11.1 Measuring a garment

- Gently place the garment on a flat surface for measuring.
- Use a soft tape measure and a lead pencil to record measurements.
- Measurements are taken in millimetres.
- Not all measurement fields will be relevant to every garment. You will have some blanks.
- Girth measurements for the register are taken on the inside of the garment to give information about the wearer’s size. If you measure the waist, hips or neck on the outside, the result may be considerably larger.
- If there is confusion about where the dimensions are taken, put this in the notes field, for example, there may be a very low neck or three-quarter sleeve.
- When measuring, for example, front waist to hem, measure the waist from the centre of the waistband, i.e., where the waist actually is.
- Fabric width (selvedge to selvedge) — if you find a width of fabric that has a selvedge on each side, you know that this is the width of the manufactured cloth. Often in a skirt or coat this can indicate where and when the fabric was made and can be used to compare with other garments. Selvedges that feature a contrasting coloured thread along the length can indicate the origin or date of the fabric.
- For attachments (such as buttons) on cuffs, waistbands etc, measure from the centre of the button around to the centre of the buttonhole, not to the fabric edge.

We have chosen the following measurements for the Australian Dress Register

Girth

If the part opens, measure from the point of fastenings such as button to buttonhole, hook to eye.

Waist: a line of coloured cross-stitches hand stitched on a waistband indicate the centre front.
**Vertical**

- Front neck to hem
- Front waist to hem
- Back neck to hem
- Back waist to hem

- Sleeve length
- Inside leg
- Outside leg

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**Horizontal**

- Neck to sleeve head
- Across back
- Underarm to underarm (at back)

**Underarm to underarm (at back):** If there are no side seams, lay the closed bodice on a flat surface, then measure across the back from the base of one armhole to the other.

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For a video demonstration, go online.