

Person—preferred spoken language, code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN]

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Person—preferred spoken language, code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Preferred spoken language
METEOR identifier:	666375
Registration status:	Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired) , Standard 20/06/2018
Definition:	The language (including sign language) most preferred by the person for communication, as represented by a code.
Context:	Health and welfare services: An important indicator of ethnicity, especially for persons born in non-English-speaking countries. Its collection will assist in the planning and provision of multilingual services and facilitate program and service delivery for migrants and other non-English speakers.

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept:	Person—preferred spoken language
METEOR identifier:	658062
Registration status:	Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired) , Standard 20/05/2018
Definition:	The language (including sign language) most preferred by the person for communication.
Object class:	Person
Property:	Preferred spoken language

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Australian Government Department of Social Services
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Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain:	Language code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN]
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
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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

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: This may be a language other than English even where the person can speak fluent English.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Government Department of Social Services

Relational attributes

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Demographics Cluster](#)
[Commonwealth Department of Social Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/06/2018
DSS specific information:

Preferred spoken language refers to the variables LANG_CODE in the PIA research data set.