

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

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Assistance with activities (Disability)
METEOR identifier:	386443
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Services (retired), Standard 13/03/2013 [Non Dictionary]• Disability, Superseded 29/02/2016
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

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>1</td><td>Unable to do or always needs help/supervision in this life area</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Sometimes needs help/supervision in this life area</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Does not need help/supervision but uses aids or equipment</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Does not need help/supervision and does not use aids or equipment</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	1	Unable to do or always needs help/supervision in this life area	2	Sometimes needs help/supervision in this life area	3	Does not need help/supervision but uses aids or equipment	4	Does not need help/supervision and does not use aids or equipment
Value	Meaning										
1	Unable to do or always needs help/supervision in this life area										
2	Sometimes needs help/supervision in this life area										
3	Does not need help/supervision but uses aids or equipment										
4	Does not need help/supervision and does not use aids or equipment										
Supplementary values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>5</td><td>Not applicable</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	5	Not applicable						
Value	Meaning										
5	Not applicable										

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

CODE 1 Unable to do or always needs help/supervision in this life area
Is used when the person is unable to do or always needs help or supervision in this life area.

CODE 2 Sometimes needs help/supervision in this life area
Is used when the person sometimes needs assistance in this life area.

CODE 3 Does not need help/supervision but uses aids or equipment
Is used when the person does not need assistance in this life area but uses aids or equipment.

CODE 4 Does not need help/supervision and does not use aids or equipment
Is used when the person does not need help or supervision in this life area and does not use aids or equipment.

CODE 5 Not applicable
Is used only when the need for support or assistance is due to the person's age, not their disability.

For the purposes of this collection use this code only when the person is in the following age ranges:

- Learning, applying knowledge and general tasks and demands: less than 5 years
- Education: less than 5 years
- Community (civic) and economic life: less than 5 years
- Domestic life: less than 15 years
- Working: less than 15 years

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) record the average level of assistance needed.

Interpreters for language are considered to provide personal assistance, and are not considered aids and/or equipment.

Animals used for personal mobility (i.e. guide dogs and companion animals) are considered to be aids and/or equipment. Also included in this category are prosthetic and orthotic devices, wheelchairs, transfer devices etc.

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.

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: This data element is used in conjunction with *Activity and participation life area*.

The level of help and/or supervision a person requires for the following activities is assessed:

- a. Self-care—activities such as washing oneself, dressing, eating and/or toileting;
- b. Mobility—moving around the home and/or moving around away from home (for instance, using public transport), getting in or out of bed or a chair;
- c. Communication—making self understood by strangers/family/friends/staff, in own native language or most effective method of communication if applicable, and understanding others;
- d. Interpersonal interactions and relationships—including, for example, actions and behaviours that an individual does to make and keep friends and relationships, behaving within accepted limits, coping with feelings and emotions;
- e. Learning, applying knowledge and general tasks and demands—understanding new ideas, remembering, solving problems, making decisions, paying attention, undertaking single or multiple tasks, carrying out daily routines;
- f. Education—for example, the actions, behaviours and tasks an individual performs at school, college, or any educational setting;
- g. Community (civic) and economic life—recreation and leisure, religion and spirituality, human rights, political life and citizenship, economic life such as handling money;
- h. Domestic life—for example, organising meals, cleaning, disposing of garbage, housekeeping, shopping, cooking, home maintenance;
- i. Working—actions, behaviours, and tasks to obtain and retain paid employment.

Comments: This item uses the level of limitation values from the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers list but combines level 3 and 4 (Moderate and Mild). For further information please See Item [4431.0.55.001 - Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: User Guide](#).

This item is also not consistent with the ICF performance qualifier where mild, moderate and severe problem categories are mapped to code 2 'Sometimes needs hold/supervision in this areas'. For further information please see, [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare \(AIHW\) 2003. ICF Australian User Guide. Version 1.0. Disability Series. AIHW Cat. No. DIS 33. Canberra: AIHW](#).

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: DS NMDS Network.

Origin: Disability Services National Minimum Data Set (DS NMDS) collection. Data Guide: data items and definitions 2009–10.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Has been superseded by [Person—need for assistance with activities in a life area, disability code N](#)

- [Disability](#), Superseded 15/12/2017

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Activity and participation need for assistance cluster Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 13/03/2013
[Disability](#), Superseded 29/02/2016

DSS specific information:

This disability specific 'Need for assistance with activities in a life area' is not directly compliant with the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) Australian user guide version. It does not have a superseding relationship to the ICF standard.

[Disability Services NMDS 2009-10 Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 15/12/2011

Implementation start date: 01/07/2009

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

Implementation start date: 01/07/2010

[Disability Services NMDS 2011-12 Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 13/03/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2011

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