

Person—main language other than English spoken at home, code (ASCL 2011) NN{NN}

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Main language other than English spoken at home
METEOR identifier:	460125
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and Families, Superseded 20/01/2021• Community Services (retired), Standard 13/10/2011• Disability, Standard 13/08/2015• Health, Superseded 25/01/2018• Homelessness, Superseded 10/08/2018 [Non Dictionary]• Housing assistance, Standard 13/10/2011 [Non Dictionary]
Definition:	The language reported by a person as the main language other than English spoken by that person in his/her home (or most recent private residential setting occupied by the person) to communicate with other residents of the home or setting and regular visitors, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Person—main language other than English spoken at home

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Classification scheme:	Australian Standard Classification of Languages 2011
Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	NN{NN}
Maximum character length:	4

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	<p>The Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) has a three-level hierarchical structure. The most detailed level of the classification consists of base units (languages) which are represented by four-digit codes. The second level of the classification comprises narrow groups of languages (the Narrow group level), identified by the first two digits. The most general level of the classification consists of broad groups of languages (the Broad group level) and is identified by the first digit. The classification includes Australian Indigenous languages and sign languages.</p> <p>For example, the Lithuanian language has a code of 3102. In this case 3 denotes that it is an Eastern European language, while 31 denotes that it is a Baltic language. The Pintupi Aboriginal language is coded as 8713. In this case 8 denotes that it is an Australian Indigenous language and 87 denotes that the language is a Western Desert language.</p> <p>Language data may be output at the Broad group level, Narrow group level or base level of the classification. If necessary, significant languages within a Narrow group can be presented separately while the remaining languages in the Narrow group are aggregated. The same principle can be adopted to highlight significant Narrow groups within a Broad group.</p>
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Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Collection methods:

Recommended question:

Do you/Does the person/Does (name)/ Will (name of child under two years) speak a language other than English at home? (If more than one language, indicate the one that is spoken most often.)

Response options for detailed data:

Alternative 1

No, (English only)

Yes, Mandarin

Yes, Italian

Yes, Arabic

Yes, Cantonese

Yes, Greek

Yes, Vietnamese

Yes, Spanish

Yes, Hindi

Yes, Tagalog

Yes, Other (please specify) _____

The above list includes languages based on their statistical significance in the Australian context. The list is reviewed when data indicate that different languages have been more or less frequently reported in the Census.

Alternative 2

No, English only

Yes, Other - please specify _____

Response option for minimum data:

No, English only

Yes, Other

Comments: This metadata item is consistent with that used in the Australian Census of Population and Housing and is recommended for use whenever there is a requirement for comparison with Census data.

This data element is important in identifying those people most likely to suffer disadvantage in terms of their ability to access services due to language and/or cultural difficulties. In conjunction with Indigenous status, Proficiency in spoken English and Country of birth this data element forms the minimum core set of cultural and language indicators recommended by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Data on main language other than English spoken at home are regarded as an indicator of 'active' ethnicity and also as useful for the study of inter-generational language retention. The availability of such data may help providers of health and community services to effectively target the geographic areas or population groups that need those services. It may be used for the investigation and development of language services such as interpreter/ translation services.

The ABS Language Standards, 2012, Version 1.1 (cat. no. 1200.0.55.005) was released in September 2012. The recommended question recognises children under two years of age.

Source and reference attributes

Origin: Health Data Standards Committee
National Community Services Data Committee

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011. [Australian Standard Classification of Languages \(ASCL\) 2011](#). Canberra: ABS. 16/8/2011.

Reference documents: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2012. [Language Standards, 2012, Version 1.1. Cat. no. 1200.0.55.05](#). Canberra: ABS.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: See also [Person—first language spoken, code \(ASCL 2011\) NN{NN}](#)

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 13/10/2011
- [Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [Health](#), Standard 13/10/2011
- [Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018
- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 13/10/2011

Supersedes [Person—main language other than English spoken at home, code \(ASCL 2005\) NN{NN}](#)

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 13/10/2011
- [Health](#), Superseded 13/10/2011
- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/05/2013

Has been superseded by [Person—main language other than English spoken at home, code \(ASCL 2016\) N{NNN}](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Standard 20/01/2021
- [Health](#), Standard 25/01/2018
- [Homelessness](#), Standard 10/08/2018

See also [Person—preferred language, code \(ASCL 2011\) NN{NN}](#)

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 13/10/2011
- [Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018
- [Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018
- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 13/10/2011
- [Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 27/06/2017

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Adolescent and young adult cancer \(clinical\) DSSHealth](#), Superseded 14/05/2015

[Adolescent and young adult cancer \(clinical\) NBPDSHealth](#), Standard 14/05/2015

[Child protection \(CP\) client file clusterChildren and Families](#), Superseded
22/11/2016
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Candidate 09/10/2014

Implementation start date: 01/07/2011

Implementation end date: 30/06/2013

[Child protection \(CP\) client file clusterChildren and Families](#), Superseded
22/11/2016

Implementation start date: 01/07/2013

Implementation end date: 30/06/2015

[Child protection \(CP\) client file clusterChildren and Families](#), Superseded
22/11/2016

Implementation start date: 01/07/2012

Implementation end date: 30/06/2014

[Child protection \(CP\) client file clusterChildren and Families](#), Superseded
20/04/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2014

Implementation end date: 30/06/2016

[Child protection \(CP\) client file clusterChildren and Families](#), Superseded
20/01/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2015

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

[Cultural and language diversity clusterCommunity Services \(retired\)](#), Standard
10/04/2013
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015

[National Bowel Cancer Screening Program NBEDS 2014-18Health](#), Superseded
06/09/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2014

Implementation end date: 30/06/2018

[Prison dischargee DSSHealth](#), Superseded 28/04/2016

[Prison dischargée NBEDSHealth](#), Standard 28/04/2016

DSS specific information:

In the Prison dischargée data collection, the ASCL codes will be mapped to:

Code 1 English

Code 2 Other (specify)

Code 9 Unknown

[Prison entrants NBEDSHealth](#), Standard 28/04/2016

DSS specific information:

The ASCL codes will be mapped to:

Code 1 English

Code 2 Other (specify)

Code 9 Unknown