# Remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) N

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## Identifying and definitional attributes

| | |
|---|---|
| **Metadata item type:** | Value Domain |
| **Synonymous names:** | Remoteness area; Remoteness structure |
| **METEOR identifier:** | 697105 |
| **Registration status:** | Health, Standard 06/09/2018<br>Housing assistance, Standard 10/05/2019<br>Indigenous, Standard 07/04/2024 |
| **Definition:** | Australian Statistical Geography Standard—Remoteness Area (ASGS-RA) is a geographical classification which defines locations in terms of relative remoteness, i.e. the road distance of a location from the nearest **Urban Centre and Locality**. |
| **Context:** | Geographic remoteness is essentially a measure of a location's level of access to services. Larger population centres tend to have a greater level of service provision than small centres. Typically, a population centre is not likely to provide a full range of services until its population reaches around 250,000 people.<br><br>Information in relation to the definition and calculation of remoteness is available from the Geography portal on the ABS website.<br><br>Information in relation to how ARIA+ scores are calculated for populated localities is available from the Hugo Centre for Migration and Population Research website. |

## Representational attributes

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| **Classification scheme:** | Australian Statistical Geography Standard 2016 |
| **Representation class:** | Code |
| **Data type:** | Number |
| **Format:** | N |
| **Maximum character length:** | 1 |

| | Value | Meaning |
|---|---|---|
| **Permissible values:** | 1 | Major cities of Australia |
| | 2 | Inner regional Australia |
| | 3 | Outer regional Australia |
| | 4 | Remote Australia |
| | 5 | Very remote Australia |
| | 6 | Migratory |
| **Supplementary values:** | 9 | Not stated/inadequately described |

## Collection and usage attributes

| **Guide for use:** | Remoteness measures are calculated using Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+) scores, which are based on the road distance from a populated locality to the nearest Urban Centre. The lower the ARIA+ score for a populated locality the greater the access to services. |
|---|---|

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.

Migratory includes people in transit on long distance trains, buses, aircraft and long haul road transport vehicles on Census night.

Offshore includes people on oil rigs and drilling platforms etc. It is also used for expeditioners in the Australian Antarctic Territory.

Shipping includes people who are on board vessels in Australian waters, in or between Australian ports on Census night.

**Collection Methods:** 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, where Code 0 is Major Cities of Australia and Code 5 is Remote Australia.

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

The ARIA+ is provided by the Hugo Centre for Migration and Population Research at the University of Adelaide website.

**Comments:** The measures of remoteness used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) are based on population counts obtained from the Census of Population and Housing, conducted every 5 years.

ARIA+ values range from 0 (high accessibility) to 15 (high remoteness), and is based on road distance measurements from over 12,000 populated localities to the nearest Service Centres in five size categories based on population size.

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

## Source and reference attributes

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|---|---|
| **Submitting organisation:** | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| **Steward:** | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| **Origin:** | Australian Bureau of Statistics 2013. - Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure, July 2011. ABS cat. no. 1270.055.005. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 15 July 2013, http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1270.0.55.005July%202011?OpenDocument |
| **Reference documents:** | Hugo Centre for Migration and Population Research 2018. ARIA. Viewed 1 May 2018, https://www.adelaide.edu.au/hugo-centre/spatial_data/aria/

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2018. Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure, July 2016. ABS cat. no. 1270.055.005. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 30 April 2018, http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1270.0.55.005 |
| **Revision status:** | The 2016 ASGS is the second edition of the ASGS, which updates the first edition (introduced in 2011) for growth and change in Australia's population, economy and infrastructure. It also incorporates the Territory of Norfolk Island for the first time. |

# Relational attributes

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| **Related metadata references:** | Supersedes Remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) N
Health, Superseded 06/09/2018

Has been superseded by Remoteness classification (ASGS Edition 3) code N
Aged Care, Standard 30/06/2023
Health, Qualified 18/07/2024

See also Admitted patient care remoteness classification (ASGS Edition 3) N
Health, Standard 06/12/2023

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

See also Admitted patient care remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) N
Health, Superseded 06/12/2023

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:** | Dwelling—geographic remoteness, classification (ASGS-RA) N
Housing assistance, Standard 10/05/2019

Health-care incident—geographic remoteness, remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) code N
Health, Standard 06/09/2018

Person—geographic remoteness, classification (ASGS-RA) N
Health, Standard 06/09/2018

Service provider organisation—geographic remoteness, classification (ASGS-RA) N
Indigenous, Standard 07/04/2024 |