Proficiency in spoken English

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:	000583	Version number:	1
Metadata type:	DATA ELEMENT		
Registration Authority:	NCSIMG	Admin status:	SUPERSEDED
		Effective date:	01-SEP-03

Definition: A person's stated proficiency in spoken English.

Context: This data element identifies those people most likely to suffer disadvantage in terms of their ability to access services due to language and / or cultural difficulties.
The ABS also sees this data element as being a key variable in determining cultural and ethnicity identity. In conjunction with Main language spoken at home and Country of birth, these combined data elements replace the previously used concept of Non English speaking background (NESB).

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:	Numeric
Representational form:	CODE
Representation layout:	N
Minimum Size:	1
Maximum Size:	1

Data Domain:

0	Not applicable (person under 5 years of age)
1	Very well
2	Well
3	Not well
4	Not at all
9	Not stated / inadequately described

Guide For Use: This item is only used in conjunction with 'Main language other than English spoken at home'.
Code 9 should only be used for past collections where this item was not collected or if the person does not respond to the question. It should not be a response included on the collection

form.

Collection Methods: Suggested question:
How well do you speak English? (tick one)
Generally this would be a self-reported question, but in some circumstances (particularly where a person does not speak English well) assistance will be required in answering this question. It is important that the person's self-assessed proficiency in spoken English be recorded wherever possible. This data element does not purport to be a technical assessment of proficiency but is a self-assessment in the four broad categories outlined above.
This data element is not relevant and should not be collected for persons under the age of 5.

Related metadata: relates to the data element Country of birth version 2
relates to the data element First language spoken version 2
relates to the data element Main language other than English spoken at home version 2
relates to the data element Interpreter services required version 2
has been superseded by Int. NCSDD & NHDD Proficiency in spoken English version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: ABS Cultural and Language Indicators Pilot Study 1998. Canberra: AGPS.

Source Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: The ABS has found that many people overstate their English proficiency on the Census question (Dept of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, 1996 Classification of Countries into English Proficiency Groups).

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM Social-cultural characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element