The Modified Monash Model - geographical classifications

1 There are a number of classification systems used by the Commonwealth to categorise geographical locations for the purposes of assessing participation in certain government schemes. Since 2015, the Department has commonly used the Modified Monash Model (MMM) to classify geographical location for the purposes of aged care services.

2 The MMM is based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard – Remoteness Areas (ASGS-RA), a classification system which uses census data to segment the following five categories of remoteness:

   (a) major cities (RA1);
   (b) inner regional (RA2);
   (c) outer regional (RA3);
   (d) remote (RA4); and
   (e) very remote (RA5).

3 The MMM is based on the ASGS-RA, but further subdivides regional Australia into additional categories based on distance from a town of a particular size.

4 At a high-level, the MMM classifies geographical locations in Australia as follows:

   (a) major cities have an MMM classification of “MMM1”;
   (b) inner and outer regional suburbs or localities have an MMM classification of between “MMM2” and “MMM5”, depending on the size of the local population centre;
   (c) remote suburbs or localities that are not islands more than 5 kilometres offshore have an MMM classification of “MMM6”; and
   (d) very remote suburbs or localities, and islands more than 5 kilometres offshore and Magnetic Island, have an MMM classification of “MMM7”.