

Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Episode start date
Synonymous names:	Service start date; Entry date; Support period start date; Date of effect; Date of entry; Order start date; Detention start date
METEOR identifier:	338558
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Services (retired), Standard 16/05/2006• Disability, Superseded 05/07/2019• Homelessness, Superseded 10/08/2018• Housing assistance, Standard 23/08/2010
Definition:	The date on which a service episode commenced.
Data Element Concept:	Service episode—episode start date

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Date
Data type:	Date/Time
Format:	DDMMYYYY
Maximum character length:	8

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes


Guide for use:	Due to the considerable variation in the types of services provided in the community services sector, it is not possible at this stage to define in generic terms what will constitute commencement of a service episode. Individual collections should however define what constitutes commencement for their own purposes. For example, it may be at contact stage in some instances or in others when a case plan is formulated.
Collection methods:	Date assistance commenced must be related to a particular service episode. For each separate service episode a separate 'Service episode—start date, DDMMYYYY' should be recorded.
Comments:	This metadata item is used in calculation of measures of periods of support and duration of assistance.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
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Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes  [First service contact date, version 2, DE, NCSDD, NCSIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (14.7 KB) *No registration status*

Has been superseded by [Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Standard 22/11/2016
- [Disability](#), Standard 05/07/2019
- [Homelessness](#), Standard 10/08/2018

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Child protection and support services \(CPSS\) - out-of-home care NMDS \(July 2007\)Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 01/05/2008

DSS specific information:

This date is to be entered each time a child starts a placement. This may be the child's first placement or a change of placement.

This metadata item is used to determine the length of time in specific out-of-home placements, out-of-home care as a whole and also the number of different carers a child has.

Entered care is defined as when a child physically moves into a placement and this is supported by the child protection service. Alternatively, if the child is already living in the place of residence, it is when the child protection authority deems it to be an out-of-home care placement.

If the date is unknown, the date 01011900 should be provided.

[Child protection and support services \(CPSS\) - out-of-home care NMDS pilot \(2008\)Community Services \(retired\)](#), Retired 06/02/2012

DSS specific information:

This date is to be entered each time a child starts a placement. This may be the child's first placement or a change of placement.

This metadata item is used to determine the length of time in specific out-of-home placements, out-of-home care as a whole and also the number of different carers a child has.

Entered care is defined as when a child physically moves into a placement and this is supported by the child protection service. Alternatively, if the child is already living in the place of residence, it is when the child protection authority deems it to be an out-of-home care placement.

If the date is unknown, the date 01011900 should be provided.

[Child protection and support services \(CPSS\) - care and protection order episode NMDS \(July 2007\)Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 01/05/2008

DSS specific information:

An entry date should be recorded for each separate care and protection order episode of the child.

A new episode will begin and an entry date will be recorded in the following circumstances:

A child is placed on a care and protection order for the first time in their life.
A child is placed on a higher level order than the one they are currently on.
The higher level order expires and the child is placed on a lower level order. This date will be recorded once the higher level order expires.
A child moves from one jurisdiction to another and the order is transferred to the second jurisdiction.
In some circumstances, the entry date will be the same as the exit date from a previous episode, e.g. when a child moves directly from one level order to a different level order.

This data item delineates a care and protection order episode and is qualified by reason for entry.

If the date is unknown, the date 01011900 should be provided.

[Child protection and support services \(CPSS\) - care and protection order episode NMDS pilot \(2008\)Community Services \(retired\)](#), Retired 06/02/2012

DSS specific information:

An entry date should be recorded for each separate care and protection order episode of the child.

A new episode will begin and an entry date will be recorded in the following circumstances:

A child is placed on a care and protection order for the first time in their life.
A child is placed on a higher level order than the one they are currently on.
The higher level order expires and the child is placed on a lower level order. This date will be recorded once the higher level order expires.
A child moves from one jurisdiction to another and the order is transferred to the second jurisdiction.
In some circumstances, the entry date will be the same as the exit date from a previous episode, e.g. when a child moves directly from one level order to a different level order.

This data item delineates a care and protection order episode and is qualified by reason for entry.

If the date is unknown, the date 01011900 should be provided.

[Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement NMDS - 1 July 2006Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 14/12/2008

DSS specific information:

A service is a support activity delivered to a person, in accord with the CSTDA. Services within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided, during the specified period, by a government organisation operating under the CSTDA.

A service user is considered to have started receiving a CSTDA-funded service type once they have been judged as eligible for the service type and have actually received support within that service type. Support may include assessment processes once the service user has been accepted as eligible for the service type. However it does not include assessment where assessment is for eligibility or for a place on a waiting list. Support does not generally include requests for information or phone queries.

At times, an outlet may only provide the service user with one-off assistance. For example, a service user may only require respite care on one occasion. Where this assistance is CSTDA-funded, the general rule is that all service users details should be recorded as required for that service type. If the service user is not expected to use the service outlet again, an exit date and appropriate main reason for service cessation should be reported.

If a service user formally exits a service and then 're-enters' a service, an exit date should be reported and a new service start date should be reported.

Service users who commence services after 1 October 2002, should have their actual commencement date recorded (i.e. the date this service type was first received by the service user from the service type outlet).

Existing service users (i.e. those who commenced services prior to October 2002), should either be recorded as commencing the service type on:

- their known service start date, for example, a service user starting on 2 September 2002 may be recorded as 02092002;
- an estimate of their service start date by recording '0101' for the day and month and estimating the year. For example, if a service user has been receiving support from a service type outlet for about 5 years, the outlet would record the Service start date as 01011997'; or
- on 1 October 2002 (i.e. 01102002). This option is used if the start date is unknown or cannot be recorded for some other reason.

Start date, in conjunction with last service provision date, or exit date, gives some indication of length of stay of service users in the CSTDA program and of the intensity of service provision. In conjunction with the data element exit date, it can also be used to identify the number of CSTDA-funded service users as at the end of the CSTDA NMDS reporting period, and at any time.

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

DSS specific information:

A service is a support activity delivered to a person, in accord with the CSTDA. Services within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided, during the specified period, by a government organisation operating under the CSTDA.

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Implementation start date: 01/07/2009

DSS specific information:

A service is a support activity delivered to a person, in accord with the NDA. Services within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided, during the specified period, by a government organisation operating under the NDA.

A service user is considered to have started receiving a NDA-funded service type once they have been judged as eligible for the service type and have actually received support within that service type. Support may include assessment processes once the service user has been accepted as eligible for the service type. However it does not include assessment where assessment is for eligibility or for a place on a waiting list. Support does not generally include requests for information or phone queries.

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Start date, in conjunction with last service provision date, or exit date, gives some indication of length of stay of service users in the NDA program and of the intensity of service provision. In conjunction with the data element exit date, it can also be used to identify the number of NDA-funded service users as at the end of the DS NMDS reporting period, and at any time.

[Disability Services NMDS 2010-11Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 15/12/2011

Implementation start date: 01/07/2010

DSS specific information:

A service is a support activity delivered to a person, in accord with the NDA. Services within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided, during the specified period, by a government organisation operating under the NDA.

A service user is considered to have started receiving a NDA-funded service type once they have been judged as eligible for the service type and have actually received support within that service type. Support may include assessment processes once the service user has been accepted as eligible for the service type. However it does not include assessment where assessment is for eligibility or for a place on a waiting list. Support does not generally include requests for information or phone queries.

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- an estimate of their service start date by recording '0101' for the day and month and estimating the year. For example, if a service user has been receiving support from a service type outlet for about 5 years, the outlet would record the Service start date as 01011997'; or
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Implementation start date: 01/07/2011

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[Disability Services NMDS 2012-14Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 13/03/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2012

Implementation end date: 30/06/2014

DSS specific information:

In the DS NMDS this refers to the date on which a person began to receive support from a NDA-funded [service type outlet](#).

A service is a support activity delivered to a person, in accord with the NDA. [Services](#) within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided, during the specified period, by a government organisation operating under the NDA.

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Service users who commence services after 1 October 2002, should have their actual commencement date recorded (i.e. the date this service type was first received by the service user from the service type outlet).

Service users who commenced services prior to October 2002 should either be recorded as commencing the service type on:

- their known service start date, for example, a service user starting on 2 September 2002 may be recorded as 02092002;
- an estimate of their service start date by recording '0101' for the day and month and estimating the year. For example, if a service user has been receiving support from a service type outlet for about 5 years, the outlet would record the Service start date as 01011997'; or
- on 1 October 2002 (i.e. 01102002). This option is used if the start date is unknown or cannot be recorded for some other reason.

[Disability Services NMDS 2014-15 Community Services \(retired\)](#), Incomplete 23/04/2014

[Disability](#), Superseded 29/02/2016

Implementation start date: 01/07/2014

Implementation end date: 30/06/2015

DSS specific information:

In the Disability Services Minimum Data Set (DS NMDS), this refers to the date on which a person began to receive support from a [service type outlet](#).

A service is a support activity delivered to a person, in accord with the National Disability Agreement (NDA). [Services](#) within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided, during the specified period, by a government organisation operating under the NDA.

A service user is considered to have started receiving a NDA service type once they have been judged as eligible for the service type and have actually received support within that service type. Support may include assessment processes once the service user has been accepted as eligible for the service type. However it does not include assessment where assessment is for eligibility or for a place on a waiting list. Support does not generally include requests for information or phone queries.

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- on 1 October 2002 (i.e. 01102002). This option is used if the start date is unknown or cannot be recorded for some other reason.

[Disability Services NMDS 2015–16Disability](#), Superseded 28/09/2016

Implementation start date: 01/07/2015

Implementation end date: 30/06/2016

DSS specific information:

In the Disability Services Minimum Data Set (DS NMDS), this refers to the date on which a person began to receive support from a [service type outlet](#).

A service is a support activity delivered to a person, in accord with the National Disability Agreement (NDA). Services within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided, during the specified period, by a government organisation operating under the NDA.

A [service user](#) is considered to have started receiving a NDA [service type](#) once they have been judged as eligible for the service type and have actually received support within that service type. Support may include assessment processes once the service user has been accepted as eligible for the service type. However it does not include assessment where assessment is for eligibility or for a place on a waiting list. Support does not generally include requests for information or phone queries.

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- on 1 October 2002 (i.e. 01102002). This option is used if the start date is unknown or cannot be recorded for some other reason.

Implementation start date: 01/07/2016

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

DSS specific information:

In the Disability Services National Minimum Data Set (DS NMDS), this refers to the date on which a person began to receive support from a [service type outlet](#).

A service is a support activity delivered to a person, in accord with the National Disability Agreement (NDA). Services within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided, during the specified period, by a government organisation operating under the NDA.

A [service user](#) is considered to have started receiving a NDA service type ('[Service type outlet—service activity type, NDA service type code N.NN](#)') once they have been judged as eligible for the service type and have actually received support within that service type. Support may include assessment processes once the service user has been accepted as eligible for the service type. However it does not include assessment where assessment is for eligibility or for a place on a waiting list. Support does not generally include requests for information or phone queries.

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- on 1 October 2002 (i.e. 01102002). This option is used if the start date is unknown or cannot be recorded for some other reason.

[Disability Services NMDS 2017–18Disability](#), Superseded 05/07/2019

Implementation start date: 01/07/2017

Implementation end date: 30/06/2018

DSS specific information:

In the Disability Services National Minimum Data Set (DS NMDS), this refers to the date on which a person began to receive support from a [service type outlet](#).

A service is a support activity delivered to a person, in accord with the National Disability Agreement (NDA). Services within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided, during the specified period, by a government organisation operating under the NDA.

A [service user](#) is considered to have started receiving a NDA service type ([Service type outlet—service activity type, NDA service type code N.NN](#)) once they have been judged as eligible for the service type and have actually received support within that service type. Support may include assessment processes once the service user has been accepted as eligible for the service type. However it does not include assessment where assessment is for eligibility or for a place on a waiting list. Support does not generally include requests for information or phone queries.

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The service episode start date must relate to the service type outlet ID ([Service type outlet—outlet identifier, XX\[X\(26\)\]](#)) and associated service type ([Service type outlet—service activity type, NDA service type code N.NN](#)).

If a service user formally exits a service and then 're-enters' a service at a later date, a new period of service should be reported.

[Disability services/supports received clusterCommunity Services \(retired\)](#),
Standard 10/04/2013
[Disability](#), Superseded 13/08/2015

[Disability services/supports received clusterDisability](#), Standard 13/08/2015

[Juvenile Justice Detention file clusterCommunity Services \(retired\)](#), Standard
14/09/2009
[Youth Justice](#), Recorded 23/05/2022

Implementation start date: 24/09/2009

DSS specific information:

Guide for use - Detention file

A detention period is the period spent in a particular detention centre for a particular type of detention (pre-court detention, pre-sentence detention, sentenced detention). A detention period starts when:

- the young person is received into detention
- the young person is transferred to another detention centre
- the young person is transferred to the custody of another jurisdiction (e.g. adult corrective services, police custody, interstate)
- the type of detention changes (pre-court detention, pre-sentence detention, sentenced detention)
- the young person returns to detention following an escape or abscond.

Detention periods may be concurrent where the detention types are different; that is, the detention start date may be before the detention end date of the previous order. For example, a young person's period of sentenced detention begins 1 January and ends 1 June. On 1 February, they are placed on remand (pre-sentence detention) until 10 February. There are two detention periods, a period of sentenced detention from 1 January to 1 June and a period of pre-sentence detention from 1 February to 10 February.

Detention periods cannot be concurrent where the detention types are the same. If the young person in the example above is placed in sentenced detention following the end of period of remand on 10 February, this is included in the first period of sentenced detention.

Person identifier	Detention start date	Detention end date	Detention type	Comment
1	01/01/08	01/06/08	3 (sentenced detention)	May relate to multiple sentenced detention orders.
1	01/02/08	10/02/08	2 (pre-sentence detention)	Period of remand that begins and ends within period of sentenced detention.
1	01/08/08	01/12/08	3 (sentenced detention)	New period of sentenced detention.

Implementation start date: 01/07/2005

DSS specific information:

For the purposes of the Juvenile Justice NMDS, the episode's 'start date' is the 'entry date'-the date on which the client comes under the supervision or case management of the juvenile justice department under a specific legal arrangement or where there is a change in the type of supervision provided and/or the specific juvenile justice agency responsible.

A new episode will begin and an entry date recorded in the following circumstances:

- On admission of the client to a specific period of supervision or case management by the juvenile justice department, under one of the types of intervention listed in the data domain of juvenile justice episode type;
- If, for an existing client, there is a change in juvenile justice episode type, such as from police custody to remand, supervised bail to remand, remand to detention, detention to parole, probation to community service;
- If, for an existing client, another juvenile justice episode type which is ranked more highly on the ranking scale outlined below, begins;
- If a client on a custodial order (remand or detention) is transferred to a different place of custody within a jurisdiction (for example from a detention centre in Sydney to one in Wagga);
- If a client is transferred from the adult justice system to the juvenile justice system;
- If a client is transferred into the State or Territory from another jurisdiction;
- If a client has returned from escape after an absence of 2 days or more.

A person can be recorded as being on only ONE juvenile justice episode at any point in time (i.e. they cannot have concurrent juvenile justice episodes). Therefore an Entry date must be followed by an Exit date for that episode, before another Entry date can be recorded. If a client is on 2 or more orders at a particular time in a jurisdiction, then the one considered the most serious should be recorded in the juvenile justice NMDS (with ranking as described in the juvenile justice episode data concept, with 1 being most serious and 12 being least serious).

If a client on a juvenile justice episode receives another order that is more highly ranked than the order for the original episode, then that original episode should be ended (and an Exit date recorded as the date the new more highly ranked type of order began). A new episode should be commenced (with an Entry date recorded as the date the new more highly ranked order began). The juvenile justice episode type of the second episode will be that of the more highly ranked type of order.

If the second order is of a lower ranking there will be no change in episode and no Exit date or Entry date recorded at the time the new order commences.

However, if the first order is completed by the juvenile, and the second order still applies and is the highest ranked order that is current at the time, then it should be recorded at that point. The Exit date for the second more highly ranked order will be when the client has been deemed to have completed the order. The Entry date for the lower ranked order will be the same date as the Exit date from the higher order, as that is the date when it becomes the most highly ranked order applying to the juvenile.

Approved leave does not constitute a discharge or new admission and so no entry date should be recorded on return from leave.

Escape or abscond, if the juvenile is absent for less than 2 days, does not constitute a discharge or new admission and so no entry date should be recorded on return (unless there is a change in the juvenile justice episode type on his or her return).

A return to court does not necessarily signal the beginning of a new episode. If there is no change in juvenile justice episode type of the client, or (if on a custodial

intervention) in their place of custody, then a return to court will not constitute a discharge and new episode. For example, a youth on remand may return to court several times (for hearings, outcome, sentencing etc). During this time the type of intervention has not changed or the place of remand. In this case the returns to court would not constitute the beginning of a new episode. However, under this scenario, if the court changed the place of remand of the juvenile, then this would constitute a new episode. If the juvenile is found guilty the commencement of the sentence imposed by the court would also mark the beginning of an episode.

[Juvenile Justice Order file clusterCommunity Services \(retired\)](#), Standard
14/09/2009

Implementation start date: 24/09/2009

DSS specific information:

Guide for use - Order file

This date may not be the date that supervision began; for example, if a sentence of detention is backdated to the start of the young person's remand period, the order start date will be before the period of sentenced detention actually began.

Orders may be concurrent and overlap; that is, the Episode start date or Order start date may be before the Order end date of the previous order.

[SAAP Client Collection National Minimum Data SetCommunity Services \(retired\)](#),
Retired 01/07/2011

DSS specific information:

In SAAP, a service episode is known as a support period. It commences when a client begins to receive support from a SAAP agency.

[Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2011Homelessness](#), Superseded
01/05/2013
[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 01/05/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2011

[Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2012-13Homelessness](#), Superseded
01/05/2013
[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 01/05/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2012

Implementation end date: 30/06/2013

[Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2013-14Homelessness](#), Superseded
26/08/2014
[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 26/08/2014

Implementation start date: 01/07/2013

Implementation end date: 30/06/2014

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS this data element is the support period start date.

[Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2014-15Homelessness](#), Superseded 24/11/2016

[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 24/11/2016

Implementation start date: 01/07/2014

Implementation end date: 30/06/2015

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS this data element is the support period start date.

[Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2015-17Homelessness](#), Superseded 24/11/2016

Implementation start date: 01/07/2015

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS this data element is the support period start date.

[Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2017-19Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2017

Implementation end date: 30/06/2019

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS this data element is the support period start date.

Implementation in Indicators:

Used as Numerator

[National Affordability Housing Agreement: 4: Proportion of people experiencing repeat periods of homelessness, 2010Homelessness](#), Standard 16/02/2011

[National Disability Agreement: d\(1\)-Proportion of the potential population who used State/Territory delivered disability support services, 2013Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015

[National Disability Agreement: d\(2\)-Proportion of people with a disability with an employment restriction who used Disability Employment Services \(Open Employment\), 2013Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015

Used as Denominator

[National Affordability Housing Agreement: 4: Proportion of people experiencing repeat periods of homelessness, 2010Homelessness](#), Standard 16/02/2011