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

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Australian state/territory identifier (person) (ACT-prioritised)
METEOR identifier:	616597
Registration status:	Commonwealth Department of Health, Retired 19/10/2023
Definition:	An identifier of the Australian state or territory in which the person is located, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Person—Australian state/territory identifier
Value Domain:	ACT-prioritised Australian state/territory code AA[A]

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code
Data type:	String
Format:	AA[A]
Maximum character length:	3

	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	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: 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.

Data element attributes

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Department of Health

Relational attributes

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) state/territory data extract 2013-14
Commonwealth Department of Health, Retired 19/10/2023
Implementation start date: 01/07/2013
Implementation end date: 30/06/2014
DSS specific information:

Variable name = PTNT_STATE

In the context of PBS data, this data element describes the place of usual residence of the patient or PBS consumer, and not the location of an establishment, e.g. the practice or postal address of the prescriber or the physical or postal address of the dispensing pharmacy.

This data item is referred to within the PBS system as 'Patient state', and is derived from 'Patient postcode', i.e. it is derived from the Medicare record of the patient and is based on the most recent patient address reported to the Department of Human Services (DHS).