

Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3) code (ASGS Edition 3) NNNNN

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Value Domain
METEOR identifier:	747277
Registration status:	Aged Care , Standard 30/06/2023
Definition:	A code set representing a geographical area aggregated from whole Statistical areas level 2 (SA2s).

Representational attributes

Classification scheme:	Australian Statistical Geography Standard Edition 3
Representation class:	Code
Data type:	String
Format:	NNNNN
Maximum character length:	5

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	SA3 coding structure: An SA3 is identifiable by a 5-digit fully hierarchical code. The SA3 identifier is a 2-digit code, assigned within a Statistical area level 4 (SA4). An SA3 code is only unique within a state/territory if it is preceded by the state/territory identifier.
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For example:

State/territory	SA4	SA3
N	NN	NN

Comments:	Statistical Areas Level 3 (SA3) are geographical areas built from whole Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2). They have been designed for the output of regional data, including the 2021 Census of Population and Housing data. SA3s create a standard framework for the analysis of ABS data at the regional level through clustering groups of SA2s that have similar regional characteristics. Whole SA3s aggregate to form Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4).
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SA3s generally have a population of between 30,000 and 130,000 people. However, some SA3s have populations above 130,000 or below 30,000. There are 359 spatial SA3 regions covering the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. These include 19 non-spatial SA3 special-purpose codes comprising Migratory–Offshore–Shipping, No Usual Address codes for each State and Territory, and a new Outside Australia code.

The Other Territories of Jervis Bay, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island, and Norfolk Island are each represented by an SA3 in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Edition 3.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
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Origin: ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2021. Statistical Area Level 3: 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-3

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 3 \(SA3\) code \(ASGS 2016\) N\(5\) Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 30/04/2021

Data elements implementing this value domain: [Address—statistical area, level 3 \(SA3\) code \(ASGS edition 3\) NNNNN](#) [Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023