

# Australian Standard Classification of Languages 2016

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Classification Scheme
<b>Synonymous names:</b>	ASCL 2016
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	659337
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired)</a>, Standard 20/06/2018</li><li>• <a href="#">Health</a>, Standard 25/01/2018</li><li>• <a href="#">Homelessness</a>, Standard 10/08/2018</li><li>• <a href="#">Tasmanian Health</a>, Standard 27/06/2017</li></ul>
<b>Definition:</b>	The Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) is produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the consistent collection, aggregation and dissemination of data relating to language usage in Australia.
<b>Classification structure:</b>	<p>The ASCL has a three-level hierarchical structure that consists of broad groups, narrow groups and languages.</p> <p>Languages are grouped together into progressively broader categories on the basis of their evolution from a common ancestral language, and on the basis of geographic proximity of areas where a particular language originated.</p>

## Collection and usage attributes

<b>Guide for use:</b>	<p>The ASCL is designed to classify the following language variables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ First Language Spoken</li><li>▪ Languages Spoken at Home</li><li>▪ Main Language Spoken and</li><li>▪ Main Language Other than English Spoken at Home</li></ul>
<b>Collection methods:</b>	Data should be collected, classified and stored at the language (four-digit) level of the classification to allow flexibility of statistical output and more detailed analysis. It also maintains information for future use and enables comparison with previous data using different classifications.

## Source and reference attributes

<b>Submitting organisation:</b>	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
<b>Origin:</b>	Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. <a href="#">Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) 2016</a> . ABS cat. no.1267.0. Canberra: ABS.
<b>Revision status:</b>	The first edition of the ASCL was published in 1997. The ASCL was revised in 2005, 2011 and 2016.

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:**

Supersedes [Australian Standard Classification of Languages 2011](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Standard 22/11/2016
- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 17/11/2011
- [Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018
- [Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018
- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 17/11/2011
- [Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 27/06/2017

**Value Domains based on this classification scheme:**

[Language code \(ASCL 2016\) N\[NNN\]](#)

- [ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate 08/08/2018
- [Children and Families](#), Standard 20/01/2021
- [Commonwealth Department of Social Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/06/2018
- [Health](#), Standard 25/01/2018
- [Homelessness](#), Standard 10/08/2018
- [Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 27/06/2017