

Article TNT Online

Online census launched

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Australian expats can make sure they are counted despite being out of the country on census night, by filling in an online survey launched today.

To coincide with the official Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census on Tuesday, advocacy organisation the Southern Cross Group (SCG), in partnership with networking group Advance, have launched One Million More, an independent census on the overseas population.

With an estimated one million Australians outside the country, SCG co-founder Anne MacGregor said it was vital an accurate snapshot of the Australian diaspora was taken.

“The Australian census is great in that they are going to count everybody at home on Tuesday, but, there are a million more people overseas,” she said.

“Australia is not just Australians in Australia, it is the sum of all Australians no matter where they are. They all make us great.”

The SCG has been campaigning for the rights of Australian expats for the past seven years, providing submissions to the Australian Government on issues such as access to information, citizenship and voting rights.

MacGregor said more precise information about the global expat community was needed than that which had been collected in previous academic surveys.

“We are hoping that this survey will be more representative than anything that has been done before,” she said.

To fill in the survey, follow the links at www.southern-cross-group.org. The survey is open until September 30.