

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This product contains estimates of the resident population by Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) and SA1-derived areas of Australia, according to the 2016 edition of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). These estimates correspond with 30 June 2001-2017 ERP by SA2 as released in **Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2016-17** (cat. no. 3218.0) and **Regional Population by Age and Sex, Australia, 2017** (cat. no. 3235.0). Estimates are final for 2001 to 2016. For 2017 estimates, total populations are revised (to incorporate the final 2016 ERP base, and state/territory revisions), and age/sex breakdowns are preliminary (based on these revised totals).

2 The SA1 and SA1-based ERPs are not standard ABS output, but rather are customised data available for purchase as an information consultancy. Thus, these estimates are not published on the ABS web site.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION (ERP)

3 Estimated resident populations (ERPs) are official estimates of the Australian population, which link people to a place of usual residence within Australia. More information about ERP and other population concepts is available in **Information Paper: Population Concepts, Australia, 2008** (cat. no. 3107.0.55.006).

4 ERPs for Australia and its states and territories are prepared quarterly. They are prepared based on Census counts, and updated taking into account births, deaths and migration. Estimates and further information about the estimation method are available in **Australian Demographic Statistics** (cat. no. 3101.0).

5 ERPs for sub-state regions are prepared annually, as at 30 June. Estimates for years up to and including 2016 were prepared based on a modelling process incorporating Census and administrative data sources. Estimates for 2017 and onward are prepared based on Census counts, and updated by taking into account births, deaths and migration. Estimates and further information about these methods are available in **Regional Population Growth, Australia** (cat. no. 3218.0).

6 Population estimates at the SA1 level as at 30 June of a Census year are compiled by apportioning the population estimate for each SA2 across the SA1s within the SA2, using Census usual residence counts. In post-Census years, the 30 June population estimates for SA2s are apportioned across SA1s by taking into account population change implied by indicator data at the SA1 level in the years following the Census. The indicator data used includes Medicare enrolments and counts of people on the electoral roll. Pre-2012 SA1 estimates were compiled by converting from estimates prepared at the 2011 SA1 level. Small ERP cells are confidentialised and randomised. No validation of these SA1-level estimates is undertaken.

ACCURACY

7 Caution should be exercised when using these estimates, especially for areas with very small populations. Historical estimates apportioned from other geographies are less reliable than those aggregated from other geographies. Estimates aggregated to broader regions, and age groups, are more reliable than the finer level regional or age breakdowns. While unrounded figures are released, accuracy to the last digit should not be assumed.

8 All ERP data sources, including from the Census of Population and Housing, are subject to error. Errors can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. The ABS does not have control over any error associated with non-ABS administrative data, nor, to a large extent, dwelling approvals, births and deaths registrations, overseas and internal migration data. The accuracy of some administrative data sources is also dependant on the length of time taken for migrators to update their address details with the relevant agency.

9 The accuracy of sub-state ERPs, including SA2 ERPs, is described in the Quality Declaration for **Regional Population Growth, Australia** (cat. no. 3218.0). The accuracy of SA1 ERPs is partly dependent on the accuracy of SA2 ERPs.

10 These estimates are subjected to confidentialisation and randomisation processes. Thus, all small estimates should be regarded as derived numbers rather than actual counts of the population.

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL AREAS

Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1)

11 SA1s are areas defined in the 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) and are generally designed as the smallest unit for the release of Census data. They generally have a population of 200 to 800 people, with an average population size of about 400 people. SA1s in rural and remote areas generally have smaller populations than those in urban areas. SA1s are used as the building blocks for a number of other ASGS defined regions including the Section of State and Urban Centre and Localities Structures, and the Remoteness Structure. There are approximately 57,500 SA1s and they cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. Population estimates are prepared for SA1s by breaking down estimates from the SA2 level.

Postal Area (POA)

12 Postal Areas are ABS approximations of Australia Post postcodes, created by allocating whole Mesh Blocks (MBs) to postcodes based on the distribution of the estimated population within each MB. Postal Areas exclude Australia Post postcodes that are not street delivery areas, such as post office boxes, mail back competitions, large volume receivers and specialist delivery postcodes. They also exclude some postcodes which cannot be allocated a MB. This means that there are more Australia Post postcodes than Postal Areas.

Other statistical areas

13 Other statistical areas for which ERPs may be produced include:

- State Suburbs
- Urban Centres/Localities

- Commonwealth and State Electoral Divisions
- Remoteness Areas

14 Further information on these statistical areas is contained in **Australian Statistical Geography Standard: Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2016** (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001) and **Australian Statistical Geography Standard: Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures, July 2016 and July 2017** (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003).

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS AVAILABLE

15 The ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.