First language spoken

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NCSDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000519   Version number: 1

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration Authority: NCSIMG   Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 01-JUL-98

Definition: The language the person identifies, or remembers, as being the first language that they could understand to the extent of being able to conduct a conversation.

Context: Persons whose first language is not English have been identified by service providers as a population group that may experience disadvantage when seeking to obtain equal access to government and community programs and services in Australia. Data relating to First language spoken may thus provide a surrogate indicator of disadvantage potentially associated with a lack of English competence or with other factors associated with cultural background.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: CODE

Representation layout: NN

Minimum Size: 2

Maximum Size: 2

Data Domain: NOVAL   2-digit coding system. See Australian Bureau of Statistics: Adaptation of Australian Standard Classification of Languages to accommodate a 2-digit running code.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: ABS: Directory of concepts and standards for social, labour and demographic statistics, 1995 Australian Bureau of Statistics. Australian Standard Classification of Languages. Cat. No. 1267.0. (adaptation to accommodate a 2-digit running code)

Source Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: This definition currently uses an ABS 2-digit code that is a subset of the 4 digit code, but that allows for coding of sign languages and other non-verbal languages and is collected as two digits for most community services. The 2-digit code is not completely specified here as it is under review by the ABS pending the release of the 1996 census data. The ABS currently uses a 4-digit code for the classification of languages which is commonly known as the language code and is a more specific way of coding languages. The advantage of use of this 4-digit ABS code is the comparability of data with other ABS data and increased ability to aggregate data. Given that most community services agencies collect information on the 2 digit coding system, the 2-digit system is implemented for the NCSDD.

Was ID. 000019 (500 added to avoid NHDD DE with same ID.).

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

Data Agreements which include this Data Element