

# Informal carer—relationship to care recipient

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element Concept
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	269485
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Community Services (retired)</a>, Standard 01/03/2005</li><li>• <a href="#">Disability</a>, Standard 07/10/2014</li></ul>

**Definition:** The relationship of the [informal carer](#) to the person for whom they care.

## Object Class attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

**Object class:** [Informal carer](#)

**Definition:** An informal carer includes any person, such as a family member, friend or neighbour, who is giving regular, ongoing assistance to another person without payment for the care given.

**Context:** Care and support networks where the carers are unpaid (other than pension or benefit) play a critical role in community services provision, especially in caring for frail aged and younger people with disability within the community.

Information about informal carers is therefore of fundamental importance in assessing the ongoing needs of clients and their carers, and in service planning. The presence of an informal carer is often a key indicator of a person's ability to remain at home, especially if the person requires assistance. The absence of an informal carer, where a vulnerable client lives alone, is an indicator of client risk. Information on client living arrangements and informal carer availability provides an indicator of the potential in-home support and the extent to which the burden of care is absorbed by the informal caring system.

The stability or otherwise of the informal carer's availability may be significant in the capacity of the client continuing to remain at home.

Existing carer definitions (e.g. for purposes of establishing eligibility for Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefits (DNCB/Carer Allowance; Carer's Pension/Carer Payment) definitions used in ABS population, surveys of disability, ageing and carers) vary in context and purpose.

**Specialisation of:** [Service/care provider](#)

### Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** The definition excludes formal care services such as homecare, care provided by volunteers or foster care that is arranged by formal services. It also excludes unregistered child carers who are receiving payment for their services. Where a potential carer is not prepared to undertake the caring role, the carer is considered to be not available.

### Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Origin:** Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services 1998. Home and Community Care (HACC) data dictionary version 1.0: Home and Community Care Program National Minimum Data Set. Cat. no. AIHW 3600. Canberra: AIHW.

## Property attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Property:</b>	<a href="#">Relationship to care recipient</a>
<b>Definition:</b>	The association between a person receiving care and another person, organisation or group of people.
<b>Property group:</b>	<a href="#">Informal assistance characteristics</a>

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Data element concept attributes

### Relational attributes

**Data Elements implementing this Data Element Concept:**

[Informal carer—relationship to care recipient, code N](#)

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 01/03/2005
- [Health](#), Candidate 13/05/2008

[Informal carer—relationship to care recipient, code N\[N\]](#)

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 10/04/2013

[Informal carer—relationship to care recipient, CSTDA code N\[N\]](#)

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 11/11/2009

[Informal carer—relationship to care recipient, interpersonal code N\[N\]](#)

- [Disability](#), Standard 15/12/2017

[Informal carer—relationship to care recipient, interpersonal code N\[N\]](#)

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 10/04/2013
- [Disability](#), Superseded 15/12/2017