

# Notifications, investigations, and substantiations (NIS) file cluster

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Set Specification
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	656498
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Children and Families</a>, Superseded 20/04/2018</li></ul>
<b>DSS type:</b>	Data Element Cluster
<b>Scope:</b>	The Notifications, investigations and substantiations (NIS) file cluster contains information about notifications, investigations and substantiations recorded for the clients in the Client file during the reference period. This includes notifications received during the reference period and investigations that were open during the reference period, regardless of the date of notification.

## Collection and usage attributes

<b>Guide for use:</b>	<p>A notification consists of reports made to an authorised department by persons or other bodies making allegations of child abuse or neglect, child maltreatment or harm to a child. Notifications should not include reports regarding wider concerns about children or families which are classified as child concern reports.</p> <p>Notifications are relevant to persons who are aged less than 18 years, and to unborn children in jurisdictions where they are covered under the child protection legislation.</p> <p>An investigation is the process whereby the Department responsible for child protection seeks to obtain more detailed information about a child who is the subject of a notification and makes an assessment about the harm or degree of harm to the child and their protective needs. An investigation includes the interviewing or sighting of the subject child where it is practicable to do so.</p> <p>A finalised investigation is classified as 'substantiated' where there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has been, is being or is likely to be abused or neglected or otherwise harmed. Substantiation does not necessarily require sufficient evidence for a successful prosecution and does not imply that treatment or case management was, or is to be, provided.</p> <p>Substantiations are classified into four categories: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. Where more than one type of abuse or neglect or harm has occurred, the primary type of abuse/neglect should be classified to the type most likely to be the most severe in the short term or most likely to place the child at risk in the short term, or if such an assessment is not possible, to the most obvious form of abuse or neglect.</p>
-----------------------	--

**Collection methods:** A notification can only involve one child. Where it is claimed that two children have been, or are at risk of being abused, neglected or harmed, this is counted as two separate notifications, even if the children are from one family. Where there is more than one notification about the same 'event', this should be counted as only one notification and appear as a single line in the file for each child indicated. Where there is more than one notification for a child within the reference period but relating to different events (for instance, a different type of abuse or neglect or a different person believed responsible), these should be counted as separate notifications and appear as a new line in the file.

Each distinct notification recorded by the Department will be a new line in the file, delineated by the notification date.

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2014

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2016

**Comments:** Data are extracted as at 31 August. The 2015–16 reporting period is the main collection period. Data for 2014–15 are also collected to allow specific calculations to be undertaken.

## Source and reference attributes

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

**Steward:** [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#)

**Origin:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2016. Child protection national minimum data set, data collection manual 2015-16. Canberra: AIHW.

**Reference documents:** AIHW 2016. Child protection Australia 2014–15. Child welfare series no. 63. Cat. no. CWS 57. Canberra: AIHW.

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Notifications, investigations, and substantiations \(NIS\) file cluster](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Superseded 22/11/2016

Has been superseded by [Notifications, investigations, and substantiations \(NIS\) file cluster](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:**

[Child protection NMDS 2015-16](#)  
[Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/04/2018

*Implementation start date:* 01/07/2014

*Implementation end date:* 30/06/2016

## Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
1	<a href="#">Person—person identifier, child protection NX[X(11)]</a>	Mandatory	1
2	<a href="#">Child protection notification—notification date, DDMMYYYY</a>	Mandatory	1
3	<a href="#">Person—Australian state/territory identifier, code N</a>	Mandatory	1
4	<a href="#">Address—suburb/town/locality name, text X[X(45)]</a>	Mandatory	1
5	<a href="#">Address—Australian postcode, Australian postcode code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}</a>	Mandatory	1
6	<a href="#">Address—statistical area, level 2 (SA2) code (ASGS 2011) N(9)</a>	Mandatory	1
7	<a href="#">Child protection notification—source of notification, code N[N]</a>	Mandatory	1
8	<a href="#">Child protection notification—course of action, code N</a>	Mandatory	1
9	<a href="#">Child protection notification—course of action decision date, DDMMYYYY</a>	Mandatory	1
10	<a href="#">Child protection notification—investigation commencement date, DDMMYYYY</a>	Mandatory	1
11	<a href="#">Child protection notification—investigation conclusion date, DDMMYYYY</a>	Mandatory	1
12	<a href="#">Child protection notification—investigation status, code N[N]</a>	Mandatory	1
13	<a href="#">Child—household parental care type, code N[N]</a>	Mandatory	1
14	<a href="#">Child—primary type of abuse or neglect, code N[N]</a>	Mandatory	1
15	<a href="#">Child—other type of abuse or neglect, code N[N]</a>	Mandatory	4

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2015–2022

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 3.0 (CC BY 3.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build upon this work. However, you must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder of the work in compliance with our attribution policy available at [www.aihw.gov.au/copyright](http://www.aihw.gov.au/copyright). The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by3.0/au/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to the Head of the Communications, Media and Marketing Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601.