

ACT-prioritised Australian state/territory code AA[A]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Value Domain

METEOR identifier: 616563

Registration status:

- [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), Standard 17/12/2015

Definition: A code set representing Australian states and territories, with the ACT prioritised to the top of the set of permissible values.

Representational attributes

Representation class: Code

Data type: String

Format: AA[A]

Maximum character length: 3

Permissible values:

Value	Meaning
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
NSW	New South Wales
VIC	Victoria
QLD	Queensland
SA	South Australia
WA	Western Australia
TAS	Tasmania
NT	Northern Territory

Supplementary values: UNK Unknown

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

Care should be taken when using this value domain as it presents the Australian states/territories in an order different to those most commonly used by agencies such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The state/territory order presented in this value domain is known to be used in the underlying information systems of the Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), and possibly reflects the historical data management practices of some Canberra-based Commonwealth government agencies, whereby Canberra (and by extension, the ACT) was considered to represent something like 'Central office' or 'Head office'.

Agencies such as the ABS and AIHW publish data in state/territory order based on population.

The ABS-preferred order (NSW, Vic., Qld, SA, WA, Tas., NT and ACT) reflects historic relative state/territory populations and has been retained by the ABS to preserve continuity of presentation and minimise the risk of error in the handling or interpreting of data.

The AIHW-preferred order reflects more recent trends in the relative populations of the states/territories, i.e. as above, but with WA before SA and ACT before NT.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Department of Health

Reference documents: <P>Australian Bureau of Statistics. Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011. ABS cat. no. 1270.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS.</P>

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

See also [Australian state/territory code N](#)

- [ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate 09/08/2018
- [Children and Families](#), Superseded 03/11/2021
- [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), Recorded 16/07/2015
- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 03/08/2005
- [Early Childhood](#), Standard 21/05/2010
- [Health](#), Superseded 20/11/2019
- [Homelessness](#), Standard 01/05/2013
- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 03/08/2005
- [Indigenous](#), Superseded 14/07/2021
- [Tasmanian Health](#), Incomplete 23/07/2012

See also [Australian state/territory code N](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Standard 03/11/2021
- [Health](#), Standard 20/11/2019
- [Indigenous](#), Standard 14/07/2021
- [Youth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

**Data elements
implementing this value
domain:**

[Person—Australian state/territory identifier, ACT-prioritised code AA\[A\]](#)

- [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), Standard 17/12/2015

[Pharmacy—Australian state/territory identifier, ACT-prioritised code AA\[A\]](#)

- [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), Standard 17/12/2015

[Prescriber—Australian state/territory identifier, ACT-prioritised code AA\[A\]](#)

- [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), Standard 17/12/2015