

Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) code (ASGS Edition 3) N(9)

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Value Domain

METEOR identifier: 747275

Registration status: [Health](#), Standard 20/10/2021
[Children and Families](#), Standard 11/05/2023
[Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023
[Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#), Recorded 09/08/2023
[Early Childhood](#), Standard 15/08/2023

Definition: A code set representing a medium-sized general purpose area aggregated from whole Statistical Area Level 1s (SA1s).

Representational attributes

Classification scheme: [Australian Statistical Geography Standard Edition 3](#)

Representation class: Code

Data type: String

Format: N(9)

Maximum character length: 9

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: SA2 coding structure:

An SA2 is identifiable by a 9-digit fully hierarchical code. The SA2 identifier is a 4-digit code, assigned in alphabetical order within a Statistical area level 3 (SA3). An SA2 code is only unique within a state/territory if it is preceded by the state/territory identifier.

For example:

State/territory	SA4	SA3	SA2
N	NN	NN	NNNN

Comments: SA2s have generally been designed as the smallest unit for the release of data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' non-Census of Population and Housing statistics. SA2s have a population of between 3,000 and 25,000 people with an average population size of approximately 10,000 people.

There are 2,473 SA2 regions covering the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. These include 19 non-spatial SA2 special-purpose codes, comprising Migratory–Offshore–Shipping, No Usual Address codes for each State and Territory, and a new Outside Australia code.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Origin: ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2021. Statistical Area Level 2: Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Edition 3. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 10 August 2021. www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs-edition-3/jul2021-jun2026/main-structure-and-greater-capital-city-statistical-areas/statistical-area-level-2

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 [Statistical area level 2 \(SA2\) code \(ASGS 2016\) N\(9\)](#)
[Children and Families](#), Superseded 11/05/2023
[Early Childhood](#), Superseded 15/08/2023
[Health](#), Superseded 20/10/2021
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 27/06/2017

Data elements implementing this value domain: [Address—statistical area, level 2 \(SA2\) code \(ASGS Edition 3\) N\(9\)](#)
[Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023
[Children and Families](#), Standard 11/05/2023
[Health](#), Standard 20/10/2021
[Person—area of usual residence, statistical area level 2 \(SA2\) code \(ASGS Edition 3\) N\(9\)](#)
[Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#), Recorded 09/08/2023
[Early Childhood](#), Standard 15/08/2023
[Health](#), Standard 20/10/2021
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 08/03/2023