

MAKE YOUR OCCUPATION COUNT — CENSUS NIGHT, TUESDAY 11 AUGUST 2026

A one-page guide for our leaders: using the right OSCA occupation titles and descriptions

Why this matters

The 2026 Census is the first coded to the new **Occupation Standard Classification for Australia (OSCA 2024)**, which — for the first time — recognises occupations like **Outdoor Adventure Leader or Guide (462438)**. Census occupation data drives government decisions on funding, training, skills lists and workforce planning. If we describe our roles vaguely, we get coded into generic categories and our sector is invisible in the national data.

How your answer becomes a code

The Census form never asks for a code. It asks two things about your **main job in the week before Census night**: (1) your occupation title, and (2) the main tasks you usually do. ABS coders match your exact words to a 6-digit OSCA occupation — so the words you write decide the code you get.

Titles that code correctly

If your role is...	Write this as your occupation title	OSCA code
Outdoor leader, guide or instructor	<i>Outdoor Adventure Leader; Outdoor Recreation Instructor; Bushwalking or Trekking Guide; Rock Climbing Instructor; Fishing Guide</i>	462438
Activity-specific instructor or coach	<i>Name the activity: Swimming Instructor (462442); Snowsport Instructor (462441); Diving Instructor – Open Water (462432); Horse Riding Coach (462435); “Canoe Coach” etc.</i>	4624xx
Sport / recreation organisation administrator	<i>Sports Administrator</i> (peak bodies, clubs, associations)	149133
Centre or venue manager	<i>Sports Centre Manager; Outdoor Recreation Centre Manager</i>	161335
Chief executive / general manager	<i>Chief Executive Officer (121131); General Manager (121231)</i> – add your industry, e.g. “CEO – outdoor recreation organisation”	1211xx

Do

- ✓ Be specific — “Outdoor Adventure Leader”, not “Leader”; “Rock Climbing Instructor”, not “Instructor”.
- ✓ Describe tasks in OSCA’s language: “lead and supervise participants in outdoor adventure activities; instruct in equipment and techniques; manage group safety and risk”.
- ✓ Answer for the job you worked the most hours in last week — even if it’s seasonal or part-time.

Don’t

- ✗ Use internal titles, levels or acronyms — “Team Leader Grade 3”, “Activity staff”, “Program Coordinator”.
- ✗ Write vague one-word answers — “Manager”, “Guide”, “Coach”, “Consultant” — these fall into catch-all “nec” codes.

Example of a good answer

Occupation: Outdoor Adventure Leader

Main tasks: Leading and instructing groups in outdoor adventure activities (bushwalking, abseiling, canoeing); managing participant safety and risk; setting up and maintaining outdoor equipment.

Look up your exact title before Census night: search the OSCA classification at abs.gov.au (OSCA 2024 v1.0). Occupation data from this Census will be released from October 2027 — make sure our sector is in it.