Notifications, investigations, and substantiations (NIS) DSS Pilot 2010

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Set Specification
METEOR identifier:	433700
Registration status:	Community Services (retired), Recorded 19/08/2011
DSS type:	Data Set Specification (DSS)
Scope:	A notification consists of reports made to the Department responsible for child protection by persons or other bodies making allegations of child abuse or neglect, child maltreatment or harm to a child. Notification should not include reports regarding wider concerns about children or families which are classified as child concern reports.

Notifications are relevant to persons who are aged less than 18 years, and to unborn children in jurisdictions where they are covered under the child protection legislation.

A notification can involve only one child; where it is claimed that two children have been abused or neglected or harmed, this is counted as two notifications, even if the children are from one family. Where there is more than one notification about the same 'event', this is counted as only one notification. Where there is more than one notification within the reference period, but relating to different events (for instance, a different type of abuse or neglect or a different person believed responsible), these are counted as separate notifications.

Each notification recorded by the Department responsible for child protection will be a new line in the file, delineated by a notification identifier and notification date.

An investigation is the process whereby the Department responsible for child protection seeks to obtain more detailed information about a child who is the subject of a notification and makes an assessment about the harm or degree of harm to the child and their protective needs. An investigation includes the interviewing or sighting of the subject child where it is practicable to do so.

A finalised investigation is classified as 'substantiated' where there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has been, is being or is likely to be abused or neglected or otherwise harmed. Substantiation does not necessarily require sufficient evidence for a successful prosecution and does not imply that treatment or case management was, or is to be, provided.

Substantiations are classified into four categories: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. Where more than one type of abuse or neglect or harm has occurred, the substantiation should be classified to the type most likely to be the most severe in the short term or most likely to place the child at risk in the short term, or if such an assessment is not possible, to the most obvious form of abuse or neglect.

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	All notifications, investigations and substantiations ever recorded for the clients in the Child protection and support services (CPSS) client DSS should be recorded. This includes notifications, investigations and substantiations recorded during the reference period and also those from previous years.
Comments:	The 2010 unit record collection is a pilot test, therefore the implementation of the unit record data collection across all jurisdictions has not been finalised. The pilot test is a non-mandatory data set specification, rather than a national minimum data set specification, and is subject to change. A final unit record child protection NMDS will be developed when the results from the pilot/dress rehearsal testing are obtained and evaluated.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Performance and Data Working Group

Origin: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2010. Child protection and support services National Minimum Data Set, data collection manual for the 2010 pilot collection. AIHW: Canberra.

Reference documents: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2011. Child protection Australia 2009-10. Child welfare series no. 51. Cat. no. CWS 39. Canberra: AIHW.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Child protection and support services (CPSS) - notifications, investigations, and substantiations NMDS pilot (2008)](#) Community Services (retired), Retired 06/02/2012

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Child protection and support services (CPSS) DSS Pilot (2010)](#) Community Services (retired), Recorded 19/08/2011

Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	[Child protection notification—actions related to substantiated abuse, text [X(100)]](#)	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on the substantiation of abuse/neglect.

-	[Child protection notification—assistance type, child protection code N](#)	Conditional	6
-	[Child protection notification—course of action decision date, DDMMYYYY](#)	Mandatory	1
-	[Child protection notification—course of action, code N](#)	Mandatory	1
-	[Child protection notification—employment service type, child protection code N[N]](#)	Mandatory	1
-	[Child protection notification—identifier, NX[X(13)]](#)	Optional	1
-	[Child protection notification—injuries related to substantiated abuse, text [X(100)]](#)	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on the substantiation of abuse/neglect.

-	[Child protection notification—investigation commencement date, DDMMYYYY](#)	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on the outcome of the notification assessment deeming investigation necessary.

-	[Child protection notification—investigation conclusion date, DDMMYYYY](#)	Conditional	1

DSS specific information:

Conditional on the outcome of the notification assessment deeming investigation necessary.

-	[Child protection notification—investigation status, code N[N]](#)	Conditional	1

DSS specific information:

Conditional on the outcome of the notification assessment deeming investigation necessary.

-	[Child protection notification—no suitable caregiver indicator, yes/no code N](#)	Mandatory	1

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	[Child protection notification—notification date, DDMMYYYY](#)	Mandatory	1
-	[Child protection notification—relationship to child of person believed responsible for abuse or neglect, code NN](#)	Mandatory	1
-	[Child protection notification—source of notification, code N[N]](#)	Mandatory	1
-	[Child protection notification—unborn child status, code N](#)	Mandatory	1
-	[Child—household parental care type, code N[N]](#)	Mandatory	1

Conditional obligation:

DSS specific information:

Refers to the care type at the time of notification of child abuse or neglect.

-	[Child—other type of abuse or neglect, code N[N]](#)	Conditional	6

Conditional obligation:

Only to be used when more than one type of abuse has been identified.

DSS specific information:

This item may have multiple occurences with two collection periods:

- Any other types of abuse or neglect identifed in the notification to the department responsible for child protection
- Any other types of abuse or neglect substantiated by the investigating officer

-	[Child—primary type of abuse or neglect, code N[N]](#)	Mandatory	2

DSS specific information:

This item may have two occurences:

- the primary type of abuse or neglect identifed in the notification to the department responsible for child protection
- The primary type of abuse or neglect substantiated by the investigating officer

-	[Person (address)—Australian postcode, code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}](#)	Mandatory	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Notifications, investigations and substantiations (NIS) cluster the data element refers to the postcode where the child was living at the time of the notification.

-	[Person (address)—suburb/town/locality name, text A[A(49)]](#)	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

In the Notifications, investigations and substantiations (NIS) cluster the data element refers to the suburb/town/locality name where the child was living at the time of the notification.

-	[Person—geographic location (LGA), code (ASGC 2010) NNNNN](#)	Mandatory	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Notifications, investigations and substantiations (NIS) cluster the data element refers to the local government area (LGA) where the child was living at the time of the notification.

-	[Person—person identifier, child protection NX[X(11)]](#)	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

The identifier recorded under this data element should match the identifier recorded in the Child protection and support services (CPSS) client DSS.