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# Religious affiliation

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**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 <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>**

## *Identifying and Definitional Attributes*

Data Dictionary: NCSDD  
Knowledgebase ID: 000586                      Version number: 2  
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT  
Registration Authority: NCSIMG                      Admin status: SUPERSEDED  
Effective date: 01-MAR-05  
Definition: The religious group to which a person belongs or adheres.  
Context: In some circumstances this item can allow agencies to provide more culturally relevant services to some clients. It also provides a useful indicator of aspects of cultural diversity.

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric  
Representational form: CODE  
Representation layout: N(NNN)  
Minimum Size: 1  
Maximum Size: 4  
Data Domain: 9(999)                      Not stated /inadequately described  
                    NOVAL                      Valid codes from the Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG). Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. no. 1266.0.  
Reference through:  
<http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/StatsLibrary>  
Select ABS Classifications

Guide For Use: The Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) is a three-level hierarchical classification. The first and most general level contains 7 broad groups: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Other religions and No religion. The second level contains 33 narrow groups of religious groups similar in terms of religious beliefs, religious practices and/or cultural heritage.

The third and most detailed level contains 107 religious groups. Wherever possible, data should be collected, classified and stored at the most detailed level of the classification. This allows the greatest flexibility for the output of data, enables more detailed and complex analyses, facilitates comparisons with previous data using different classifications, and preserves information that may prove historically useful.

Responses provided in statistical and administrative collections do not always relate directly to classification categories. A coding index is therefore provided in the ABS publication of the ASCRG. This acts as a link between responses and the classification, enabling responses to be assigned accurately and quickly to the appropriate category of the classification.

Code 9(999) Not stated /inadequately described, is not for use on primary collection forms. It is primarily for use in administrative collections when transferring data from data sets where the item has not been collected.

#### Verification Rules:

Collection Methods: It is essential that where this question is asked, it be clearly marked as optional.

The following question is recommended.

Q1. What is your / the person's / (name)'s religion? (Answering this question is OPTIONAL.)

For example, Salvation Army, Hinduism, Judaism or Humanism.

If no religion, mark last option.

Catholic (not Eastern Churches)

Anglican (Church of England)

Uniting Church

Presbyterian

Greek Orthodox

Baptist

Lutheran

Islam

Buddhism

Other - please specify: . . . . .

No religion

While agencies are encouraged to use the recommended question described above, it is acknowledged that this is not always possible in practice. For example, where the data collection is a by-product of the provision of a health or community service, the information may be ascertained using different means. However, the recommended question should be used wherever practically possible.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Religious affiliation version 1

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## *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document: Australian Bureau of Statistics 1996. Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups 1996 (ASCRG), 1996. Cat. no. 1266.0. Canberra: ABS.

Reference through:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/StatsLibrary>

Source Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

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## *Data Element Links*

*Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

NCSIM Social-cultural characteristic

*Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

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