Geographic Classifications

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1 This document is being produced without formal editing
Geographic Classifications

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What is a Classification?

A classification groups data into meaningful categories. A well constructed classification has categories that are mutually exclusive and exhaustive. Each category of a classification also has a description and a unique code to enable users to identify the category.

Classifications are structured to be hierarchical or flat. Hierarchical classifications range from the broadest, most general categories to the most detailed, specific categories. Flat classifications do not have a hierarchy. Classifications promote data comparability across surveys and they are used in:

- data collection
- data processing
- data presentation
- data analysis
Criteria for development of ASGS

- Stable
- Optimised for statistical purposes
  Production, confidentiality, use in analysis
- Meaningful areas
- Functionally based, but
- Support for important administrative areas
Functional vs Administrative

- A functional region is organized around a focal point with the surrounding areas linked to that point by transportation systems, communication systems, or other economic association involving such activities as service industries, manufacturing, education etc.
- Small administrative regions are based on local government agencies such as districts or regions. They can vary greatly in size and are subject to change by governments.
Standard Geographic Definitions – the ASGS

- Functional Structures
  - Capital and Regional Cities
    - Great Cap. City SA
  - Significant Urban Area
    - Statistical Area 3
      - Indigenous Area
        - Indigenous Region
          - Section of State
  - Statistical Area 2
    - Indigenous Locality
      - Section of State Region
    - Urban Centre Locality
  - Statistical Area 1
    - Mesh Blocks

- ABS Structures
  - Remoteness Area

- Non-ABS Structures
  - Administrative Regions
    - Postal Area
    - Suburb
    - Electoral Division
    - Natural Resource Management Areas
    - Australian Drainage Divisions
  - Local Govt. Area
Statistical Spatial Framework

MAIN

SA3s
SA2s
SA1s
Mesh Blocks
Support for users – data conversion

Any Geographic Region → Overlay Process → Geocoded Records

Any ASGS Region → Allocation Table → MB Geo-referenced Records

ASGS SA2 and above → Coding Index → Locality, Postcode, State

Large Regions → Apply Correspondence → Postcode, State
ABS would be happy to meet your agency to discuss or present.

For more information
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