

# Remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) N

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au).

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at [meteor@aihw.gov.au](mailto:meteor@aihw.gov.au).

# Remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) N

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Value Domain
<b>Synonymous names:</b>	Remoteness area; Remoteness structure
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	531713
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Health</a> , Superseded 06/09/2018
<b>Definition:</b>	Australian Statistical Geography Standard-Remoteness Area (ASGS-RA) is a geographical classification which defines locations in terms of remoteness, i.e. the physical distance of a location from the nearest <a href="#">Urban Centre</a> .
<b>Context:</b>	<p>Geographic remoteness is essentially a measure of a physical location's level of access to goods and services. Large population centres tend to have a greater range of goods and services available than small centres. Typically, a population centre is not likely to provide a full range of goods and services until its population reaches around 250,000 people.</p> <p>The measures of remoteness used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) are based on population estimates obtained from the Census of Population and Housing, conducted every 5 years. Remoteness measures are calculated using Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+) scores, which are based on the distance of geographic locations from the nearest population centre in various size ranges. The lower the ARIA+ score for a location, the better its level of access to goods and services.</p> <p>Information in relation to how remoteness is defined and calculated is available from the Geography portal on the ABS website.</p> <p>Information in relation to how ARIA+ scores are calculated for physical locations is available from the Australian Population and Migration Research Centre (APMRC) website.</p>

## Representational attributes

<b>Classification scheme:</b>	<a href="#">Australian Statistical Geography Standard 2011</a>	
<b>Representation class:</b>	Code	
<b>Data type:</b>	Number	
<b>Format:</b>	N	
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	1	
	<b>Value</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>Permissible values:</b>	1	Major cities of Australia
	2	Inner regional Australia
	3	Outer regional Australia
	4	Remote Australia
	5	Very remote Australia
	6	Migratory
<b>Supplementary values:</b>	9	Not stated/inadequately described

## Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:**

CODE 1 Major cities of Australia

'Major cities of Australia' includes Statistical Area Level 1s (SA1s) with an average Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+) index value of 0 to 0.2.

CODE 2 Inner regional Australia

'Inner regional Australia' includes SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 0.2 and less than or equal to 2.4.

CODE 3 Outer regional Australia

'Outer regional Australia' includes SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 2.4 and less than or equal to 5.92.

CODE 4 Remote Australia

'Remote Australia' includes SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 5.92 and less than or equal to 10.53.

CODE 5 Very remote Australia

'Very remote Australia' includes SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 10.53.

CODE 6 Migratory

'Migratory' is composed of off-shore, shipping and migratory SA1s.

**Collection Methods:**

In this value domain, physical distance is defined in terms of ARIA+ codes, rather than a simple linear distance between points.

The list of permissible values for this value domain, i.e. codes 1 to 6, is intended to be directly mappable to the values used by the ABS to describe remoteness areas, i.e. codes 0 to 5.

**Comments:**

In its initial form, as developed by the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Centres (now located within the Australian Population and Migration Research Centre) and the then Department of Health and Aged Care in 1999, ARIA scores ranged from 0 to 12 and were based on proximity to 4 points of reference.

A new version, ARIA+, was introduced in 2003, with ARIA+ scores now based on proximity to 5 points of reference. Also, changes were made to account for Tasmania's unique status as an island state, and to increase accuracy for locations at the urban fringe.

Prior to 2011, ARIA+ scores were calculated for individual Census Collection Districts (CCDs). Following the phasing out of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) and the introduction of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) by the ABS in 2011, ARIA+ scores are now calculated for individual Statistical Area Level 1s (SA1s).

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Steward:** [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#)

**Origin:** Publications detailing the ASGS remoteness classification are available free of charge from the ABS website:

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2013. 1270.055.005 - Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure, July 2011. Viewed 15 July 2013, <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1270.0.55.005July%202011?OpenDocument>

**Reference documents:** Information relating to the development of the ARIA and ARIA+ scores by the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems (GISCA) is available from the APMRC website:

Australian Population and Migration Research Centre (APMRC) 2013. ARIA (Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia). Viewed 15 July 2013, [http://www.adelaide.edu.au/apmrc/research/projects/category/about\\_aria.html](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/apmrc/research/projects/category/about_aria.html)

## Relational attributes

### Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Remoteness classification \(ASGC-RA\) N](#)  
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 10/04/2013  
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015  
[Health](#), Superseded 21/11/2013  
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 01/05/2013

Has been superseded by [Remoteness classification \(ASGS-RA\) N](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/09/2018  
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/05/2019  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 07/04/2024

See also [Admitted patient care remoteness classification \(ASGS-RA\) N](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/09/2018

See also [Medicare remoteness classification \(ASGS-RA\) N](#)  
[Commonwealth Department of Health](#), Retired 19/10/2023

See also [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\) remoteness classification \(ASGS-RA\) X](#)  
[Commonwealth Department of Health](#), Retired 19/10/2023

### Data elements implementing this value domain:

[Health-care incident—geographic remoteness, remoteness classification \(ASGS-RA\) code N](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 06/09/2018

[Person—geographic remoteness, classification \(ASGS-RA\) N](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 06/09/2018