Notifications, investigations, and substantiations (NIS) file cluster

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Set Specification
METEOR identifier:	492995
Registration status:	Children and Families, Superseded 22/11/2016
	Community Services (retired), Recorded 09/10/2014
DSS type:	Data Element Cluster
Scope:	The Notifications, investigations and substantiations (NIS) file cluster contains information about notifications, investigations and substantiations recorded for the clients in the Client file during the reference period. This includes notifications received during the reference period and investigations that were open during the reference period, regardless of the date of notification.

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	A notification consists of reports made to an authorised department by persons or other bodies making allegations of child abuse or neglect, child maltreatment or harm to a child. Notifications 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.
	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 primary type of abuse/neglect 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 methods:	A notification can only involve one child. Where it is claimed that two children have been, or are at risk of being abused, neglected or harmed, this is counted as two separate notifications, even if the children are from one family. Where there is more than one notification about the same 'event', this should be counted as only one notification and appear as a single line in the file for each child indicated. Where there is more than one notification for a child 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 should be counted as separate notifications and appear as a new line in the file.
	Each distinct notification recorded by the Department will be a new line in the file, delineated by the notification date.
Implementation start date:	01/07/2011
Implementation end date:	30/06/2013

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Steward: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Origin: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2013. Child protection national minimum data set, data collection manual 2012-13. Canberra: AIHW.

Reference documents: AIHW 2013. Child protection Australia 2011-12. Child welfare series no. 55. Cat. no. CWS 43. 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

Has been superseded by Notifications, investigations, and substantiations (NIS) file cluster
Children and Families, Superseded 22/11/2016

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: Child protection NMDS 2012-13
Children and Families, Superseded 22/11/2016
Community Services (retired), Recorded 16/10/2014
Implementation start date: 01/07/2011
Implementation end date: 30/06/2013

Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
1	Person—person identifier, child protection NX[X(11)]	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

The identifier should match the child's identifier in the Child protection (CP) client file cluster.

2	Child protection notification—notification date, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	1
3	Person—Australian state/territory identifier, code N	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

The state/territory of the child's usual place of residence at the time of the notification.

4	Address—suburb/town/locality name, text X[X(45)]	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

Any valid suburb, town or locality name of the child's usual place of residence at the time of notification. May be 'No fixed abode' or 'Not known'.

5	Address—Australian postcode, Australian postcode code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

The postcode of the child's usual place of residence at the time of notification.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
6	Address—statistical area, level 2 (SA2) code (ASGS 2011) N(9)	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

The Statistical Area level 2 (SA2) of the child's usual place of residence at the time of the notification.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
7	Child protection notification—source of notification, code N[N]	Mandatory	1
8	Child protection notification—course of action, code N	Mandatory	1
9	Child protection notification—course of action decision date, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	1
10	Child protection notification—investigation commencement date, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	1

Conditional obligation:

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

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
11	Child protection notification—investigation conclusion date, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

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

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
12	Child protection notification—investigation status, code N[N]	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

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

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
13	Child—household parental care type, code N[N]	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

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

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
14	Child—primary type of abuse or neglect, code N[N]	Mandatory	1
15	Child—other type of abuse or neglect, code N[N]	Mandatory	4

Conditional obligation:

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

DSS specific information:

Four separate data items are used to collect the other types of abuse identified as part of the substantiation: physical abuse (cell number 15); sexual abuse (cell number 16); emotional abuse (cell number 17); and neglect (cell number 18).