Communication with SLT on 6/4/2016

Context: The VMO is a key opportunity to gather evidence in a test driven census environment. It is not the only opportunity. Parallel testing will be progressed on a small number of identified topics to feed into content considerations for Census Test 2. What goes into the VMO will look different to what goes into Census Test 2.

Note: Dwelling F = DF, Individual Form = IF

Content considerations on variables for volume test following QMD testing feedback

High level overview of content recommendations:

- Removal of Gender Identity questions on IF
- Removal of tenure question on DF and tick box in Tenure Holder question on IF
- Removal of Cold question on DF
- Inclusion of all other tested content with some refinement for some questions

Sex (third response option) – INCLUDE in volume test with 'indeterminate' to test public response

1. Testing feedback is that third category 'intersex' works fine but 'indeterminate' was also working for self-completed form
2. *QMD recommends intersex as third option for volume test with help information available*
3. Working group (primarily classifications) flagged that using 'intersex' would necessitate a major review of the standard, current testing indicates that either term would work (and meet human rights issue) even if intersex respondents preferred 'intersex'

VVL: Agree with inclusion

Though there's still a lot of work to do in terms of how to adapt the imputation process and derivations, including how to assess the quality of the derivations

Gender Identity – OUT of VMO, further work outside of census TBD

1. Question was working for respondents to complete but non-lgbtqi respondents found it confusing at times
2. *QMD recommends inclusion in VMO with help information*
3. Evidence from testing suggests it is not possible to distinctly identify trans-gender subpopulation in a self-completed form given the complexity of their identity (often respond with male/female)

VVL: Agree with exclusion

- This question is not designed to identify transgender respondents so would not be able to meet that need
- This has caused quite a bit of noise with other variables such as Sex and Number Born (Fertility)

Sexual Orientation – INCLUDE in volume test

1. *QMD recommends inclusion in volume test with help information available*
2. Volume test inclusion will enable assessment of quantifiable data

VVL: Agree with inclusion; though more work needs to be done around how the data will be output and the suitability of asking this question without any age limitations

Second Address – INCLUDE with further refinement for VMO

1. *QMD recommends not including with further testing for possible inclusion in dress rehearsal*
2. Need to include guide-notes and test later in form further from usual address
3. Working group has recommended inclusion of other tickbox for VMO to allow assessment of other types of second dwellings to better understand other occurences

VVL: DISAGREE with inclusion

- This has caused noise/confusion with usual residence (which is critical to the census) and for family/household data (just a reminder that we have half the time for data evaluation this time around; in 2013 we needed all the time allotted for data evaluation due to the complexities around family/household data).
- This has included previous residences (if the respondent has lived less than a year at their usual residence) and instances where an adult lives with a parent part of the time (which does not meet users' needs for shared care/custody), and quite a few responses under 'other'
- The noise/confusion/examples above means that second residence is unlikely to help with NRFU – we are capturing addresses that do not provide occupancy status, may not be relevant for the timeframe of the census, and may need further investigation beyond what we have planned for Field/Geography.

Address 1 yr / 5 yrs – INCLUDE ONE YEAR AND FIVE YEARS

1. *QMD recommends inclusion of 1 year only*
2. Need to fully assess burden in real world environment (along with online form design in addressing space)

VVL: Will need further discussions with PopStats/other SMAs about prioritization

Step Families – INCLUDE in VMO with further refinement of question

1. large scale testing will enable analysis of Māori interpretation and prevalence
2. *QMD recommends further testing outside of VMO*
3. content meeting – suggested simplification of question (QMD raised issue of identifying nature of step relationships complex)

   () have no step family

   () step family I live with at usual address

   () Step family I do not live with at usual address

   - issues with living arrangements question

   - issues with Māori interpretation raised

VVL: DISAGREE with inclusion

- Large scale testing will not provide insight into Māori interpretation and understanding, especially since we have no way to follow-up with respondents as to how they understood the question/response options; this is more appropriate for targeted discussions/cogtesting with Māori respondents

- This has created noise/confusion with the living arrangements question, which is critical for family coding
- The proposed simplified response options above has not been cogtested; based on previous tests with respondents, it may still confuse people because of the use of 'usual address'
- The recommended reworded response options also do not address what respondents had raised, i.e., who counts as 'step-family' – which may indicate that the question may not meet users' needs

Travel to education/address – INCLUDE in VMO with refinement (with usual means) – simplify educational institution address

1. *QMD recommends inclusion with travel on census day, asking only for 'name of educational institution' and 'city, town or campus' rather than exact street address of educational institution*
2. Change in concept is important for users

VVL: Agree with inclusion; but we will likely need more details around the institution (e.g., add suburb), particularly for educational institutions that have multiple campuses in one city.

Travel to work – INCLUDE (with usual means)

1. *QMD recommends inclusion but with census day travel as conceptually easier for respondents*

VVL: Agree with inclusion

Tenure-holder: License to occupy – OUT of VMO, more work required prior to Census Test 2 content decision considerations

1. *QMD recommends out of VMO, revert to 2013 approach*
2. Include tenure holder question on IF

VVL: Agree with exclusion; strongly recommend looking into admin data instead, given that all respondents tested (including those that had a license to occupy) were confused by the question/response option

Highest qualification change – INCLUDE with small change

1. *QMD recommends inclusion with collapsing categories if possible*

VVL: Agree with inclusion

Smoking – INCLUDE

1. *QMD suggests removal as cyclic topic to make space*
2. Strong user need in this area for this data at this point in time

VVL: Agree with inclusion, with reservations (as this is a cyclical topic)

Babies – INCLUDE

1. *QMD suggests removal as cyclic topic to make space/remove complications with new gender/sex questions*
2. Issues with gender question will be minimised by removal of gender identity

VVL: Agree with inclusion

Voluntary work/Unpaid Activities – INCLUDE with refinement (likely revert to old unpaid activities format)

1. If data cannot be collected on hours, additional value of new format will be minimal. Old format will be better for respondents and retain data comparability
2. QMD recommends inclusion but mentions concept is less inclusive of old unpaid activities response options and therefore less respondents indicating in
3. Respondents have difficulty with hours over past 4 weeks
4. Some difficulty with volunteering for other households category conceptually

VVL: Agree with inclusion of the 2013 version of the question/response options

Activities Limitation / Disability – INCLUDE

1. Need for quantifiable data to analyse for this variable to properly assess quality/comparability with interview administered versions of the Washington Group questions
2. *QMD advises more testing/refinement before possible later inclusion in Dress Rehearsal*
3. Matrix format recommended for paper form -> question by question format online
4. Uncertainty around comparability of either question set with international measures (self complete vs interviewer)
5. *QMD advises there are difficulties with interpretation re: assistive devices and some/a lot of difficulty (which would impact on main indicator of limitations output), also difficulty assessing answers within context of a health problem*

VVL: DISAGREE with inclusion

- Clear respondent burden, which, given the priority level, would need justification
- May not meet users' needs – as QMD has indicated, responses may not be due to health/physical limitation. So while respondents may be able to provide responses, I would caution interpreting the data as indicative of health/physical limitations when they may not be related to that at all

Number of rooms – INCLUDE with refinement

QMD recommends inclusion with minor tweaks

VVL: Agree with inclusion

Heating appliances – INCLUDE with refinement

QMD recommends inclusion with minor tweaks

VVL: Agree with inclusion

Housing quality (below):

Content is getting a feedback statement from key users on importance of this data and usability of data points (ie. a4 paper size mould)

Amenities – INCLUDE with possible refinement (need more data responses to assess how this is working)

1. *QMD recommends further testing outside of VMO*
2. targeted and large scale testing will assist in this area
3. possible inversion of question format to reduce burden

VVL: DISAGREE with inclusion

- Respondent burden as most people tested have all amenities
- QMD has also indicated that respondents who may not have some of the amenities may be hesitant to report it
- Targeted testing would potentially provide more information – this cannot be done in the volume test

Cold – OUT of VMO (too subjective relative to other data points on housing quality)

QMD recommends inclusion with reservations around subjectivity

VVL: Agree with exclusion

Damp – INCLUDE

QMD recommends inclusion with reservations

VVL: DISAGREE with inclusion; this is just as subjective as the cold question

Mould – INCLUDE

QMD recommends inclusion with reservations

VVL: DISAGREE with inclusion

- While we have relied on cogtesting to test if people understand and can reply, we have no way of testing if how they responded is accurate – that is, does their dwelling actually have that amount of mould? This is why all the previous research has relied not just on respondent's answers but used a trained assessor as well.
- There is no health implication for mould that is larger than an A4 sheet of paper. We are creating an expectation among respondents that this has health implications, and we could potentially be causing them stress/concern. QMD's research has found that it's the amount and **type** of mould that has health implications, which we cannot assess in a self-response survey like the census.