



Australian Bureau of Statistics
**TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION
FOR MAGNETIC TAPE FILE**

NEW ISSUE

**AUSTRALIAN STANDARD
GEOGRAPHICAL
CLASSIFICATION FILE

TECHNICAL DETAILS**

1986 Census of Population and Housing

Catalogue No. 2189.0

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1986 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING
AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL
CLASSIFICATION FILE
TECHNICAL DETAILS

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Australian Statistician

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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1. Introduction

The Australian Standard Geographical Classification File (ASGCF) provides the code and name of each State/Territory, statistical division, statistical subdivision, statistical local area, statistical district, legal local government area, statistical region and urban centre/(rural) locality. This file is based on the ASGC manual (1216.0) which should be consulted for more detailed information on area definitions, ASGC structures, etc.

The major use of the ASGCF is in conjunction with the Collection District Summary File (CDSF) and Statistical Local Area Summary Files (SLASF), which contain codes for the geographic areas referred to above.

2. File/record details

2.1 File format

All the geographic codes and names in the principal ASGC structures used for census purposes are held on one file, on one reel of tape. The file contains six different record formats, each of which equates to an ASGC structure. The order of codes/names within each structure is set out in Section 3.

The format of the file is as follows:

Record length = 80 characters fixed

Block size = 6,080

Blocking factor = 76

Density, label and code set are as ordered.

2.2 Record format

The file contains a different record format for each ASGC structure contained within the file. The table below shows the fields used (marked X) for each structure. Unused fields contain blanks.

Structure name	Structure indicator	Record type	State/Territory	Statistical Division	Statistical Subdivision	SLA	Name
Detailed main	1	1(S/T) 2(SD) 3(SSD) 4(SLA)	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	X	X X X X
		Record Type	Statistical District	State	SLA	Name	
Statistical district (S Dist.)	2	1(S Dist.) 2(SLA)	X X	X	X	X X	
		State	Legal LGA	Name			
Legal LGA (LGA)	3	X	X	X			
		State	SLA	Name			
Statistical local area (SLA)	4	X	X	X			
		Record type	State	Statistical Region	SLA	Name	
Statistical region (SR)	5	1(State) 2(SR) 3(SLA)	X X X	X X X	X	X X X	
		State	UC/L	Name			
Urban centre/(rural) locality (UC/L)	6	X	X	X			

2.3 ASGCF fields

The fields as shown below (with the exception of the Name field) are all right justified with zero fill, and the field lengths (shown in brackets) are in number of characters. The Name field is left justified.

Structure 1

<i>Field number</i>	<i>Start position</i>	<i>Picture</i>	<i>Field name</i>
1	1	9(1)	ASGC structure indicator
2	2	9(1)	Record type
3	3	9(1)	State/Territory (S/T) code
4	4	9(2)	Statistical division (SD) code
5	6	9(2)	Statistical subdivision (SSD) code
6	8	9(4)	Statistical local area (SLA) code
7	12	X(69)	Name

Structure 2

<i>Field number</i>	<i>Start position</i>	<i>Picture</i>	<i>Field name</i>
1	1	9(1)	ASGC structure indicator
2	2	9(1)	Record type
3	3	9(4)	Statistical district (S Dist.) code
4	7	9(1)	State/Territory (S/T) code
5	8	9(4)	Statistical local area (SLA) code
6	12	X(69)	Name

Structure 3

<i>Field number</i>	<i>Start position</i>	<i>Picture</i>	<i>Field name</i>
1	1	9(1)	ASGC structure indicator
2	2	9(1)	State/Territory (S/T) code
3	3	9(4)	Legal local government area (legal LGA) code
4	7	X(74)	Name

Structure 4

<i>Field number</i>	<i>Start position</i>	<i>Picture</i>	<i>Field name</i>
1	1	9(1)	ASGC structure indicator
2	2	9(1)	State/Territory (S/T) code
3	3	9(4)	Statistical local area (SLA) code
4	7	X(74)	Name

Structure 5

<i>Field number</i>	<i>Start position</i>	<i>Picture</i>	<i>Field name</i>
1	1	9(1)	ASGC structure indicator
2	2	9(1)	Record type
3	3	9(1)	State/Territory (S/T) code
4	4	9(2)	Statistical region (SR) code
5	6	9(4)	Statistical local area (SLA) code
6	10	X(71)	Name

Structure 6*

<i>Field number</i>	<i>Start position</i>	<i>Picture</i>	<i>Field name</i>
1	1	9(1)	ASGC structure indicator
2	2	9(1)	State/Territory (S/T) code
3	3	9(5)	Urban centre/(rural) locality (UC/L) code
4	8	X(73)	Name

* Available on second edition.

3. Description of ASGCF fields and their codes

ASGC structure indicator

A single digit code is used to identify each ASGC structure. It is allocated in the following manner:

- 1 = Detailed main structure — the hierarchical ordering of the geographic codes and names of SLAs within each SSD, SD and State/Territory.
- 2 = Statistical district structure — numeric ordering of SLAs by State/Territory within each statistical district.
- 3 = Alphabetic ordering of legal LGAs within each State/Territory.
- 4 = Numeric ordering of SLAs within each State/Territory.
- 5 = Numeric ordering of SLAs within each statistical region by State/Territory.
- 6 = Alphabetic listing of urban centres/(rural) localities by State/Territory.

Legal Local Government Area (legal LGA) code

Legal LGAs are identified by unique four digit numeric codes within States/Territories. The legal LGA codes were determined in conjunction with SLA codes and are strongly integrated with them. They have the following features:

- (a) they are identical with SLA codes in all cases where there is a strict one to one correspondence between legal LGAs and SLAs;
- (b) their first three digits are identical with the first three digits of SLA codes in all those cases where legal LGAs consist of two or three SLAs.

The incorporation of the legal LGA code in the SLA code permits almost all SLAs to be linked with their respective legal LGAs. The only exceptions occur in Queensland and the Northern Territory in the case of the following legal LGAs:

QLD: Albert, Brisbane, Logan, Pine Rivers, Redland, Caboolture, Gold Coast, Moreton, Thuringowa and Townsville.

NT: Darwin and Palmerston.

In these exceptional cases each of the legal LGAs has more than three component SLAs.

For unique Australia-wide identification each legal LGA needs to be identified by at least its own four digit code plus the code of the relevant State/Territory. Gaps have been provided between the codes for future expansion or change.

An additional code of 9399 is used to represent the aggregation of the 'unincorporated' SLAs for each State and the Northern Territory. It is used as a de facto legal LGA to enable State/Territory totals to be produced for some census legal LGA output.

Name

This field shows the name of the geographic area relevant to each ASGC structure.

Record type

A single digit code is used to denote the hierarchical level of the record within each of these structures:

Structure 1	Structure 2	Structure 5
1 = State/Territory	1 = Statistical district	1 = State/Territory
2 = SD	2 = SLA	2 = Statistical region
3 = SSD		3 = SLA
4 = SLA		

Note that the record type first appears in descending order in each structure; i.e. records for total areas follow the records for component areas. In structure 1, for example, the first SSD record follows all the component SLA records; the first SD record follows all the component SLA and SSD records; and the State follows the last SD record for a State.

Records named 'UNDEFINED City' and 'UNDEFINED State/Territory' are included in structures 1, 4 and 5. These are for use with census data obtained on the basis of *usual residence*. They are not used with data obtained on the basis of *place of enumeration*.

State/Territory code

A single digit code is used for each State and Territory. It is allocated in the following manner:

- 1 = New South Wales
- 2 = Victoria
- 3 = Queensland
- 4 = South Australia
- 5 = Western Australia
- 6 = Tasmania
- 7 = Northern Territory
- 8 = Australian Capital Territory
- 9 = Australia

Statistical District (S Dist.) code

Statistical districts represent large urban areas of Australia outside State capital city statistical divisions. They sometimes straddle statistical divisions and State/Territory boundaries, e.g. the 'Gold Coast-Tweed' Statistical District. Statistical districts are designated by a four digit numeric code. Gaps have been provided between the codes for future expansion or change.

Statistical Division (SD) code

SDs are designed to be relatively homogeneous regions, characterised by identifiable social and economic links between the inhabitants and the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.

Capital city SDs are delimited to embrace the area expected to contain the urban development of the city (and associated urban areas) for a period of at least twenty years.

SDs are represented by a two digit numeric code which starts at 05 and jumps in steps of five within each State/Territory. The gaps are to allow for future expansion. The code 85 has been allocated to 'Off-Shore Areas and Migratory' in each State and the Northern Territory.

Statistical Local Area (SLA) code

SLAs are for the most part legal LGA based. In special cases, where a legal LGA is much larger and more populous than the general run of legal LGAs (as is the City of Brisbane), or where there are no legal local government authorities (as in the Australian Capital Territory), the administrative areas have been subdivided to form areas roughly equivalent in extent and population. SLAs cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. The 1981 Census equivalent was the Census LGA.

SLAs are identified by unique four digit numeric codes within each State/Territory and have the following features:

- (a) SLA codes are in the range 0001-9990, excluding those ending with 99. Codes ending with 99, and those within the range 9991-9999, have been reserved for special purposes. These codes do not appear on either the CD Summary File (CDSF) or the SLA Summary File (place of enumeration basis) (CSLASF).
- (b) the arrangement of SLA codes within each State/Territory is in ascending numerical order for alphabetically listed LGAs of which they form the whole or part. Gaps have been provided between the codes to provide space for future expansion or change.
- (c) the fourth, i.e. last, digit of the SLA code is used as an indicator for the following characteristics:
 - 0 indicates that the SLA equates with a legal LGA;
 - 1-8 indicates that the SLA is part of a legal LGA, and
 - 9 indicates that the SLA represents either an unincorporated area, an off-shore/migratory category or an undefined category.

A special purpose code of 0099 is used to represent the undefined capital city SLA while a code of 9899 is used to represent the undefined State SLA in each State/Territory.

For unique Australia-wide identification, a State/Territory code and an SLA code are needed as SLA codes are unique only within a State or Territory.

Statistical Region (SR) code

SRs consist of one or more SLAs and cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They were designed primarily as geographic areas containing sufficient population to be suitable for the presentation of both population census and labour force statistics within the frameworks for standard statistical outputs from these collections. Currently the minimum size of such regions, in terms of population, is approximately 147,000. Each SR is designated by a two digit numeric code. Gaps have been provided between the codes for future expansion or change.

Statistical Subdivision (SSD) code

The SSD is delimited on the same basis as a statistical division, but as a portion of the latter.

Each SSD is represented by a two digit numeric code allocated every fifth number from 05 within each SD. Gaps have been provided between the codes for future expansion or change. The code 01 is allocated to the SD 85 'Off-Shore Areas and Migratory' in each State and the Northern Territory.

Urban Centre/(Rural) Locality (UC/L) code

UC/Ls consist of a single whole CD, or adjoining whole CDs, with urban characteristics. In the case of rural localities, they represent population clusters of between 200 and 999 people; urban centres are population clusters of 1,000 or more people (including some known holiday resorts of smaller size). Because of their nature they can straddle SLA, legal LGA, and other ASGC geographic area boundaries.

They are represented by a five digit numeric code which uniquely identifies each UC/L within each State/Territory. Gaps have been provided between the codes for future expansion or change.

NOTE: The urban centre/(rural) locality geographic codes and names cannot be finalised until census processing is completed and will not be contained in the ASGCF until late 1987. Any copy of the ASGCF released prior to this period can be returned to have this information added at no extra charge.

APPENDIX

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