

# Address—Australian postcode, code (Postcode datafile) NNNN

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Data Element  
**Short name:** Australian postcode  
**METEOR identifier:** 611398  
**Registration status:**

- [Children and Families](#), Standard 20/01/2021
- [Commonwealth Department of Social Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/06/2018
- [Disability](#), Standard 15/12/2017
- [Early Childhood](#), Standard 24/07/2018
- [Health](#), Standard 05/10/2016
- [Homelessness](#), Standard 10/08/2018
- [Indigenous](#), Standard 27/02/2018
- [Youth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

**Definition:** The Australian numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area for an address.

**Data Element Concept:** [Address—Australian postcode](#)

## Value domain attributes

### Representational attributes

**Classification scheme:** [Postcode datafile](#)

**Representation class:** Code

**Data type:** String

**Format:** NNNN

**Maximum character length:** 4

**Supplementary values:**

| Value | Meaning |
|-------|---------|
|-------|---------|

|      |                |
|------|----------------|
| 0097 | Not applicable |
|------|----------------|

|      |         |
|------|---------|
| 0098 | Unknown |
|------|---------|

|      |                                   |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 0099 | Not stated/inadequately described |
|------|-----------------------------------|

### Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** CODE 0097 Not applicable

This code should be used in circumstances where it is not applicable to record an Australian postcode, for example, when there is no fixed address, or when an international (non-Australian) postcode is supplied.

## Data element attributes

### Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:**

Australian postal addresses should include a valid postcode. Refer to the Australia Post Address Presentation Standard for rules on presentation and positioning of postcodes on mail.

For a full list of Australian postcodes visit the Australia Post website:  
[www.auspost.com.au](http://www.auspost.com.au)

This data element may be used in the analysis of data on a geographical basis which involves coding data containing an address with a postcode to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) areas. The ABS provides a number of coding indexes and correspondences to undertake this conversion from postcode to ASGS areas. (See the correspondences section of ABS geography portal [www.abs.gov.au/geography](http://www.abs.gov.au/geography)).

A more accurate way to convert address data to ASGS geography is to use the locality to SA2 coding index, available from ABS, where the locality, postcode and state, (which are all part of an address), used in conjunction can effectively code data to the SA2 level and above in the ASGS. Note that it is not possible to code to SA1 level using these correspondences or indexes.

This data element is one of a number of items that can be used to create a primary address, as recommended by the AS 4590-2006 *Interchange of client information* standard. Components of the primary address are:

- Address site (or Primary complex) name
- Address number or number range
- Road name (name/type/suffix)
- Locality
- State/Territory
- Postcode (optional)
- Country (if applicable).

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Origin:** Standards Australia 2006. AS 4590—2006 Interchange of client information. Sydney: Standards Australia.

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:**

Supersedes [Address—Australian postcode, Australian postcode code \(Postcode datafile\) {NNNN}](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Standard 22/11/2016
- [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), Standard 14/10/2015
- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 06/02/2012
- [Disability](#), Standard 07/10/2014
- [Early Childhood](#), Superseded 24/07/2018
- [Health](#), Superseded 05/10/2016
- [Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018
- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 01/05/2013
- [Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Standard 31/10/2012
- [Indigenous](#), Superseded 27/02/2018
- [National Health Performance Authority \(retired\)](#), Retired 01/07/2016
- [Tasmanian Health](#), Candidate 30/06/2014
- [WA Health](#), Standard 04/03/2014
- [Youth Justice](#), Recorded 23/05/2022

See also [Address—statistical area, level 2 \(SA2\) code \(ASGS 2011\) N\(9\)](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Superseded 21/01/2021
- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 06/12/2011
- [Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2016

See also [Address—statistical area, level 2 \(SA2\) code \(ASGS 2016\) N\(9\)](#)

- [ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate 08/08/2018
- [Children and Families](#), Standard 20/01/2021
- [Health](#), Superseded 20/10/2021

See also [Address—statistical area, level 2 \(SA2\) code \(ASGS Edition 3\) N\(9\)](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 20/10/2021

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:**

[Address components clusterHealth](#), Standard 05/10/2016

[Address details clusterACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate 10/08/2018  
[Health](#), Superseded 18/12/2019

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2016

[Address details clusterHealth](#), Standard 18/12/2019

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2017-18Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2017

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2018

**DSS specific information:**

To be reported for the address of the patient.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate  
09/08/2018  
[Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019

**DSS specific information:**

To be reported for the address of the patient.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2019-20Health](#), Superseded 18/12/2019

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020

**DSS specific information:**

To be reported for the address of the patient.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2020-21Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2020

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2021

**DSS specific information:**

To be reported for the address of the patient.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2021-22Health](#), Superseded 20/10/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2021

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2022

**DSS specific information:**

To be reported for the address of the patient.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2022-23Health](#), Standard 20/10/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2022

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2023

**DSS specific information:**

To be reported for the address of the patient.

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS 2018-19ACT Health \(retired\)](#),  
Candidate 09/08/2018  
[Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019

**DSS specific information:**

For the purposes of the Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS, this data element relates to the usual address of the client.

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS 2019–20Health](#), Superseded  
20/02/2020

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS 2020–21Health](#), Superseded  
05/02/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2020

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2021

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS 2021–22Health](#), Superseded  
17/12/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2021

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2022

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS 2022–23Health](#), Standard  
17/12/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2022

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2023

**DSS specific information:**

This data element is collected relating to the client's last known home address at the start of the treatment episode.

The postcode provided must match the [Address—suburb/town/locality name, text X\[X\(45\)\]](#) or [Address—statistical area, level 2 \(SA2\) code \(ASGS Edition 3\) N\(9\)](#) provided.

For the purposes of the Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS the following Supplementary codes have been defined:

0055 Overseas  
0088 Other  
0097 No fixed address (or Not applicable)  
0098 Unknown  
0099 Not stated/inadequately described.

[Allied health admitted patient care NBPDSHealth](#), Standard 12/12/2018

[Allied health non-admitted patient emergency department NBPDSHealth](#), Standard 12/12/2018

[Allied health non-admitted patient NBPDSHealth](#), Standard 12/12/2018

[Cardiovascular disease \(clinical\) NBPDS Health](#), Standard 17/10/2018

**DSS specific information:**

To be reported for the address of the patient.

The postcode can also be used in association with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) index (Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia (CD-ROM)) to derive socio-economic disadvantage, which is associated with cardiovascular risk.

People from lower socio-economic groups are more likely to die from cardiovascular disease than those from higher socio-economic groups. In 1997, people aged 25 - 64 living in the most disadvantaged group of the population died from cardiovascular disease at around twice the rate of those living in the least disadvantaged group (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2001. Heart, stroke and vascular diseases- Australian facts 2001.).

This difference in death rates has existed since at least the 1970s.

[Collection of locality, postcode and state/territory for SEIFA clusterEarly Childhood](#), Standard 24/07/2018

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2017

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2018

**Conditional obligation:**

[Person—residential setting, accommodation type \(NDA\) code N\[N\]](#)

**DSS specific information:**

In the Disability Services National Minimum Data Set (DS NMDS), this data element is collected twice.

The first occurrence refers to the postcode of the location of the **service type outlet** address and not the postal address. If the service type outlet is provided in the person's home, the postcode of the service base from which the provider operates is to be entered, not that of the person. If recreation services are provided in various locations, the postcode of the service base from which the provider operates is to be entered.

The second occurrence refers to the postcode of a **service user's** usual residence ('usual' means 4 or more days per week on average). This is intended to capture the postcode of the 'geographic location' of a person, not their postal address postcode. The service user's postcode must relate to their selected 'residential setting' (as captured in '[Person—residential setting, accommodation type \(NDA\) code N\[N\]](#)').

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019

**Conditional obligation:**

[Person—residential setting, accommodation type \(NDA\) code N\[N\]](#)

**DSS specific information:**

In the Disability Services National Minimum Data Set (DS NMDS), this data element is collected twice.

The first occurrence refers to the postcode of the location of the **service type outlet** address and not the postal address. If the service type outlet is provided in the person's home, the postcode of the service base from which the provider operates is to be entered, not that of the person. If recreation services are provided in various locations, the postcode of the service base from which the provider operates is to be entered.

The second occurrence refers to the postcode of a **service user's** usual residence ('usual' means 4 or more days per week on average). This is intended to capture the postcode of the 'geographic location' of a person, not their postal address postcode. The service user's postcode must relate to their selected 'residential setting' (as captured in '[Person—residential setting, accommodation type \(NDA\) code N\[N\]](#)').

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018

**DSS specific information:**

Should be reported for the physical location at which the [early childhood education program](#) is delivered. If the early childhood education program is received in a home-based setting (i.e. via distance education programs such as school of the air or e-Kindy), then the location of the service provider delivering the program should be used as the basis for the address, rather than the home-based setting.

[Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2018Early Childhood](#), Superseded 02/12/2020

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018

**DSS specific information:**

This item should be collected twice: once for the child and once for the early childhood education and care service.

**Child**

Should be reported for the usual residence of the child's parent or guardian. Do not report the post office box postcode or other non-residential address of the child's parent or guardian.

**Early childhood education and care service**

Should be reported for the physical location at which the [early childhood education program](#) is delivered. If the early childhood education program is received in a home-based setting (i.e. via distance education programs such as school of the air or e-Kindy), then the location of the service provider delivering the program should be used as the basis for the address, rather than the home-based setting.

[Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2019Early Childhood](#), Superseded 02/12/2020



**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019

**DSS specific information:**

This item should be collected twice: once for the child and once for the early childhood education and care service.

**Child**

Should be reported for the usual residence of the child's parent or guardian. Do not report the post office box postcode or other non-residential address of the child's parent or guardian.

**Early childhood education and care service**

Should be reported for the physical location at which the [early childhood education program](#) is delivered. If the early childhood education program is received in a home-based setting (i.e. via distance education programs such as school of the air or e-Kindy), then the location of the service provider delivering the program should be used as the basis for the address, rather than the home-based setting.

[Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2020 Early Childhood, Standard 02/12/2020](#)

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2020

**DSS specific information:**

This item should be collected twice: once for the child and once for the early childhood education and care service.

**Child**

Should be reported for the usual residence of the child's parent or guardian. Do not report the post office box postcode or other non-residential address of the child's parent or guardian.

**Early childhood education and care service**

Should be reported for the physical location at which the [early childhood education program](#) is delivered. If the early childhood education program is received in a home-based setting (i.e. via distance education programs such as school of the air or e-Kindy), then the location of the service provider delivering the program should be used as the basis for the address, rather than the home-based setting.

[Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDs 2021 Early Childhood, Standard 25/10/2021](#)

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2021

**DSS specific information:**

This item should be collected twice: once for the child and once for the early childhood education and care service.

**Child**

Should be reported for the usual residence of the child's parent or guardian. Do not report the post office box postcode or other non-residential address of the child's parent or guardian.

**Early childhood education and care service**

Should be reported for the physical location at which the [early childhood education program](#) is delivered. If the early childhood education program is received in a home-based setting (i.e. via distance education programs such as school of the air or e-Kindy), then the location of the service provider delivering the program should be used as the basis for the address, rather than the home-based setting.

[Emergency service care NBEDS 2022–23Health](#), Standard 20/10/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2022

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2023

**DSS specific information:**

To be reported for the address of the patient.

[Indigenous primary health care NBEDS 2017–18Health](#), Superseded 06/09/2018  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 22/10/2018

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2017

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2018

[Indigenous primary health care NBEDS 2018–19Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 02/04/2019

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019

[Indigenous primary health care NBEDS 2019–20Health](#), Superseded 16/01/2020  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 14/07/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020

[Indigenous primary health care NBEDS 2020–21Health](#), Retired 13/10/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2020

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2021

**DSS specific information:**

In the Indigenous primary health care NBEDS, this data element is reported twice, for:

- the service's physical address
- the service's postal address.

[Indigenous-specific primary health care NBEDS December 2020Indigenous](#),  
Standard 14/07/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2020

**Implementation end date:** 31/12/2020

**DSS specific information:**

In the ISPHC NBEDS, this data element is reported twice, for:

- the organisation's physical address
- the organisation's postal address.

[Juvenile Justice Order file clusterYouth Justice](#), Recorded 23/05/2022

***DSS specific information:***

This item is collected for the young person's last known home address before entering youth justice supervision.

**Guide for Use**

A Suburb/Town/Locality may be a town, city, suburb or commonly used location name such as a large agricultural property or Aboriginal community. The name should be spelt correctly and consistently and should not be a youth justice detention facility.

Enter 'UNKNOWN' where the locality name or geographic area is not known.

Enter 'NO FIXED ADDRESS' where the young person has no fixed address or is homeless.

Suburb/Town/Locality should be sourced from the Australia Post Standard postcode file for the relevant year, available on the [Australia Post website](#).

[Living arrangements for children under care \(LA\) file clusterChildren and Families](#),  
Superseded 20/01/2021

***DSS specific information:***

The postcode of the child's living arrangement. Record code 9999 for 'Not stated/inadequately described'.

For children residing outside Australia record 9999 'Not stated/inadequately described'.

[Living arrangements for children under care \(LA\) file clusterChildren and Families](#),  
Standard 03/11/2021

***DSS specific information:***

The postcode of the child's living arrangement. Record code 9999 for 'Not stated/inadequately described'.

For children residing outside Australia record 9999 'Not stated/inadequately described'.

[Living arrangements for children under care \(LA\) file clusterChildren and Families](#),  
Superseded 03/11/2021

***DSS specific information:***

The postcode of the child's living arrangement. Record code 9999 for 'Not stated/inadequately described'.

For children residing outside Australia record 9999 'Not stated/inadequately described'.

[Location Cluster Commonwealth Department of Social Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/06/2018

***DSS specific information:***

Refers to the postcode of the recipient.

[National Bowel Cancer Screening Program NBEDS 2018–19](#) Health, Superseded 12/12/2018

***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2018

***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2019

[National Bowel Cancer Screening Program NBEDS 2019–20](#) Health, Superseded 16/01/2020

***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2019

***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2020

[National Bowel Cancer Screening Program NBEDS 2020–21](#) Health, Superseded 05/02/2021

***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2020

***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2021

[National Bowel Cancer Screening Program NBEDS 2021–22](#) Health, Superseded 17/12/2021

***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2021

***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2022

[National Bowel Cancer Screening Program NBEDS 2022–23](#) Health, Standard 17/12/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2022

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2023

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2017-18Health](#),  
Superseded 12/12/2018

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2017

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2018

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2018-19Health](#),  
Superseded 12/12/2018

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20Health](#),  
Retired 19/11/2019

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2017-18Health](#),  
Superseded 25/01/2018

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2017

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2018

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2018-19ACT Health  
\(retired\)](#), Candidate 08/08/2018  
[Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2019–20Health](#),  
Superseded 18/12/2019

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2020–21Health](#),  
Superseded 05/02/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2020

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2021

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2021–22Health](#),  
Superseded 20/10/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2021

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2022

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2022–23Health](#),  
Standard 20/10/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2022

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2023

[Non-admitted patient NBEDS 2020–21Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2020

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2021

**DSS specific information:**

To be reported for the address of the patient.

[Non-admitted patient NBEDS 2021–22Health](#), Superseded 20/10/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2021

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2022

**DSS specific information:**

To be reported for the address of the patient.

[Non-admitted patient NBEDS 2022–23Health](#), Standard 20/10/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2022

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2023

**DSS specific information:**

To be reported for the address of the patient.



[Notifications, investigations, and substantiations \(NIS\) file clusterChildren and Families](#), Superseded 03/11/2021

***DSS specific information:***

The postcode of the child's usual place of residence at the time of notification.

For children residing outside Australia record 9999 'Not stated/inadequately described'

[Notifications, investigations, and substantiations \(NIS\) file clusterChildren and Families](#), Standard 03/11/2021

***DSS specific information:***

The postcode of the child's usual place of residence at the time of notification.

For children residing outside Australia record 9999 'Not stated/inadequately described'

[Provider place of practice clusterHealth](#), Standard 05/10/2016

***Conditional obligation:***

To be used if [Individual service provider—country of employment in registered profession, Australia/other country code N](#) equals 1.

[Public dental waiting times NMDS 2018-ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate  
08/08/2018  
[Health](#), Standard 25/01/2018

***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2018

***DSS specific information:***

In the PDWT NMDS, this data element refers to the postcode of a person's usual residence ('usual' means 4 or more days per week on average).

[Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas \(SEIFA\) \(2016 Census, ASGS 2016\) cluster Early Childhood](#), Standard 24/07/2018  
[Health](#), Standard 06/09/2018

[Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2019-Homelessness](#), Standard  
10/08/2018

***Conditional obligation:***

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.

***DSS specific information:***

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is reported twice, for:

- where the person lived one week before the first service contact (the [Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY](#))
- where the person lived the last time they had a permanent place to live.

[Youth Justice Detention file clusterYouth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

***DSS specific information:***

This item is collected twice: once for the young person's last known home address before entering youth justice detention and once for the youth detention centre.

This item is collected for the young person's last known home address before entering youth justice supervision.

**Guide for Use**

Use the Australian Post postcode file.

Leave the field blank if:

- the last known home address is unknown
- the last known home address is outside Australia
- the young person had no fixed address.

**Suburb and postcode information**

From July 2020, an all-inclusive list of postcodes and suburbs will be used to check postcodes in the YJ NMDS. This list consists of unique postcodes and suburbs across all current and historical versions of postcode data purchased by the AIHW.

For the most current list of valid postcodes and suburbs, go to <http://www.postconnect.com.au/postcode-data>.

[Youth Justice Order file clusterYouth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

***DSS specific information:***

This item is collected for the young person's last known home address before entering youth justice supervision.

**Guide for Use**

Use the Australian Post postcode file.

Leave the field blank if:

- the last known home address is unknown
- the last known home address is outside Australia
- the young person had no fixed address.

**Suburb and postcode information**

From July 2020, an all-inclusive list of postcodes and suburbs will be used to check postcodes in the YJ NMDS. This list consists of unique postcodes and suburbs across all current and historical versions of postcode data purchased by the AIHW.

For the most current list of valid postcodes and suburbs, go to <http://www.postconnect.com.au/postcode-data>.

[Youth Justice Order file clusterYouth Justice](#), Recorded 23/05/2022

***DSS specific information:***

This item is collected for the young person's last known home address before entering youth justice supervision.

**Guide for Use**

Use the Australian Post postcode file.

Leave the field blank if:

- the last known home address is unknown
- the last known home address is outside Australia
- the young person had no fixed address.

Postcode should be sourced from the Australia Post Standard postcode file for the relevant year, available on the [Australia Post website](#).