

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

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au).

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at [meteor@aihw.gov.au](mailto:meteor@aihw.gov.au).

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

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element
<b>Short name:</b>	Assistance with activities (Disability)
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	386443
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Community Services (retired)</a> , Standard 13/03/2013 [Non Dictionary] <a href="#">Disability</a> , Superseded 29/02/2016
<b>Definition:</b>	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.
<b>Context:</b>	Human functioning and disability
<b>Data Element Concept:</b>	<a href="#">Person—need for assistance with activities in a life area</a>
<b>Value Domain:</b>	<a href="#">Activity need for assistance disability code N</a>

## Value domain attributes

### Representational attributes

<b>Representation class:</b>	Code	
<b>Data type:</b>	Number	
<b>Format:</b>	N	
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	1	
	<b>Value</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>Permissible values:</b>	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
<b>Supplementary values:</b>	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