

One million to miss out on Australian census

One million Australians – the estimated number living abroad – will be missing from this week's census for Australian households. To ensure that we are not 'forgotten', an online survey will try to create a record of those living overseas.

AN unofficial census of the one million Australians living overseas is being undertaken to compensate for their absence from the official census. While the official census on Tuesday focuses on households in Australia, about five per cent of all Australians - those living abroad - will not be included.

"[It is] a step towards making sure that at least some of the approximately one million Australians who live outside Australia are not forgotten."

Southern Cross Group and Advance - expatriate associations in the UK and the US respectively - are teaming up to try to track down Australians abroad. "We thought this would be a step towards making sure that at least some of the approximately one million Australians who live outside Australia are not forgotten," Southern Cross Group founder Anna McGregor said.

There have been past inquiries into whether expats could be included in the official census, but it had proved too difficult. "The word census implies it's comprehensive, and when it comes to expats, you just can't find them all," she added.

Southern Cross Group is hoping to find 10,000 Australians to make the survey sample representative. With the UK having the biggest population of Australians living abroad it is hoped that many here will take the time to complete the 50 questions in the survey. *MP*

One Million More – the Census of Australians Abroad will remain online until Saturday 30 September. For more info or to take part in the survey, go to www.onemillionmore.com.