

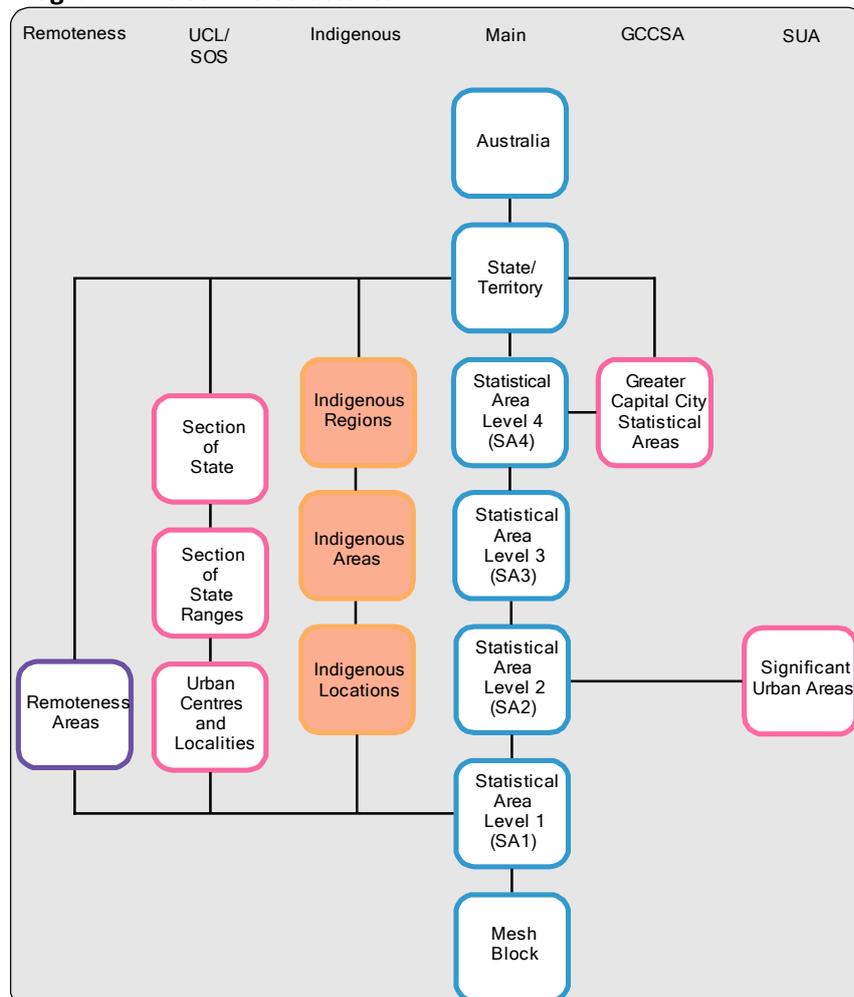
## INDIGENOUS STRUCTURE

### How does the Indigenous Structure fit into the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)?

The Indigenous Structure of the ASGS provides a geographical standard for the publication of statistics about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Australia from 1 July 2011. It replaces the Australian Indigenous Geography Classification (AIGC) which was used in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

The Indigenous Structure is part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Structures of the ASGS and will remain unchanged until the next Census in 2016. As part of the ASGS, it will be reviewed and assessed prior to the next Census. The new structure represents improved mapping of discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, particularly in remote areas. A discrete community is a location inhabited predominantly by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, with community managed housing or infrastructure.

**Diagram 1: ASGS ABS Structures**



There are three levels of geographic units in the Indigenous Structure - Indigenous Locations (ILOCs), Indigenous Areas (IAREs) and Indigenous Regions (IREGs). Statistics from the 2011 Census are available for all levels of the Indigenous Structure. The diagram above shows the relationship of the Indigenous Structure to the other ABS Structures in the ASGS.

## What are Indigenous Locations (ILOCs)?

ILOCs consist of one or more Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s) and provide spatially detailed statistics on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a minimum population of 90 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander usual residents. At this level it is possible to identify data on particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

For the 2011 Census, 1,116 ILOCs were defined to cover the whole of geographic Australia, compared with 846 ILOCs for the 2006 Census defined under the previous AIGC structure.

A range of statistics about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is available by ILOCs including Indigenous Quickstats and, where population levels permit, Indigenous Profiles.

## What are Indigenous Areas (IAREs)?

IAREs are medium sized geographical units consisting of one or more ILOCs and generally have a minimum of 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander usual residents.

For the 2011 Census, 429 IAREs were defined to cover the whole of geographic Australia, compared with 542 IAREs for the 2006 Census under the previous AIGC structure.

A range of statistics about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is available by IAREs including Indigenous Quickstats and Indigenous Profiles.

## What are Indigenous Regions (IREGs)?

IREGs are large geographical units loosely based on the former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission boundaries and are created by aggregating one or more IAREs. IREGs do not cross state and territory borders.

For the 2011 Census, 57 IREGs were defined to cover the whole of geographic Australia, compared with 45 IREGs for the 2006 Census under the previous AIGC structure.

A range of statistics about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is available by IREGs including Indigenous Quickstats and Indigenous Profiles.

## How do these changes affect time series?

The Indigenous Structure is similar to the previous AIGC structure as it comprises three levels of geographic units in a single hierarchy. However, there is a significant difference in the building blocks that form the basis of this geography, with the Indigenous Structure built directly from SA1s. The differences are greatest for ILOCs and, to a lesser extent, for IAREs. In general, comparisons may be

made at the IREG level, where differences tend to be minor, but it may not be possible to make comparisons at the IARE and ILOC levels. Data users also need to be aware that the codes used for ILOCs, IAREs and IREGs may not match those used in the AIGC.

Correspondences to convert 2006 AIGC coded data to the 2011 ASGS Indigenous Structure have been developed and are available on request from [geography@abs.gov.au](mailto:geography@abs.gov.au)

## Where can I get Indigenous Structure boundaries?

Digital boundaries for all ASGS regions are available in MapInfo Interchange and ESRI Shapefile formats and can be downloaded from the 'ABS Geography Publications' chapter of the ABS Statistical Geography website: <http://www.abs.gov.au/geography>

ASGS Indigenous Structure codes, labels and hierarchies are available in '.csv' file format and, together with digital boundaries, are accessed through the '**Downloads**' tab of the ABS publication: [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\): Volume 2 - Indigenous Structure, July 2011](#) (cat. no. 1270.0.55.002).

## Where can I get further information?

A detailed discussion of the new Indigenous Structure can be found in the online publication: [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\): Volume 2 - Indigenous Structure, July 2011](#) (cat. no. 1270.0.55.002).

More information on the ASGS and ABS Statistical Geography can be found by visiting the ABS website: <http://www.abs.gov.au/geography>

Any questions or comments can be emailed to [geography@abs.gov.au](mailto:geography@abs.gov.au)