

Adoptions DSS 2011-13

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Data Set Specification

METEOR identifier: 467027

Registration status:

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/05/2013

DSS type: Data Set Specification (DSS)

Scope: The Adoptions Australia collection contains data relating to two populations of children, those subject to:

- Finalisations- children who were the subject of a finalised adoption order during the reporting period. This includes orders that were made in Australia and in the case of some intercountry adoptions, where the full adoption order was made in the country of origin.
- Placements- children, regardless of the status of their adoption order, who were placed with their adoptive family during the reporting period. 'Placed with their adoptive families' refers to when the child enters the home.

Adoption is the legal process by which a person legally becomes a child of the adoptive parent(s) and legally ceases to be a child of his/her existing parent(s). Adopted children include people aged 18+ years. The Adoptions data set specification (DSS) describes data collected from state/territory departments responsible of adoptions within the specified reporting period.

The DSS excludes adoptions by Australian citizens or permanent residents who have lived overseas for 12 months or more and have adopted a child through an overseas agency or government authority. This type of intercountry adoption falls outside the jurisdiction of the Australian state and territory departments responsible for adoption.

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:**Adoption categories**

Intercountry adoptions—adoptions of children from countries other than Australia who are legally able to be placed for adoption, but who generally have had no previous contact or relationship with the adoptive parents. Expatriate adoptions are not included in this category of adoption.

Local adoptions—adoptions of children who were born or permanently residing in Australia before the adoption, who are legally able to be placed for adoption, but who generally have had no previous contact or relationship with the adoptive parents.

'Known' child adoptions—adoptions of children who were born or permanently residing in Australia before the adoption, who have a pre-existing relationship with the adoptive parent(s) and who are generally not able to be adopted by anyone other than the adoptive parent(s). Known child adoptions include adoptions by step-parents, other relatives and. Intercountry known adoptions are not included in this category of adoption.

Hague/non-Hague countries

An adopted child's country of origin is categorised as either a 'Hague' or a 'non-Hague' country. A Hague intercountry adoption is where the adoptive child's country of origin has ratified or acceded to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, and the applicant(s) file was sent after the Convention entered into force in that country. By ratifying or acceding to the Hague Convention a country is legally bound to apply the Convention.

In some cases, the categorisation of a country as either 'Hague' or 'non-Hague' may vary at different stages of the overseas adoption process (for example, a country may have signed but not yet ratified or acceded to the Hague Convention when an applicant's file is sent to that country, but by the time the adopted child enters Australia and is placed with their adoptive parent(s), the country may have ratified or acceded to the Convention and the Convention has come into force). By signing the Hague Convention a country expresses, in principle, its intention to become a party to the Convention. However, signature does not, in any way, oblige a country to take further action (towards ratification or not). A country is party to the Hague Convention if it has ratified or acceded to the Convention - this involves the legal obligation for the country to apply the Convention.

The lists of 'Hague' countries, (ie. countries that ratified or acceded to the Hague Convention) can be found [here](#). The listed date the Convention came into effect can be used to determine which countries had ratified the Convention before the end of the reporting period for the Adoptions DSS 2011-13 (i.e. 30 June 2013).

Implementation start date: 01/07/2011

Implementation end date: 30/06/2013

Comments: For local and intercountry adoptions, children are placed with their adoptive families before their adoption order is finalised. Some children placed for adoption during the reporting period may not have their adoption finalised until a following year. In addition, some adoption orders finalised in the reporting period may relate to children who were placed in previous years.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Has been superseded by [Adoptions DSS 2013-16](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/03/2018

Metadata items in this Data Set Specification [Show more detail](#)

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Adoption—access arrangement type, agreement type code N	Optional	1
-	Adoption—adoption consent, code N	Optional	1
-	Adoption—adoption organisation sector, code N	Conditional	1
-	Adoption—application for information type, code N	Optional	1
-	Adoption—application identifier, code N[N]	Optional	3
-	Adoption—number of adoptions finalised, total N[NN]	Optional	1
-	Adoption—number of applications for information lodged, total N[NN]	Optional	1
-	Adoption—number of children adopted as part of a sibling group, total N[N]	Conditional	1
-	Adoption—number of placements not finalised, total N[NN]	Optional	1
-	Adoption—number of placements, total N[NN]	Conditional	1
-	Adoption—number of sibling groups, total N[N]	Optional	1
-	Adoption—number of vetoes in place, total number N[NN]	Optional	1
-	Adoption—number of vetoes lodged, total N[NN]	Optional	1
-	Adoption—relationship of person who lodged an application, code N[N]	Optional	1
-	Adoption—veto type, code N	Optional	1
-	Adoptive family—other sibling composition, text X[X(199)]	Conditional	1
-	Adoptive family—sibling composition, type code N[N]	Conditional	1
-	Birth mother—marital status, code N	Conditional	1
-	Person—adoption order type, intercountry adoption code N	Conditional	1
-	Person—adoption type, code N[N]	Optional	1
-	Person—adoptive parent marital status, code N	Optional	1
-	Person—age, total years N[NN]	Optional	4
-	Person—country of origin, code (SACC 2011) NNNN	Optional	1
-	Person—Indigenous status, code N	Optional	3
-	Person—intercountry adoption living arrangement status post arrival, code N	Conditional	1
-	Person—pre-adoption relationship to adoptive parents, code N	Conditional	1
-	Person—sex, code N	Optional	3
-	Service provider organisation—number of approved intercountry adoption clients, total number N[N]	Optional	1
-	Service provider organisation—number of intercountry adoption client files sent overseas, number N[NN]	Optional	1
-	Service provider organisation—number of intercountry adoption clients, total N[NN]	Optional	1