Person—proficiency in spoken English, code N

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

Person—proficiency in spoken English, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Proficiency in spoken English
METEOR identifier:	695981
Registration status:	Health, Standard 05/10/2022
	Homelessness, Standard 10/08/2018
Definition:	A person's self-assessed level of ability to speak English, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Person—proficiency in spoken English
Value Domain:	Proficiency in spoken English code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	1	
	Value	**Meaning**
Permissible values:	1	Very well
	2	Well
	3	Not well
	4	Not at all
Supplementary values:	7	Not applicable
	9	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	CODE 7 Not applicable
	This code is used for respondents who do not speak a language other than English for their first language spoken and/or do not speak a language other than English at home.
	CODE 9 Not stated/inadequately described
	This code is not to be used on primary collection forms. It is primarily for use in administrative collections when transferring data from data sets where the item has not been collected.
Collection methods:	A question on proficiency in spoken English is asked of respondents whose first language spoken is a language other than English, or those who speak a language other than English at home.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Origin:	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) Standards for statistics on cultural and language diversity 1999. ABS cat. no. 1289.0. Canberra: ABS.Viewed 27 October 2017, http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1289.0.
Reference documents:	ABS 2016. Language standards, 2016. ABS cat. no. 1200.0.55.005. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 27 October 2017, http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1200.0.55.005.

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Collection methods:	This data element is only intended to be collected for people whose first language spoken is a language other than English, or who speak a language other than English at home.
	There are 2 standard question modules for collecting proficiency in spoken English: self-enumerated surveys and surveys conducted by interview.
	Self-enumerated survey:
	Question: How well [do you] [does the person] speak English?
	- Very well ☐
	- Well ☐
	- Not well ☐
	- Not at all ☐
	Interview-based survey:
	Question: Do you consider [you speak] [(name)] speaks] English very well, well, not well or not at all?
	- Very well ☐
	- Well ☐
	- Not well ☐
	- Not at all ☐
	Generally this would be a self-reported question, but in some circumstances (particularly where a person does not speak English well) assistance may be required in answering this question. It is important that the person's self-assessed proficiency in spoken English be recorded wherever possible.
	The standard question modules for proficiency in spoken English should be asked after a language question which identifies people who speak a language other than English. This can be done using the following variables:
	- First language spoken
	- Languages spoken at home
	- Main language other than English spoken at home
	- Main language spoken at home.

Comments: For people living in Australia a lack of proficiency in spoken English may impact a person's access to employment, education and other government and non-government services. This data element is used primarily to identify people who may experience disadvantage as a result of a lack of competence in spoken English. This information can be used to assess, measure and monitor service needs.

In conjunction with the data elements [Person—Indigenous status, code N](#), [Person—main language other than English spoken at home, code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN]](#) and [Person—country of birth, code (SACC 2016) NNNN](#); this data element forms the minimum core set of cultural and language variables recommended by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for collection.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Origin: ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) Standards for statistics on cultural and language diversity 1999. ABS cat. no. 1289.0. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 27 October 2017, http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1289.0.

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Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Person—proficiency in spoken English, code N](#)
[Community Services (retired)](#), Standard 01/03/2005
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
[Health](#), Standard 01/03/2005
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/02/2006

See also [Person—country of birth, code (SACC 2016) NNNN](#)
[Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023
[Australian Teacher Workforce Data Oversight Board](#), Standard 30/08/2022
[Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired)](#), Standard 20/06/2018
[Disability](#), Standard 15/12/2017
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2016
[Homelessness](#), Standard 10/08/2018
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 27/06/2017
[Youth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

See also [Person—first language spoken, code (ASCL 2011) NN{NN}](#)
[Community Services (retired)](#), Standard 13/10/2011
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
[Health](#), Standard 13/10/2011
[Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 13/10/2011

See also [Person—main language other than English spoken at home, code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN]](#)
[Children and Families](#), Standard 20/01/2021
[Health](#), Standard 25/01/2018
[Homelessness](#), Standard 10/08/2018

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

Dementia NBPDS
Health, Standard 05/10/2022

Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2019-
Homelessness, Standard 10/08/2018

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is conditional on the client speaking a language other than English at home. The data element Person—main language other than English spoken at home, code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN] must receive a response of Yes, other - please specify for this data to be collected. This data element is also only collected for clients aged 5 years and over.

For clients who respond to the data element Person—main language other than English spoken at home, code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN] No, English only and for clients aged less than 5 a Not applicable response is recorded.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.

This collection records a response of Don't know (Code 99) which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (Code 9) in the Standard.

This collection records a response of Not applicable (Code 0) which is equivalent to the code Not applicable (Code 7) in the Standard.