

Person—gender, code N

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Person—gender, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Gender
Synonymous names:	Gender identity
METEOR identifier:	521492
Registration status:	Indigenous , Standard 05/09/2014
Definition:	The behavioural, cultural or psychological traits typically associated with a specific sex indicating the sex with which the individual considers or desires to be associated, as represented by a code.

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept:	Person—gender
METEOR identifier:	521477
Registration status:	Indigenous , Standard 05/09/2014
Definition:	The behavioural, cultural or psychological traits typically associated with a specific sex indicating the sex with which the individual considers or desires to be associated.
Object class:	Person
Property:	Gender

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain:	Gender code N
METEOR identifier:	528966
Registration status:	Indigenous , Standard 05/09/2014
Definition:	A code set representing gender.

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	1	
	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Male
	2	Female
	3	Gender other/diverse
Supplementary values:	9	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: CODE 3 Gender other/diverse

This code may include a person that does not fall within the traditional binary notions of sex and gender (male and females). This may include people who identify as a gender different to their birth sex or as neither male nor female. Other terms commonly associated include trans, transgender, transsexual, gender queer, pan-gendered, androgynous and inter-gender. Some cultures may have their own terms for gender identities outside male and female.

Comments: The Australian Bureau of Statistics has commenced a review of its [Sex Standard](#). See [Review of the Sex Standard/Potential new Gender Standard](#).

Source and reference attributes

Origin: [Australian Government guidelines on the recognition of sex and gender, Attorney-General's Department. Commonwealth of Australia July 2013.](#)

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: Gender is not the same as Sex which is determined by biology. A person's sex and gender may not necessarily be the same. A person's preferred gender may or may not correspond with the sex or gender assigned at birth.

Gender is included as an identifier to support identification and communication with individuals and represents the gender to which the person prefers to be associated.

The preferred Australian Government approach is to collect and use gender information. Information regarding sex would ordinarily not be required. Departments and agencies should ensure when they collect sex and/or gender information they use the correct terminology for the information they are seeking.

Collection methods: Codes 1 (Male), 2 (Female) and 3 (Intersex/indeterminate) may be mapped to M and F and X respectively for collection purposes, however, they should be stored within information systems as codes 1 and 2 and 3 as above.

Information about a person's sex should only be collected where there is a legitimate need for that information, e.g. if a service or benefit to be provided to the individual is directly related to biological sex. However, the necessity of a medical service or associated benefit should be determined by the physical need regardless a person's recorded sex and/or gender.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Origin: Australian Government guidelines on the recognition of sex and gender, Attorney-General's Department. Commonwealth of Australia July 2013.

Person and provider identification in healthcare, AS 4846:2014: Gender Identity section 5.6.

Reference documents: AS 4590-2006: Client interchange Australian Standard for Gender section 3.2.6.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Has been superseded by [Person—gender, code X Health](#), Superseded 15/02/2022

See also [Person—sex, code A Commonwealth Department of Health](#), Retired 19/10/2023

See also [Person—sex, code N Children and Families](#), Standard 22/11/2016
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 25/08/2005
[Disability](#), Standard 07/10/2014
[Early Childhood](#), Superseded 24/07/2018
[Health](#), Superseded 11/05/2017
[Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/02/2006
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Standard 01/11/2012
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 16/10/2017
[National Health Performance Authority \(retired\)](#), Retired 01/07/2016
[Youth Justice](#), Superseded 23/08/2022

See also [Person—transgender indicator, code N Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 06/02/2012
[Health](#), Superseded 28/04/2016

See also [Person—transgender indicator, prisoner health yes/no/unknown code N Health](#), Superseded 29/05/2024

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Bringing them Home/Link Up Counsellors cluster Indigenous](#), Standard 16/09/2014

DSS specific information:

This data element is used to determine the gender of the Bringing Them Home or Link Up counsellors.

This data collection uses 'Gender' in place of 'Sex'. Note that the Gender data element includes a third category of 'Gender other/diverse' for a person that does not fall within the traditional binary notions of sex. This category is not used in this collection.

[Bringing Them Home/Link Up Counsellors employment characteristics cluster Indigenous](#), Standard 07/12/2017

DSS specific information:

This data element is used to determine the gender of the Bringing Them Home or Link Up counsellors.

This data collection uses 'Gender' in place of 'Sex'. Note that the Gender data element includes a third category of 'Gender other/diverse' for a person that does not fall within the traditional binary notions of sex. This category is not used in this collection.

[Ear nose and throat services patient cluster Indigenous](#), Standard 05/09/2014

Implementation start date: 01/04/2012