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

Classification scheme:	Australian Standard Classification of Languages 2016
Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	N[NNN]
Maximum character length:	4

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

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.

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.

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.

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}](#)

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[Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021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