
Main language other than English spoken at home

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:	NHDD	Version number:	1
Knowledgebase ID:	000638		
Metadata type:	DATA ELEMENT		
Registration Authority:	NHIMG	Admin status:	SUPERSEDED
		Effective date:	08-AUG-03
Definition:	The language reported by a person as the main language other than English spoken by a person in his/her home (or most recent private residential setting occupied by the person) on a regular basis, to communicate with other residents of the home or setting and regular visitors.		
Context:	This data element is important in identifying those people most likely to suffer disadvantage in terms of their ability to access services due to language and/or cultural difficulties. In conjunction with Indigenous status, Proficiency in spoken English and Country of birth, this data element forms the minimum core set of cultural and language indicators recommended by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Data on main language spoken at home are regarded as an indicator of "active" ethnicity and also as useful for the study of inter-generational language retention. The availability of such data may help providers of health and community services to effectively target the geographic areas or population groups that need those services. It may be used for the investigation and development of language services such as interpreter/translation services.		

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:	Numeric
Representational form:	CODE
Representation layout:	NNNN
Minimum Size:	4
Maximum Size:	4

Data Domain: NOVAL Valid ABS codes

Guide For Use: At the most detailed level the ABS Classification comprises four-digit codes based on a hierarchical structure. It includes codes for Indigenous Australian languages and sign language. Generally for output purposes, four-digit language codes are grouped into language regions, either at two-digit or one-digit level.

Example 1:

The Lithuanian language has a code of 3102.
3 denotes that it is an Eastern European language
1 denotes that it is a Baltic language
02 denotes the specific language.

Example 2:

The Pintupi Aboriginal language has a code of 8217.
8 denotes that it is an Australian Indigenous language;
2 denotes that the language is Central Aboriginal; and
17 denotes the specific language.

Note that the code 9900 should be used where language is Not stated/inadequately described.

Persons not in private residential settings should respond for "at home" as the most recent private residential setting in which that person has resided.

The reference in the title to "at home" may cause offence to homeless persons and should be shortened to "Main language other than English spoken" where applicable.

Collection Methods: It is recommended that data be collected at the 2 or 4 digit level. Data collected at the 4 digit level will obviously provide more detailed information than that collected at the 2 digit level, but may be more difficult to collect.

Recommended question:

Do you speak a language other than English at home?

No (English only)? _____

Yes, Italian? _____

Yes, Greek? _____

Yes, Cantonese? _____

Yes, Mandarin? _____

Yes, Arabic? _____

Yes, Vietnamese? _____

Yes, German? _____

Yes, Tagalog (Filipino)? _____

Yes, Other (please specify) _____

Related metadata: relates to the data element Proficiency in spoken English version 1

relates to the data element Country of birth version 3
has been superseded by Int. NCSDD & NHDD Main language
other than English spoken at home version 3

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity,
1999, Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat No. 1289.0

Source Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: Data may be collected at any level but is most accurate at the 4
digit level.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM Social characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
