# Referral source

## *Identifying and Definitional Attributes*

Data Dictionary: NCSDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000536     Version number: 2

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration Authority: NCSIMG     Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: The party (person or agency) responsible for the referral of a client to a community service agency.

Context: Source of referral is important in assisting in the analyses of inter-service client flow and for community service planning.

## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: CODE

Representation layout: N(.N)

Minimum Size: 1

Maximum Size: 3

Data Domain:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Agency |
| 1.1 | Health agency |
| 1.2 | Community services agency |
| 1.3 | Educational agency |
| 1.4 | Legal agency |
| 1.5 | Employment/ job placement agency |
| 1.6 | Other agency |
| 2 | Non-agency |
| 2.1 | Self |
| 2.2 | Family |
| 2.3 | Friends |
| 2.4 | General Medical Practitioner |
| 2.5 | Other party |
| 9 | Not stated/ inadequately described |

Guide For Use: Individual data collections use specific categories relevant to their particular information needs.  These categories should be

mappable to the above generic domain at the 1- or 2-digit level. The separation of agency from non-agency for source of referral is a significant distinction.  For instance, it is important to differentiate between a referral from a private practising general medical practitioner and a referral from a health agency, such as a health clinic in a hospital.
Examples:
- Aged care assessment team would map to category 1.1
- Residential aged care factor to category 1.1
- Community nursing service to category 1.1
- School/other education institution to category 1.3
- General Practitioner to category 2.4
- Police/legal unit to category 1.4 etc

Collection Methods: Individual collections may like to expand categories further for example, by distinguishing between immediate family and non-immediate family.
In addition, this item may be collected at the point of initial contact with an agency, or for other contact points as well, for the agency as a whole, or for different services provided by that agency.

Related metadata: relates to the data element concept Agency version 1
relates to the data element concept Client version 1
supersedes previous data element Source of referral version 1
is used in conjunction with Referral date version 2
relates to the data element concept Family version 2

## Administrative Attributes

Source Document: Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Data Collection Agency 2001. National Data Collection Data Dictionary. Version 2. Unpublished.

Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Data Element Links

### Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM                                          Referral event

### Data Agreements which include this Data Element