

Research Classifications

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

OBJECTIVE

(SEO)

Research within the Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) is classified according to three descriptors:

- Type of Research;
- Fields of Research; and
- Socio-Economic Objective.

What is an SEO?

The SEO classification allows for research and development activity to be categorised according to the perceived purpose of the research, rather than the processes or techniques used in order to achieve this objective. The purpose categories include processes, products, health, education and other social and environmental aspects in Australia and New Zealand that R&D activity aims to improve.

How are SEO codes structured?

The SEO is a hierarchical classification with three levels, namely, Divisions (2 digits) are the broadest research objective, Groups (4 digits) and Objectives (6 digits) are categories to the Divisions with which they are most closely aligned.

Level	Example
Division	24 Manufacturing
Group	2401 Agricultural Chemicals
Objective	240102 Chemical Fertilisers

Guidelines for classifying by SEO

Use of the following general procedures is recommended to assist you with ensuring consistent and successful use of the classification. A research project or research program is to be allocated to a SEO objective in a hierarchical manner. This is achieved by:

- determining the most relevant division in which the largest component of the research project or research program is being performed; then
- determining the most relevant group within that division; and then
- determining the most relevant objective within that group.

Many R&D projects will be a homogeneous body of work directed towards a specific objective. These are more straightforward to categorise. However, if the project or program is sufficiently large or complex (in terms of research areas) then multiple fields should be selected and attributed with a proportion assigned. If the disaggregation is difficult, consideration of relative importance may indicate a primary objective only (whether a specific or more general subject focus).

Where a defined objective cannot be identified within a group for a research project or research program, the 'not elsewhere classified' category at the objective level can be used, which is a code that always ends with "99".

Further information: <https://bit.ly/3dUFACs>

SEO Codes: <https://bit.ly/3hknAUB>

SEOs - 2008 vs 2020 Codes: <https://bit.ly/3hwYIO7>