

# Language code (ASCL 1997) N[NNN]

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## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Value Domain
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	270822
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Community Services (retired)</a> , Superseded 04/04/2006
<b>Definition:</b>	The ASCL (1997) code set representing languages.

## Representational attributes

<b>Classification scheme:</b>	<a href="#">Australian Standard Classification of Languages 1997</a>
<b>Representation class:</b>	Code
<b>Data type:</b>	Number
<b>Format:</b>	N[NNN]
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	4

## Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** The Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) has a three- level hierarchical structure. The most detailed level of the classification consists of base units (languages) which are represented by four-digit codes. The second level of the classification comprises narrow groups of languages (the Narrow Group level), identified by the first two digits. The most general level of the classification consists of broad groups of languages (the Broad Group level) and is identified by the first digit. The classification includes Indigenous Australian languages and sign languages.

For example, the Lithuanian language has a code of 3102. In this case 3 denotes that it is an Eastern European language, while 31 denotes that it is a Baltic language. The Pintupi Aboriginal language has a code of 8217. In this case 8 denotes that it is an Australian Indigenous language and 82 denotes that the language is Central Aboriginal.

Language data may be output at the Broad Group level, Narrow Group level or base level of the classification. If necessary significant Languages within a Narrow Group can be presented separately while the remaining Languages in the Narrow Group are aggregated. The same principle can be adopted to highlight significant Narrow Groups within a Broad Group.

## Source and reference attributes

**Revision status:** Original 1997 - Standard.

The ABS has just completed a review of the Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL). The revised edition is expected to be released in July 2005. If you require information about the revised classification before then, please email: [social.classifications@abs.gov.au](mailto:social.classifications@abs.gov.au) or telephone the Standards Support Hotline on (02) 6252 5736.

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Has been superseded by [Language code \(ASCL 2005\) NN{NN}](#), [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 13/10/2011  
[Health](#), Superseded 13/10/2011  
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/02/2006

**Data elements  
implementing this value  
domain:**

[Person—first language spoken, code \(ASCL 1997\) N\[NNN\]](#)  
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 29/04/2006  
[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 10/02/2006