

Supplementary Table 1. Classification of hospital type according to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard-Remoteness Area, 3rd edition

Category	Hospital type	Definition
Rural	Public	A hospital funded by a State or National Government located in a rural location (ASGS RA 2-5).
Rural	Rural private	A hospital owned and operated by a private organization located in a rural location (ASGS RA 2-5).
Metropolitan	Metropolitan	A hospital funded by a State or National Government located in a metropolitan location (AGSA-RA 1) that does not provide all specialities.
Metropolitan	Tertiary	A hospital funded by State or National Government located in a metropolitan location (AGSA-RA 1) that provides all specialties including cardiothoracic surgery and/or neurosurgery.
Metropolitan	Metropolitan private	A hospital owned and operated by a private organization located in a metropolitan region (AGSA-RA 1).