

# Statistical standard for dwelling address

## Rationale

Dwelling address is a key variable for determining the geographic characteristics of the population. Dwelling address allows comparisons of outputs from different surveys on a regional basis. It is mandatory for the Census of Population and Dwellings to collect particulars as to the location of dwellings under the Statistics Act 1975.

## Definition

Dwelling address consists of the distinguishing details of the physical location of a dwelling and can include street number, name, and type; suburb or rural locality; and city, town or district. (This also includes description of the address for household surveys).

Dwelling is a supporting concept for dwelling address and is defined in the Glossary.

## Operational Issues

Data quality problems are normally avoided because an enumerator/interviewer checks the address of the dwelling. However, if questionnaires are mailed directly to Statistics New Zealand, or are collected from a different dwelling to where they were distributed, then confirmation cannot be made that the address information is sufficiently detailed or correct. Therefore, it is possible that some dwelling address data may be incomplete or inaccurate.

The dwelling address of mobile dwellings (such as boats, caravans and tents) should be the physical location of the dwelling on the date of the data collection. Temporary or makeshift dwellings such as tents, bridges or shacks are included in the scope of dwelling address. The physical location of temporary dwellings in rural areas can be difficult to determine. The enumerator/interviewer should note any nearby landmarks.

## Explanatory notes

### Alternative name

Dwelling address has been called 'address of dwelling' in the past. The term 'dwelling address' is preferred because it is more concise and it is consistent with the terms 'dwelling occupancy status', 'dwelling type', and 'workplace address'.

### Similar concepts

Dwelling address is the physical location of a dwelling, whilst the addresses of usual residence and Census night address are the location of respondents.

Usual residence is the address of the dwelling where a respondent considers himself or herself to usually live.

Census night address is the location of the dwelling where a respondent is located on Census night.

## Classification criteria

Address information (street number, name, and type; suburb or rural locality; and city, town or district) is the criterion used to place a dwelling into the classification.

## Classification

Dwelling address is a flat classification consisting of the standard meshblock codes that are current at the commencement of the survey cycle. Dwelling address has over 46,000 categories.

Classification	Dwelling Address Classification
Abbreviation	DWELADD
Version	V2.0
Effective date	01/01/2011

## Coding process

Dwelling address is usually coded via information stored in the office use or administrative panel on the questionnaire. The address obtained is coded to the meshblock level. The streets file from the Geographic Frame relates street attributes to meshblocks.

Interviewer administered surveys that utilise area-based frames generally use an address file, containing all the selected addresses within selected meshblocks (or aggregations of meshblocks).

In surveys where questionnaires are mailed directly to Statistics New Zealand, or are collected from a



Any changes to the definition of dwelling (contained in the standard for dwelling type) may affect the standard for dwelling address.

Dwelling address is linked to the standard geographic classifications used by Statistics New Zealand. Any changes to Statistics New Zealand's smallest spatial unit may affect dwelling address.

## **International**

Dwelling address is not based on an international standard or the standard of another country.

## **Glossary**

### **Area unit**

Area units are aggregations of meshblocks. They are non-administrative areas intermediate between meshblocks and territorial authorities. Area units must either define or aggregate to define urban areas, rural centres, statistical areas, territorial authorities and regional councils. Each area unit must be a single geographic entity with a unique name. Area units of main or secondary urban areas generally coincide with suburbs or parts thereof. Area units within urban areas normally contain 3,000-5,000 population.

### **Census night address**

Census night address is the physical location of the dwelling where a respondent is located on Census night. For passengers on overnight trains and buses, it is recommended that Census night address is the destination of the passenger.

### **Dwelling**

A dwelling is any building or structure, or part thereof, that is used (or intended to be used) for the purpose of human habitation. It can be of a permanent or temporary nature and includes structures such as motels, hotels, prisons, motor homes, huts, and tents. At the highest level, dwellings are classified as private or non-private.

A private dwelling accommodates a person or a group of people, but is not available to the public. A private dwelling may be permanent or temporary. Permanent private dwellings include houses and flats, residences attached to a business or institution; baches, cribs and huts. Caravans, cabins, tents and other makeshift dwellings that are the principal or usual residence of households are classified as temporary private dwellings.

All other dwellings are non-private and are available to the public. They may be available for use generally, or by virtue of occupation or study, special needs, or legal requirements. Such dwellings may have facilities (such as a dining room) that are for shared use.

### **Geographic frame**

The Geographic Frame contains an extensive street listing constantly updated by data received from territorial authorities, Electoral Enrolment Centre and Land Information New Zealand. The Geographic Frame enables an address to be geocoded to a unique meshblock. The Geographic Frame also contains other address related data such as commercial buildings, schools, hospitals etc, which may be used to geocode a location where the exact address is unknown.

### **Meshblock**

The meshblock is the smallest geographic unit for which statistical data is collected and processed by Statistics New Zealand. A meshblock is a defined geographic area, varying in size from part of a city block to large areas of rural land. Each meshblock abuts against another to form a network covering all of New Zealand including coasts and inlets, and extending out to the two hundred mile economic zone. Meshblocks are added together to 'build up' larger geographic areas such as area units and urban areas. They are also the principal unit used to draw-up and define electoral district, territorial authority and regional council boundaries.

### **Regional Council**

The Local Government Commission established regional councils in 1989. These regional councils cover every territorial authority in New Zealand with the exception of the Chatham Islands District. The geographical boundaries of regions conform as far as possible to one or more water catchments. In determining regions, consideration was also given to regional communities of interest, natural resource management, land use planning, and environmental matters.

### **Territorial Authority**

Territorial authority boundaries are defined by aggregations of area units. When defining the boundaries of territorial authorities, the Local Government Commission placed considerable weight on the 'community of interest'. While the size of the community was a factor, the relevance of the components of the community to each other and the capacity of the unit to service the community in an efficient manner, were the factors on which the Commission placed most emphasis.

### **Usual residence**

Usual residence is the address of the dwelling where a person considers himself or herself to usually

reside, except in the specific cases listed in the guidelines. See Standard for usual residence.

## References

Department of Statistics (1992). *New Zealand Standard Areas Classification Manual*, Wellington.

United Nations (1998). *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 1*, New York.

## Further information

For further information on geographic classifications refer to the *New Zealand Standard Areas Classification Manual* (catalogue number 19.035.0092), or contact the Classifications and Standards Section.