

Living arrangements for children under care (LA) file cluster

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Data Set Specification

METEOR identifier: 688441

Registration status:

- [Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021

DSS type: Data Element Cluster

Scope: The Living arrangements for children under care (LA) file cluster contains information about the living arrangements recorded during the reference period for children under the care of a Department responsible for child protection (i.e. children on orders who were not in funded out-of-home care and children in funded out-of-home care placements regardless of whether they were on an order).

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: For this file a person is a child or young person aged less than 18 years.

Funded out-of-home care placements are defined as out-of-home overnight care for children aged less than 18 years, where the state makes a financial payment or where a financial payment has been offered but has been declined by the carer. This includes placements with relatives (other than parents) where the state makes a financial payment or where a financial payment has been offered but has been declined by the carer. It should be noted that children in funded 'out-of-home care' include children in both legal and voluntary placements and placements made for the purpose of providing respite for parents/carers. Children who enter and exit a funded out-of-home care placement on the same day are excluded. Placements solely funded by disability services, psychiatric services, specialist homelessness services, juvenile justice facilities, or overnight child care services are also excluded.

Collection methods: Note that a client may appear more than once in this file. Each change in living arrangement a child has will be a new line in the file, delineated by a start and end date. Changes in living arrangement include: a change in the type of living arrangement (e.g. from home-based to a facility-based placement); or within living arrangement types, a change in the venue (e.g. a change from one home-based placement to a different home-based placement).

However, short breaks in out-of-home care placements (not for the purpose of respite) whereby the child is not at their usual place of residence but the intention is for the child to return to their prior living arrangement (i.e. their room and most of their substantial possessions remain in the original home environment) should not be recorded as a new living arrangement in the file. These breaks include: hospital admissions, periods of time spent in juvenile detention centres, holidays, school camps and excursions. However, any break of 60 days or more is deemed to be an exit from out-of-home care.

For family group homes, if the carers leave the home for more than 14 days at a time (e.g. annual leave), this should be recorded as a new living arrangement in the file.

Implementation start date: 01/07/2015

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

Comments: Data are extracted as at 31 August. The 2016–17 reporting period is the main collection period. Data for 2015–16 are also collected to allow specific calculations to be undertaken.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Steward: [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#)

Origin: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2017. Child protection national minimum data set, data collection manual 2016-17. Canberra: AIHW.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Living arrangements for children under care \(LA\) file cluster](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/04/2018

Has been superseded by [Living arrangements for children under care \(LA\) file cluster](#)

- [Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Child protection NMDS 2016-17](#)
[Children and Families](#), Superseded 21/01/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2015

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
1	Person—person identifier, child protection NX[X(11)]	Mandatory	1
2	Service event—living arrangement start date, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	1
3	Address—suburb/town/locality name, text X[X(45)]	Mandatory	1
4	Address—Australian postcode, Australian postcode code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}	Mandatory	1
5	Address—statistical area, level 2 (SA2) code (ASGS 2011) N(9)	Mandatory	1
6	Service event—financial payment indicator, out-of-home care code N[N]	Mandatory	1
7	Service event—living arrangement type, child under care code N[N]	Mandatory	1
8	Service event—respite placement indicator, yes/no/not applicable/not stated/inadequately described code N	Conditional	1
9	Person—relationship of carer to child, code N[N]	Mandatory	1
10	Service event—Indigenous agency placement indicator, yes/no/not applicable/not stated/inadequately described code N	Conditional	1
11	Carer household—caregiver type, Indigenous child caregiver code N[N]	Conditional	1
12	Carer household—household identifier, child protection identifier NX[X(11)]	Mandatory	1
13	Service event—living arrangement end date, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	1
14	Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY	Conditional	1
15	Service episode—funded out-of-home care placement, number N[NN]	Conditional	1

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