

Person—country of birth, code (SACC 1998) NNNN

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Country of birth
METEOR identifier:	270277
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Services (retired), Superseded 02/06/2008• Health, Superseded 01/10/2008• Housing assistance, Superseded 24/11/2008

Definition: The country in which the person was born, as represented by a code.

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept:	Person—country of birth
METEOR identifier:	269686
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACT Health (retired), Candidate 19/07/2018• Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired), Standard 20/06/2018• Community Services (retired), Standard 01/03/2005• Disability, Standard 07/10/2014• Health, Standard 01/03/2005• Homelessness, Standard 23/08/2010• Housing assistance, Standard 27/07/2005• Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 01/11/2012• Tasmanian Health, Standard 31/08/2016• WA Health, Standard 19/03/2015• Youth Justice, Standard 15/02/2022

Definition: The country in which the person was born.

Context: Country of birth is important in the study of access to services by different population sub-groups. Country of birth is the most easily collected and consistently reported of a range of possible data items that may indicate cultural or language diversity. Country of birth may be used in conjunction with other data such as period of residence in Australia, etc., to derive more sophisticated measures of access to (or need for) services by different population sub-groups.

Object class:	Person
Property:	Country of birth

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain:	Country code (SACC 1998) NNNN
METEOR identifier:	270812
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Services (retired), Superseded 02/06/2008• Health, Superseded 01/10/2008• Housing assistance, Superseded 24/11/2008

Definition: A SACC code set representing a country.

Representational attributes

Classification scheme: [Standard Australian Classification of Countries 1998](#)

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: NNNN

Maximum character length: 4

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: The Standard Australian Classification of Countries 1998 (SACC) is a four-digit, three-level hierarchical structure specifying major group, minor group and country.

A country, even if it comprises other discrete political entities such as states, is treated as a single unit for all data domain purposes. Parts of a political entity are not included in different groups. Thus, Hawaii is included in Northern America (as part of the identified country United States of America), despite being geographically close to and having similar social and cultural characteristics as the units classified to Polynesia.

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Collection methods: Some data collections ask respondents to specify their country of birth. In others, a pre-determined set of countries is specified as part of the question, usually accompanied by an 'other (please specify)' category.

Recommended questions are:

In which country were you/was the person/was (name) born?

Australia

Other (please specify)

Alternatively, a list of countries may be used based on, for example common Census responses.

In which country were you/was the person/was (name) born?

Australia

England

New Zealand

Italy

Viet Nam

Scotland

Greece

Germany

Philippines

India

Netherlands

Other (please specify)

In either case coding of data should conform to the SACC.

Sometimes respondents are simply asked to specify whether they were born in either 'English speaking' or 'non-English speaking' countries but this question is of limited use and this method of collection is not recommended.

Comments: This metadata item is consistent with that used in ABS collections and is recommended for use whenever there is a requirement for comparison with ABS data.

Source and reference attributes

Origin: National Health Data Committee
National Community Services Data Committee

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Country of birth, version 4, DE, Int. NCSDD & NHDD, NCSIMG & NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (19.9 KB) *No registration status*

Has been superseded by [Person—country of birth, code \(SACC 2008\) NNNN](#)

- [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), Recorded 16/07/2015
- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 13/10/2011
- [Health](#), Superseded 22/11/2011
- [Homelessness](#), Superseded 13/10/2011
- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 13/10/2011
- [Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Incomplete 22/08/2012

See also [Person—first language spoken, code \(ASCL 2005\) NN{NN}](#)

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 13/10/2011
- [Health](#), Superseded 13/10/2011
- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/05/2013

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Acute coronary syndrome \(clinical\) DSSHealth](#), Superseded 07/12/2005

[Acute coronary syndrome \(clinical\) DSSHealth](#), Superseded 01/10/2008

[Admitted patient care NMDSHealth](#), Superseded 07/12/2005

Implementation start date: 01/07/2005

Implementation end date: 30/06/2006

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2006-07Health](#), Superseded 23/10/2006

Implementation start date: 01/07/2006

Implementation end date: 30/06/2007

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2007-08Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2008

Implementation start date: 01/07/2007

Implementation end date: 30/06/2008

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2008-09Health](#), Superseded 04/02/2009

Implementation start date: 01/07/2008

Implementation end date: 30/06/2009

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDSHealth](#), Superseded 07/12/2005

Implementation start date: 01/07/2005

Implementation end date: 30/06/2006

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDSHealth](#), Superseded 23/10/2006

Implementation start date: 01/07/2006

Implementation end date: 30/06/2007

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2007-08Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2008

Implementation start date: 01/07/2007

Implementation end date: 30/06/2008

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2008-09Health](#), Superseded 04/02/2009

Implementation start date: 01/07/2008

Implementation end date: 30/06/2009

[Admitted patient palliative care NMDSHealth](#), Superseded 07/12/2005

Implementation start date: 01/07/2005

Implementation end date: 30/06/2006

[Admitted patient palliative care NMDS 2006-07 Health](#), Superseded 23/10/2006

Implementation start date: 01/07/2006

Implementation end date: 30/06/2007

[Admitted patient palliative care NMDS 2007-08Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2008

Implementation start date: 01/07/2007

Implementation end date: 30/06/2008

[Admitted patient palliative care NMDS 2008-09Health](#), Superseded 04/02/2009

Implementation start date: 01/07/2008

Implementation end date: 30/06/2009

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDSHealth](#), Superseded 21/03/2006

Implementation start date: 01/07/2005

Implementation end date: 30/06/2006

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDSHealth](#), Superseded 23/10/2006

Implementation start date: 01/07/2006

Implementation end date: 30/06/2007

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS 2007-08Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2008

Implementation start date: 01/07/2007

Implementation end date: 30/06/2008

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS 2008-10Health](#), Superseded 22/12/2009

Implementation start date: 01/07/2008

Implementation end date: 30/06/2010

[Cardiovascular disease \(clinical\) DSSHealth](#), Superseded 15/02/2006

[Cardiovascular disease \(clinical\) DSSHealth](#), Superseded 04/07/2007

[Cardiovascular disease \(clinical\) DSSHealth](#), Superseded 22/12/2009

[Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement NMDS - 1 July 2006Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 14/12/2008

DSS specific information:

It is recommended that the 10 most frequently reported countries of birth are listed on data collection forms to simplify data collection and minimise coding load on service type outlets and funding departments. Where the country of birth is known but is not specified in the classification below, (i.e., is 'other country'), funded agencies should specify it on primary data collection forms. These will then be coded by funding departments to the appropriate SACC code.

[Community mental health care NMDS 2004-05Health](#), Superseded 08/12/2004

Implementation start date: 01/07/2004

Implementation end date: 30/06/2005

[Community mental health care NMDS 2005-06Health](#), Superseded 07/12/2005

Implementation start date: 01/07/2005

Implementation end date: 30/06/2006

[Community mental health care NMDS 2006-07Health](#), Superseded 23/10/2006

Implementation start date: 01/07/2006

Implementation end date: 30/06/2007

[Community mental health care NMDS 2007-08Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2008

Implementation start date: 01/07/2007

Implementation end date: 30/06/2008

[Community mental health care NMDS 2008-09Health](#), Superseded 04/02/2009

Implementation start date: 01/07/2008

Implementation end date: 30/06/2009

[Computer Assisted Telephone Interview demographic module DSSHealth](#),
Superseded 03/12/2008

[Health care client identificationHealth](#), Superseded 04/05/2005

DSS specific information:

County of birth for newborn babies should be 'Australia'.

[Health care client identification DSSHealth](#), Superseded 03/12/2008

DSS specific information:

Country of birth for newborn babies should be 'Australia'.

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDSHealth](#), Superseded
24/03/2006

Implementation start date: 01/07/2005

Implementation end date: 30/06/2006

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDSHealth](#), Superseded
23/10/2006

Implementation start date: 01/07/2006

Implementation end date: 30/06/2007

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDSHealth](#), Superseded 07/12/2005

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2007-08Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2008

Implementation start date: 01/07/2007

Implementation end date: 30/06/2008

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2008-10Health](#), Superseded 22/12/2009

Implementation start date: 01/07/2008

Implementation end date: 30/06/2010

[Perinatal NMDSHealth](#), Superseded 07/12/2005

Implementation start date: 01/07/2005

Implementation end date: 30/06/2006

[Perinatal NMDSHealth](#), Superseded 06/09/2006

Implementation start date: 01/07/2006

Implementation end date: 30/06/2007

[Perinatal NMDS 2007-2008Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2008

Implementation start date: 01/07/2007

Implementation end date: 30/06/2008

[Perinatal NMDS 2008-2010Health](#), Superseded 02/12/2009

Implementation start date: 01/07/2008

Implementation end date: 30/06/2010

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2005-06Health](#), Superseded 07/12/2005

Implementation start date: 01/07/2005

Implementation end date: 30/06/2006

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2006-07Health](#), Superseded 23/10/2006

Implementation start date: 01/07/2006

Implementation end date: 30/06/2007

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2007-08Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2008

Implementation start date: 01/07/2007

Implementation end date: 30/06/2008

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2008-09Health](#), Superseded 04/02/2009

Implementation start date: 01/07/2008

Implementation end date: 30/06/2009

[SAAP Client Collection National Minimum Data SetCommunity Services \(retired\)](#),
Retired 01/07/2011

DSS specific information:

This data element should be collected for the client and for each accompanying child.

[SAAP Demand for Accommodation National Minimum Data SetCommunity Services \(retired\)](#), Retired 01/07/2011

Implementation start date: 21/04/2006

Implementation end date: 01/08/2006

DSS specific information:

Implemented in the SAAP demand collection as a number by sex for all members of the group seeking accommodation including all adults and children.