

24	School teachers
25	Other teachers and instructors
26	Social professionals
27	Business professionals
28	Artist and related professionals
29	Miscellaneous professionals
30	Paraprofessionals
31	Medical and science technical officers and technicians
32	Engineering and building associates and technicians
33	Air and sea transport technical workers
34	Registered nurses
35	Police
36	Miscellaneous paraprofessionals
40	Tradespersons
41	Metal fitting and machining
42	Other metal tradespersons
43	Electrical and electronics tradespersons
44	Building tradespersons
45	Printing tradespersons
46	Vehicle tradespersons
47	Food tradespersons
48	Amenity horticultural tradespersons
49	Miscellaneous tradespersons
50	Clerks
51	Stenographers and typists
52	Data processing and business machine operators
53	Numerical clerks
54	Filing, sorting and copying clerks
55	Material recording and despatching clerks
56	Receptionists, telephonists and messengers
59	Miscellaneous clerks
60	Salespersons and personal service workers
61	Investment, insurance and real estate salespersons
62	Sales representatives
63	Sales assistants
64	Tellers, cashiers and ticket salespersons
65	Miscellaneous salespersons
66	Personal service workers
70	Plant and machine operators and drivers
71	Road and rail transport drivers
72	Mobile plant operators (except transport)
73	Stationary plant operators
74	Machine operators

80	Labourers and related workers
81	Trades assistants and factory hands
82	Agricultural labourers and related workers
83	Cleaners
84	Construction and mining labourers
89	Miscellaneous workers

Guide For Use: 2-digit Australian Standard Classification of Occupations code.

Occupation is coded using Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ABS 1986a). This classification is based on a type of work criterion with an emphasis on skill level (length and type of training) and skill specialisation (for example, subject matter knowledge). The structure of the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations has four levels:

8	Major groups	1-digit codes
52	Minor groups	2-digit codes
282	Unit groups	4-digit codes
1079	Occupations	6-digit codes

For example:

Level	Code	Title
Major group	2	Professionals
Minor group	28	Artists and related professionals
Unit group	2805	Designers and illustrators
Occupation	2805-13	Graphic designer

A Computer Assisted Coding system is available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to assist in coding occupational data to Australian Standard Classification of Occupations codes.

Collection Methods: Occupation is currently recorded on hospital morbidity forms or hospital admission forms in all States and Territories except Victoria. It is coded only in Western Australia and Tasmania.

The 1991 Australian Census asked the following questions relating to occupation and industry:

29. In the main job held LAST WEEK, what was the person's occupation?
- Give full title.
 - For example, Civil Engineer, Draftsman, Accounts Clerk, Fast Foods Cook, 1st Class Welder, Extruding Machine Operator, Coal Miner.
 - Armed Service personnel state rank as well as occupation.

30. What are the main tasks or duties that the person usually

performs in that occupation?

- Describe as fully as possible.
- For example, preparing drawings for dam construction, recording and paying accounts, cooking hamburgers and chips, welding of high pressure steam pipes, operating plastic extruding machine, operating continuous mining machine.

Related metadata: relates to the data element concept Occupation version 1 has been superseded by Occupation of person version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National minimum data set working parties

Comments: Five of the eight morbidity systems currently collect current occupation but, apart from Western Australia, do not code it. The Morbidity Working Party examined the proposal to include current occupation in the National Minimum Data Set - Institutional Health Care and noted the following:

- Most States felt that it was difficult to code, had low level of accuracy and required substantial resources. The Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health argued that its accuracy was comparable to that of collected items such as principal diagnosis.
- The ABS noted that the limitations of collecting health data in sample surveys were much greater than those of collecting occupational data in administrative collections.
- New South Wales was sympathetic to the concept of collecting socioeconomic data but felt that the resources needed were not available. Several States expressed interest in collecting socioeconomic data if funded by the Commonwealth.
- Victoria has done a study which suggested it might be of limited use at the hospital level, but this would require asking several questions.
- South Australia uses a 2-digit Australian Standard Classification of Occupations code in psychiatric hospitals.
- Western Australia has collected it for years but regards it as neither reliable nor useful (big gaps in data).

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM

Labour characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
