

Changes in Reporting Medicare Statistics

Patient location based on geocoded addresses

The geographic location of the patient is determined using the patient's geocoded Medicare enrolment address. The availability of geocoded patient information substantially increases the accuracy of geospatial Medicare statistics. There may be minor changes to the figures published over the course of the current financial year as geospatial information is updated. National figures will remain unchanged.

Modified Monash Model (MMM) replaces ASGS Remoteness Area (ASGS-RA)

The MMM is a geographical classification that categorises different areas in Australia into seven remoteness categories. It was developed to better target health workforce programs to attract health professionals to remote and smaller communities. The MMM classifies metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas according to geographical remoteness, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and town size.

The MMM is used to determine eligibility for a range of health workforce programs. More health programs will transition to MMM from 1 January 2020.

Modified Monash Category	Description (including the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGS) – Remoteness Area (2016))
MM 1	Metropolitan areas: Major cities accounting for 70% of Australia's population. All areas categorised ASGS-RA1
MM 2	Regional centres: Inner (ASGS-RA 2) and Outer Regional (ASGS-RA 3) areas that are in, or within a 20km drive of a town with over 50,000 residents
MM 3	Large rural towns: Inner (ASGS-RA 2) and Outer Regional (ASGS-RA 3) areas that are not MM 2 and are in, or within a 15km drive of a town between 15,000 to 50,000 residents
MM 4	Medium rural towns: Inner (ASGS-RA 2) and Outer Regional (ASGS-RA 3) areas that are not MM 2 or MM 3, and are in, or within a 10km drive of a town with between 5,000 to 15,000 residents
MM 5	Small rural towns: All remaining Inner (ASGS-RA 2) and Outer Regional (ASGS-RA 3) areas. Islands that have an MM 5 classification with a population of less than 1,000 without bridges to the mainland will now be classified as MM 6
MM 6	Remote communities: Remote mainland areas (ASGS-RA 4) AND remote islands less than 5kms offshore. Islands that have an MM 5 classification with a population of less than 1,000 without bridges to the mainland will now be classified as MM 6
MM 7	Very remote communities: Very remote areas (ASGS-RA 5) and all other remote island areas more than 5kms offshore.

Minor changes to Broad Type of Service

To simplify interpretation of statistics, GP Non-referred Attendances are no longer broken down by GP/VR GP, Enhanced Primary Care and Other. These categorisations are no longer statistically relevant and cause confusion for users.

Revising Medicare statistics from 2009-10 onwards

Medicare statistics were revised from September quarter 2009 onwards for the Quarterly Report and from 2009-10 onwards for the Annual report.

Historical Medicare statistics prior to September 2009 remain unchanged as geospatial information and Modified Monash statistics are not available for the entire time series.

Quarterly Medicare Statistics

- September Quarter 1984 to June Quarter 2009 remain unchanged
- September Quarter 2009 to September Quarter 2019 revised
- September Quarter 2009 to December Quarter 2019 revised

Annual Medicare Statistics

- Financial Year 1984-85 to 2008-09 remain unchanged
- Financial year 2009-10 to latest financial year (currently 2018-19) revised