Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2017-19

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Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2017-19

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Data Set Specification

METEOR identifier: 650006

Registration status: Homelessness, Superseded 10/08/2018

DSS type: National Minimum Data Set (NMDS)

Scope: The Specialist Homelessness Services National Minimum Data Set (SHS NMDS) aims to provide quality information about people who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are seeking services from specialist homelessness agencies.

This collection is intended to obtain information about clients receiving ongoing or short-term support as well as people who are seeking assistance but did not receive any services. Data collection includes basic socio-demographic information and the services required by and provided to each client. Details about accompanying children are also recorded. Additionally, information is obtained about the client circumstances before, during and after receiving support.

The base unit of this collection is a person who presents to a Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) agency requesting a service or services. A person becomes a client once they receive a service or services. The period of time a client receives assistance from a SHS agency is commonly referred to as a support period. It relates to the provision of assistance and/or supported accommodation. A support period is considered finished when the relationship between the client and the agency ends or the client has reached their maximum amount of support.

During a support period there are, in most cases, a series of service episodes or assistance, other than supported accommodation, provided to the client by the SHS agency. For the purposes of the SHS NMDS, assistance also includes contact with a client, or work on behalf of a client.

The SHS NMDS has three ‘views’ for collection purposes, they are: Unassisted person, Client and Specialist homelessness agency.

An ‘Unassisted person’ in the context of this collection is any person who seeks assistance from an agency and is not successful in obtaining that assistance. A ‘Client’ is a person who receives services either directly or indirectly from an agency. A 'Specialist homelessness agency' is an organisation which receives government funding to deliver a specialist homelessness service to a client. If clients present collectively, information is collected for each client but the group is referred to as a 'Presenting unit'.

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: For jurisdictions who have high volume central intake or localised entry point agencies (for example Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory), data for unmet demand and unassisted requests for services are not directly comparable with other states and territories.

Implementation start date: 01/07/2017

Implementation end date: 30/06/2019

Comments:

The 2011 SHS NMDS was developed to support the collection of data under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations for Homelessness. It replaced the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) collection from July 2011.

In 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to reform federal financial relations to improve the quality and effectiveness of government services. These reforms led to the establishment of the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), which includes specific performance measures in relation to homelessness.

In conjunction with these reforms, the Australian Government initiated a comprehensive policy review, setting out a national approach to reducing homelessness in the White Paper: The Road Home, A National Approach to Reducing Homelessness.

The SHS NMDS 2017- continues to reflect the outcome based performance framework promoted by the COAG Reforms and White Paper. It supports the collection, analysis and reporting of client-based data. This allows for the production of statistical information about clients' circumstances, the assistance they receive and the outcomes that are achieved for them. This information can be used to inform policy design, evaluation, service improvement and monitoring of specialist homelessness services in Australia.

In addition, the SHS NMDS 2017- provides for the collection of information about SHS clients who are current and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF). This information will be used to better understand the extent to which this group may need support from SHS agencies and its particular circumstances before, during and after receiving support.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2015-17 Homelessness, Superseded 24/11/2016

Has been superseded by Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2019-Homelessness, Standard 10/08/2018

See also SAAP Administrative National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) Community Services (retired), Retired 01/07/2011

Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Specialist Homelessness Services accommodation type and start/end date cluster ***Conditional obligation:*** In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients. ***DSS specific information:*** Clients may enter start and end dates for each of the accommodation types provided during the collection month. Multiple accommodation types, start dates and end dates may be entered. In a month of 31 days, up to 16 accommodation types, and related start dates or end dates are possible. The dates selected should be valid for the collection month (ie. for September the 30th is a valid date, but the 31st is not a valid date.)	Conditional	16
-	Service event—accommodation period end date, DDMMYYYY ***DSS specific information:*** In the SHS NMDS, accommodation end date may be asked for three types of accommodation: 1) Short term or emergency, 2) Medium term or transitional, and 3) Long term. Clients may have breaks in accommodation, or move between different types of accommodation. Clients may have multiple start and end dates for the various types of accommodation.	Mandatory	1
-	Service event—accommodation period start date, DDMMYYYY ***DSS specific information:*** In the SHS NMDS accommodation end date may be asked for three types of accommodation: 1) Short term or emergency, 2) Medium term or transitional, and 3) Long term. Clients may have breaks in accommodation, or shift between different types of accommodation. Clients may have multiple start and end dates for the various types of accommodation.	Mandatory	1
-	Service event—supported accommodation type, code N ***DSS specific information:*** In the SHS NMDS, the accommodation type *Other* (CODE 4) is not a valid permissible value.	Mandatory	1
-	Specialist Homelessness Services activity cluster ***Conditional obligation:*** In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.	Conditional	1
-	Client—referral arranged, homelessness activity type code N[N]	Mandatory	53
-	Client—service activity type needed, homelessness activity type code N[N]	Mandatory	53

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Client—service activity type provided, homelessness code N[N]	Mandatory	53
-	Specialist Homelessness Services disability flag cluster	Conditional	1

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 collected at presentation.

-	Person—activity and participation life area, disability flag homelessness code N	Mandatory	1
-	Person—need for assistance with activities in a life area, disability flag homelessness code N	Mandatory	1
-	Specialist Homelessness Services financial assistance type and amount cluster	Conditional	1

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 cluster is collected at the end of the reporting period (for the current service episode only).

-	Person—financial assistance amount, total Australian currency N[NNNN]	Mandatory	5

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected for the current service episode only. It relates specifically to assistance provided by the specialist homelessness agency and not assistance provided by any other source.

This item is repeated 5 times to capture the total amounts for the different types of financial assistance.

The client should provide dollar amounts for each type of assitance that was provided during the reference period (ie up to 5 valid responses).

-	Person—financial assistance type, homelessness code N	Mandatory	5

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected for the current service episode only. It relates specifically to assistance provided by the specialist homelessness agency and not assistance provided by any other source.

The client may check all types of assitance that applied during the reference period (ie up to 5 valid responses).

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Statistical linkage key 581 cluster	Mandatory	1
	DSS specific information: In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this cluster is collected at the date of presentation. For the purposes of the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS the SLK of the Presenting Unit Head will be recorded on each their accompanying member's forms.		
1	Person—letters of family name, text XXX	Mandatory	1
2	Person—letters of given name, text XX	Mandatory	1
3	Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	1
4	Person—sex, code N	Mandatory	1
5	Record—linkage key, code 581 XXXXXDDMMYYYYN	Mandatory	1
6	Date—accuracy indicator, code AAA	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation: Where a date of birth is estimated the date accuracy indicator should be used		
-	Address—Australian postcode, Australian postcode code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}	Conditional	2
	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.		
-	Address—suburb/town/locality name, text X[X(45)]	Conditional	2
	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.		

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Child—care arrangements, care and protection order code N[N]	Conditional	4

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (Code 1).

This data element is only collected for clients aged less than 18 years, who have a care and protection order.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

-	Client—case management goal status, code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on a Yes (Code 1) response to Client—case management plan indicator, yes/no code N.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the end of each reporting period, i.e. each calendar month.

-	Client—case management plan indicator, yes/no code N	Conditional	1

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 collected at the end of each reporting period, i.e. each calendar month.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

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

DSS specific information:

The data collected in the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) NMDS will be used for policy development and agency activity reporting in a non-identifiable form. This information will enable better placement of agency services and enhance service provision to clients of homelessness agencies.

-	Client—reason case management plan does not exist, code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

This item is conditional on a response of No (Code 2) in the data element Client—case management plan indicator, yes/no code N.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the end of each reporting period, i.e. each calendar month.

-	Client—reason case management plan does not exist, text [A(50)]	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

This data element is conditional on a response of Other (Code 8) for the data element Client—reason case management plan does not exist, code N.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the end of each reporting period, i.e. each calendar month.

-	Person (employed)—full-time/part-time status, code N	Conditional	4

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients. This item is conditional on a response of Employed (Code 1) in the data element Person—labour force status, code N.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (Code 3), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (Code 9) in the Standard.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—Australian Defence Force indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only collected for clients aged 18 years and over.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

This collection records a response of Don't know (Code 99) which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (Code 9) in the Standard. Where a client is aged less than 18 years a response of Not applicable (Code 0) may be used.

-	Person—Australian state/territory identifier, code N	Conditional	2

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.

-	Person—conditions of occupancy, code N	Conditional	4

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 collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

Please note that Leased tenure - nominated on lease (Code 1) - and Lease in place - not nominated on lease (Code 2) are only selected if a lease is in place. Codes 3 to 6 only apply if the person's name is not on a lease.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—country of birth, code (SACC 2011) NNNN	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

This data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (Code 1).

-	Person—first service request indicator, yes/no code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is only collected for turnaways. Turnaways are people who have not received any requested services or assessment. This data element is applied to an individual 24-hour reporting period.

-	Person—formally diagnosed mental health condition indicator, code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (Code 1).

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

Evidence suggests that the longer persons with mental health problems are supported by specialist homelessness services, the more likely they are to move into public, or community housing or rental housing rather than return to rough sleeping. Access to a range of longer-term supports and community-based services will increase the early intervention and recovery support options for people who are homeless with a mental illness and substance abuse disorders.

-	Person—government funding identifier, Centrelink customer reference number N(9)A	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the consent of the client.

DSS specific information:

The states and territories have agreed to include Centrelink customer reference numbers in the NMDS, however this information is not currently recorded as issues of confidentiality are yet to be resolved.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—housing tenure type, homelessness code N	Conditional	4

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 collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

-	Person—Indigenous status, code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (Code 1).

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

-	Person—labour force status, code N	Conditional	4

Conditional obligation:

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

This data element reflects the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Labour force status standard variable. Consequently, the value domain definitions explicitly exclude anyone aged under 15.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (Code 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (Code 9) in the Standard.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—living arrangement, homelessness code N	Conditional	4

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 collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (Code 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (Code 9) in the Standard.

-	Person—mental health services received indicator, yes/no code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (Code 1).

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

-	Person—mental health services received timeframe, code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (Code 1).

This item is also conditional on the client responding to the data element Person—mental health services received indicator, yes/no code N with Yes (Code 1).

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—new client indicator, code N	Conditional	1

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 used to gain an idea of the 'trend of homelessness'. It does this by collecting data as to whether or not the presenting person has accessed a specialist homelessness agency before.

-	Person—number of people in the presenting unit, total N[N]	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

-	Person—previously homeless status, code N	Conditional	6

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 collected a minimum of twice (for the client):

- within the previous month
- within the previous year.

If a client has indicated that they were homeless in the last month, then by default they should be recorded as homeless in the last 12 months.

This question allows the client to check all responses that apply, and therefore the client may have up to 3 valid responses for each instance of this question.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (Code 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (Code 9) in the Standard.

-	Person—previously resided in institution/facility indicator, code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation. This data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (Code 1).

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—principal source of cash income, code NNNN	Conditional	4

Conditional obligation:

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

This data element reflects the Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Sources of income standard variable. Consequently, the value domain definitions explicitly exclude anyone aged under 15.

If income information on children under 15 years is sought for the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) NMDS, these persons may also be asked the sources of income questions. However, if comparability with ABS collections is required, the SHS data can be filtered using the age data element to remove responses for children aged under 15.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

For the purposes of the SHS collection the following list is used which aggregates to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Sources of Income Classification.

Government pensions and allowances

Newstart allowance

Parenting payment

Disability support pension (Centrelink)

Youth allowance

Age pension

Austudy/Abstudy

DVA pension or payment

Sickness allowance

Carer allowance

Carer payment

Other government pensions and allowances

Other sources of income

Employee income

Unincorporated business income

Other income nec

Nil income

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
	Not stated/not known/inadequately described		
-	Person—reason for seeking assistance, homelessness code N[N]	Conditional	27

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 collected at the date of presentation.

This data element is collected twice (for the client):

- for all the presenting reasons for seeking assistance; and subsequently
- for the main presenting reason for seeking assistance

In both cases the reasons are those nominated by the client.

This question allows the client to check all responses that apply for all the presenting reasons for seeking assistance (up to 26 valid responses). The client should also select one main reason for seeking assistance.

-	Person—reason for seeking assistance, text A[A(49)]	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation. This data element is conditional on the person responding with Other (Code 26), in the data element Person—reason for seeking assistance, homelessness code N[N].

-	Person—reason services not provided, code N[N]	Conditional	11

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected only for 'turnaways'. Turnaways are people who have not received any requested services or assessment.

DSS specific information:

This question allows the person to check all responses that apply, and therefore the person may have up to 11 valid responses.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—registered/awaiting government payment indicator, code N	Conditional	4

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is only collected for clients who report nil income (Code 17) in Person—principal source of cash income, code NNNN.

This question establishes whether clients may have applied for a government benefit, pension or allowance, but are still awaiting their first payment.

DSS specific information:

This data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (Code 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (Code 9) in the Standard.

-	Person—relationship to the presenting unit head, code N[N]	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

-	Person—relationship to the presenting unit head, text [A(50)]	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

This data element is conditional on the person responding with Other relationship (Code 15), in the data element Person—relationship to the presenting unit head, code N[N].

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—residential type, homelessness code N[N]	Conditional	4

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 collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (Code 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (Code 99) in the Standard.

-	Person—school enrolment and attendance status, code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS this data element is collected for all clients from age 4 to 18 years (inclusive). This data element is not collected for children aged 4 years who have not started school.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (Code 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (Code 99) in the Standard.

-	Person—service requested, homelessness code N	Conditional	4

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is only collected for 'turnaways'. Turnaways are people who have not received the requested services or assessment.

DSS specific information:

This question allows the client to check all responses that apply, and therefore the client may have up to 4 valid responses for this question.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—source of information on a mental health condition indicator, code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (Code 1)

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

-	Person—source of information on a mental health condition, code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (Code 1).

It is also conditional on a response of Yes (Code 1) to Person—source of information on a mental health condition indicator, code N.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

This data element is collected from the perspective of the agency worker. The agency worker may answer this question based on their personal observations, or from information volunteered by the client. If the client does not agree to answer the questions which require consent, the agency worker will be unable to report this information.

-	Person—student type, code N	Conditional	4

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on responding to Person—student/employment training indicator, code N *with a* Yes (Code 1).

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (Code 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (Code 9) in the Standard.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—student/employment training indicator, code N	Conditional	4

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 collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (Code 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (Code 9) in the Standard.

-	Person—time elapsed since last permanent residence, code N	Conditional	1

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 collected at the date of presentation.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (Code 99), which is equivalent to the code Don't know/Not sure (Code 9) in the Standard.

-	Person—type of institution recently left, homelessness code N[N]	Conditional	7

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (Code 1).

This item is also conditional on a response of Yes (Code 1) in the data element Person—previously resided in institution/facility indicator, code N.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation. This data element refers to institutions or facilities the client may have been in during the last 12 months. This question allows the client to check all responses that apply, and therefore the client may have up to 7 valid responses.

The value Other (Code 98) is not used by this collection.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—urgency of requested assistance, time period code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is only collected for 'turnaways'. Turnaways are people who have not received the requested services or assessment.

DSS specific information:

This collection records a response of Don't Know (Code 99), which is equivalent to the code Don't know/Not sure (Code 7) in the Standard.

-	Person—year of first arrival in Australia, date YYYY	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is ascertained for all clients who have indicated that their Country of Birth is not Australia.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

The supplementary code Don't know (Code 9999) is used to process client data if a valid year of arrival is not provided.

-	Referral—formal referral source, homelessness code N[N]	Conditional	1

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 collected at the date of presentation.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (Code 99), which is equivalent to the code Don't know/Not sure (Code 22) in the Standard.

-	Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY	Conditional	1

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 the support period end date.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY	Conditional	1

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 the support period start date.

-	Service episode—reporting period, date MMYYYY	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

This data element reflects the month that information was collected from the person. It is recorded for both clients and turnaways.

-	Service episode—service cessation reason, homelessness code N[N]	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients if the support period has finished.

DSS specific information:

This collection records a response of Don't Know (Code 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Unknown (Code 99) in the Standard.

-	Service episode—service ongoing indicator, code N	Conditional	1

Conditional obligation:

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

DSS specific information:

The code Not stated/inadequately described (Code 9) is not used by this collection.

-	Service event—assistance request date, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is relevant to 'turnaways' and clients. It captures the date on which a person sought assistance from a Specialist Homelessness Agency. This may not be the same date the assistance or service is received by the client.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Service event—first service contact date, DDMMYYYY	Conditional	1

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 collected for all clients.

This data element is collected for the first service contact date within the reporting period. If the first service contact was also the start of the service episode, as recorded by the data element Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY, then the same date will be recorded for both data elements. If the service episode is ongoing but the service event is new, then the actual date of the new service event should be recorded.

This data element should ascertain the actual date of service, not the date when the data is recorded.

-	Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY	Conditional	1

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 collected for all clients.

This data element is collected for the last service provision date within the reporting period. If the last provision of a service was also the end of the service episode, as recorded by the data element Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY, then the same date will be recorded for both data elements.

If the last provision of a service is not the end of the service episode (i.e. where other services continue to be provided) the actual date of the end of the service event should be recorded. However if the service event within the service episode is ongoing to the next reporting period, ie ongoing to the following month, then the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY will be recorded as the last day of the current month.

This data element should ascertain the actual date of service, not the date when the data is recorded.

-	Service provider organisation—organisation identifier, NNNNNA	Mandatory	1