

Person—marital status

Metadata item type:	Data Element Concept
METEOR identifier:	269533
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired), Standard 20/06/2018• Community Services (retired), Standard 01/03/2005• Disability, Standard 13/08/2015• Health, Standard 01/03/2005• Housing assistance, Standard 10/02/2006• Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Qualified 23/11/2015• Tasmanian Health, Standard 01/09/2016• WA Health, Standard 19/03/2015

Definition: A person's current relationship status in terms of a couple relationship or, for those not in a couple relationship, the existence of a current or previous registered marriage.

Context: Marital status is a core metadata item in a wide range of social, labour and demographic statistics. Its main purpose is analysis of the association of marital status with the need for and use of services, and for epidemiological analysis.

Marital status also acts as an indicator for the level of support adult recipients of the welfare system have at home. The item is also used in comparisons of administrative data and population censuses and surveys.

Object Class attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Object class:	Person
Definition:	A human being.

Collection and usage attributes

Comments: Prior to 13 March 2018, the definition of the 'Person' Object class was 'A human being, whether man, woman or child'. From 13 March 2018, the definition was edited by removing the words '...whether man, woman or child' so that a person is defined as 'A human being'. This amendment was undertaken to align the definition of a person with the *Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender* and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *Standard for Sex and Gender Variables*, which recognise that there are sex and gender types that are not exclusively male or female.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Origin:	Macquarie University 2003. <i>The Macquarie Dictionary 3rd ed.</i> Sydney: The Macquarie Library Pty. Ltd

Reference documents: Attorney-General's Department 2015. Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender. Viewed 26 July 2016, <https://www.ag.gov.au/Publications/Pages/AustralianGovernmentGuidelinesontheRecognitionofSexandGender.aspx>

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2016. Standard for Sex and Gender Variables, 2016. ABS Cat. no. 1200.0.55.012. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 26 July 2016, <http://abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1200.0.55.012Main+Features12016?OpenDocument>

Property attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Property: [Marital status](#)

Definition: An indicator of involvement in a couple relationship or marriage.

Property group: [Demographic/social/cultural characteristics](#)

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:**

[Person—adoptive parent marital status, code N](#)

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/05/2013

[Person—marital status, code AAA](#)

- [WA Health](#), Standard 19/03/2015

[Person—marital status, code N](#)

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 25/08/2005
- [Health](#), Superseded 04/05/2005

[Person—marital status, code N](#)

- [ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate 09/08/2018
- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 25/08/2005
- [Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [Health](#), Standard 04/05/2005
- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/02/2006
- [Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Qualified 23/11/2015

[Person—marital status, housing assistance code N](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 10/02/2006

[Person—marital status, recipient code AAA](#)

- [Commonwealth Department of Social Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/06/2018

[Person—marital status, social code NN](#)

- [Health](#), Qualified 03/06/2022

[Person—marital status, Tasmanian code X{XX}](#)

- [Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 01/09/2016