

Person—need for assistance with activities in a life area, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Assistance with activities
METEOR identifier:	320213
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Services (retired), Standard 16/10/2006• Disability, Standard 13/08/2015• Health, Standard 29/11/2006
Definition:	The level of help and/or supervision a person requires (or would require if the person currently helping/supervising was not available) to perform tasks and actions in a specified life area, as represented by a code.
Context:	Human functioning and disability
Data Element Concept:	Person—need for assistance with activities in a life area

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Classification scheme:	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health 2001										
Representation class:	Code										
Data type:	Number										
Format:	N										
Maximum character length:	1										
Permissible values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>0</td><td>Does not need help/supervision</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Sometimes needs help/supervision</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Always needs help/supervision</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Unable to do this task or action, even with assistance</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	0	Does not need help/supervision	1	Sometimes needs help/supervision	2	Always needs help/supervision	3	Unable to do this task or action, even with assistance
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Supplementary values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>8</td><td>Not specified</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>Not applicable</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	8	Not specified	9	Not applicable				
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8	Not specified										
9	Not applicable										

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

This metadata item contributes to the definition of the concept '**Disability**' and gives an indication of the experience of disability for a person.

In the context of health, an activity is the execution of a task or action by an individual. Activity limitations are difficulties an individual may have in executing an activity.

Activity limitation varies with the environment and is assessed in relation to a particular environment; the absence or presence of assistance, including aids and equipment, is an aspect of the environment.

This value domain records the level of a person's need for help or supervision, in a specified domain, in their overall life. This means that the need for assistance may not be directly relevant to the health or community care service being provided.

Where a life area includes a range of examples, (e.g. domestic life includes cooking, cleaning and shopping), if a person requires assistance in any of the areas then the highest level of assistance should be recorded.

Where need for assistance varies markedly over time (e.g. episodic psychiatric conditions) please record the average level of assistance needed.

The presence of an activity limitation with a given domain is indicated by a non-zero response in this value domain. Activity is limited when an individual, in the context of a health condition, either has need for assistance in performing an activity in an expected manner, or cannot perform the activity at all.

CODE 0 is used when the person has no need for supervision or help and can undertake the activity independently.

CODE 1 is used when the person sometimes needs assistance to perform an activity.

CODE 2 is used when the person always needs assistance to undertake the activity and cannot do the activity without assistance.

CODE 3 is used when the person cannot do the activity even with assistance

CODE 8 is used when a person's need for assistance to undertake the activity is unknown or there is insufficient information to use codes 0-3.

CODE 9 is used where the need for help or supervision is due to the person's age. For example, Education for persons less than 5 years and work for persons less than 15 years.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) which is the Australian Collaborating Centre for the World Health Organization Family of International Classifications.

Origin: WHO 2001. ICF: International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Geneva: WHO

AIHW 2003. ICF Australian User Guide Version 1.0. Canberra: AIHW

Reference documents: [Further information on the ICF, including more detailed codes, can be found in the ICF itself and the ICF Australian User Guide \(AIHW 2003\), at the following websites:](#)

- [WHO ICF website](http://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en)
<http://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en>
- Australian Collaborating Centre ICF website
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/disability/icf/index.html>

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: This data element, in conjunction with Person—activities and participation life area, code (ICF 2001) AN[NNN], indicates a person's need for assistance in a given domain of activity.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) which is the Australian Collaborating Centre for the World Health Organization Family of International Classifications.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: See also [Person—activity and participation life area, code \(ICF 2001\) AN\[NNN\]](#)

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 16/10/2006
- [Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [Health](#), Standard 29/11/2006

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Activities and Participation cluster Health](#), Standard 29/11/2006
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 16/10/2006
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015

[Child protection and support services \(CPSS\) client cluster Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 30/04/2008

Implementation start date: 22/06/2007

DSS specific information:

In the Child Protection NMDS, this data element refers to the need for assistance as a result of an underlying long-term health condition or disability. Need for assistance is determined when a child's needs are greater than fully functioning children of the same age.

If the child has a need for assistance then an activity and participation life area will be required.

[Children's Services NMDS Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 21/05/2010

DSS specific information:

Record only whether the child has need for assistance or not. This is used in conjunction with the activity and participation life area.

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