

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

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

## Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Preferred written language
METEOR identifier:	666389
Registration status:	<a href="#">Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired)</a> , Standard 20/06/2018
Definition:	A person's preferred language for written communication, as represented by a code.

## Data element concept attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept:	<a href="#">Person—preferred written language</a>
METEOR identifier:	648573
Registration status:	<a href="#">Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired)</a> , Standard 20/06/2018
Definition:	A person's preferred language for written communication.
Object class:	<a href="#">Person</a>
Property:	<a href="#">Preferred written language</a>

### 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:	<a href="#">Language code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN]</a>
METEOR identifier:	659404
Registration status:	<a href="#">Tasmanian Health</a> , Standard 27/06/2017 <a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 25/01/2018 <a href="#">Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired)</a> , Standard 20/06/2018 <a href="#">Homelessness</a> , Standard 10/08/2018 <a href="#">Children and Families</a> , Standard 20/01/2021 <a href="#">Aged Care</a> , Standard 30/06/2023 <a href="#">Housing assistance</a> , Recorded 19/06/2024
Definition:	The Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) code set representing languages.

## Representational attributes

Classification scheme:	<a href="#">Australian Standard Classification of Languages 2016</a>
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 data element refers to the person's preferred language for letters, advices and literature. For example, if a person speaks English, but is more comfortable reading in Greek, then Greek is coded as the preferred language.

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Government Department of Social Services

## Relational attributes

**Implementation in Data Set** [Demographics Cluster](#)

**Specifications:** [Commonwealth Department of Social Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/06/2018

### ***DSS specific information:***

Preferred written language refers to the variables PREF\_LANG\_LANG in the PIA research data set.