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# Postcode

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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: 000530                      Version number: 2  
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT  
Registration Authority: NCSIMG                      Admin status: SUPERSEDED  
Effective date: 01-SEP-03  
Definition: Postcode is one of a number of geographic indicators that can be used to determine a location.  
Context: Postcode can be used as a means of coding a person's area of usual residence or where an agency or organisation is usually located. It can be mapped to ASGC codes using an ABS concordance to determine SLA for example (see Information Annex 4.3).

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric  
Representational form: CODE  
Representation layout: NNNN  
Minimum Size: 4  
Maximum Size: 4  
Data Domain: NOVAL              Valid Australia Post postal code  
Guide For Use: The postcode book is updated more than once annually as postcodes are a dynamic entity and are constantly changing.  
Collection Methods: May be collected as part of Address or separately. Postal addresses may be different from where a person actually resides, or a service is actually located. As many postcodes have more than one SLA, postcode alone is not a sufficient basis for accurate coding of SLA in many cases.  
Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Postcode version 1  
is used in conjunction with Address version 2  
is used in conjunction with Geographical location version 2  
has been superseded by Int. NCSDD & NHDD Postcode - Australian version 3

