Data dictionaries

Exported from METEOR

(AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website’s material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to info@aihw.gov.au.

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at meteor@aihw.gov.au.

# Data dictionaries

The Australian health, community services and housing assistance sectors each have a national data dictionary. These dictionaries were developed as an authorative source of national metadata standards to support the reporting of consistent and comparable statistics in each sector.

Of the three sectors, the health sector was the first sector to develop a national data dictionary. The *NationalHealth Data Dictionary* (NHDD) was published as the *National Minimum Data Set for Institutional Health Care* in September 1989. The next version was published in 1993 with subsequent versions published on an annual basis.

In 1996, coinciding with the preparation of version 6 and the development of the [Knowledgebase](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/237622), the underlying structure of the NHDD was amended to incorporate concepts from the international standard for the definition of data elements (ISO/IEC 11179).

The community services sector was the next sector to develop a national data dictionary. The *National Community Services Data Dictionary* (NCSDD) was first published in 1998. It also employed the same structures employed by the NHDD. Versions two and three of the NCSDD were subsequently published in 2000 and 2004.

The housing assistance sector first published the *National Housing Assistance Data Dictionary* (NHADD) in 2001 with the second version published in 2003. It employed the same structures used by the other two dictionaries.