## Area of usual residence

Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <a href="http://meteor.aihw.gov.au">http://meteor.aihw.gov.au</a>

## Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000016 Version number: 2

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Authority: Effective date: 30-JUN-97

Definition: Geographic location of usual residence as stated by the person.

Context: To define:

- catchments and geographical patterns of patient flows, bed

planning;

- geographical differences in service utilisation;

- geographical patterns in treated prevalence of health and related

problems;

- treatment of Australians outside their State/Territory of usual residence to satisfy the requirement for inter-state charging

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agreements.

## Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Alphanumeric

Representational CODE

form:

Representation NNNNN

layout:

Minimum Size: 1 Maximum Size: 5

Data Domain: NOVAL N - State/Territory code for area of usual residence.

NNNN - Statistical Local Area (SLA) code, 4-digit

Guide For Use: Single-digit code to indicate State or Territory

0 not applicable (includes resident overseas, at sea, no fixed

address)

1 New South Wales

2 Victoria

3 Queensland

4 South Australia

5 Western Australia

- 6 Tasmania
- 7 Northern Territory
- 8 Australian Capital Territory
- 9 Other territories (Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Jervis Bay Territory)

SLA to be coded or derived from the residential address. Where the complete residential address is not collected, then suburb and postcode provide the minimum requirement for derivation of Statistical Local Area. If collection of both these items is not possible then postcode is the preferred option.

The accurate recording of the State or Territory of residence is essential for all persons. If the person is not resident in Australia, i.e. lives in another country, or at sea, or has no fixed address, local codes may be used to capture this information. However, for national reporting purposes the item should be coded as follows: State/Territory as 0 = not applicable SLA left blank

If the SLA of interstate persons is not recorded or derived by a health authority, local codes may be used in the SLA field. For national reporting purposes the items should be coded as follows: State/Territory as appropriate, e.g. 1 = New South Wales SLA left blank.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Area of usual residence version 1 has been superseded by Area of usual residence version 3

## Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee

Comments: Both the SLA and State/Territory codes are required as the SLA codes are not unique across the country. The SLA code plus the State/Territory code gives a unique geographic location.

Current collection of information in regard to the person's usual residence varies from State to State but only the New South Wales Health Department has information on SLAs for all patients irrespective of State of residence. For all health authorities to provide this level of information, establishments will be required to supply as a minimum both suburb and postcode. This would enable mapping at the health authority level and facilitate collection of SLAs at a national level.

It is important for data quality that verification of the suburb and postcode and mapping occur as close to the source of the data as possible. These processes could be performed by health authorities but it is preferable that they occur at the establishment level.

Facilitation of data verification and mapping to SLA requires a reference file such as the National Localities Index which is produced by the ABS in two parts: the Localities Index and the Streets Sub-Index.

The Localities Index is a comprehensive list of over 28,000 localities across Australia together with their postcode and codes from the main structure of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) including SLA. Approximately 5 per cent of all localities cross one or more SLA boundaries and are referred to as split localities. The Streets Sub-Index contains approximately 100,000 records of street data for split localities. Using this index in conjunction with the Localities Index will enable specific SLA coding of split localities where the street name/number is known.

It is recognised that to provide SLAs for all persons irrespective of State or Territory of residence will require some States or Territories to make substantial changes to hospital and State information systems involving considerable expense. For this reason, the guide for use element provides a hierarchy of preferences. This definition should be reviewed at a later date when the feasibility of making such changes has been assessed in all States and Territories.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element
NHIM Address element
Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Admitted patient care

From 01-Jul-95 to 30-Jun-97