

# Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2019-

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Data Set Specification

**METEOR identifier:** 689064

**Registration status:**

- [Homelessness](#), Standard 10/08/2018

**DSS type:** National Minimum Data Set (NMDS)

**Scope:** The Specialist Homelessness Services National Minimum Data Set (SHS NMDS) aims to provide quality information about people who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are seeking services from specialist homelessness agencies.

This collection is intended to obtain information about clients receiving ongoing or short-term support, as well as people who are seeking assistance but did not receive any services. Data collection includes basic socio-demographic information and the services required by and provided to each client. Details about accompanying children are also recorded. Additionally, information is obtained about the client circumstances before, during and after receiving support.

The base unit of this collection is a person who presents to a Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) agency requesting a service or services. A person becomes a client once they receive a service or services. The period of time a client receives assistance from a SHS agency is commonly referred to as a support period. It relates to the provision of assistance and/or supported accommodation. A support period is considered finished when the relationship between the client and the agency ends or the client has reached their maximum amount of support.

During a support period there are, in most cases, a series of service episodes or assistance, other than supported accommodation, provided to the client by the SHS agency. For the purposes of the SHS NMDS, assistance also includes contact with a client, or work on behalf of a client.

The SHS NMDS has three 'views' for collection purposes, they are: Unassisted person, Client and Specialist homelessness agency.

An 'Unassisted person' in the context of this collection is any person who seeks assistance from an agency and is not successful in obtaining that assistance. A 'Client' is a person who receives services either directly or indirectly from an agency. A 'Specialist homelessness agency' is an organisation which receives government funding to deliver a specialist homelessness service to a client.

The SHS NMDS provides for information to be collected for each person who seeks services, irrespective of whether they are on their own or part of a family or other group. The 'Presenting unit' describes a single person or a group of people, and the relationship between members presenting for services. The 'Presenting unit head' describes a person in the 'Presenting unit' used to determine how people within the group are related.

## Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** For jurisdictions who have high volume central intake or localised entry point agencies (for example Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory), data for unmet demand and unassisted requests for services are not directly comparable with other states and territories.

## Comments:

The 2011 SHS NMDS was developed to support the collection of data under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations for Homelessness. It replaced the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) collection from July 2011.

In 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to reform federal financial relations to improve the quality and effectiveness of government services. These reforms led to the establishment of the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), which includes specific performance measures in relation to homelessness.

In conjunction with these reforms, the Australian Government initiated a comprehensive policy review, setting out a national approach to reducing homelessness in the White Paper: The Road Home, A National Approach to Reducing Homelessness.

The SHS NMDS 2019- continues to reflect the outcome based performance framework promoted by the COAG Reforms and White Paper. It supports the collection, analysis and reporting of client-based data. This allows for the production of statistical information about clients' circumstances, the assistance they receive and the outcomes that are achieved for them. This information can be used to inform policy design, evaluation, service improvement and monitoring of specialist homelessness services in Australia.

The collection has developed over time to provide improved information about clients of SHS agencies. Changes in 2013 provided for the collection of information about clients with disabilities. Following this, in 2017 changes enabled the collection of data about clients who are former or current members of the Australian Defence Force.

The SHS NMDS 2019- provides for further collection enhancements including:

- Data about family and domestic violence, for example services for victims and perpetrators of family and domestic violence.
- Improved data for identifying culturally and linguistically diverse clients.
- Scope to collect data for clients who are not male or female.
- Identification of clients who are receiving an agreed package of support from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

## Source and reference attributes

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

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** See also [SAAP Administrative National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\)](#)

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Retired 01/07/2011

Supersedes [Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2017-19](#)

- [Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018

## Metadata items in this Data Set Specification [Show more detail](#)

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	<a href="#">Specialist Homelessness Services accommodation type and start/end date cluster</a>	Conditional	16
-	<a href="#">Specialist Homelessness Services activity cluster</a>	Conditional	1

- <a href="#">Specialist Homelessness Services disability flag cluster</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Specialist Homelessness Services financial assistance type and amount cluster</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Statistical linkage key 581 cluster</a>	Mandatory	1
- <a href="#">Address—Australian postcode, code (Postcode datafile) NNNN</a>	Conditional	2
- <a href="#">Address—suburb/town/locality name, text X[X(45)]</a>	Conditional	2
- <a href="#">Child—care arrangements, care and protection order code N[N]</a>	Conditional	4
- <a href="#">Client—case management goal status, code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Client—case management plan indicator, yes/no code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Client—consent indicator, yes/no code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Client—reason case management plan does not exist, code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Client—reason case management plan does not exist, text A[A(49)]</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—Australian Defence Force indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—Australian state/territory identifier, code N</a>	Conditional	2
- <a href="#">Person—conditions of occupancy, code N</a>	Conditional	4
- <a href="#">Person—country of birth, code (SACC 2016) NNNN</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—first service request indicator, yes/no/unknown/not stated/inadequately described code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—formally diagnosed mental health condition indicator, yes/no/don't know/can't remember code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—Full-time/part-time status, code N</a>	Conditional	4
- <a href="#">Person—government funding identifier, Centrelink customer reference number N(9)A</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—housing tenure type, homelessness code N</a>	Conditional	4
- <a href="#">Person—Indigenous status, code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—labour force status, code N</a>	Conditional	4
- <a href="#">Person—living arrangement, homelessness code N</a>	Conditional	4
- <a href="#">Person—main language other than English spoken at home, code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN]</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—mental health services received indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—mental health services received timeframe, code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—new client indicator, code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—number of people presenting, total N[N]</a>	Mandatory	1
- <a href="#">Person—participation in National Disability Insurance Scheme indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—period of time since last permanent living place, code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—previously homeless status, code N</a>	Conditional	6
- <a href="#">Person—previously resided in institution/facility indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—principal source of cash income, code NNNN</a>	Conditional	4
- <a href="#">Person—proficiency in spoken English, code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—reason for seeking assistance, homelessness code N[N]</a>	Conditional	27
- <a href="#">Person—reason for seeking assistance, text A[A(49)]</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—reason service not provided, code N[N]</a>	Conditional	11
- <a href="#">Person—registered/awaiting government payment indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N</a>	Conditional	4
- <a href="#">Person—relationship to the presenting unit head, code N[N]</a>	Mandatory	1

- <a href="#">Person—relationship to the presenting unit head, text A[A(49)]</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—residential type, code N[N]</a>	Conditional	4
- <a href="#">Person—school enrolment and attendance status, code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—service requested, homelessness code N</a>	Conditional	5
- <a href="#">Person—source of information on a mental health issue, code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—source of information on a mental health issue, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—student type, code N</a>	Conditional	4
- <a href="#">Person—student/employment training indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N</a>	Conditional	4
- <a href="#">Person—type of institution or facility previously resided in, code N[N]</a>	Conditional	7
- <a href="#">Person—urgency of requested assistance, time period code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Person—year of first arrival in Australia, date YYYY</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Referral—formal referral source, homelessness code N[N]</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Service episode—reporting period, date MMYYYY</a>	Mandatory	1
- <a href="#">Service episode—service cessation reason, homelessness code N[N]</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Service episode—service ongoing indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Service event—assistance request date, DDMMYYYY</a>	Mandatory	1
- <a href="#">Service event—first service contact date, DDMMYYYY</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY</a>	Conditional	1
- <a href="#">Service provider organisation—organisation identifier, NNNNNA</a>	Mandatory	1