# Postcodes to Major Cities

*Notes on using the attached index (Postcodes\_to\_Major\_Cities\_fulllist.csv) to assign postcodes to areas designated as Major Cities in the 2006 ABS Remoteness Classification*

The ABS 2006 Remoteness Classification was built by amalgamating 2006 Collection Districts into five classes of remoteness based on access to services, namely Very Remote Australia, Remote Australia, Outer Regional Australia, Inner Regional Australia and Major Cities of Australia.

The postcode boundaries used for reference are those supplied to the ABS in May 2011 by PSMA Australia Limited. An additional list of postcodes not covered by the PSMA list was derived from a complete list of 3310 current postcodes downloaded from the Australia Post website http://auspost.com.au/products-and-services/download-postcode-data.html on 7 October 2011. These extra codes are typically post boxes and special purpose postcodes and since they have no spatial representation in ABS’s postcode boundaries dataset they have been manually assigned by the ABS as within or outside Major Cities for completeness.

Postcodes are, in Australia Post's words, *'maintained solely for mail processing purposes”*. They do not follow the ABS's 2006 CD boundaries very well. Therefore around the edge of ABS's Major Cities remoteness area a decision has been made whether to include a split postcode, based on population distribution determined by the estimated dwelling count of underlying ABS mesh blocks. If the dwelling count in the portion of the postcode overlapping the Major Cities area exceeded the dwelling count in the portion outside, the postcode was deemed to be within the Major Cities remoteness area and vice versa.

This results in some postcodes being categorised as within Major Cities when significant parts of them are outside. An example is postcode 4512 in Queensland. Conversely some postcodes are deemed outside Major Cities even though a minority of dwellings are within the Major Cities boundary. An example is postcode 4519 in Queensland.

Furthermore, Australia Post postcodes are sometimes discontiguous which results in discrete parts of postcodes a considerable distance away from Major Cities boundaries being included in the Major Cities definition. An example is postcode 4306 in Queensland.

Examples are given in Queensland here to illustrate these situations in reasonably close proximity to each other. These cases, however, occur commonly around the boundaries of the Major Cities remoteness area in all states and territories where Major Cities are defined in the ABS Remoteness Classification.

**The above limitations and assumptions should be taken into consideration when using this index.**

**Explanation of column headings**

**POSTCODE** is the Australia Post postcode derived from PSMA Australia Limited data at May 2011 and from a download of current postcodes form the Australia Post website on 7 October 2011.

**In\_Maj\_Cities**  is the postcode is either considered within or outside the Major City area

**YES** means the whole or the majority of the estimated dwellings in this postcode is within the ABS's Major Cities of Australia remoteness areas classification (2006)

**NO** means the whole or the majority of the estimated dwellings in this postcode is outside the ABS's Major Cities of Australia remoteness areas classification (2006)

**STATE\_NAME** is the abbreviated state/territory name within Australia

**STATE\_CODE** The State Code relates to the standard ABS state codes, namely 1 = NSW, 2 = Vic, 3 = Qld, 4 = SA, 5 = WA, 6 = Tas, 7 = NT, 8 = ACT. There are no postcodes relevant to state code 9 (Other Territories). Cocos Keeling and Christmas Islands have WA postcodes (6799, 6798 respectively)and Jervis Bay Territory is included in NSW (2540).

**ALT\_STATE\_NAME** and **ALT\_STATE\_CODE** are relevant where a postcode crosses state or territory boundaries. There are 14 such postcodes. The alternative name/code refers to the state or territory other than the one that the postcode nominally belongs to, eg ACT postcode 2611 crosses into NSW, so NSW and 1 is the alternative state name and state code.

Geography Section

Australian Bureau of Statistics

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