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Census 2016: The most significant invasion of privacy ever perpetrated on
Australians

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General Maddox, August 8, 2016

Overview:

This article reports the new changes in the Australian census for 2016. In the last year, the Australian Bureau of Statistics announced a new change in the Australian census in the fact that they are going to retain the information no matter what. Previously an optional choice for Australian residents, they now face great worry with this new change. The author writes about the Australian Government is following a new “Security over Privacy” approach to their citizens. Many people do not find this to be a good change as the government can now do anything with the information over the next few years until the next census. Another problem is that if the Government is holding the data, hackers can also access the data.

Analysis:

Major Ethical issue:

The issue faced in this report is the non-optional retention of citizen's personal information. Many residents feel that this is a breach of their privacy. Over the past few years, the Australian Government has been doing many things that the Australians deem is a breach of their personal rights, and many are very worried about the outcome.

Stakeholders:

The stakeholders in this situation are not only the residents of Australia, but also the Australian Government. For the people living in Australia, there may be

severe issues with the Government holding all of the data given on the census, which many are afraid of. For the Government, this could cause major outrage from the citizens, which could in turn create distrust or outrage targeted at them.

Decision makers/Who is affected:

The decision maker in this situation was the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The decided to implement the new census rule which would store every resident's information. The people affected are the Australian people. All of the information they provide will now be stored in Government databases without choice. If they choose not to submit their census, they could be fined very large amounts.

Relevant Theory:

A theory that could apply to the actions of the Australian Government is Ethical Egoism. These past few years the Government has been acting in complete self-interest and has not taken into account how the residents are responding. They keep pushing their "Security over Privacy" approach to governing and it is making many citizens very upset.

Solutions:

The solution to this matter would be to hear out the people against their newly found direction. If the Government was to come to an agreement with the people, it would fix a lot of issues the country is facing.