

Language code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN]

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Value Domain
METEOR identifier:	659404
Registration status:	Aged Care , Standard 30/06/2023 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
Definition:	The Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) code set representing languages.

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	N[NNN]
Maximum character length:	4

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	<p>The ASCL has a three-level hierarchical structure. The most detailed level of the classification consists of languages which are represented by four-digit codes. The second level of the classification comprises narrow groups of languages (the Narrow group level), identified by two-digit and three-digit codes. The most general level of the classification consists of broad groups of languages (the Broad group level) and is identified by one-digit codes. The classification includes Australian Indigenous languages and sign languages.</p> <p>For example, the Lithuanian language has a code of 3102. In this case 3 denotes that it is an Eastern European language, while 31 denotes that it is a Baltic language. The Pintupi Aboriginal language is coded as 8713. In this case 8 denotes that it is an Australian Indigenous language and 87 denotes that the language is a Western Desert language.</p> <p>Language data may be output at the Broad group level, Narrow group level or the language level of the classification. Also, significant languages within a Narrow group can be presented separately with the remaining languages of the Narrow group aggregated. The same principle can be adopted to highlight significant Narrow groups within a Broad group.</p>
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Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Revision status:	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 [Language code \(ASCL 2011\) NN{NN}](#)
[Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 13/10/2011
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
[Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018
[Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 13/10/2011
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 27/06/2017

Data elements implementing this value domain:

[Allied health service event—preferred language, code \(ASCL 2016\) N{NNN}](#)
[Health](#), Standard 12/12/2018

[Individual service provider—provider's clinically proficient language, code \(ASCL 2016\) N{NNN}](#)
[Health](#), Standard 25/01/2018

[Person—main language other than English spoken at home, code \(ASCL 2016\) N{NNN}](#)
[Children and Families](#), Standard 20/01/2021
[Health](#), Standard 25/01/2018
[Homelessness](#), Standard 10/08/2018

[Person—preferred language, code \(ASCL 2016\) N{NNN}](#)
[Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023
[Health](#), Standard 25/01/2018
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 27/06/2017

[Person—preferred spoken language, code \(ASCL 2016\) N{NNN}](#)
[Commonwealth Department of Social Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/06/2018

[Person—preferred written language, code \(ASCL 2016\) N{NNN}](#)
[Commonwealth Department of Social Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/06/2018

[Survey—language, code \(ASCL 2016\) N{NNN}](#)
[Health](#), Standard 15/04/2021

[Survey—survey language, code \(ASCL 2016\) N{NNN}](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 15/04/2021

Classification scheme attributes

Classification scheme: [Australian Standard Classification of Languages 2016](#)

Synonymous names: ASCL 2016

METEOR identifier: 659337

Definition: 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.

Registration status: [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

Classification structure: The ASCL has a three-level hierarchical structure that consists of broad groups, narrow groups and languages.

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.

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

The ASCL is designed to classify the following language variables:

- First Language Spoken
- Languages Spoken at Home
- Main Language Spoken and
- Main Language Other than English Spoken at Home

Collection methods:

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

Submitting organisation:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Origin:

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. [Australian Standard Classification of Languages \(ASCL\) 2016](#). ABS cat. no.1267.0. Canberra: ABS.