

Language code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Value Domain
METEOR identifier:	659404
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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}](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021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- [Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018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}](#)

- [ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate 08/08/2018
- [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