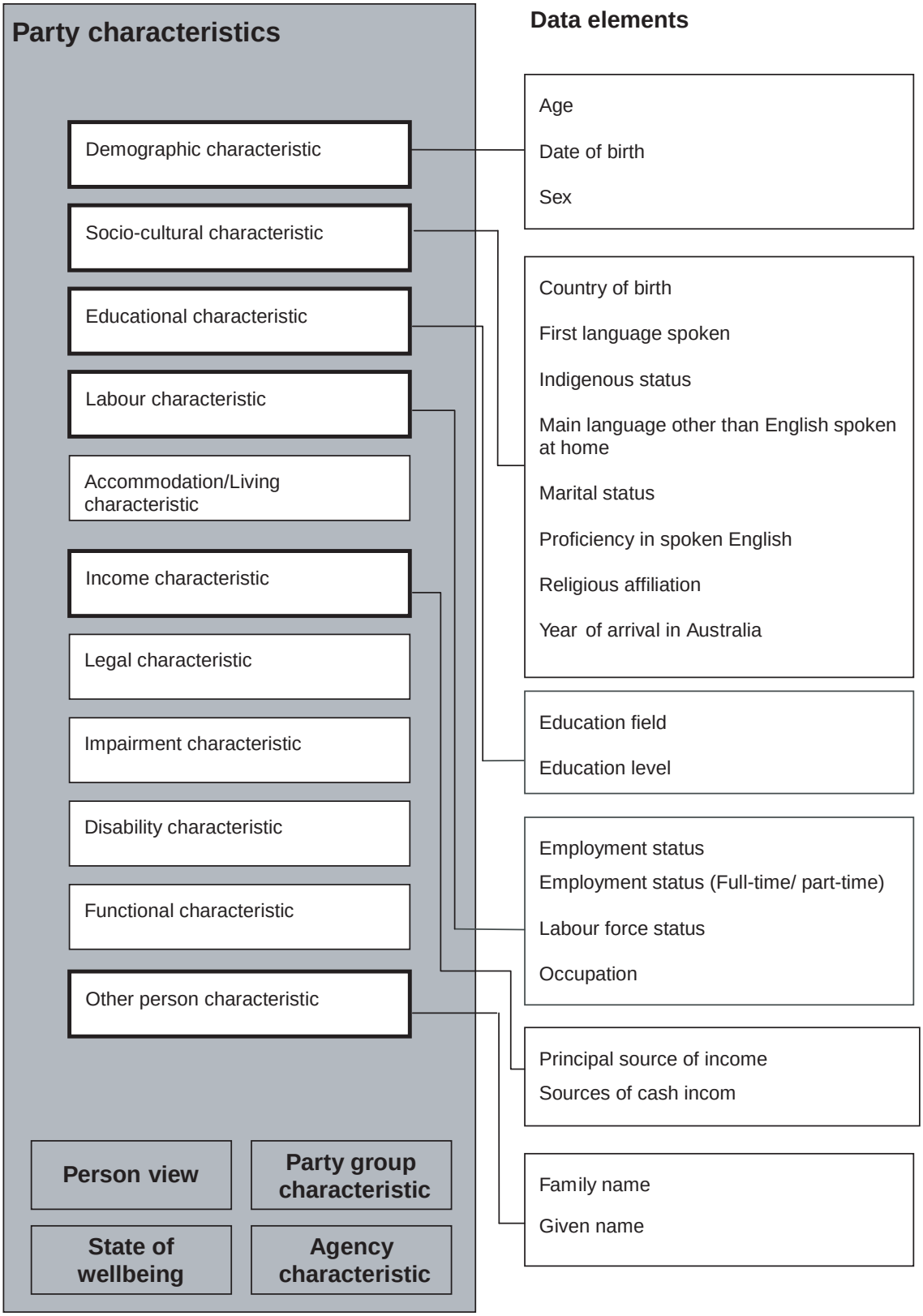
National Community Services Information Model, version 1, Entities



Age

Original	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/1998	NCSIMG	000503
NCSI Model Location			*Data Class*	*Version*
Person characteristic/demographic characteristic			Socio-demographic	1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The age of the person in (completed) years.

Context: Socio-demographic indicator.

The data element Age is used in analyses of service utilisation by age group and comparisons with demographic statistics.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 1 ***Max.*** 3 ***Representational layout:*** NNN

Data domain: Age in single years (if aged under one year, record as zero).

Guide for use: If year of birth is known (but date of birth is not) use the date, 0101YYYY of the birth year to estimate age (where YYYY is the year of birth). If age (or date of birth) is unknown or not stated, and cannot be estimated, use code 999.

Collection methods: Although collection of date of birth allows more precise calculation of age, this may not be feasible in some data collections, and alternative questions are:

Age last birthday?

What was … age last birthday?

What is … age in complete years?

Related data: Is related to the data element Date of birth, v.1 (see Comments).

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1995 (as amended). Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic Variables. Catalogue No. 1361.30.001 (Statistical Concepts Library) Canberra: AGPS.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: In most community services data collections, age in years is often reported rather than derived from the data element 'Date of birth'.

Date of birth

Original	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/1998	NCSIMG	000514
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/demographic characteristic			Socio-demographic	1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The date of birth of the person.

Context: If the data element Age is not collected, this data element can be used to derive age for use both in comparisons with population data and in analysis of service use by age group. Date of birth can also be used as an aid to uniquely identify a client if other identifying information is missing or in question.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** DATE

Field size: ***Min.*** 8 ***Max.*** 8 ***Representational layout:*** DDMMYYYY

Data domain: Valid date

Guide for use: If date of birth is not known or cannot be obtained, provision should be made to collect or estimate age (in years) and a date of birth derived from this age using 0101 as DDMM if only the year is known.

Collection methods: It is recommended that in cases where all components of the date of birth are not known or where an estimate is arrived at from age, a valid date be used together with a flag to indicate that it is an estimate.

Related data: Related to the data element Age v.1.

Administrative attributes

Source document: AIHW: 1999. National Health Data Dictionary, version 9. Catalogue No. HWI 24. Canberra: AIHW.

Source organisation: National Health Data Committee

Comments: Privacy issues need to be taken account in asking persons their date of birth. Wherever possible and wherever appropriate in a community services context, date of birth should be used rather than age because the actual date of birth usually allows more precise calculation of Age.

Sex

Revised	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000535
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/demographic characteristic			Socio-demographic	2

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The sex of the person.

Context: Demographic detail and service planning:

Required for analysis of service utilisation and need for services.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 1 ***Max.*** 1 ***Representational layout:*** N

Data domain:

1 Male

2 Female

3 Indeterminate

9 Not stated/inadequately described

Guide for use: In the NHDD v9 an indeterminate sex category may be necessary for situations such as the classification of perinatal statistics when it is not possible for the sex to be determined. The indeterminate category has been retained in NCSDD v2 for consistency with the NHDD.

Collection methods: It is suggested that the following format be used for data collection:

What is your (the person's) sex?

___ Male

___ Female

The term 'sex' refers to the biological differences between males and females, while the term 'gender' refers to the socially expected/perceived dimensions of behaviour associated with males and females – masculinity and femininity. The ABS advises that the correct terminology for this data element is sex. Where uncertainty exists about the sex of the person (e.g. for transvestites or transsexuals) the sex to be recorded is to be based on the sex nominated by the person themselves on the observations or judgement of the interviewer. Although this may lead to some error, it is considered preferable to any offence that may be caused by a question that suggests that there is some doubt about the person's sex or sexuality. Arguably, the majority of community services data collections collect `gender' rather than `sex' (although the term `sex' is often used) because the person is asked to simply state his/her sex without any accompanying instructions.

Related data: Supersedes previous data element Sex,v.1.

Sex *(continued)*

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1995 (as amended). Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic Variables. Catalogue No. 1361.30.001 (Statistical Concepts Library) Canberra: AGPS.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments:

Country of birth

Revised	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000511
NCSI Model Location			*Data Class*	*Version*
Person characteristic/socio-cultural characteristic			Socio-demographic	2

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The country in which the person was born.

Context: Country of birth is important in the study of access to services by different population sub-groups. Country of birth is the most easily collected and consistently reported of a range of possible data items. Country of birth may be used in conjunction with other data elements such as period of residence in Australia, etc., to derive more sophisticated measures of access to services by different population sub-groups.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 4 ***Max.*** 4 ***Representational layout:*** NNNN

Data domain: Standard Australian Classification of Countries 1998 (SACC), which replaces the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS). ABS Catalogue No. 1269.0.

This is a 4-digit, 3-level hierarchical structure (major group, minor group and country).

See Information Annex 4.3 for details regarding this classification.

Guide for use: A country, even if it comprises other discrete political entities such as states, is treated as a single unit for all data domain purposes. Parts of a political entity are not included in different groups. Thus, Hawaii is included in Northern America (as part of the identified country United States of America), despite being geographically close to and having similar social and cultural characteristics as the units classified to Polynesia.

Collection methods: Note that SACC is mappable to but not identical to ASCCSS.

Some community services data collections ask respondents to specify their country of birth (e.g. SAAP). In some collections, a pre-determined set of countries is specified as part of the question, usually accompanied by an 'other' (please specify) category. In either case coding of data should conform to SACC. Sometimes respondents are simply asked to specify whether they were born in either 'English speaking' or 'non-English speaking countries' but this question is of limited use.

Related data: Related to the data elements:

Year of arrival in Australia v.2,
Main language other than English spoken at home v.2,
First language spoken v.2,
Proficiency in spoken English v.1.

Supersedes previous data element Country of birth,v.1

Country of birth *(continued)*

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1998. Standard Australian Classification of Countries. Catalogue No. 1269.0. Canberra: AGPS.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: See Information Annex 4.3

First language spoken

Revised	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000519
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/socio-cultural characteristic			Socio-demographic	2

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The language the person identifies, or remembers, as being the first language that they could understand to the extent of being able to conduct a conversation.

Context: Persons whose first language is not English have been identified by service providers as a population group that may experience disadvantage when seeking to obtain equal access to government and community programs and services in Australia. Data relating to First language spoken may thus provide a surrogate indicator of disadvantage potentially associated with a lack of English competence or with other factors associated with cultural background.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 1 ***Max.*** 4 ***Representational layout:*** NNNN

Data domain: Refer to the ABS Australian Standard Classification of Languages, 1997, Catalogue No. 1267.0 for details.

Guide for use: At the most detailed level the ABS Classification comprises four-digit codes based on a hierarchical structure. It includes codes for Indigenous Australian languages and sign language. Generally for output purposes, four-digit language codes are grouped into language regions, either at two-digit or one-digit level.

For example, the Lithuanian language has a code of 3102: 31 denotes that it is a Baltic language, while 3 denotes that it is an Eastern European language.

The Pintupi Aboriginal language has a code of 8217: 82 denotes that the language is Central Aboriginal and, 8 denotes that it is an Australian Indigenous language.

Collection methods: It is recommended that data be collected at the 2 or 4-digit level. Data collected at the 4-digit level will obviously provide more detailed information than that collected at the 2-digit level, but may be more difficult to collect.

Related data: Supersedes previous data element First language spoken v.1.

Related to the data elements:

Main language other than English spoken at home v.2,
Interpreter services required v.2,
Country of birth v.2, and
Proficiency in spoken English v.1.

First language spoken *(continued)*

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1995 (as amended). Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic Variables. Catalogue No. 1361.30.001 (Statistical Concepts Library) Canberra: AGPS.

ABS: 1997.Australian Standard Classification of Languages. Catalogue No. 1267.0. Canberra: AGPS.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments:

Indigenous status

Revised	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000524
NCSI Model Location			*Data Class*	*Version*
Person characteristic/socio-cultural characteristic			Socio-demographic	2

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.

Context: Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples occupy a unique place in Australian society and culture. In the current climate of reconciliation, accurate and consistent statistics about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are needed in order to plan, promote and deliver essential services, to monitor changes in well-being and to account for government expenditure in this area.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: **Min** 1 **Max** 1 ***Representational layout:*** N

Data domain:

1 Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin
2 Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin
3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin
4 Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin
9 Not stated/inadequately described

Guide for use: There are three components to the definition:

- descent;
- self-identification; and
- community acceptance.

The classification for 'Indigenous status' has a hierarchical structure comprising two levels. There are four categories at the detailed level of the classification which are grouped into two categories at the broad level. There is one supplementary category for 'not stated' responses. The classification is as follows:

Indigenous

- Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin
- Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin
- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin

Non-indigenous

- Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin

Indigenous status *(continued)*

Guide for use (continued)

Not stated/inadequately described

This category is not to be available as a valid answer to the questions but is intended for use:

- primarily when importing data from other data collections that do not contain mappable data;
- where an answer was refused;
- where the question was not able to be asked prior to completion of assistance because the client was unable to communicate or a person who knows the client was not available.

Only in the last two situations may the tick boxes on the questionnaire be left blank. Refer to ABS for advice in relation to the recording of indigenous status for children in receipt of children's services.

Collection methods:

The standard question for Indigenous status is as follows:

[Are you] [Is the person] [Is (name)] of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

(For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.)

No . . . . . .

Yes, Aboriginal . . . . . .

Yes, Torres Strait Islander . . . . . .

This question is recommended for self-enumerated or interview-based collections. It can also be used in circumstances where a close relative, friend, or another member of the household is answering on behalf of the subject.

When someone is not present, the person answering for them should be in a position to do so, i.e. this person must know the person about whom the question is being asked well and feel confident to provide accurate information about them. However, it is strongly recommended that this question be asked directly wherever possible.

This question should always be asked even if the person does not 'look' Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

The Indigenous Status question allows for more than one response. The procedure for coding multiple responses is as follows:

If the respondent marks 'No' and either 'Aboriginal' or 'Torres Strait Islander', then the response should be coded to either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as indicated (i.e. disregard the 'No' response).

If the respondent marks both the 'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander' boxes, then their response should be coded to 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin'.

If the respondent marks all three boxes ('No', 'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander'), then the response should be coded to 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin' (i.e. disregard the 'No' response).

Related data:

Supersedes previous data element Indigenous status v.1.

Indigenous status *(continued)*

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1999. Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity. Catalogue No. 1289.0. Canberra: AGPS.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: A person who applies for Abstudy simply has to identify himself or herself as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander when claiming payment. Only where his or her indigenous status has been challenged will he or she be required to produce a certified letter of acceptance from a nominated member of an Aboriginal community to establish eligibility.

Main language other than English spoken at home

Revised	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000528
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/socio-cultural characteristic			Socio-demographic	2

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The language reported by a person as the main language other than English spoken by a person in his/her home (or most recent private residential setting occupied by the person) on a regular basis, to communicate with other residents of the home or setting and regular visitors.

Context: Data on main language spoken at home are regarded as an indicator of 'active' ethnicity and also as useful for the study of inter-generational language retention. The availability of such data may help providers of welfare and community services to effectively target the geographic areas or population groups that need those services. It may be used for the investigation and development of language services such as interpreter/translation services.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 4 ***Max.*** 4 ***Representational layout:*** NNNN

Data domain: Refer to the ABS Australian Standard Classification of Languages, 1997, Catalogue No. 1267.0 for details.

Guide for use: At the most detailed level the ABS Classification comprises four-digit codes based on a hierarchical structure. It includes codes for Indigenous Australian languages and sign language. Generally for output purposes, four-digit language codes are grouped into language regions, either at two-digit or one-digit level.

For example, the Lithuanian language has a code of 3102 denotes that it is a Baltic language, while 3 denotes, that it is an Eastern European language.

The Pintupi Aboriginal language has a code of 8217 denotes that the language is Central Aboriginal, 8 denotes that it is an Australian Indigenous language.

Note that the code 9900 should be used where language is Not stated/ inadequately described.

Persons not in private residential settings should respond for 'at home' as the most recent private residential setting in which that person has resided.

The reference in the title to 'at home' may cause offence to homeless persons and should be shortened to 'Main language other than English spoken' where applicable.

Collection methods: It is recommended that data be collected at the 2 or 4-digit level. Data collected at the 4-digit level will obviously provide more detailed information than that collected at the 2-digit level, but may be more difficult to collect.

Main language other than English spoken at home *(continued)*

Related data: Related to the data elements:

First language spoken v.2,
Country of birth v.2,
Interpreter service required v.1,
Proficiency in spoken English v.1.

Supersedes previous data element Main language spoken at home, version 1.

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1997. Australian Standard Classification of Languages. Catalogue No. 1267.0. Canberra: AGPS.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: Data may be collected at any level but is most accurate at the 4-digit level.

Marital status

Original	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/1998	NCSIMG	000529
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/socio-cultural characteristic			Socio-demographic	1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The current marital status of the person.

Context: Marital status is a core data element in a wide range of social, labour and demographic statistics. Its main purpose is analysis of the association of marital status with the need for, and use of, services. Marital status also acts as an indicator, for the level of support adult recipients of the welfare system have at home. The item is also used in comparisons of administrative data and population censuses and surveys.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 1 ***Max.*** 1 ***Representational layout:*** N

Data domain:

1	Never married
2	Widowed
3	Divorced
4	Separated
5	Married (registered and defacto)
9	Not stated/inadequately described

Guide for use: Refers to the current marital status of a person. Therefore if a person has been divorced but has since re-married, then they should be recorded as 5. Married.

The category Married (registered and de facto) should be generally accepted as applicable to all de facto couples, including of the same sex.

Collection methods: Although marital status is an important factor in assessing the type and extent of support needs, such as for the elderly living at home, marital status alone does not adequately address the need for information about social support and living arrangements. Other data elements need to be collected to capture this information.

Related data: Related to the data elements:

Relationship in household v.2,
Family type v.2,
Household type v.2,
Living arrangements v.2,
Informal carer v.2.

Marital status *(continued)*

Administrative attributes

Source document: AIHW: 1999. National Health Data Dictionary, version 9. Catalogue No. HWI 24. Canberra: AIHW.

Source organisation: National Community Services Data Committee

Comments: ABS standards (see ABS: Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic statistics) identify two concepts of marital status:

- *registered* marital status – defined as whether a person has, or has had, a legally registered marriage;
- *social* marital status – based on a person's living arrangements (including de facto marriages), as reported by the person.

ABS recommends that the social marital status concept be collected when information on marital status is sought, whereas the registered marital status concept need only be collected where it is specifically required for the purposes of the collection and only in areas of consent if necessary. Most community services data collections ask clients to self-report their marital status. Hence, the operative concept is one of 'social' marital status.

Proficiency in spoken English

New	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000583
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/socio-cultural characteristic			Socio-demographic	1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: A person's stated proficiency in spoken English.

Context: This data element identifies those people most likely to suffer disadvantage in terms of their ability to access services due to language and/or cultural difficulties.

The ABS also sees this data element as being a key variable in determining cultural and ethnicity identity. In conjunction with Main language spoken at home and Country of birth, these combined data elements replace the previously used concept of Non-English-speaking background (NESB).

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 1 ***Max.*** 1 ***Representational layout:*** N

Data domain:

0	Not applicable (person under 5 years of age)
1	Very well
2	Well
3	Not well
4	Not at all
9	Not stated/inadequately described

Guide for use: This item is **only** used in conjunction with 'Main language other than English spoken at home'.

Code 9 should only be used for past collections where this item was not collected or if the person does not respond to the question. It should not be a response included on the collection form.

Collection methods: Suggested question:

How well do you speak English? (tick one)

Generally this would be a self-reported question, but in some circumstances (particularly where a person does not speak English well) assistance will be required in answering this question. It is important that the person's self-assessed proficiency in spoken English be recorded wherever possible. This data element does not purport to be a technical assessment of proficiency but is a self-assessment in the four broad categories outlined above.

This data element is not relevant and should not be collected for persons under the age of 5.

Related data: First language spoken v.2,
Main language other than English spoken at home v.2,
Interpreter services required v.2, and
Country of birth v.2.

Proficiency in spoken English *(continued)*

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1998. Cultural and Language Indicators Pilot Study. Canberra: AGPS.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: The ABS has found that many people overstate their English proficiency on the Census question (Dept of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, 1996 Classification of Countries into English Proficiency Groups).

Religious affiliation

New	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000586
NCSI Model Location			*Data Class*	*Version*
Person characteristic/socio-cultural characteristic			Socio-demographic	1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The religious group to which a person belongs or adheres.

Context: Service provision: In some circumstances this item can allow agencies to deliver more culturally relevant services to some clients. It also provides a useful indicator of aspects of cultural diversity.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 1 ***Max.*** 4 ***Representational layout:*** NNNN

Data domain: See the Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG), ABS Catalogue No. 1266.0 for the full list of categories.

The ASCRG has a hierarchy consisting of three levels:

- The first and most general level contains 7 Broad groups;
- The second level contains 33 Narrow Groups of Religious Groups similar in terms of religious beliefs, religious practices and/or cultural heritage; and
- The third and most detailed level contains 107 Religious Groups.

Due to space limitations, only the seven Broad Groups of the classification are listed here:

1 Buddhism
2 Christianity
3 Hinduism
4 Islam
5 Judaism
6 Other religions
7 No religion

Guide for use: Wherever possible, data should be collected, classified and stored at the base or most detailed level of the classification. This allows the greatest flexibility for the output of data, enables more detailed and complex analyses, facilitates comparisons with previous data using different classifications, and preserves information that may prove historically useful.

Responses provided in statistical and administrative collections do not always relate directly to classification categories. A coding index is therefore provided in the ABS publication of the ASCRG (Catalogue No. 1266.0). This acts as a link between responses and the classification, enabling responses to be assigned accurately and quickly to the appropriate category of the classification.

Collection methods: It is essential that where this question is asked, it be clearly marked as optional.

Religious affiliation *(continued)*

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1996. Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG), ABS Catalogue No. 1266.0. Canberra: AGPS.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments:

Year of arrival in Australia

Revised	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000543
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/socio-cultural characteristic			Socio-demographic	2

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The year a person (born outside of Australia) first arrived in Australia, from another country, with the intention of staying in Australia for one year or more.

Context: Client demographic and support needs:

This data element is an important indicator of cultural identity, and provides further information about the person's cultural values and practices which is significant in determining service type and support required. May also be used in conjunction with other socio-demographic data to indicate the background of the person, communication skills and their possible needs.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** YEAR

Field size: ***Min.*** 4 ***Max.*** 4 ***Representational layout:*** YYYY

Data domain: Actual year of arrival in Australia.

Guide for use:

Collection methods:

Related data: Supersedes previous data element Year of arrival in Australia v.1.

Related to the data elements:

Country of birth v.2,
First language spoken v.2,
Main language other than English spoken at home v.2,
Proficiency in spoken English v.1.

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1995 (as amended). Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic Variables. Catalogue No. 1361.30.001 (Statistical Concepts Library) Canberra: AGPS.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments:

Education field

New	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	TRIAL	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000570
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/education characteristic			Socio-demographic	1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The area(s) of higher education or vocational training in which a person has a demonstrated expertise/knowledge.

Context: This item provides a useful indicator of aspects of educational diversity.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 2 ***Max.*** 2 ***Representational layout:*** NN

Data domain:

01	Natural and physical sciences
02	Information technology
03	Engineering and related technologies
04	Architecture and building
05	Agriculture, Environmental and related studies
06	Health
07	Education
08	Management and commerce
09	Society and culture
10	Creative arts
11	Food, hospitality and personal services
12	Mixed field programs
13	Other field of education
99	Not stated/inadequately described

Guide for use: The data domain categories shown above relate to broad fields specified in the Australian Standard Classification of Education, Field of Education. This is a hierarchical classification, which specifies narrow and detailed fields for each of the broad fields. For example, social work is coded to the broad field 09 'Society and Culture'; the narrow field 0905 'Human Welfare Studies' and Services sand the detailed field 090501 'Social Work' (see Source document for more details).

Education field *(continued)*

Collection methods: Higher education includes post-primary education and excludes pre-tertiary education.

Given the inherent complexities in collecting this data item, for community service data collection it is advised to code to the 2 or 4-digit level only.

This trial data element is based on a recently issued ABS standard. Its application to community services data collection activity is subject to further development and testing. This will include;

- a review of the ways in which this information is collected in existing administrative data collections,
- and an appraisal of its operational feasibility, and
- further consultation with ABS.

Related data: Is related to Education level v.1.

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: (under development) Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED): Information Paper.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments:

Education level

New	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	TRIAL	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000579
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/education characteristic			Socio-demographic	1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The highest level of education that a person has completed.

Context: This item provides a useful indicator of aspects of educational diversity.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 1 ***Max.*** 1 ***Representational layout:*** N

Data domain:

1	Degree or higher
2	Diploma or Advanced Diploma
3	Certificate
4	Senior Secondary Education (e.g. Year 12, Senior Secondary Certificate of Education
5	Junior Secondary Education (e.g. Year 10)
6	Primary School Education
7	Did not attend primary or secondary school
9	Not stated/inadequately described

Guide for use: The data domain categories shown above can be linked to broad levels of education specified in the new (yet to be released) Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED). The recommended question wording for collecting data on level of education is outlined below.

Collection methods: The recommended question wording for this data element is as follows: "What is the highest level of education…. (the client) has completed? (Mark one box only). The levels should be listed as set out above.

If the client is in Year 11, then the category Junior Secondary Education (Year 10) should be marked as the highest level of education completed.

Primary School Education includes Year 6 in NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT; and Year 7 in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the northern Territory.

The application of this trial data element to community services data collection activity is subject to further development and testing. This will include;

- a review of the ways in which this information is collected in existing administrative data collections,
- and an appraisal of its operational feasibility, and
- further consultation with ABS.

Related data: Is related to Education field v.1.

Education level *(continued)*

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: (under development) Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED): Information Paper.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments:

Employment status

New	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000594
NCSI Model Location			*Data Class*	*Version*
Person characteristic/labour characteristic			Socio-demographic	1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: Describes the person's position in relation to their employment.

Usually the standard applies to the main job in which the person is employed (i.e. the job in which the person usually works the most hours). However, it may also be applied to 'last job', 'second job' etc.

Context: Demographic detail:

Employment is an indicator of the socio-economic status (economic activity) of a person and is a key element in assessing the circumstances and needs of individuals and families.

It is one of a group of items that provide a description of a person's labour force characteristics.

See Information Annex 4.2 for details regarding Labour force data items and standard questions.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 1 ***Max.*** 1 ***Representational layout:*** N

Data domain:

1 Employee
2 Employer
3 Own account worker
4 Contributing family worker
9 Not stated/inadequately described

Guide for use:

1 Employee

An employee is a person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, and a retainer fee by their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece-rates or payment in kind. Or a person who operates his or her own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.

2 Employer

An employer is a person who operates his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees.

3 Own account worker

An own account worker is a person who operates his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.

Employment status *(continued)*

Guide for use:

4 Contributing family worker

A contributing family worker is a person who works without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.

9 Not stated/inadequately described

Is not for use on primary collection forms. It is primarily for use in administrative collections when transferring data from data sets where the item has not been collected.

Collection methods: See Information Annex 4.2 for details regarding Labour force data items and standard questions. Note that Employment status cannot be measured using the ABS minimum question set. In order to derive this variable an additional question must be asked which identifies the corporate nature of a business for those working in their own business.

Related data: Employment status (full-time/part-time) v.1 and Labour force status v.2.

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1996. Standards for Labour Force Statistics. Catalogue No. 1288.0. Canberra: AGPS.

NSW Human Services Data Dictionary, Version 1.0 (under development)

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments:

Employment status (full-time/part-time)

New	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000572
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/labour characteristic			Socio-demographic	1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: Whether a person in paid employment is employed full-time or part-time.

Context: Resource and service planning:

This element is useful to help gain an understanding of the distribution and structure of the community service labour force.

It is one of a group of items that provide a description of a persons' labour force characteristics.

See Information Annex 4.2 for details regarding Labour force data items and standard questions.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 1 ***Max.*** 1 ***Representational layout:*** N

Data domain: Employed:

1 Full-time

2 Part-time

9 Not stated/inadequately described

Guide for use: Applies only to people whose Labour force status is employed. (See data element Labour force status for a definition of `employed'.)

Employed persons are:

1 Full-time if they usually work 35 hours or more in a week (in all paid jobs); and

2 Part-time if they usually work less than 35 hours a week (in all paid jobs).

Not stated/inadequately described is not for use on primary collection forms. It is primarily for use in administrative collections when transferring data from data sets where the item has not been collected.

Collection methods: See Information Annex 4.2 for details regarding Labour force data items and standard questions.

Can be collected for an actual week (e.g. a particular reference period), or a usual week (e.g. a person usually works part time though they worked Full-time in the last week).

Related data: Labour force status v.2,
Employment status v.1.

Employment status (full-time/part-time) *(continued)*

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1996. Standards for Labour Force Statistics. Catalogue No. 1288.0. Canberra: AGPS.

NSW Human Services Data Dictionary, Version 1.0 (under development)

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments:

Labour force status

Revised	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000526
NCSI Model Location			*Data Class*	*Version*
Person characteristic/labour characteristic			Socio-demographic	2

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The self reported status the person currently has in being either in the labour force (employed/unemployed) or not in the labour force. The categories are determined by a person's status in relation to current economic activity (which is measured by their activities in relation to work in a specified reference period).

Context: Labour force status is an indicator of the socio-economic status (economic activity) of a person and is a key element in assessing the circumstances and needs of individuals and families.

It is one of a group of items that provide a description of a person's labour force characteristics.

See Information Annex 4.2 for details regarding Labour force data items and standard questions.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: **Min** 1 ***Max.*** 1 ***Representational layout:*** N

Data domain:

1 Employed

2 Unemployed

3 Not in the labour force

9 Not stated/inadequately described

Guide for use: Definitions for these categories are:

Employed:

Employed persons comprise all those aged 15 years and over whom, during the reference week:

(a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising 'Employees', 'Employers' and 'Own Account Workers'; or

(b) worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. 'Contributing Family Worker'); or

(c) were 'Employees' who had a job but were not at work and were: on paid leave. On leave without pay, for less than four weeks, up to the end of the reference week. Stood down without pay because of bad weather or plant breakdown at their place of employment, for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week. On strike or locked out; on workers' compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full-time study; or

(d) were 'Employers', 'Own Account Workers' or 'Contributing Family Workers' who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Labour force status *(continued)*

Guide for use (continued):

Unemployed:

Unemployed persons are those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

(a) had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week. Were available for work in the reference week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the reference week). Or were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and would have started in the reference week if the job had been available then; or

(b) were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week (including the whole of the reference week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

Note: Actively looking for work includes writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work;. As well as, answering a newspaper advertisement for a job; checking factory or job placement agency notice boards; being registered with a job placement agency; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; contacting friends or relatives.

Not in the Labour Force:

Persons not in the labour force are those persons who, during the reference week, were not in the categories employed or unemployed, as defined. They include persons who were keeping house (unpaid), retired, voluntarily inactive, permanently unable to work, persons in institutions (hospitals, gaols, sanatoriums, etc.), trainee teachers, members of contemplative religious orders, and persons whose only activity during the reference week was jury service or unpaid voluntary work for a charitable organisation.

Collection methods: This definition is based on the ABS standard definition of labour force status. It is generally measured at the point of coming into contact with (or completion of assistance by) a community services agency.

See Information Annex 4.2 for details regarding Labour force data items and standard questions.

Related data: Supersedes previous data element Labour force status v.1.

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1995 (as amended). Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic Variables. Catalogue No. 1361.30.001 (Statistical Concepts Library) Canberra: AGPS.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: See Information Annex 4.2.

Occupation

New	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000582
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/labour characteristic			Socio-demographic	1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The current job or duties in which a person is principally engaged.

Context: This data element may be useful in gaining an understanding of a clients situation and needs. For example, the occupation of a person with a disability may be directly relevant to the type of aids that they require.

It could also be used to collect information about employees of community service agencies.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 2 ***Max.*** 6 ***Representational layout:*** NN (NNNN)

Data domain: Refer to Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second edition (ABS 1997, Catalogue No. 1220.0 2-digit code level (sub major group).

Guide for use: This can be used to code the occupation of client or the person providing the service. The 2-digit code level (sub-major group) is recommended for most collections although occupation may be classified up to the 6-digit level, see comments and source document for details.

Collection methods: This data element should only be collected from people whose Labour force status is *employed*.

Occupation is too complex and diverse an issue to fit neatly into any useable small group of categories. Therefore the ABS recommend that this data element be collected by using the following 2 open-ended questions.

What was your occupation in the last week?

What tasks did you perform in that occupation?

The information gained from these 2 questions can then be used to select an appropriate code from the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations.

Related data: Labour force status v.2,
Employment status (full-time/part-time) v.1,
Employment status v.2.

Occupation *(continued)*

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1997. Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition. Catalogue No. 1220.0. Canberra: AGPS.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: The structure of the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations has five levels:

9	Major groups	1-digit codes
35	Sub-major groups	2-digit codes
81	Minor groups	3-digit codes
340	Unit groups	4-digit codes
986	Occupations	6-digit codes

For example:

Level	**Code**	**Title**
Major group	2	Professionals
Sub-major group	23	Education Professionals
Minor group	231	School Teachers
Unit group	2311	Special Education Teachers
Occupation	2311–11	Teacher of the Hearing Impaired

Principal source of income

Revised	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	TRIAL	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000531
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/income characteristic			Cross-Program	2

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The source by which a person derives most (equal to or greater than 50%) of their income. If the person has multiple sources of income and none equal to or greater than 50%, the one, which contributes the largest percentage, should be counted.

Context: The element is an indicator of the needs and circumstances of individuals and sometimes, used in assessment of income equity.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 1 ***Max.*** 2 ***Representational layout:*** NN

Data domain:

1 Primary cash income

2 Property cash income

3 Cash Transfers

31 Australian Government Cash Transfers

4 Other income

5 Nil income

9 Not stated/not known/inadequately described

Guide for use: The data domain categories shown above can be linked to broad sources of cash income specified in the new (yet to be released) Australian Standard Classification of Sources of Cash Income.

A person with more than one source of income should be categorised only to the data domain category, which best describes their primary source of income. If there is more than one source and they are exactly equal, list the source of employment to which the person most identifies as a primary occupation.

This question is not asked of person's aged less than 15 years because they are generally dependants.

Primary cash income: includes employee cash income such as wages and salaries and cash income from entrepreneurial activity by an employer or own account worker.

Property cash income: includes cash income deriving from the ownership of assets; it comprises returns from financial assets (interest, dividend) from physical assets (rent) and from intellectual assets (royalties).

Cash transfers: can be broken down to 'Australian Government Cash Transfers' (31). This category can be further classified to the 3-digit level which is categorised by target groups.

Principal source of income

Guide for use (continued):	For example, payments to parents could be broken down into payments to single parents and payments to partnered parents. The latter can be broken down again between those receiving the basic amount and those on full or above basic amounts. Similarly, payments to persons of employable age n.e.i. can be divided between different payments like Newstart and Mature Age Allowance, or between job seekers and others. See 'Sources of cash income'.
Collection methods:	Individual community services data collections may use more detailed categories for one or more of the above for program or service-specific purposes. For example, the Commonwealth State Disability Agreement MDS separately identifies disability support pension recipients and other pension/benefit recipients.
Related data:	Supersedes previous data element Principle source of income v.1. For types of pensions/benefits please refer to data element, Sources of cash income v.1.

Administrative attributes

Source document:	ABS: 1995 (as amended). Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic Variables. Catalogue No. 1361.30.001 (Statistical Concepts Library) Canberra: AGPS. ABS: (under development). Australian Standard Classification of Sources of Cash Income.
Source organisation:	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Comments:	

Sources of cash income

New	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	TRIAL	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000592
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/income characteristic			Socio-demographic	1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: Sources of all cash income which an individual (or income group or household) might receive e.g. from employment, property or cash transfers.

Context: Socio-economic indicator:

Information about the receipt by an individual of cash income can be an indicator of the extent of financial disadvantage among clients.

Needs and policy planning:

Information about the receipt by an individual of cash income also helps to identify sub-groups of particular policy interest, such as, carers and people with disabilities.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric ***Representational form:*** CODE

Field size: ***Min.*** 1 ***Max.*** 3 ***Representational layout:*** NNN

Data domain: **Draft Proposed Classification of Sources of Cash Income**

1 Primary Cash Income
- 11 Employee Cash Income
- 12 Entrepreneurial Cash Income

2 Property Cash Income
- 21 Interest
- 22 Rent
- 23 Dividends
- 24 Other property cash income

3 Transfer Cash Income
- 31 Australian Government Cash Transfers
- 32 Superannuation/Annuities
- 33 Current Cash transfers from Private Organisations
- 34 Current Cash Transfers from Other Households
- 35 Transfers from Overseas Governments
- 36 Other Transfer Cash Income

99 Not stated/inadequately described

Sources of cash income *(continued)*

Guide for use: A person may obtain cash income from more than one of the above sources.

Australian Government Cash Transfers above will be classified to a 3-digit level by target group categories which, can then be further broken down. For example, payments to parents could be broken down into payments to single parents and payments to partnered parents. The latter can be broken down again between those receiving the basic amount and those on full or above basic amounts. Similarly, payments to persons of employable age n.e.i. can be divided between different payments like Newstart and Mature Age Allowance, or between job seekers and others.

Social security legislation provides a classification of social security payments of different types.

Currently four Commonwealth government agencies are responsible for the administration of social security payments. These are the Department of Family and Community Services, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. See *Centrelink Information: A guide to payments and services. 1999–2000* for details of payments administered by Centrelink on behalf of each of these agencies.

Refer to Source documents for further details.

Collection methods: This item can provide a fuller picture of a person's income and/or socio-economic status. It can be used in conjunction labour-force data items (see Information Annexe 4.2 Labour Force), but is not a replacement for them.

Related data: To be used in conjunction with Principal source of income v.2.

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: (under development). Australian Standard Classification of Sources of Cash Income.

Centrelink Information: A guide to payments and services. 1999–2000. Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services

Comments:

Family name

New	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000569
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/other person characteristic			Socio-demographic	1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The name a person has in common with other members of her/his family, as distinguished from her/his first given name.

Context: Data linkage, administrative purposes and individual identification.

Selected letters of the Family name in combination with selected letters of the Given name, Date of birth and Sex, may be used for Record linkage for statistical purposes only (see data concept Record linkage).

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Alphabetic ***Representational form:*** TEXT

Field size: ***Min.*** 1 ***Max.*** N ***Representational layout:*** AAAAA…

Data domain: (name)

Guide for use: The agency should record the client's full Family name on their information systems. The field length for this data element is at the discretion of information system designers.

In instances where there is uncertainty about which name to record for a person living in a remote Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community, Centrelink follows the practice of recording the indigenous person's name as it is first provided to Centrelink. Or, where proof of identity is required, as the name is recorded on a majority of the higher point scoring documents that are produced as proof of identity.

Collection methods: This data element should be recorded for all clients.

Often people use a variety of names, including legal names, married/maiden names, nicknames, assumed names, traditional names, etc. Even small differences in recording – such as the difference between MacIntosh and McIntosh– can make record linkage impossible. To minimise discrepancies in the recording and reporting of name information, agencies should ask the person for their full (formal) Given name and Family name. These may be different from the name that the person may prefer the agency workers to use in personal dealings. Agencies may choose to separately record the preferred names that the person wishes to be used by agency workers.

In some cultures it is traditional to state the family name first. To overcome discrepancies in recording/reporting that may arise as a result of this practice, agencies should always ask the person to specify their first given name and their family name or surname separately. These should then be recorded as Given name and Family name as appropriate, regardless of the order in which they may be traditionally given.

Family name *(continued)*

Related data: Is related to:

Date of birth v.1,
Given name v.1,
Record linkage v.2.

Administrative attributes

Source document: DHFS: 1998. HACC Data Dictionary, version 1.0. Commonwealth of Australia.

Source organisation: Department of Health and Family Services
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments:

Given name

New	*Status*	*Effective Date*	*Reg. Auth.*	*ID No.*
	CURRENT	1/07/2000	NCSIMG	000571
NCSI Model Location			***Data Class***	***Version***
Person characteristic/other person characteristic			Socio-demographic	1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The name given to a which is that person's identifying name within the family group, or the name by which the person is socially identified.

Context: Data linkage, administrative purposes and individual identification.

Selected letters of the Given name in combination with selected letters of the Family name, Date of birth and Sex may be used for Record linkage for statistical purposes only (see data concept Record linkage).

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Alphabetic ***Representational form:*** TEXT

Field size: ***Min.*** 1 ***Max.*** N ***Representational layout:*** AAAAA…

Data domain: (name)

Guide for use: The agency should record the client's full Given name on their information systems. The field length for this data element is at the discretion of information system designers.

In instances where there is uncertainty about which name to record for a person living in a remote Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community, Centrelink follows the practice of recording the indigenous person's name as it is first provided to Centrelink. Or, where proof of identity is required, as the name is recorded on a majority of the higher point scoring documents that are produced as proof of identity.

Collection methods: Often people use a variety of names, including legal names, married/maiden names, nicknames, assumed names, traditional names, etc. Even small differences in recording – such as the difference between Thomas and Tom – can make record linkage impossible. To minimise discrepancies in the recording and reporting of name information, agencies should ask the person for their full (formal) Given name and Family name. These may be different from the name that the person may prefer the agency workers to use in personal dealings. Agencies may choose to separately record the preferred name that the person wishes to be used by agency workers.

In some cultures it is traditional to state the family name first. To overcome discrepancies in recording/reporting that may arise as a result of this practice, agencies should always ask the person to specify their first given name and their family or surname separately. These should then be recorded as Given name and Family name as appropriate, regardless of the order in which they may be traditionally given.

Related data: Family name v.1,
Record linkage v.2, and
Date of birth v.1.

Given name *(continued)*

Administrative attributes

Source document: DHFS: 1998. HACC Data Dictionary, version 1.0. Commonwealth of Australia. Australian Standard Interchange of Client Information AS 4590–1999

Source organisation: Department of Health and Family Services
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Standards Australia

Comments: