

Monday, 31 March 2003



**For immediate release**

**South Australian School Census is biggest online  
census ever conducted in Australia.**

Over recent weeks, school students across South Australian have been participating in the Secondary school census, which is being run entirely on the Internet. So far, over 15,000 students from metropolitan and country areas have participated, and more returns are coming in at the rate of 1,200 to 1,500 each day. "It is already the biggest online census ever conducted in Australia" said **John Hendrickson from goVote**, who are providing the software and systems behind the census.

Next term, students will use the data to enrich their learning of statistics at all levels of secondary school.

"It is rare that students get to work with large, real data sets and even more rare to work with one to which they contributed" said **Anthony Harradine, Director of the Noel Baker Centre for Mathematics**, who is coordinating this state wide project. The census was originally intended for South Australian schools only, but word has spread. Maths Teachers in WA and the Northern Territory have now heard about the census and their students are being included.

"This will be a unique educational experience because students have been involved in all three phases: designing the questions, participating in the census, and using the data in their learning. This revolutionary approach will benefit both teachers and students, and bring their study of mathematics into their zone." Mr. Harradine said

The census can only be completed online, and full details, including a list of the questions, are available on the census web site, [www.censusonline.net](http://www.censusonline.net). "We have made the questions public so that all secondary students, parents, teachers and the community in general can see them, but participation in the census is restricted to those students who have been allocated an individual PIN by their teacher" said Mr. Harradine. "Teachers can obtain PINs and learning materials from the Baker Centre or via the census web site" he said.

**goVote** are collecting and storing the data using the same level of security as that used for online banking, and none of the questions can be used to identify individual schools or students. "Student anonymity and privacy are maintained throughout the whole process, and each student will get a receipt to confirm that their data has been included. The receipt will also act as the student's ticket in the draw for digital cameras, printers and other prizes." Mr. Harradine said.

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