

Postcode Indexes

Postcode to 2011 Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4)

Postcode to 2011 Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSA)

Postcode to 2011 Statistical Divisions (SD)

Postcode to 2006 Remoteness Areas (RA)

Notes on using the attached indexes to assign postcodes to selected regions defined in the ABS's Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) and Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)

In 2011 the ABS began to replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The ASGS comprises a hierarchy of geographic regions and is the future geographical standard on which the ABS will release statistical data. Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4) and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSA) are components of the new ASGS while Statistical Divisions (SD) and the 2006 Remoteness Areas (RA) belonged to the old ASGC structure.

The postcode indexes allow users to allocate data collected with a postcode to certain ASGS and ASGC regions to enable comparison to ABS data. Postcode indexes are limited to the geographic boundaries described above as coding data using postcode to smaller geographic boundaries does not provide consistently accurate results.

The postcode boundaries used for reference are those supplied to the ABS in March 2011 by Pitney Bowes Business Insight. An additional list of postcodes not covered in the PBBI dataset 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 the PBBI postcode boundaries dataset they have been manually assigned to an ABS region.

Postcodes are, in Australia Post's words, "*maintained solely for mail processing purposes*". They do not follow the ABS's boundaries in many cases. Therefore where a postcode crosses one of ABS's region boundaries a decision has been made as to where to assign the postcode. This decision was 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 one ABS region exceeded the dwelling count in the portion in another, the postcode was deemed to be wholly within the ABS region with the highest dwelling estimate. Note that the allocation of a postcode to a GCCSA, SA4, SD or 2006 RA was based on pre-2011 Census dwelling estimates, not actual 2011 Census dwelling or population counts (which at the time of preparation were not yet available).

This results in some postcodes being allocated to ABS regions when significant parts of them are outside. An example is postcode 3312 in Victoria which has been allocated to SA4 217 Warrnambool

and South West despite over a quarter of the dwellings in the postcode being in the adjoining SA4 215 North West.

Furthermore, Australia Post postcodes are sometimes discontinuous which results in discrete parts of postcodes a considerable distance away from the ABS region to which they are allocated. An example is postcode 7030 in Tasmania, which is allocated to GCCSA 6GHOB Greater Hobart. While the majority of dwellings in the postcode are within the Greater Hobart GCCSA, postcode 7030 includes the discrete settlement of Cramps Bay some 100km outside the GCCSA of Greater Hobart.

The above limitations and assumptions should be taken into consideration when using these indexes.

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 from the Australia Post website on 7 October 2011.

GCCSA_NAME_2011 is the name of the Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA) of the ASGS structure that the postcode is in. Where a postcode crosses GCCSAs the whole postcode is allocated to the GCCSA that has the most dwellings included in the postcode – see notes above.

GCCSA_CODE_2011 is the code applicable to the named GCCSA.

SA4_NAME_2011 is the name of the Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) of the ASGS structure that the postcode is in. Where a postcode crosses SA4s the whole postcode is allocated to the SA4 that has the most dwellings included in the postcode – see notes above.

SA4_CODE_2011 is the code applicable to the named SA4.

SD_NAME_2011 is the name of the Statistical Division (SD) of the ASGC structure that the postcode is in. Where a postcode crosses SDs the whole postcode is allocated to the SD that has the most dwellings included in the postcode – see notes above.

SD_CODE_2011 is the code applicable to the named SD.

RA_NAME_2006 is the name of the 2006 Remoteness Area (RA) of the ASGC structure that the postcode is in. Where a postcode crosses RAs the whole postcode is allocated to the RA that has the most dwellings included in the postcode – see notes above.

RA_CODE_2006 is the code applicable to the named 2006 RA.

STATE_NAME_2011 is the State/Territory (S/T) name in the ASGS or ASGC structure that the postcode is in. Where a postcode crosses S/Ts the whole postcode is allocated to the S/T that has the most dwellings included in the postcode – see notes above. For Other Territories, Cocos Keeling and Christmas Islands have WA-format postcodes (6799, 6798 respectively) and Jervis Bay Territory is included in a NSW one (2540).

STATE_CODE is the standard ABS code for the State/Territory of Australia named in STATE_NAME_2011.

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