Person—need for assistance with activities in a life area, disability code N

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

Person—need for assistance with activities in a life area, disability code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Need for assistance in disability life activity areas
METEOR identifier:	680510
Registration status:	Disability, Standard 15/12/2017
	Health, Standard 05/10/2022
Definition:	The level of help and/or supervision a person requires (or would require if the person currently helping/supervising was not available) to perform tasks and actions in a specified life area, as represented by a code.
Context:	Human functioning and disability
Data Element Concept:	Person—need for assistance with activities in a life area
Value Domain:	Activity need for assistance disability code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	1	
	Value	**Meaning**
Permissible values:	1	Unable to do or always needs help/supervision in this life area
	2	Sometimes needs help/supervision in this life area
	3	Does not need help/supervision but uses aids or equipment
	4	Does not need help/supervision and does not use aids or equipment
Supplementary values:	5	Not applicable

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

CODE 1   Unable to do or always needs help/supervision in this life area
Is used when the person is unable to do or always needs help or supervision in this life area.

CODE 2   Sometimes needs help/supervision in this life area
Is used when the person sometimes needs assistance in this life area.

CODE 3   Does not need help/supervision but uses aids or equipment
Is used when the person does not need assistance in this life area but uses aids or equipment.

CODE 4   Does not need help/supervision and does not use aids or equipment
Is used when the person does not need help or supervision in this life area and does not use aids or equipment.

CODE 5   Not applicable
Is used only when the need for support or assistance is due to the person's age, not their disability.

For the purposes of this collection use this code only when the person is in the following age ranges:

- Learning, applying knowledge and general tasks and demands: less than 5 years
- Education: less than 5 years
- Community (civic) and economic life: less than 5 years
- Domestic life: less than 15 years
- Working: less than 15 years

This value domain records the level of a person's need for help or supervision, in a specified domain, in their overall life. This means that the need for assistance may not be directly relevant to the health or community care service being provided.

Where a life area includes a range of examples, (e.g. domestic life includes cooking, cleaning and shopping), if a person requires assistance in any of the areas then the highest level of assistance should be recorded.

Where support needs vary markedly over time (e.g. episodic psychiatric disability), record the level of support needed during the reference week.

Interpreters for language are considered to provide personal assistance, and are not considered aids and/or equipment.

Animals used for personal mobility (i.e. guide dogs and companion animals) are considered to be aids and/or equipment. Also included in this category are prosthetic and orthotic devices, wheelchairs, transfer devices, etc.

Activity is limited when an individual, in the context of a health condition, either has need for assistance in performing an activity in an expected manner, or cannot perform the activity at all.

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 is used in conjunction with '[Person—activity and participation life area, disability code N](#)'.

The level of help and/or supervision a person requires for the following activities is assessed:

a. Self-care—activities such as washing oneself, dressing, eating, and toileting;

b. Mobility—includes moving around the home and/or moving around away from home (for instance, using public transport or driving a motor vehicle), and getting in or out of bed or a chair;

c. Communication—includes making oneself understood, in own native language or preferred method of communication if applicable, and understanding others;

d. Interpersonal interactions and relationships—including actions and behaviours that an individual does to make and keep friends and relationships, behaving within accepted limits, and coping with feelings and emotions;

e. Learning, applying knowledge, and general tasks and demands—includes understanding new ideas, remembering, problem solving, decision making, paying attention, undertaking single or multiple tasks, and carrying out daily routines;

f. Education—includes the actions, behaviours and tasks an individual needs to perform at school, college, or in any educational setting;

g. Community (civic) and economic life—includes recreation and leisure, religion and spirituality, human rights, political life and citizenship and economic life such as handling money;

h. Domestic life—includes organising meals, cleaning, disposing of garbage, housekeeping, shopping, cooking, home maintenance, acquisition of necessities, household tasks, caring for household objects and assisting others.

i. Working—includes actions, behaviours, and tasks to obtain and retain paid employment.

Comments:

This metadata item contributes to the definition of the concept Disability and gives an indication of the experience of disability for a person.

In the context of health, an activity is the execution of a task or action by an individual. Activity limitations are difficulties an individual may have in executing an activity.

Activity limitation varies with the environment and is assessed in relation to a particular environment; the absence or presence of assistance, including aids and equipment, is an aspect of the environment.

This item uses the level of limitation values from the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers list but combines level 3 and 4 (Moderate and Mild).
For further information see the Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: User Guide (ABS 2011).

This item is also not consistent with the ICF performance qualifier where mild, moderate and severe problem categories are mapped to code 2 'Sometimes needs help/supervision in this area'. For further information see the ICF Australian User Guide (AIHW 2003) .

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Reference documents:	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2011. Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: User Guide 2009. ABS cat. no. 4431.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS.
	AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2003. ICF Australian User Guide. Version 1..0. Disability Series. AIHW Cat. No. DIS 33. Canberra: AIHW.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Person—need for assistance with activities in a life area, disability code N](#)
[Disability](#), Superseded 15/12/2017

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Activity and participation need for assistance cluster](#)
[Disability](#), Standard 29/02/2016
[Health](#), Standard 05/10/2022