

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

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element
<b>Short name:</b>	Australian state/territory identifier (person) (ACT-prioritised)
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	616597
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Commonwealth Department of Health</a>, Standard 17/12/2015</li></ul>
<b>Definition:</b>	An identifier of the Australian state or territory in which the person is located, as represented by a code.
<b>Data Element Concept:</b>	<a href="#">Person—Australian state/territory identifier</a>

## Value domain attributes

### Representational attributes

<b>Representation class:</b>	Code																		
<b>Data type:</b>	String																		
<b>Format:</b>	AA[A]																		
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	3																		
<b>Permissible values:</b>	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>ACT</td><td>Australian Capital Territory</td></tr><tr><td>NSW</td><td>New South Wales</td></tr><tr><td>VIC</td><td>Victoria</td></tr><tr><td>QLD</td><td>Queensland</td></tr><tr><td>SA</td><td>South Australia</td></tr><tr><td>WA</td><td>Western Australia</td></tr><tr><td>TAS</td><td>Tasmania</td></tr><tr><td>NT</td><td>Northern Territory</td></tr></tbody></table>	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
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																		

<b>Supplementary values:</b>	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>UNK</td><td>Unknown</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	UNK	Unknown
Value	Meaning				
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](#), Standard 17/12/2015

**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).