

Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) code (ASGS Edition 3) N(11)

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Value Domain
METEOR identifier:	747273
Registration status:	Health , Standard 20/10/2021
Definition:	A code set representing a geographical area aggregated from whole Mesh Blocks.

Representational attributes

Classification scheme:	Australian Statistical Geography Standard Edition 3
Representation class:	Code
Data type:	String
Format:	N(11)
Maximum character length:	11

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: SA1 coding structure:

SA1s are identified by an 11-digit fully hierarchical code. The SA1 identifier is a 2-digit code, assigned within a Statistical area level 2 (SA2).

State/territory	SA4	SA3	SA2	SA1
N	NN	NN	NNNN	NN

Comments:

SA1s have a population of between 200 and 800 people with an average population size of approximately 400 people. SA1s in remote and regional areas generally have smaller populations than those in urban areas.

There are 61,845 SA1s. In aggregate, they cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. These include 34 non-spatial SA1 special-purpose codes, comprising Migratory–Offshore–Shipping, No Usual Address, and Outside Australia.

SA1s are designed to be either predominantly rural or predominantly urban in character, with SA1s in rural and remote areas generally having a lower population than in urban areas. SA1s are designed to be internally connected by road, except for groups of unpopulated islands and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, which may not be contiguous. Areas without permanent population (such as lakes, commercial developments, national parks etc.) are often represented by 'zero SA1s' - these are SA1s with an effective design population of zero.

SA1s are also used as the building blocks for a number of Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) defined regions including the Indigenous Structure, the Section of State and Urban Centre and Localities Structures, and the Remoteness Structure. Within the Non-ABS Structure, SA1s are used to approximate a number of administrative regions, such as Commonwealth Electoral Divisions and State Electoral Divisions.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Origin: ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2021. Statistical Area Level 1: 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-1

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 1 \(SA1\) code \(ASGS 2016\) N\(11\) Early Childhood](#), Standard 24/07/2018
[Health!](#), Superseded 20/10/2021

Data elements implementing this value domain: [Person—area of usual residence, statistical area level 1 \(SA1\) code \(ASGS Edition 3\) N\(11\)](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 20/10/2021