

# Person—preferred language, code NN

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# Person—preferred language, code NN

## Identifying and definitional attributes

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Metadata item type:</b>   | Data Element   |
| <b>Short name:</b>           | Preferred language   |
| <b>Synonymous names:</b>     | Preferred language   |
| <b>METEOR identifier:</b>    | 270307   |
| <b>Registration status:</b>  | <a href="#">Health</a> , Superseded 08/02/2006   |
| <b>Definition:</b>           | The language (including sign language) most preferred by the person for communication, as represented by a code. This may be a language other than English even where the person can speak fluent English. |
| <b>Data Element Concept:</b> | <a href="#">Person—preferred language</a>  |
| <b>Value Domain:</b>         | <a href="#">Language code NN</a>   |

## Value domain attributes

## Representational attributes

|                                  |              |   |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <b>Representation class:</b>     | Code         |   |
| <b>Data type:</b>                | String       |   |
| <b>Format:</b>                   | NN           |   |
| <b>Maximum character length:</b> | 2            |   |
|                                  | <b>Value</b> | <b>Meaning</b>  |
| <b>Permissible values:</b>       | 00           | Afrikaans   |
|                                  | 01           | Albanian  |
|                                  | 02           | Alyawarr (Alyawarra)                                      |
|                                  | 03           | Arabic (including Lebanese)                               |
|                                  | 04           | Armenian  |
|                                  | 05           | Arernte (Aranda)  |
|                                  | 06           | Assyrian (including Aramaic)                              |
|                                  | 07           | Australian Indigenous languages, not elsewhere classified |
|                                  | 08           | Bengali   |
|                                  | 09           | Bisaya  |
|                                  | 10           | Bosnian   |
|                                  | 11           | Bulgarian   |
|                                  | 12           | Burarra   |
|                                  | 13           | Burmese   |
|                                  | 14           | Cantonese   |
|                                  | 15           | Cebuano   |
|                                  | 16           | Croatian  |
|                                  | 17           | Czech   |
|                                  | 18           | Danish  |
|                                  | 19           | English   |
|                                  | 20           | Estonian  |

|    |                     |
|----|---------------------|
| 21 | Fijian              |
| 22 | Finnish             |
| 23 | French              |
| 24 | German              |
| 25 | Gilbertese          |
| 26 | Greek               |
| 27 | Gujarati            |
| 28 | Hakka               |
| 29 | Hebrew              |
| 30 | Hindi               |
| 31 | Hmong               |
| 32 | Hokkien             |
| 33 | Hungarian           |
| 34 | Indonesian          |
| 35 | Irish               |
| 36 | Italian             |
| 37 | Japanese            |
| 38 | Kannada             |
| 39 | Khmer               |
| 40 | Korean              |
| 41 | Kriol               |
| 42 | Kuurinji (Gurindji) |
| 43 | Lao                 |
| 44 | Latvian             |
| 45 | Lithuanian          |
| 46 | Macedonian          |
| 47 | Malay               |
| 48 | Maltese             |
| 49 | Mandarin            |
| 50 | Mauritian Creole    |
| 51 | Netherlandic        |
| 52 | Norwegian           |
| 53 | Persian             |
| 54 | Pintupi             |
| 55 | Pitjantjatjara      |
| 56 | Polish              |
| 57 | Portuguese          |
| 58 | Punjabi             |
| 59 | Romanian            |
| 60 | Russian             |
| 61 | Samoan              |
| 62 | Serbian             |

|                              |    |  |
|------------------------------|----|--|
|                              | 63 | Sinhalese  |
|                              | 64 | Slovak   |
|                              | 65 | Slovene  |
|                              | 66 | Somali   |
|                              | 67 | Spanish  |
|                              | 68 | Swahili  |
|                              | 69 | Swedish  |
|                              | 70 | Tagalog (Filipino)   |
|                              | 71 | Tamil  |
|                              | 72 | Telugu   |
|                              | 73 | Teochew  |
|                              | 74 | Thai   |
|                              | 75 | Timorese   |
|                              | 76 | Tiwi   |
|                              | 77 | Tongan   |
|                              | 78 | Turkish  |
|                              | 79 | Ukranian   |
|                              | 80 | Urdu   |
|                              | 81 | Vietnamese   |
|                              | 82 | Walmajarri (Walmadjari)  |
|                              | 83 | Warlpiri   |
|                              | 84 | Welsh  |
|                              | 85 | Wik-Mungkan  |
|                              | 86 | Yiddish  |
|                              | 95 | Other languages, not further defined                                     |
|                              | 97 | Non verbal, so described (including sign languages e.g. Auslan, Makaton) |
| <b>Supplementary values:</b> | 96 | Inadequately described   |
|                              | 98 | Not stated   |

## Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:**

The classification used in this metadata item is a modified two-digit level version of the ABS classification: Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL).

CODE 07 Australian Indigenous languages, not elsewhere classified

All Australian Indigenous languages not shown separately on the code list are to be coded to 07.

CODE 96 Inadequately described

This code should be used where some information, but insufficient, is provided.

CODE 97 Non verbal, so described (including sign languages e.g. Auslan, Makaton)

All non-verbal means of communication, including sign languages, are to be coded to 97.

CODE 98 Not stated

This code is to be used when no information is provided.

**Collection methods:**

This information may be collected in a variety of ways. It may be collected by using a predetermined shortlist of languages that are most likely to be encountered from the above code list accompanied by an open text field for 'Other language' or by using an open ended question that allows for recording of the language nominated by the person. Regardless of the method used for data collection the language nominated should be coded using the above ABS codes.

**Comments:**

The ABS has developed a detailed four-digit language classification of 193 language units which was used in the 1996 Census. Although it is preferable to use the classification at a four-digit level, the requirements of administrative collections have been recognised and the ABS has developed a classification of 86 languages at a two-digit level from those most frequently spoken in Australia. Mapping of this two-digit running code system to the four-digit ASCL is available from ABS. The classification used in this metadata item is a modified version of the two-digit level ABS classification. The National Health Data Committee (NHDC) considered that the grouping of languages by geographic region was not useful in administrative settings. Thus this metadata item includes an alphabetical listing of the 86 languages from the ABS two-digit level classification with only one code for Other languages, not further defined. By removing the geographic groupings from the classification, information about the broad geographic region of languages that are not specifically coded is lost. However, the NHDC considered that the benefits to data collectors gained from simplifying the code listing outweighed this disadvantage.

## Source and reference attributes

**Reference documents:**

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 1997. Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL). Cat. no. 1267.0. Canberra: ABS

## Data element attributes

### Source and reference attributes

**Origin:**


National Health Data Committee

### Relational attributes

**Related metadata  
references:**

Has been superseded by [Person—preferred language, code \(ASCL 2005\)  
NN{NN}](#)

[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 13/10/2011  
[Health](#), Superseded 13/10/2011

Is re-engineered from  [Preferred language, version 2, DE, NHDD, NHIMG,  
Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (30.2 KB)

*No registration status*

**Implementation in Data Set  
Specifications:**

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 21/03/2006

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2005

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2006

[Cardiovascular disease \(clinical\) DSS](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 15/02/2006