

# Informal carer—primary carer indicator

**Metadata item type:** Data Element Concept  
**METEOR identifier:** 681050  
**Registration status:**

- [Disability](#), Standard 15/12/2017

**Definition:** An indicator of whether an [informal carer](#) is the primary carer.

## Object Class attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

**Object class:** [Informal carer](#)

**Definition:** An informal carer includes any person, such as a family member, friend or neighbour, who is giving regular, ongoing assistance to another person without payment for the care given.

**Context:** Care and support networks where the carers are unpaid (other than pension or benefit) play a critical role in community services provision, especially in caring for frail aged and younger people with disability within the community.

Information about informal carers is therefore of fundamental importance in assessing the ongoing needs of clients and their carers, and in service planning. The presence of an informal carer is often a key indicator of a person's ability to remain at home, especially if the person requires assistance. The absence of an informal carer, where a vulnerable client lives alone, is an indicator of client risk. Information on client living arrangements and informal carer availability provides an indicator of the potential in-home support and the extent to which the burden of care is absorbed by the informal caring system.

The stability or otherwise of the informal carer's availability may be significant in the capacity of the client continuing to remain at home.

Existing carer definitions (e.g. for purposes of establishing eligibility for Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefits (DNCB/Carer Allowance; Carer's Pension/Carer Payment) definitions used in ABS population, surveys of disability, ageing and carers) vary in context and purpose.

**Specialisation of:** [Service/care provider](#)

### Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** The definition excludes formal care services such as homecare, care provided by volunteers or foster care that is arranged by formal services. It also excludes unregistered child carers who are receiving payment for their services. Where a potential carer is not prepared to undertake the caring role, the carer is considered to be not available.

### Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Origin:** Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services 1998. Home and Community Care (HACC) data dictionary version 1.0: Home and Community Care Program National Minimum Data Set. Cat. no. AIHW 3600. Canberra: AIHW.

## Property attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

**Property:** [Primary carer indicator](#)  
**Definition:** An indicator of whether a carer provides assistance in one or more of the core activities (communication, mobility and self-care).  
**Property group:** [Service provision event](#)

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Data element concept attributes

### Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

### Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Informal carer—primary carer indicator](#)

- [Disability](#), Superseded 15/12/2017

**Data Elements implementing this Data Element Concept:** [Informal carer—primary carer indicator, code N](#)

- [Disability](#), Standard 15/12/2017