

Person—reason for seeking assistance, homelessness code N[N]

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Person—reason for seeking assistance, homelessness code N[N]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Reason for seeking assistance (homelessness)
Synonymous names:	Presenting reason
METEOR identifier:	398625
Registration status:	Homelessness , Superseded 01/05/2013 Housing assistance , Superseded 01/05/2013
Definition:	The reason(s) why a person presented to a specialist homelessness agency in order to seek assistance, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Person—reason for seeking assistance
Value Domain:	Reasons for seeking assistance homelessness code N[N]

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	N[N]
Maximum character length:	2

	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Financial difficulties
	2	Housing affordability stress
	3	Housing crises
	4	Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions
	5	Previous accommodation ended
	6	Time out from family/other situation
	7	Relationship/family breakdown
	8	Sexual abuse
	9	Domestic and family violence
	10	Non-family violence
	11	Mental health issues
	12	Medical issues
	13	Problematic drug or substance use
	14	Problematic alcohol use
	15	Employment difficulties
	16	Unemployment
	17	Problematic gambling
	18	Transition from custodial arrangements
	19	Transition from foster care and child safety residential placements

	20	Transition from other care arrangements
	21	Discrimination including racial discrimination
	22	Itinerant
	23	Unable to return home due to environmental reasons
	24	Disengagement with school or other education and training
	25	Lack of family and/or community support
	26	Other
Supplementary values:	99	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

CODE 1 Financial difficulties

Financial difficulties is selected if the person sought assistance because the person had insufficient money to pay for accommodation, food, bills or other essentials; if the person has adequate financial resources but has difficulties managing these resources; or if the person doesn't have the financial resources to meet rental commitments.

CODE 2 Housing affordability stress

Housing affordability stress is selected if the person sought assistance as a result of the current rent on the leased property being too high, or they are having difficulty meeting mortgage repayments, creating stress with general living expenses.

CODE 3 Housing crises

Housing crises is selected if the person was formally evicted from her/his previous accommodation arrangement (for example, by a landlord or public housing official) or if the person was asked to leave their previous accommodation (for example, if the person was asked to leave by flatmates).

CODE 4 Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions

Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions is selected if the person sought assistance as a result of household stress from overcrowded, unsuitable or unsafe dwelling conditions.

CODE 5 Previous accommodation ended

Previous accommodation ended is selected if the person's previous accommodation was no longer available (for example the breakup of a group home or rental property being sold by owner).

CODE 6 Time out from family/other situation

Time out from family/other situation is selected if the person needed some time away from her/his family or if the person needed some time away from non-related individuals.

CODE 7 Relationship/family breakdown

Relationship/family breakdown is selected if the person sought assistance because of the dissolution of a spouse/partner relationship or other family relationship.

CODE 8 Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is selected if the person sought assistance as a result of sexual abuse inflicted on the client by a family member or non-related individual.

CODE 9 Domestic and family violence

Domestic/family violence is selected if the person sought assistance as a result of physical or emotional abuse inflicted on the person by a family member.

CODE 10 Non-family violence

Non-family violence is selected if the person sought assistance as a result of physical or emotional abuse inflicted on the client by a non-related individual; or if the person was homeless or sought assistance as a result of violence or a threat of violence inflicted by a non-related individual.

CODE 11 Mental health issues

Mental health issues is selected if the person sought assistance because of their mental health. This does not include a situation in which the person sought assistance as a result of another person's mental health issues.

CODE 12 Medical issues

Medical issues is selected if the person sought assistance because of any conditions that are, or have been treated or diagnosed by a health professional.

CODE 13 Problematic drug or substance abuse

Problematic drug or substance use is selected if the person sought assistance as a result of his/her drug related problem. This does not include a situation in which the person sought assistance as a result of drug abuse by another person.

CODE 14 Problematic alcohol use

Problematic alcohol use is selected if the person sought assistance as a result of his/her alcohol related problem. This does not include a situation in which the person sought assistance as a result of alcohol use by another person.

CODE 15 Employment difficulties

Employment difficulties is selected where the person is experiencing difficulties or changes to their employment, that negatively impacts on their ability to work or on their life outside work. This includes cases where employment difficulties are creating current or future financial problems. Examples include difficulty maintaining employment; recently losing employment, or a change in employment conditions, such as reduction in pay/hours etc; bullying or harassment; unsafe employment conditions, (i.e. health safety risks), or unfair or illegal workplace practices/conditions (i.e. excessive workload, inflexible hours).

CODE 16 Unemployment

Unemployment is selected where the person sought assistance because of difficulties obtaining or maintaining employment and is currently unemployed.

CODE 17 Problematic gambling

Problematic gambling is selected if the person was homeless or sought assistance because they had insufficient means to cover the cost of living as a consequence of a one-off instance or an ongoing gambling problem.

CODE 18 Transition from custodial arrangements

Transition from custodial arrangements is selected if the person was recently released from a custodial institution such as a prison or detention centre.

CODE 19 Transition from foster care and child safety residential placements

Child safety placements include a range of services provided to children and young people under 18 years of age who are in need of care and protection. This service provides alternative overnight accommodation for children and young people who are unable to live with their parents. These arrangements include foster care, placements with relatives or kin, and residential care.

CODE 20 Transition from other care arrangements

Transition from other care arrangements is selected if the person was recently released from a care institution such as a hospital or disability care arrangement.

CODE 21 Discrimination including racial discrimination

Discrimination including racial discrimination is selected if the person was homeless or sought assistance because of discrimination based on their sex, age, race, religion or other personal attributes.

CODE 22 Itinerant

Itinerant is selected if the person was moving from place to place or had no fixed address.

CODE 23 Unable to return home due to environmental reasons

Unable to return home due to environmental reasons is selected if the person is unable to return home due to environmental reasons; (e.g. wet season flooding).

CODE 24 Disengagement with school or other education and training

Disengagement with school or other education and training is selected where the person sought assistance for their difficulty with engaging within their education or training, creating difficulties for the person to establish connection with community and develop skills that will help them for future employment.

CODE 25 Lack of family and/or community support

The person has no family or community support structure which has led them to seek agency support.

CODE 26 Other

Other is selected if the person sought assistance because s/he recently arrived in the area (from another town or another country) and had nowhere to stay; if the person's previous accommodation was no longer available (for example, the death of a family member); if the person sought assistance as a result of his/her sexuality or sexual identification, or if the person is seeking assistance for a reason not listed above. The reason should be specified.

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

This data element is intended to focus on the reason(s) the person presented to the agency as opposed to the underlying reasons or causes that may have built up over a lifetime.

There may be more than one reason why a person seeks assistance. This data element may be used to collect the main presenting reason or all presenting reasons.

If this data element is used to collect both , the main reason should be collected second, that is after 'all' reasons have been ascertained.

If a person does not nominate a list category record their response as 'Other' and record the description.

Collection methods:

The permissible values for this data element are used to form the response categories to the question(s):

'Which reason(s) listed, best describes why you are seeking assistance?'

and

'Of the reasons you have identified as why you are seeking assistance, which one, do you consider, to be the main reason?'

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Person—reason for seeking assistance, SAAP code N\[NN\] Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 23/08/2010

Has been superseded by [Person—reason for seeking assistance, homelessness code N\[N\] Homelessness](#), Standard 24/11/2016

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2011](#)

[Homelessness](#), 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 collected twice (for the client):

- for all the presenting reasons for seeking assistance; and subsequently
- for the main presenting reason for seeking assistance

In both cases the reasons are those nominated by the client.

[Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2012-13](#)

[Homelessness](#), Superseded 01/05/2013

[Housing assistance](#), 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 collected twice (for the client):

- for all the presenting reasons for seeking assistance; and subsequently
- for the main presenting reason for seeking assistance

In both cases the reasons are those nominated by the client.

[Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2013-14](#)

[Homelessness](#), 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 SHS NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

This data element is collected twice (for the client):

- for all the presenting reasons for seeking assistance; and subsequently
- for the main presenting reason for seeking assistance

In both cases the reasons are those nominated by the client.

This question allows the client to check all responses that apply for all the presenting reasons for seeking assistance (up to 26 valid responses). The client should also select one main reason for seeking assistance.

[Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2014-15](#)

[Homelessness](#), 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 SHS NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at

the date of presentation.

This data element is collected twice (for the client):

- for all the presenting reasons for seeking assistance; and subsequently
- for the main presenting reason for seeking assistance

In both cases the reasons are those nominated by the client.

This question allows the client to check all responses that apply for all the presenting reasons for seeking assistance (up to 26 valid responses). The client should also select one main reason for seeking assistance.

[Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2015-17](#)

Homelessness, Superseded 24/11/2016

Implementation start date: 01/07/2015

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

Conditional obligation:

In the SHS NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

This data element is collected twice (for the client):

- for all the presenting reasons for seeking assistance; and subsequently
- for the main presenting reason for seeking assistance

In both cases the reasons are those nominated by the client.

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