

6 other

Collection Methods: In practice, this data item and current or last occupation could probably be collected with a single question, as is done in Western Australia.

Occupation?

For example:

- housewife or home duties
- pensioner miner
- tree feller
- retired electrician
- unemployed trades assistant
- child
- student
- accountant

However, for national reporting purposes it is preferable to distinguish these two data items logically.

Related metadata: has been superseded by Employment status - acute hospital and private psychiatric hospital admissions version 2
has been superseded by Employment status - public psychiatric hospital admissions version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Minimum Data Set working parties

Comments: Acute hospitals and private psychiatric hospitals
Employment status is currently collected in South Australia but is never used. South Australia considered this item very low priority for national reporting, and felt that it should be reviewed at a later stage. Tasmania collects all categories of employment status.

The Morbidity Working Party considered the following categories of employment status:

- Child not at school: includes preschool children and handicapped children under 16 not otherwise engaged;
- Student: full-time or with study occupying 20 hours per week, child at school;
- Employed: employed, self-employed or employer;
- Unemployed: unemployed but looking for work or on unemployment benefit;
- Home duties;
- Retired and / or pensioner; (if the pensioner works in paid employment more than 1 hour per week, employed status should

be recorded);

- Other / unknown

The Morbidity Working Party expressed interest in a feasible and collectable socioeconomic data item but considered that the proposed employment status item had too many categories and would not be possible to implement on already crowded discharge forms. The Working Party recommended in the first instance that a single category for unemployed / pensioner be included in the National Minimum Data Set - Institutional Health Care, and that this be reviewed after a few years.

Public psychiatric hospitals

Victorian data for public psychiatric hospitals (Office of Psychiatric Services 1987) shows that the majority (62 per cent) of admissions are of people who are unemployed or pensioners at the time of admission. Relatively few admission episodes are of people whose occupational backgrounds are in the middle and upper socioeconomic groupings.

The Psychiatric Working Party felt that pension status (see data element 'Pension status') was more relevant for psychiatric patients. However, in order to collect occupation (see data element 'Occupation'), it is important to include employment status. This data element is included for psychiatric hospitals, although it may in practice be collected as a category of data element 'Occupation'.

For example, Victoria intends to add the following codes to the 2-digit Australian Standard Classification of Occupation groups:

- child not attending school
- student
- home duties
- other

For national reporting purposes, employment status has been logically separated. The proposed categories for patients of public psychiatric hospitals are based on those to be used in Victoria.

[Data Element Links](#)

[Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element](#)

NHIM

Labour characteristic

[Data Agreements which include this Data Element](#)
