
Indigenous status

Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary:	NCSDD	
Knowledgebase ID:	000524	Version number: 1
Metadata type:	DATA ELEMENT	
Registration Authority:	NCSIMG	Admin status: SUPERSEDED
		Effective date: 01-JUL-98
Definition:	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	
Representation layout:	N	
Minimum Size:	1	
Maximum Size:	1	
Data Domain:	NOVAL	Details obtained in individual community services data collections should conform to the following code structure:- (1) Indigenous Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin (2) Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin (3) Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (4) Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin (9) Not stated (not for use in primary data collection)

Guide For Use: This data element should be collected from all persons to ensure accurate recording of indigenous status collected so that reliable statistics of numbers of indigenous clients can be produced. South Sea Islanders are to be recorded in category 4 as per explanation in comments.

Verification Rules: These categories are mutually exclusive.

Collection Methods: The acronym ATSI should not be used, as it is offensive to some indigenous peoples. It is also worth noting that this data item is currently under review with the ABS.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: ABS: Directory of concepts and standards for social, labour and demographic statistics, 1995

Source Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: This definition is based upon a decision made by the High Court of Australia in *Commonwealth V Tasmania* (1983) 46 ALR 625. There are three components to this definition:

1. Descent
2. Self-classification
3. Community acceptance.

It is not possible to collect the three components of the definition in a single question. The ABS proposes that the focus of a single question should be the descent, the first component of the definition. Self-reporting of descent is not equivalent to self-reporting of identity but because of the absence of a second identity question, some respondents will interpret the origin question to mean both descent and identification. Identification (in the context of the variable Indigenous Status) should measure an individual's self-assessed historical and cultural affiliation. The code not stated is primarily for use in administrative collections when transferring data from data sets where the item has not been collected. It is not to be used in primary collections. There has been some controversy over the issue of whether South Sea Islanders need to be included in the definition of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The ABS clearly states that South Sea Islanders are not indigenous and should therefore be coded accordingly. Although the ABS is currently in the process of reviewing the issue of indigenous status, a final decision relating to its meaning will not be made until the year 2001. Subsequently, at this point in time, South Sea Islanders are to be coded under category 4 "Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin". It is acknowledged that it is often not possible to collect the third component of the above definition (community acceptance) in operational data collections in the

community services sector. / No)

Was ID. 000024 (500 added to avoid different NHDD DE with same ID.).

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
