# Remoteness classification (ASGS Edition 3) code N

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## Identifying and definitional attributes

| | |
|---|---|
| **Metadata item type:** | Value Domain |
| **Synonymous names:** | Remoteness area; Remoteness structure; ASGS-RA |
| **METEOR identifier:** | 747271 |
| **Registration status:** | Aged Care, Standard 30/06/2023 |
| | Health, Qualified 18/07/2024 |
| **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**. |

## Representational attributes

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|---|---|
| **Classification scheme:** | Australian Statistical Geography Standard Edition 3 |
| **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 [Statistical Geography portal](#) on the ABS website (ABS 2023).

Information in relation to how ARIA+ scores are calculated for physical locations is available from the [Australian Centre for Housing Research](#) (ACHR 2023).

**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.

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.

## Source and reference attributes

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

**Steward:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Origin:** Information relating to remoteness and other aspects of statistical geography is available from the Statistical Geography portal on the ABS website:

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2023. Statistical geography. Viewed 27 April 2023, https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/statistical-geography

Information relating to the development of the ARIA and ARIA+ scores by the Australian Centre for Housing Research (ACHR) at the University of Adelaide is available from the ACHR website:

ACHR (Australian Centre for Housing Research) 2023. Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+). Viewed 27 April 2023, https://able.adelaide.edu.au/housing-research/data-gateway/aria

**Revision status:** The ASGS was re-named to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Edition 3 for the 2021 release. Previous ASGS editions had been named according to the Census of Population and Housing year it referred to, however, this led to confusion as the ASGS has historically been published across several years.

ASGS Edition 3 will be used for the 2021 Census of Population and Housing, and will be progressively introduced into other ABS data collections from 2022. ASGS Edition 3 is an update of ASGS 2016 (Edition 2). ASGS Edition 3 has a reference period of July 2021 - June 2026.

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes 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 Edition 3) N
Health, Standard 06/12/2023

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

See also Modified Monash Model remoteness classification code N
Aged Care, Standard 30/06/2023
Health, Recorded 27/03/2023

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:** Address—remoteness classification, (ASGS edition 3) code N
Aged Care, Standard 30/06/2023
Health, Recorded 27/03/2023

Service provider organisation—geographic remoteness, classification (ASGS edition 3) code N
Indigenous, Recorded 07/06/2024