-mail, because it does not provide adequate security or privacy, and it is susceptible to both accidental and malicious interference.
- Each student has an individual session with the secure **goVote** server. (there is no limit to the number of sessions which can run simultaneously)
- **goVote** provides 128 bit Secure Socket Layer (SSL) session encryption as the default, to ensure that what is sent to **goVote** gets to **goVote** and cannot be read by anyone else. This provides the same level of security as on line banking. In those schools where their network does not support this level of security, students can complete the survey without encryption if they wish.
- Only students who present a valid PIN will be able to download the survey, and each PIN will only allow one completed survey form to be submitted.
- There are several other security features in the **goVote** system that ensure ballot integrity.

Quality assurance

- Respondents can complete the census using Mac, Unix or PC machines, anywhere, any time.
- There are no transcription errors or breaches of privacy resulting from students copying data onto spreadsheets.
- Input is automatically validated, guaranteeing that mandatory questions have been answered, and minimising “dirty” data.
- **goVote** provides help and information for teachers, parents and students; both online and by telephone.

- The **goVote** system has been used by a number of clients and the underlying technology has been proven.
- A fully functional Pilot census is run and evaluated prior to going live.
- **goVote** provides consultation and advice on how best to use the online environment to make the census both interesting for the student and effective to the teacher as a class room activity.
- Students can print out their completed census form before submitting it, giving them a permanent record of their own input.
- Each student receives an individual receipt on line, which they can print out, that confirms that their submission has been received. All receipts will be published after the census, so that students can verify that their submission has been counted.
- The **goVote** system runs automatically, authenticating students, downloading the census form, validating data entry, performing security checks, monitoring PIN activity, storing the data, backing it up and issuing receipts. This not only improves the quality of the data gathered, but also reduces the amount of teachers' time required in the classroom, and the time required for administration tasks.
- A copy of the census is provided online for parents and any other interested parties to explore.
- Because the census form is a web page, it can be made much more interesting and user friendly than a printed page.
- The census can contain interactive questions (e.g. the reaction timer in the senior school census online)
- The census can contain links to any type of web content, enabling respondents to inform themselves (in private) prior to answering questions.
- Classroom time is spent interacting with the census, not handing out forms, tabulating results or completing any other administration tasks.
- There is no manual processing of returns, so very large numbers of returns can be automatically processed in a short period, 24 hours a day, every day.
- All the data is available very soon after the census closes.