

APPENDIX 2

MAPPING CONVENTIONS
AND GEOGRAPHIES

Many of the thematic maps in Section 1 have been carried over unchanged – or with minor updates – from the first edition. New or updated maps were produced by the Centre of Excellence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics and the Geospatial Solutions Section of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Canberra. They have provided the information for this Appendix.

The new maps were created using the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94) Albers Equal Area Conic projection. A central meridian of 135° East and standard parallels of 18° and 36° South, were specified. The map unit is meters and there is no **false origin shift**. All maps are orientated conventionally with north at the top of the image. The national maps are presented at a scale of 1:46796556. Detailed maps, such as those of capital cities or for zoomed-in areas, are shown at a variety of scales.

Unless otherwise specified, choropleth maps were produced using **Natural Breaks (Jenks)**. In this system the data-classes are based on the natural groupings inherent in the data; where classes with similar values are collected together and the differences between classes are maximised. The quality of the representation of this type of map depends to some extent on the quality of the data and on the number and size of the areas on the map.



A1 Geography of national choropleth maps derived from the 2016 Census

CHOROPLETH GEOGRAPHIES

The choropleth maps were produced to customised geographies derived from the standard ABS Indigenous Structure and its associated geographies (see <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1270.0.55.002>), and are described below.

Choropleth maps derived from the 2016 Census

The most recent national Census of Population and Housing for which data are available was held in 2016. For this the ABS developed strategies to ensure that the coverage of Indigenous people across Australia was as complete as possible. For the atlas, a special geography was constructed, in collaboration with the ABS, for mapping census data. It consolidated many of the 430 Indigenous Areas of the 2016 census geography into some 69 regions. It also included customised shapes for the area around Alice Springs and for Torres Strait. The boundaries of this type of map are shown in Map A1. Most of these are dated 2016. However, in a number of cases the maps show the change that has occurred between several censuses and these carry the relevant dates. These census-based maps are in **CHAPTERS 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 AND 16**.

Choropleth maps derived from NATSISS 2014–15

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) was carried out by the ABS over 2014–15. The NATSISS surveyed a sample of 11 178 Indigenous people, weighted to infer results for the whole population. The ABS produced two geographies to map the NATSISS data for this edition. One was based on the ABS standard 2011 geography of 57 Indigenous Regions (IREGs), but included a customised shape to show Torres Strait. The second geography also included the Torres Strait shape but in addition consolidated several of the more rural regions. The areas are shaded grey on the map, and are labelled in the map key as ‘Insufficient data’. NATSISS-based maps drawn to these two geographies are dated 2014–15 and are in **CHAPTERS 8, 15 and 19**. Several of the areas in these maps contain data with a **relative standard error (RSE)** of 25–50 per cent; these areas are shown hatched, and are labelled ‘Interpret with care’ in the key. For other areas that have data with an RSE of greater than 50 per cent, the data are not mapped.

The regional names used in the atlas to describe all national choropleth maps are shown in Map A2.

City choropleth maps derived from the 2016 Census

The city choropleth maps are based on 2016 Census data and carry the date 2016. They were customised by the ABS in collaboration with the editors and are aggregations of the Indigenous Locations

(ILOCs) which are part of the ABS's Indigenous Structure (2016). City choropleth maps are in **CHAPTERS 14, 15 AND 16**. As noted in Chapter 1, city maps are also in **CHAPTER 6** where, to improve the representation, the distribution of the population is shown by proportional dots with specified values.

Maps derived from CHINS 2006

In 2006, the ABS carried out the Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS). This was a survey of all discrete Indigenous communities and organisations that provide housing to Indigenous people. It covered a total of 496 organisations and 1 187 discrete communities nationally. Maps that use these data carry the date 2006 and are in **CHAPTER 14**.

Other map geographies

Map 6.7 shows the ABS remoteness geography. Details of this

geography are at <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/remoteness+structure>.

Map 13.14 showing the prevalence of Trachoma, has boundaries supplied by The Kirby Institute at the University of New South Wales.

Maps 18.17 and 18.22 use Electoral Boundaries (2018) and Local Government Area Boundaries (2016) respectively. The boundaries shown are ABS approximations of the originals and are constructed from allocations of Level 1 Statistical Areas (SA1s) and Mesh Blocks. More information can be found at <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@nsf/mf/1270.0.55.003>.

Maps that use administrative data from government departments and agencies, and/or from reports compiled for these departments, carry the date of the source as listed in the Sources section of the endmatter.

