

Attachment 5 **Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) Second Edition Coding Index**

A coding index is required to link responses from the 'Country of Birth' questions to the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) Second Edition* (ABS cat. no.1269.0) classification categories. This enables data to be coded accurately and quickly to the appropriate category in the classification.

The index can be obtained in the form of an electronic text file from either the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) website at www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1269.0Second%20Edition?OpenDocument or as a link to this manual on the MCEECDYA website.

Schools and school systems should ensure that information collected for the first time in 2010 on the 'Country of birth' of a student is coded in accordance with the updated SACC Second Edition (2008) coding index.

There may be a small number of instances where a student's country of birth data collected in previous years and coded in accordance with the SACC First Edition (1998) needs to be updated. The ABS publishes a correspondence table between the two editions of the SACC to facilitate the conversion of data collected using the 1998 SACC First Edition to the 2008 SACC Second Edition. The table can be obtained in the form of an electronic text file from the ABS website at www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1269.0Second%20Edition?OpenDocument.

Schools and school systems were asked to make the necessary modifications to their student information systems in 2009 to ensure that their data systems would be able to accommodate the required fields for 'Country of birth' coding as per the SACC Second Edition for 2010 enrolments.

The SACC Second Edition

The first edition of the SACC was published in 1998. The classification has now been reviewed and amended to improve its usefulness with a second edition being published by the ABS in May 2008.

The SACC Second Edition

- Incorporates the following revisions to the earlier (1998) edition:
 - the inclusion of East Timor, and name changes for Macau and Taiwan (1999)
 - the creation of the state of Serbia and Montenegro (2004)
 - the inclusion of independent republics of Montenegro and Serbia (2007).
- Makes the following name/wording changes:
 - United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man (was United Kingdom)
 - Faroe Islands (was Faeroe Islands)
 - Vietnam (was Viet Nam)
 - China (excludes SARs and Taiwan) – was China (excludes SARs and Taiwan Province)
 - Kyrgyzstan (was Kyrgyz Republic).
- Adds the following to the classification:
 - Pitcairn Islands (was in Polynesia, n.e.c, as Pitcairn Island)
 - Guernsey (was part of Channel Islands)
 - Jersey (was part of Channel Islands)
 - Aland Islands (was part of Finland, as Aland)
 - Kosovo (was part of Serbia)
 - Spanish North Africa (was in North Africa, n.e.c.)
 - St Barthelemy (was in Guadeloupe)
 - St Martin (was in Guadeloupe).

- Removes the following from the classification:
 - Channel Islands (Guernsey and Jersey separately identified)
 - North Africa, n.e.c (all parts now in Spanish North Africa).

Coding rules

A range of coding rules is applied in the coding index to facilitate accurate coding of responses to the SACC classification. These include:

- Responses which relate directly to a country category but which contain information additional to that included in the coding index are allocated the code of that country category. Such instances include responses consisting of a full or formal country name (for example, Syrian Arab Republic is coded to Syria), or responses containing a geographic qualifier such as east or west (for example, South of England is coded to England).
- Responses which relate directly to a country category but which consist of alternative spellings, abbreviations, acronyms or foreign language names are allocated the code of that country category. Similarly, slang or idiosyncratic responses (for example, Aussie or Oz for Australia) are allocated the code of the country category to which they directly relate.
- A response consisting of an archaic or historical name (for example, Persia for Iran) is allocated the appropriate code for the current country or geographic area. Special supplementary codes have been assigned to defunct political entities of Eastern Europe (former USSR, former Czechoslovakia, etc).
- Responses that cannot be identified as relating directly to a separately identified country in the classification are assigned a residual category code or a supplementary n.f.d. ('Not further defined') code. Responses that do not contain sufficient information to be coded to any category of the classification are assigned the appropriate inadequately described code, for example, 'Inadequately described' (0000), 'Not elsewhere classified' (0002) or 'Not stated' (0003) code.
- Changes in national boundaries create coding difficulties. In order to maintain consistency of coding, each country response should be coded according to national boundaries existing at the time of the data collection. Birthplace responses that relate to particular cities or regions which are now in one country, but which may have been in another country at the time of birth, should be coded to the country the city or region is in at the time of collection of the data. Responses relating to countries that have changed name, without changing boundaries, are coded to the name in the current classification.