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

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Assistance with activities (Standardised Disability Flag)
METEOR identifier:	520803
Registration status:	Community Services (retired), Standard 19/09/2013 Disability, Standard 13/08/2015
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:	The Standardised Disability Flag aims to identify people with activity limitations through a functional/needs assessment approach across specified activity and participation life areas.
Data Element Concept:	Person—need for assistance with activities in a life area
Value Domain:	Need for assistance disability flag code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	1	
	Value	**Meaning**
Permissible values:	1	Always/sometimes need help and/or supervision
	2	Have difficulty, but don't need help/supervision
	3	Don't have difficulty, but use aids/equipment/medications
	4	Have no difficulty

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	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. CODE 1 is used when the person always needs or sometimes needs help or supervision in this life area. CODE 2 is used when the person has difficulty but does not need help or supervision in this life area. CODE 3 is used when the person does not have difficulty in this life area, but uses aids, equipment and/or medications. CODE 4 is used when the person has no difficulty in this life area and does not need help or supervision and does not use aids, equipment or medications.

Source and reference attributes

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

This data element, along with [Person—activity and participation life area, disability flag code N](#), enables an assessment of a person's level of difficulty and need for assistance in life areas, leading to classification of level of activity limitation.

In the context of health, an activity is the execution of a task or action by an individual. An activity limitation is a difficulty 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, equipment and/or medications, is an aspect of the environment.

Collection methods:

This data element is designed for the whole mainstream population and should be used to collect information from the respondent, or a proxy/carer answering on their behalf. The responses are phrased in response to the question 'For each of the following activities, do you need help/supervision, have difficulty, or use aids/equipment/medications? (choose one answer for each row)'.

Where a life area includes a range of examples, (for example, 'Self-care' lists showering or bathing, dressing or undressing, toileting, eating food), if a person requires assistance in more than one of these areas, record the highest level of assistance needed.

Where need for assistance varies markedly over time (for example, episodic psychiatric conditions), record the average level of assistance needed.

Animals used for personal mobility (for example, 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.

For the 'Communication' life area, a person's level of difficulty is assessed in terms of whether they can understand, or be understood, in their native language or preferred method of communication. This can include both written and verbal communication and it does not refer to situations where the respondent can't read or write because they did not have an opportunity to access education. Interpreters for language are considered to provide personal assistance, and are not considered aids and/or equipment.

Comments:

Note that this is seeking to identify if, due to a long-term health condition or disability, a person cannot undertake everyday activities that other people in a similar age group would normally be able to carry out.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:	Is used in the formation of [Person—activity limitation, disability flag code N](#)
	[Community Services (retired)](#), Standard 19/09/2013
	[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
	Is used in the formation of [Person—extent of activity limitation, disability flag code N](#)
	[Community Services (retired)](#), Standard 19/09/2013
	[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
	Is used in the formation of [Person—extent of core activity limitation, disability flag code N](#)
	[Community Services (retired)](#), Standard 19/09/2013
	[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
	See also [Person—activity and participation life area, disability flag code N](#)
	[Community Services (retired)](#), Standard 19/09/2013
	[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
	[Health](#), Standard 28/04/2016
Implementation in Data Set Specifications:	[Activity and participation need for assistance cluster (disability flag)](#)
	[Community Services (retired)](#), Standard 19/09/2013
	[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
	[Australian Sports Injury Data Dictionary](#)
	[Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#), Recorded 09/08/2023