

25 November 2022

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Via email: standards@abs.gov.au

Re: Help Shape the Future of Classification on Industries in Australia

To Whom it May Concern:

The Association of Digital Service Providers Australia New Zealand (DSPANZ) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission on behalf of our members and the business software industry.

About DSPANZ

Digital Service Providers Australia New Zealand is the gateway for the government into the dynamic, world class business software sector in Australia and New Zealand. Our 90+ members range from large, well-established companies through to new and nimble innovators who are working at the cutting edge of business software and app development on both sides of the Tasman.

DSPANZ supports reviewing Australia's industry classification to provide contemporary classification options that better reflect current and emerging industries.

While we support this review, we would like to highlight how any changes to industry classifications will create impacts for Digital Service Providers (DSPs) and their end user businesses. This includes:

- DSPs will be required to write mapping to avoid accountants experiencing rejected tax return lodgement as the roll over data codes will no longer be valid.
- Any ATO validations, for example acceptable deductions, will no longer work.
- Customer relationship management (CRM) and marketing systems who currently rely on using ANZSIC codes will need to map from the old codes to the new codes and there are risks of corrupting DSP data if any codes are reused for different purposes.

There may be further impacts and flow on effects that have not been considered above. This is why we recommend consulting with DSPs to better understand potential impacts.

We also believe that this review presents an opportunity to align industry classification codes with award coverage. DSPs frequently hear complaints from their customers, particularly small businesses, about how difficult it is to identify which award applies to them. If industry classification codes could be aligned to awards, it would help employers to better determine

their award coverage and it would result in better data collection for the ABS. This alignment would also mean no longer having to create and maintain mapping documents between awards and industry classification codes.

DSPANZ welcomes the opportunity to provide further feedback on our submission. For more information, please contact Maggie Leese.

Yours faithfully,

Simone Dixon,
Vice President & Director,
DSPANZ

