Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY

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# Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY

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| Identifying and definitional attributes |
| Metadata item type: | Data Element |
| Short name: | Episode start date |
| Synonymous names: | Service start date; Entry date; Support period start date; Date of effect; Date of entry; Order start date; Detention start date |
| METEOR identifier: | 651687 |
| Registration status: | [Children and Families](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/17), Standard 22/11/2016[Disability](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/16), Standard 05/07/2019[Homelessness](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Standard 10/08/2018 |
| Definition: | The date on which a service episode commenced, expressed as DDMMYYYY. |
| Data Element Concept: | [Service episode—episode start date](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/338562)  |
| Value Domain: | [Date DDMMYYYY](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/270566) |

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| Value domain attributes |
| Representational attributes |
| Representation class: | Date |
| Data type: | Date/Time |
| Format: | DDMMYYYY |
| Maximum character length: | 8 |

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| Source and reference attributes |
| Submitting organisation: | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |

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| Data element attributes  |
| Collection and usage attributes |
| Guide for use: | Due to the considerable variation in the types of services provided in the community services sector, it is not possible at this stage to define in generic terms what will constitute commencement of a service episode. Individual collections should however define what constitutes commencement for their own purposes. For example, it may be at contact stage in some instances or in others when a case plan is formulated. |
| Collection methods: | Date assistance commenced must be related to a particular service episode.For each separate service episode a separate episode start date should be recorded. |
| Comments: | This metadata item is used in calculation of measures of periods of support and duration of assistance. |
| Source and reference attributes |
| Submitting organisation: | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| Steward: | [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/246013) |
| Origin: | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2013. Child Protection National Minimum Data Set, data collection manual 2012-13. Canberra: AIHW. |
| Relational attributes |
| Related metadata references: | Supersedes [Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/338558)       [Community Services (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/1), Standard 16/05/2006       [Disability](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/16), Superseded 05/07/2019       [Homelessness](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 10/08/2018       [Housing assistance](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/11), Standard 23/08/2010 |
| Implementation in Data Set Specifications: | [Care and protection order (CPO) file cluster](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/492993)       [Children and Families](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/17), Superseded 22/11/2016       [Community Services (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/1), Recorded 10/10/2014***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2011***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2013***DSS specific information:*** Where the care and protection order was part of a preceding continuous order episode, this item records the start date of the first order in the episode.An order episode is the period of time in which a child remains on an order. During this period, a child may be on one or more different orders. If a child is discharged from an order and a new care and protection order/arrangement is applied in five (5) days or less of the discharge, the orders are deemed to be consecutive (i.e. the continuous episode of care will include both order). However, a break of more the five (5) days will break the continuity of care.Valid date, if applicable, occurs on or before 31 August following the reference period. Date must precede 'Order start date'.When an estimate is required, all known fields should be entered (e.g. if year and month are known use 01/MM/YYYY; if the exact date is unknown but the reporting period to which it relates can be determined, use 01/07/YYYY).If the date is not known and can’t be estimated, record 01/01/1900.If it is not applicable to record a date (i.e. the order was not part of a preceding continuous order episode), please record 01/01/9999.[Care and protection order (CPO) file cluster](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/655212)       [Children and Families](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/17), Superseded 22/11/2016***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2012***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2014***DSS specific information:*** Where the care and protection order was part of a preceding continuous order episode, this item records the start date of the first order in the episode.An order episode is the period of time in which a child remains on an order. During this period, a child may be on one or more different orders. If a child is discharged from an order and a new care and protection order/arrangement is applied in five (5) days or less of the discharge, the orders are deemed to be consecutive (i.e. the continuous episode of care will include both order). However, a break of more the five (5) days will break the continuity of care.Valid date, if applicable, occurs on or before 31 August following the reference period. 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Date must precede 'Order start date'.When an estimate is required, all known fields should be entered (e.g. if year and month are known use 01/MM/YYYY; if the exact date is unknown but the reporting period to which it relates can be determined, use 010/7/YYYY).If the date is not known and can’t be estimated, record 01/01/1900.If it is not applicable to record a date (i.e. the order was not part of a preceding continuous order episode, or if codes 11–13 were recorded for ‘Order type –national’), please record 01/01/9999.[Care and protection order (CPO) file cluster](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/773880)       [Children and Families](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/17), Standard 11/05/2023***DSS specific information:*** This collection requires a non-standard format for this data item: DD/MM/YYYY.Where the care and protection order was part of a preceding continuous order episode, this item records the start date of the first order in the episode.An order episode is the period of time in which a child remains on an order. 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Support may include assessment processes once the service user has been accepted as eligible for the service type. However it does not include assessment where assessment is for eligibility or for a place on a waiting list. Support does not generally include requests for information or phone queries.At times, an outlet may only provide the service user with one-off assistance. For example, a service user may only require respite care on one occasion. Where this assistance is funded under the NDA, the general rule is that all service users details should be recorded as required for that service type. If the service user is not expected to use the service outlet again, an exit date and appropriate main reason for service cessation should be reported.Service users who commenced services after 1 October 2002, should have their actual commencement date recorded (i.e. the date this service type was first received by the service user from the service type outlet).Service users who commenced services prior to October 2002 should either be recorded as commencing the service type on:* their known service start date, for example, a service user starting on 2 September 2002 may be recorded as 02092002;
* an estimate of their service start date by recording ‘0101’ for the day and month and estimating the year. For example, if a service user has been receiving support from a service type outlet for about 5 years, the outlet would record the Service start date as 01011997’; or
* on 1 October 2002 (i.e. 01102002). This option is used if the start date is unknown or cannot be recorded for some other reason.

The service episode start date must relate to the service type outlet ID ([Service type outlet—outlet identifier, XX[X(26)]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/495947)) and associated service type ([Service type outlet—service activity type, NDA service type code N.NN](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/623523)).If a service user formally exits a service and then ‘re-enters’ a service at a later date, a new period of service should be reported.[Living arrangements for children under care (LA) file cluster](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/492989)       [Children and Families](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/17), Standard 22/11/2016       [Community Services (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/1), Recorded 10/10/2014***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2011***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2013***Conditional obligation:*** Conditional on the child being in a funded out-of-home care placement.***DSS specific information:*** Where the funded out-of-home care placement was part of a preceding continuous episode of care, this is the start date of the first placement in the episode.Episode of care is the period of time in which a child remains in out-of-home care. During this period, a child may have one or more different out-of-home care placements, including respite/temporary placements lasting less than 7 days. If a child has a return home or break of less than 60 days before returning to the same or different placement they are considered to be continuously in care during this period. However, any break of 60 days or more is deemed to be an exit from out-of-home care and will break the continuity of care.Valid date, if applicable, occurs on or before 31 August following the reference period.The date must be preceding 'Living arrangement start date'.Note: Respite/temporary funded out-of-home care placements lasting less than 7 days should be included when determining the start date of a continuous episode of care.When an estimate is required, all known fields should be entered (e.g. if year and month are known use 01MMYYYY; if the exact date is unknown but the reporting period to which it relates can be determined, use 0107YYYY).If the date is not known and can’t be estimated, record 01011900.If it is not applicable to record a date (i.e. the living arrangement is not a funded out-of-home care placement or was not part of a preceding continuous episode of care e.g. this is the first placement in an episode of care), please record 01019999.[Living arrangements for children under care (LA) file cluster](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/655221)       [Children and Families](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/17), Superseded 22/11/2016***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2012***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2014***Conditional obligation:*** Conditional on the child being in a funded out-of-home care placement.***DSS specific information:*** Where the funded out-of-home care placement was part of a preceding continuous episode of care, this is the start date of the first placement in the episode.Episode of care is the period of time in which a child remains in out-of-home care. 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However, any break of 60 days or more is deemed to be an exit from out-of-home care and will break the continuity of care.Valid date, if applicable, occurs on or before 31 August following the reference period.The date must be preceding 'Living arrangement start date'.Note: All funded out-of-home care placements lasting less than 7 days should be included when determining the start date of a continuous episode of care.When an estimate is required, all known fields should be entered (e.g. if year and month are known use 01/MM/YYYY; if the exact date is unknown but the reporting period to which it relates can be determined, use 01/07/YYYY).If the date is not known and can’t be estimated, record 01/01/1900.If it is not applicable to record a date (i.e. the living arrangement is not a funded out-of-home care placement or was not part of a preceding continuous episode of care e.g. this is the first placement in an episode of care), please record 01/01/9999.[Living arrangements for children under care (LA) file cluster](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/748857)       [Children and Families](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/17), Superseded 11/05/2023***Conditional obligation:*** Conditional on the child being in a funded out-of-home care placement.***DSS specific information:*** This collection requires a non-standard format for this data item: DD/MM/YYYY.Where the funded out-of-home care placement was part of a preceding continuous episode of care, this is the start date of the first placement in the episode.Episode of care is the period of time in which a child remains in out-of-home care. During this period, a child may have one or more different out-of-home care placements, including placements lasting less than 7 days. If a child has a return home or break of less than 60 days before returning to the same or different placement they are considered to be continuously in care during this period. However, any break of 60 days or more is deemed to be an exit from out-of-home care and will break the continuity of care.Valid date, if applicable, occurs on or before 31 August following the reference period.The date must be preceding 'Living arrangement start date'.Note: All funded out-of-home care placements lasting less than 7 days should be included when determining the start date of a continuous episode of care.When an estimate is required, all known fields should be entered (e.g. if year and month are known use 01/MM/YYYY; if the exact date is unknown but the reporting period to which it relates can be determined, use 01/07/YYYY).If the date is not known and can’t be estimated, record 01/01/1900.If it is not applicable to record a date (i.e. the living arrangement is not a funded out-of-home care placement or was not part of a preceding continuous episode of care e.g. this is the first placement in an episode of care), please record 01/01/9999.[Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2019-](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/689064)       [Homelessness](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Standard 10/08/2018***Conditional obligation:*** In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.***DSS specific information:*** In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS this data element is the support period start date. |
| Implementation in Indicators: | **Used as Numerator**[Permanency Outcomes Performance Framework Indicators 2020–21: Indicator 2.1 children in out-of-home care who received a finalised care and protection order within 2 years of admission to out-of-home care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/757644)       [Children and Families](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/17), Standard 18/04/2023 |