

Medicare remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Value Domain

METEOR identifier: 610726

Registration status:

- [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), Standard 14/10/2015

Definition: Australian Statistical Geography Standard-Remoteness Area (ASGS-RA) is a geographical classification which defines locations in terms of remoteness, i.e. the physical road distance of a location from the nearest Service Centre (a populated locality where the population is greater than 1,000 persons), within population size categories.

Context: 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 population 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.

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 populated locality in various size ranges. The lower the ARIA+ score for a location, the better its level of access to goods and services.

Information in relation to how remoteness is defined and calculated is available from the Statistical Geography portal on the ABS website.

Information in relation to how ARIA+ scores are calculated for physical locations is available from the Australian Population and Migration Research Centre (APMRC) website.

Representational attributes

Classification scheme: [Australian Statistical Geography Standard 2011](#)

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: N

Maximum character length: 1

Permissible values:

Value	Meaning
1	Major cities of Australia
2	Regional Australia
3	Remote Australia

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	<p>This value domain is intended exclusively for use when analysing data relating to Medicare statistics.</p> <p>The remoteness area classification is based on the physical road distance to the nearest urban centre and its population size.</p> <p>CODE 1 Major cities of Australia</p> <p>'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.</p> <p>CODE 2 Regional Australia</p> <p>This includes both Inner and Outer regional areas.</p> <p>'Inner regional Australia' includes SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 0.2 and less than or equal to 2.4. 'Outer regional Australia' includes SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 2.4 and less than or equal to 5.92.</p> <p>CODE 3 Remote Australia</p> <p>This includes both Remote and Very remote areas.</p> <p>'Remote Australia' includes SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 5.92 and less than or equal to 10.53. 'Very remote Australia' includes SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 10.53.</p>
-----------------------	--

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Department of Health
Origin:	<p>Information relating to remoteness and other aspects of statistical geography is available from the Statistical Geography portal on the ABS website:</p> <p>Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011. ABS Geography. Viewed 19 November 2013, http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography</p>

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:	<p>See also Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) X</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth Department of Health, Standard 17/12/2015 <p>See also Remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) N</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, Superseded 06/09/2018 <p>See also Remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) N</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, Standard 06/09/2018 • Housing assistance, Standard 10/05/2019
Data elements implementing this value domain:	<p>Service/care provider—geographic remoteness, Medicare remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) N</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth Department of Health, Standard 14/10/2015