# Person (address)—Australian postcode, code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}

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## Person (address)—Australian postcode, code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}

### Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Data Element

**Short name:** Postcode—Australian (person)

**Synonymous names:** Australian postcode

METEOR identifier: 287224

Registration status: Community Services (retired), Superseded 06/02/2012

Early Childhood, Superseded 09/03/2012

Health, Superseded 07/12/2011

Homelessness, Superseded 30/05/2013 Housing assistance, Superseded 30/05/2013

**Definition:** The numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area, aligned with locality, suburb or

place for the address of a person.

Data Element Concept: Person (address)—Australian postcode

Value Domain: Australian postcode code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}

### Value domain attributes

### Representational attributes

Classification scheme: Postcode datafile

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: {NNNN}

Maximum character length: 4

### Collection and usage attributes

**Comments:** Postcode - Australian may be used in the analysis of data on a geographical basis,

which involves a conversion from postcodes to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) postal areas. This conversion results in some inaccuracy of information. However, in some data sets postcode is the only geographic identifier, therefore the use of other more accurate indicators (e.g. Statistical Local Area (SLA)) is not

always possible.

When dealing with aggregate data, postal areas, converted from postcodes, can be mapped to Australian Standard Geographical Classification codes using an ABS concordance, for example to determine SLAs. It should be noted that such concordances should not be used to determine the SLA of any individual's postcode. Where individual street addresses are available, these can be mapped

to ASGC codes (e.g. SLAs).

### Data element attributes

### Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: The postcode book is updated more than once annually; as postcodes are a

dynamic entity and are constantly changing.

**Collection methods:** Leave Postcode - Australian blank for:

Any overseas addressUnknown addressNo fixed address.

May be collected as part of Address line or separately. Postal addresses may be different from where a person actually resides.

### Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Standards Australia

Origin: National Health Data Committee

National Community Services Data Committee

Reference documents: AS5017 Health Care Client Identification, 2002, Sydney: Standards Australia

AS4846 Health Care Provider Identification, 2004, Sydney: Standards Australia

AS4846 Health Care Provider Identification, 2006, Sydney: Standards Australia

Australia Post Postcode book. Reference through:

http://www1.auspost.com.au/postcodes/

### Relational attributes

### Related metadata references:

Supersedes Person (address)—Australian postcode (Postcode datafile), code NNN[N]

Community Services (retired), Superseded 25/08/2005

Health, Superseded 04/05/2005

Has been superseded by Address—Australian postcode, Australian postcode code (Postcode datafile - Tasmanian variation) {NNNN}

Tasmanian Health, Standard 01/09/2016

Has been superseded by Address—Australian postcode, Australian postcode code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}

Children and Families, Superseded 20/01/2021

Commonwealth Department of Health, Retired 19/10/2023

Community Services (retired), Standard 06/02/2012

Disability, Standard 07/10/2014

Early Childhood, Superseded 24/07/2018

Health, Superseded 05/10/2016

Homelessness, Superseded 10/08/2018

Housing assistance, Standard 01/05/2013

Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 31/10/2012

Indigenous, Superseded 27/02/2018

National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016

WA Health, Standard 04/03/2014

Youth Justice, Superseded 23/08/2022

Is used in the formation of <u>Dwelling—geographic location</u>, remoteness structure code (ASGC 2004) N[N]

Housing assistance, Retired 10/02/2006

Is used in the formation of Person—geographic location, community services code (ASGC 2004) NNNNN

Community Services (retired), Superseded 02/05/2006

See also Person—Australian state/territory identifier, code N

Children and Families, Standard 03/11/2021

Health, Standard 16/01/2020

Youth Justice, Standard 15/02/2022

See also Person—Australian state/territory identifier, code N

Children and Families, Superseded 03/11/2021

Community Services (retired), Standard 25/08/2005

Early Childhood, Standard 21/05/2010

Health, Superseded 16/01/2020

Homelessness, Standard 01/05/2013

Housing assistance, Standard 10/02/2006

Youth Justice, Superseded 24/03/2023

### Specifications:

Implementation in Data Set Cardiovascular disease (clinical) DSS Health, Superseded 15/02/2006

### DSS specific information:

The postcode can also be used in association with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) index (Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia (CD-ROM) to derive socio-economic disadvantage, which is associated with cardiovascular risk.

People from lower socio-economic groups are more likely to die from cardiovascular disease than those from higher socio-economic groups. In 1997, people aged 25 - 64 living in the most disadvantaged group of the population died from cardiovascular disease at around twice the rate of those living in the least disadvantaged group (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AlHW) 2001. Heart, stroke and vascular diseases- Australian facts 2001.).

This difference in death rates has existed since at least the 1970s.

Cardiovascular disease (clinical) DSS

Health, Superseded 04/07/2007

### DSS specific information:

The postcode can also be used in association with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) index (Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia (CD-ROM) to derive socio-economic disadvantage, which is associated with cardiovascular risk.

People from lower socio-economic groups are more likely to die from cardiovascular disease than those from higher socio-economic groups. In 1997, people aged 25 - 64 living in the most disadvantaged group of the population died from cardiovascular disease at around twice the rate of those living in the least disadvantaged group (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AlHW) 2001. Heart, stroke and vascular diseases- Australian facts 2001.).

This difference in death rates has existed since at least the 1970s.

Cardiovascular disease (clinical) DSS Health, Superseded 22/12/2009

### DSS specific information:

The postcode can also be used in association with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) index (Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia (CD-ROM) to derive socio-economic disadvantage, which is associated with cardiovascular risk.

People from lower socio-economic groups are more likely to die from cardiovascular disease than those from higher socio-economic groups. In 1997, people aged 25 - 64 living in the most disadvantaged group of the population died from cardiovascular disease at around twice the rate of those living in the least disadvantaged group (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AlHW) 2001. Heart, stroke and vascular diseases- Australian facts 2001.).

This difference in death rates has existed since at least the 1970s.

Cardiovascular disease (clinical) DSS Health, Superseded 01/09/2012

### DSS specific information:

The postcode can also be used in association with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) index (Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia (CD-ROM) to derive socio-economic disadvantage, which is associated with cardiovascular risk.

People from lower socio-economic groups are more likely to die from cardiovascular disease than those from higher socio-economic groups. In 1997, people aged 25 - 64 living in the most disadvantaged group of the population died from cardiovascular disease at around twice the rate of those living in the least disadvantaged group (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AlHW) 2001. Heart, stroke and vascular diseases- Australian facts 2001.).

This difference in death rates has existed since at least the 1970s.

Child protection and support services (CPSS) - out-of-home care NMDS (July 2007)

Community Services (retired), Superseded 01/05/2008

### Conditional obligation:

In the Child Protection NMDS, this data element is collected a minimum of three times:

- the postcode where the child was living at the time of the notification;
- the numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area aligned with locality, suburb
  or place and defined by Australia Post for the residential address of the child
  immediately prior to entering out-of-home care for the first time; and
- the numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area, aligned with locality, suburb or place and defined by Australia Post for the specific address of the out-ofhome care placement.

Child protection and support services (CPSS) - out-of-home care NMDS pilot (2008)

Community Services (retired), Retired 06/02/2012

Conditional obligation:

In the Child Protection NMDS, this data element is collected a minimum of three times:

- the postcode where the child was living at the time of the notification;
- the numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area aligned with locality, suburb or place and defined by Australia Post for the residential address of the child immediately prior to entering out-of-home care for the first time; and
- the numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area, aligned with locality, suburb or place and defined by Australia Post for the specific address of the out-ofhome care placement.

Child protection and support services (CPSS) - notifications, investigations, and substantiations NMDS (July 2007)

Community Services (retired), Superseded 01/05/2008

### Conditional obligation:

In the Child Protection NMDS, this data element is collected a minimum of three times:

- the postcode where the child was living at the time of the contact;
- the numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area aligned with locality, suburb
  or place and defined by Australia Post for the residential address of the child
  immediately prior to entering out-of-home care for the first time; and
- the numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area, aligned with locality, suburb
  or place and defined by Australia Post for the specific address of the out-ofhome care placement.

Child protection and support services (CPSS) - notifications, investigations, and substantiations NMDS pilot (2008)

Community Services (retired), Retired 06/02/2012

#### Conditional obligation:

In the Child Protection NMDS, this data element is collected a minimum of three times:

- the postcode where the child was living at the time of the contact;
- the numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area aligned with locality, suburb or place and defined by Australia Post for the residential address of the child immediately prior to entering out-of-home care for the first time; and
- the numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area, aligned with locality, suburb or place and defined by Australia Post for the specific address of the out-ofhome care placement.

Child protection and support services (CPSS) client DSS Pilot (2010)

Community Services (retired), Recorded 19/08/2011

**DSS specific information:** In the client file the postcode of the child refers to their postcode prior to first ever entry into care.

Children's Services NMDS

Community Services (retired), Superseded 21/05/2010

### DSS specific information:

In the Children's Services NMDS, this data element is only relevant to children who receive in-home child care services. It refers to the child's in-home address. It is used in conjunction with the data element *Suburb/town/locality name (person)*.

Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement NMDS - 1 July 2006

Community Services (retired), Superseded 14/12/2008

### DSS specific information:

In the CSTDA NMDS, this data element refers to the postcode of a service user's usual residence ('usual' means 4 or more days per week on average).

This data element is used in CSTDA to capture the postcode of the 'geographic location' of a person, not their postal address postcode. The CSTDA NMDS collection defines 'usual' as where the person usually resides for four or more days per week on average.

### Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement NMDS (July 2008) Community Services (retired), Superseded 11/11/2009

### DSS specific information:

In the CSTDA NMDS, this data element refers to the postcode of a service user's usual residence ('usual' means 4 or more days per week on average).

This data element is used in CSTDA to capture the postcode of the 'geographic location' of a person, not their postal address postcode. The CSTDA NMDS collection defines 'usual' as where the person usually resides for four or more days per week on average.

### Computer Assisted Telephone Interview demographic module DSS Health, Superseded 03/12/2008

### DSS specific information:

For data collection using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) the suggested question is:

What is your postcode?

(Single response)

Enter Postcode

### Computer Assisted Telephone Interview demographic module NBPDS Health, Standard 03/12/2008

### DSS specific information:

For data collection using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) the suggested question is:

What is your postcode?

(Single response)

**Enter Postcode** 

### **Disability Services NMDS 2009-10**

Community Services (retired), Superseded 15/12/2011

Implementation start date: 01/07/2009

DSS specific information:

In the DS NMDS, this data element refers to the postcode of a service user's usual residence ('usual' means 4 or more days per week on average).

This data element is used in NDA to capture the postcode of the 'geographic location' of a person, not their postal address postcode. The DS NMDS collection defines 'usual' as where the person usually resides for four or more days per week on average.

### **Disability Services NMDS 2010-11**

Community Services (retired), Superseded 15/12/2011

Implementation start date: 01/07/2010

DSS specific information:

In the DS NMDS, this data element refers to the postcode of a service user's usual residence ('usual' means 4 or more days per week on average).

This data element is used in NDA to capture the postcode of the 'geographic location' of a person, not their postal address postcode. The DS NMDS collection defines 'usual' as where the person usually resides for four or more days per week on average.

### **Disability Services NMDS 2011-12**

Community Services (retired), Superseded 13/03/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2011

DSS specific information:

In the DS NMDS, this data element refers to the postcode of a service user's usual residence ('usual' means 4 or more days per week on average).

This data element is used in NDA to capture the postcode of the 'geographic location' of a person, not their postal address postcode. The DS NMDS collection defines 'usual' as where the person usually resides for four or more days per week on average.

Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2010

Early Childhood, Superseded 07/06/2011

Implementation start date: 01/07/2010

Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2011

Early Childhood, Superseded 09/03/2012

Implementation start date: 01/07/2011

**DSS specific information:** Should be reported for the usual residence of the child's parent or guardian. Do not report the post office box postcode or other non-residential address of the child's parent or guardian.

Health care client identification DSS

Health, Superseded 03/12/2008

Health care client identification DSS

Health, Retired 20/03/2013

Health care provider identification DSS

Health, Superseded 04/07/2007

Health care provider identification DSS

Health, Superseded 03/12/2008

Health care provider identification DSS

Health, Retired 20/03/2013

Home and Community Care MDS 2009

Community Services (retired), Recorded 16/11/2009

Implementation start date: 11/05/2006

DSS specific information:

In the Home and Community Care MDS, this data element refers to the postal code for the geographic location of the person's residence whilst receiving HACC services.

In conjunction with the data element Suburb/town/locality name, the data element Postcode is included in the HACC MDS as a means of reporting information about the geographic location of the residence of a HACC client. The preferred standard for reporting this information is by using a statistical local area (SLA) in conjunction with a state/territory code (see Australian state/territory identifier). However, as some HACC agencies may have difficulty allocating SLA codes to the residential locations of their clients without more computerised assistance than is currently available to them, agencies are given the option of reporting this information by using the lesser standard of Postcode plus Suburb/town/locality name.

The agency should record the postcode for the address at which the person resides while receiving services from the agency. The postcode should not relate to a postal address different from the physical address at which the person is residing.

The Australia Post postcode book is updated more than once a year as postcodes are constantly changing. Agencies should use the most up-to-date postcode book available for the HACC MDS reporting period.

This data element should be recorded for all HACC care recipients at the beginning of each HACC service episode. The agency should also assess the currency of this information at subsequent assessments/re-assessments within any

given HACC service episode and should update the agency's record of the client's postcode if necessary.

Reporting requirements:

This data element is an alternative within the HACC MDS collection to reporting the Statistical Local Area (SLA) of the client's residence.

The agency should report the most recent postcode recorded for the client. Information provided by the agency about the client's postcode will be considered to be at least as recent as the Date of last update reported for the person. This is in line with the request that agencies assess and update the information they have about a person's postcode at the beginning of each HACC service episode as well as at subsequent assessments/re-assessments within each HACC service episode.

The HACC MDS Version 2.0 does not include all data elements for full Address information. A complete implementation of Address, including the related data elements, is currently under development in coordination with Standards Australia, ABS, the National Health Data Committee and the National Community Services Data Committee. Once national standards are developed, the HACC MDS will take these standards into account for future versions of the HACC MDS.

Juvenile Justice Detention file cluster

Community Services (retired), Standard 14/09/2009

Implementation start date: 24/09/2009

Juvenile Justice NMDS 2007

Community Services (retired), Superseded 19/05/2010

Implementation start date: 01/07/2005

DSS specific information:

This data element refers to the postcode of the client's last known home address prior to coming under the supervision or case management of the agency.

This is to be recorded for each client on entry to each juvenile justice episode. A question to be asked of juvenile justice clients may be 'where do you live' or 'what was your most recent home address'.

A juvenile justice remand/detention centre should not be recorded as the last known home address. The data item refers to last known home address of the client prior to being held in a centre or on supervision.

Living arrangements for children under care (LA) DSS Pilot (2010)

Community Services (retired), Recorded 19/08/2011

**DSS specific information:** The postcode of the child's living arrangement.

Notifications, investigations, and substantiations (NIS) DSS Pilot 2010

Community Services (retired), Recorded 19/08/2011

Conditional obligation:

In the Notifications, investigations and substantiations (NIS) cluster the data element refers to the postcode where the child was living at the time of the notification.

Registered chiropractic labour force DSS

Health, Standard 10/12/2009

**DSS specific information:** In this dataset the data element refers to the postcode of the residential address of a person.

Registered dental and allied dental health professional labour force DSS Health, Standard 10/12/2009

DSS specific information: In this dataset the data element refers to the postcode

of the residential address of a person.

### Registered medical professional labour force DSS

Health, Standard 10/12/2009

**DSS specific information:** In this dataset the data element refers to the postcode of the <u>residential</u> address of a person.

### Registered midwifery labour force DSS

Health, Standard 10/12/2009

**DSS specific information:** In this dataset the data element refers to the postcode of the <u>residential</u> address of a person.

### Registered nursing professional labour force DSS

Health, Standard 10/12/2009

**DSS specific information:** In this dataset the data element refers to the postcode of the <u>residential</u> address of a person.

### Registered optometry labour force DSS

Health, Standard 10/12/2009

**DSS specific information:** In this dataset the data element refers to the postcode of the <u>residential</u> address of a person.

### Registered osteopathy labour force DSS

Health, Standard 10/12/2009

**DSS specific information:** In this dataset the data element refers to the postcode of the residential address of a person.

### Registered pharmacy labour force DSS

Health, Standard 10/12/2009

**DSS specific information:** In this dataset the data element refers to the postcode of the <u>residential</u> address of a person.

#### Registered physiotherapy labour force DSS

Health, Standard 10/12/2009

**DSS specific information:** In this dataset the data element refers to the postcode of the <u>residential</u> address of a person.

### Registered podiatry labour force DSS

Health, Standard 10/12/2009

**DSS specific information:** In this dataset the data element refers to the postcode of the <u>residential</u> address of a person.

### Registered psychology labour force DSS

Health, Standard 10/12/2009

**DSS** specific information: In this dataset the data element refers to the postcode of the <u>residential</u> address of a person.

#### SAAP Client Collection National Minimum Data Set

Community Services (retired), Retired 01/07/2011

### DSS specific information:

In the SAAP NMDS, the postcode location of the client's last home is recorded. This is defined as the location where the client last lived in a home in which they were safe, for which they had security of tenure, and that was adequate in terms of the amenities or resources necessary for living.

Guide for use

Additional codes used in the SAAP client data collection are:

Code 9998 overseas

Code 0 don't know/no information

### Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) cluster

Community Services (retired), Superseded 07/06/2011

Early Childhood, Superseded 07/06/2011

Health, Recorded 28/04/2010

**Conditional obligation:** Only collected for unit record level collection for Early Childhood Education and Care

### Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) cluster

Community Services (retired), Superseded 07/06/2011

Early Childhood, Superseded 07/06/2011

### Health, Recorded 28/04/2010

**Conditional obligation:** Only collected for unit record level collection for Early Childhood Education and Care

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) cluster 2010

Community Services (retired), Superseded 09/03/2012

Early Childhood, Superseded 09/03/2012

**Conditional obligation:** Only collected for unit record level collection for Early Childhood Education and Care

Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2011

<u>Homelessness</u>, Superseded 01/05/2013 Housing assistance, Superseded 01/05/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2011

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is reported twice, for:

- where the person lived one week before the first service contact (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY); and
- where the person lived the last time they had a permanent place to live.

Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2012-13

<u>Homelessness</u>, Superseded 01/05/2013 <u>Housing assistance</u>, Superseded 01/05/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2012 Implementation end date: 30/06/2013

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is reported twice, for:

- where the person lived one week before the first service contact (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY); and
- where the person lived the last time they had a permanent place to live.

### Implementation in Indicators:

### **Used as Disaggregation**

National Disability Agreement: b(2)-Proportion of people with disability who participate in social and community activities, 2010

Community Services (retired), Superseded 15/12/2011

National Disability Agreement: c-Proportion of the potential population accessing disability services, 2010

Community Services (retired), Superseded 15/12/2011

National Disability Agreement: f-Number of Indigenous people with disability receiving disability services as a proportion of the Indigenous potential population requiring services, 2010

Community Services (retired), Superseded 15/12/2011

National Healthcare Agreement: P04-Incidence of selected cancers, 2010 Health, Superseded 08/06/2011

National Healthcare Agreement: P44-Survival of people diagnosed with cancer, 2010

Health, Superseded 08/06/2011

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 02-Incidence of selected cancers, 2013 Health, Superseded 30/04/2014

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 02-Incidence of selected cancers, 2014 Health, Superseded 14/01/2015

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 04-Incidence of selected cancers, 2011 Health, Superseded 30/10/2011

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 04-Incidence of selected cancers, 2012 Health, Superseded 25/06/2013

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 17-Treatment rates for mental illness, 2014 Health, Superseded 14/01/2015

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 24-Survival of people diagnosed with notifiable cancers, 2013

Health, Superseded 30/04/2014

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 24-Survival of people diagnosed with notifiable cancers, 2014

Health, Superseded 14/01/2015

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 24-Survival of people diagnosed with notifiable cancers, 2015

Health, Superseded 08/07/2016

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 24—Survival of people diagnosed with notifiable cancers, 2016

Health, Superseded 31/01/2017

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 24—Survival of people diagnosed with notifiable cancers, 2017

Health, Superseded 30/01/2018

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 24—Survival of people diagnosed with notifiable cancers, 2018

Health, Superseded 19/06/2019

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 44-Survival of people diagnosed with cancer, 2011

Health, Superseded 31/10/2011

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 44-Survival of people diagnosed with cancer, 2012

Health, Superseded 25/06/2013