

Youth Justice NMDS 2020–23

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Youth Justice NMDS 2020–23

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Data Set Specification

METEOR identifier: 743935

Registration status: [Youth Justice, Superseded 24/06/2024](#)

DSS type: National Minimum Data Set (NMDS)

Scope: The Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS) 2020–23 contains information about young people under youth justice supervision in Australia. Young people under youth justice supervision are defined as those who are under the supervision or case management of a youth justice agency because they have:

- committed or allegedly committed an offence between the ages of 10–17 years

OR

- committed or allegedly committed an offence when aged over 17 years and who are treated as young people due to their vulnerability or immaturity.

It does not contain information on young people who are supervised or case managed by organisations other than a youth justice agency (for example, young people supervised by an adult correctional agency).

The figure below summarises a range of possible pathways through the youth justice system. The stages that require a young person to be supervised by youth justice agencies and to be included in the YJ NMDS are shaded. These stages are the focus of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) reporting series on youth justice supervision.

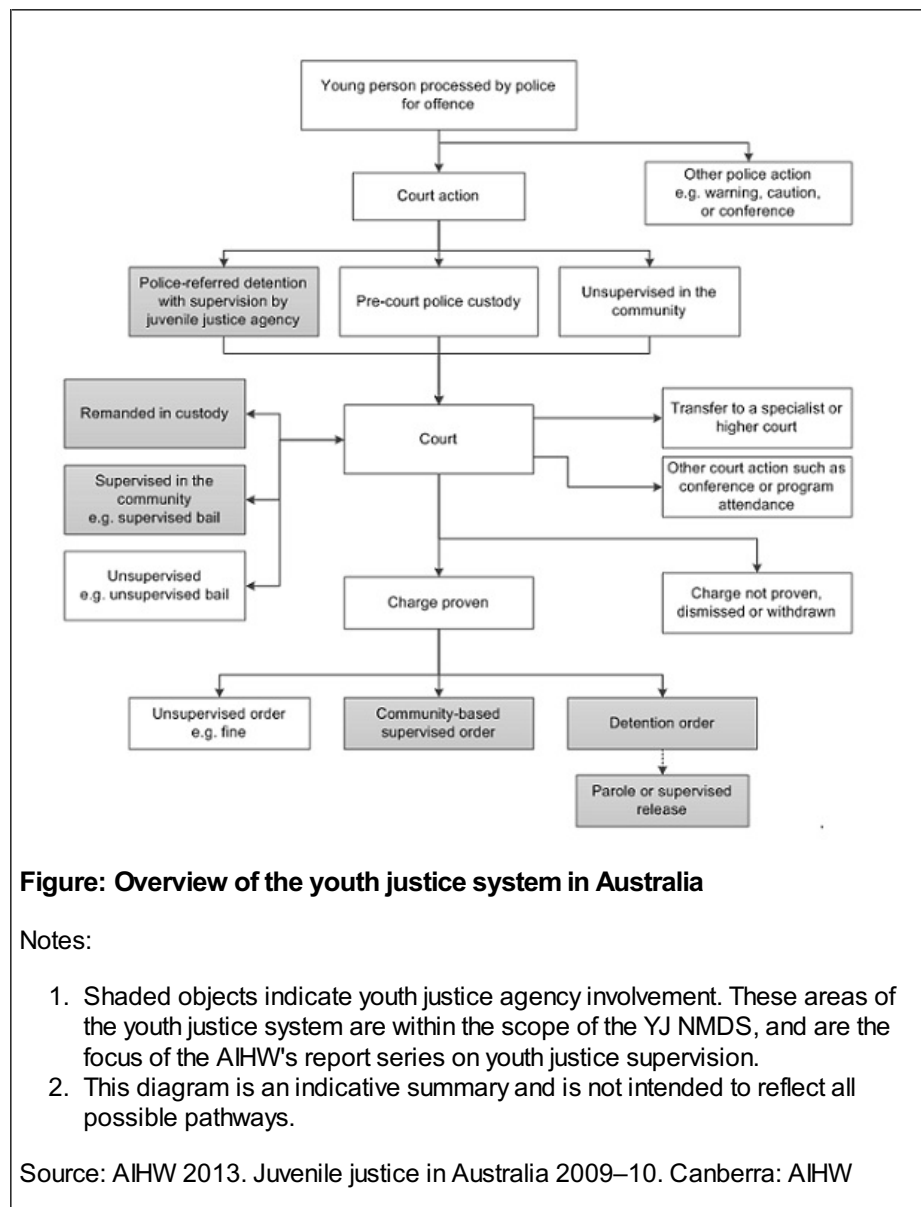


Figure: Overview of the youth justice system in Australia

Notes:

1. Shaded objects indicate youth justice agency involvement. These areas of the youth justice system are within the scope of the YJ NMDS, and are the focus of the AIHW's report series on youth justice supervision.
2. This diagram is an indicative summary and is not intended to reflect all possible pathways.

Source: AIHW 2013. Juvenile justice in Australia 2009–10. Canberra: AIHW

YJ NMDS files (data element clusters)

The YJ NMDS 2020–23 contains four files: client file, order file, detention file and order types file.

Youth Justice Client file cluster

The client file cluster contains demographic information on young people under youth justice supervision.

Youth Justice Order file cluster

The order file cluster contains information about the supervised orders handed down by courts and parole boards to young people under youth justice supervision.

Youth Justice Detention file cluster

The detention file cluster contains information about the periods of detention of young people under youth justice supervision. A detention period relates to the period of time a young person is detained in a youth justice remand or detention centre in relation to a particular detention type. A new reception into a detention centre, a change in legal status and a transfer to another detention centre all start a new detention period, while a release from a detention centre, a transfer to another centre or another jurisdiction, a change in legal status, an escape and an abscond all end a detention period.

Youth Justice Order types file cluster

The order types file cluster links the orders available in jurisdictions with the national

order categories.

Collection and usage attributes

Statistical unit: Person

Collection methods: Data are collected by state and territory youth justice agencies and provided to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for national collation, on an annual basis.

Implementation start date: 01/07/2020

Implementation end date: 30/06/2023

Comments: In April 2019 the Australasian Youth Justice Administrators changed their name from Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (and the name of the collection), replacing 'juvenile justice' with 'youth justice'.

Youth Justice NMDS redevelopment

Following a review of the YJ NMDS by KPMG in 2008 and 2009, the YJ NMDS was redeveloped to its current format from 2011–12 onwards. For more information on the redevelopment, see the [Juvenile Justice NMDS 2011–12](#).

Source and reference attributes

Steward: [Australian Youth Justice Administrators \(AYJA\)](#)

Origin: AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2004. Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set Version 1.3 Data Dictionary. Canberra: AIHW.

Reference documents: AIHW 2021. Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set. Data Collection Manual 2020–21. Canberra: AIHW.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Youth Justice NMDS 2018–20 Youth Justice](#), Superseded 23/08/2022

Has been superseded by [Youth Justice NMDS 2023–Youth Justice](#), Standard 24/06/2024

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Youth Justice DSS 2020–23 Youth Justice](#), Superseded 24/06/2024

Implementation start date: 01/07/2020

Implementation end date: 30/06/2023

Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
1	Youth Justice Client file cluster	Mandatory	1

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs																		
1	<p>Person—person identifier, XXXXXX[X(14)]</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>The person identifier is a jurisdictionally-specific code that uniquely identifies a young person (youth justice client) within the State or Territory youth justice agency responsible for the young person.</p> <p>A State or Territory identifier should be the first character of the person identifier according to the following:</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1</td><td>New South Wales</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>Victoria</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>Queensland</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>South Australia</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>Western Australia</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>Tasmania</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>Northern Territory</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>Australian Capital Territory</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>Other territories (e.g. Christmas Island)</td></tr> </table>	1	New South Wales	2	Victoria	3	Queensland	4	South Australia	5	Western Australia	6	Tasmania	7	Northern Territory	8	Australian Capital Territory	9	Other territories (e.g. Christmas Island)	Mandatory	1
1	New South Wales																				
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2	<p>Person—letters of family name, text XXX</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>'Letters of name' is collected as one item in cell number 2 and is a specific combination of the 2nd, 3rd and 5th letters of the person's <u>family name</u> and the 2nd and 3rd letters of the person's given name.</p>	Mandatory	1																		
3	<p>Person—letters of given name, text XX</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>'Letters of name' is collected as one item in cell number 2 and is a specific combination of the 2nd, 3rd and 5th letters of the person's family name and the 2nd and 3rd letters of the person's <u>given name</u>.</p>	Mandatory	1																		
4	<p>Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>The young person should be aged 10–25 years at the order start date.</p> <p>The young person should be aged 10–25 years at the detention start date.</p>	Mandatory	1																		
5	Person—sex, code X	Mandatory	1																		
6	Person—Indigenous status, code N	Mandatory	1																		

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
7	Service event—first service contact date, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is used in the youth justice client file cluster as the date on which the person was first supervised or case managed by the youth justice department (date of first supervised order).</p> <p>Guide for Use</p> <p>The date can be before the start of the NMDS (i.e. 1/7/00).</p> <p>A 'contact' is an event that is counted as part of a supervised order (i.e., would be within scope for the YJ NMDS).</p> <p>Do not include court appearances or other types of contacts.</p> <p>If the first service contact date is unknown, leave the field blank.</p> <p>Business rules</p> <p>The first service contact must be on or before the end of the reporting period.</p> <p>The first service contact date must be before or equal to the earliest order start date in the YJ NMDS.</p> <p>The young person's age at the first service contact date (calculated using DOB) should be at least 10 years.</p>		
2	Youth Justice Order file cluster	Mandatory	99
1	Person—person identifier, XXXXXX[X(14)]	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>The person identifier is a jurisdictionally-specific code that uniquely identifies a young person (youth justice client) within the State or Territory youth justice department responsible for the young person.</p> <p>A State or Territory identifier should be the first character of the person identifier according to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 New South Wales 2 Victoria 3 Queensland 4 South Australia 5 Western Australia 6 Tasmania 7 Northern Territory 8 Australian Capital Territory 9 Other territories (e.g. Christmas Island) 		

2 [Order—order identifier, X\[X\(49\)\]](#)

Mandatory 99

DSS specific information:

For the purposes of the YJ NMDS, this unique identifier is retained across collection periods. The identifier is assigned by the State or Territory youth justice department.

In the order file, the order identifier will in most cases be unique. However, where a single order specifies multiple types of supervision, for example a blended order that specifies a period in detention followed by a period of community-based supervision, the information relating to each type of supervision will comprise a separate record but the Order identifier will remain the same.

In the example below, order #10001 is a blended order that comprises a period in detention from 1/1/08 to 1/6/08 followed by a period in the community from 1/6/08 to 1/12/08. Order #10002 is an unrelated remand order.

Person identifier	Order identifier	Order start date	Order end date	Order type-national	Order end reason	Comment
1	10001	01/01/08	01/06/08	35 (sentenced detention)	completed	blended order part 1
1	10001	01/06/08	01/12/08	31 (sentenced community-based with and without additional mandated requirements)	completed	blended order part 2
1	10002	15/01/09	20/01/09	21 (remand)	completed	unrelated order

Queensland: Don't count detention orders that are followed by a period of supervised release as blended orders.

Business rules

- If the [order identifier](#) matches the order identifier of another record and the person identifiers are the same, the [order end date](#) of the first record should equal the [order start date](#) of the second record.
- The [order identifier \(charge file\)](#) must be in the order file.
- If the [order type \(order file\)](#) is an unsentenced order then there must be a record in the charge file with a matching [order identifier](#).
- The [order identifier \(offence file\)](#) must be in the order file.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
3	Order—order start date, DDMMYYYY DSS specific information: Guide for use <p>This date may not necessarily be the date that supervision began; for example, if a sentence of detention is backdated to the start of the young person’s remand period, the order start date will be before the period of sentenced detention actually began.</p> <p>Orders may be concurrent and overlap; that is, the order start date may be before the order end date of the previous order.</p> <p>The order start date is the date the order first comes into effect, which may not necessarily be the same as the date the court handed down the order. Orders that are handed down by a court to take effect in the future should not be backdated to the date they were handed down.</p> Business rules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The order start date must be on or before the order end date. • The young person should be aged at least 10 years (based on date of birth) at the order start date. • The young person should be aged 10–25 years (inclusive) at the order start date. • The order start date must be on or before the end of the reporting period. • If the order end reason for a previous order was 3 (death) there must not be any subsequent orders. • If the order identifier matches the order identifier of another record and the person identifiers are the same, the order end date of the first record should equal the order start date of the second record. 	Mandatory	99
4	Order—order issue date, DDMMYYYY DSS specific information: Guide for use <p>The order issue date is the date on which a legal order or arrangement is handed down or issued by the court.</p> <p>The order issue date can differ from the order start date as it is the date that the order was handed by the court, while the order state date is the date an order comes into effect.</p> <p>Orders can be handed down to take effect in the future. In these cases, the order issue date will be before the order start date.</p> <p>The order issue date can be equal to the order start date if the order was issued on the same day that the order came into effect.</p> <p>The order issue date can also be after the order start date if the court order was backdated to take into account time already served. For example, if a sentence of detention is backdated to the start of the young person’s remand period, the order start date will be before the period of sentenced detention actually began.</p>	Mandatory	99

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
5	Order—order end date, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	99
	<i>DSS specific information:</i>		
	Guide for use		
	<p>The order end date is the date the order ceases to be in effect, as specified on the order.</p> <p>If a young person ceases to be under the supervision relating to the order, but the order is still in effect, the order does not end. For example, if a young person is given a sentenced detention order with an end date of 1 December but is released on supervised release or parole on 1 November, the order end date remains 1 December unless the court varies the end date of the order.</p> <p>If the court varies the end date of the order, the new (varied) end date is the order end date.</p> <p>If an order is revoked or cancelled, the order end date is the date that the order was revoked or cancelled. This includes orders that are revoked or cancelled due to re-offending or failure to comply with conditions and orders that are cancelled, quashed or varied on appeal.</p> <p>If an order extends over two or more reporting periods and the order end date changes because the order was revoked, cancelled, quashed or varied, the order end date and the order end reason will differ between data submissions. The changed order end date should be supplied in the reporting period in which the order was revoked, cancelled, quashed or varied; however, a related record supplied in a previous data submission should not be updated. For example, a record relating to order ID 101 was supplied for the reporting period 2009–10 with an end date of 1/6/11 (that is, the order end date was after the end of the reporting period). A record relating to the same order was supplied in the following reporting period, 2010–11, but the order had been varied and now has an end date of 1/7/09. It is sufficient to report this new end date in the 2010–11 reporting period; a 'fix' is not required for the records relating to this order supplied in previous data submissions.</p> <p>When an order end date is after the end of the reporting period (e.g. for the 2009–10 reporting period, after the 30/06/2010) or if the order end date is null in the local data system, supply the order end date or insert the dummy date (22/02/2222) if the order end date is unknown. Do not end the order at the end of the reporting period.</p>		
	Business rules		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The order end date must be on or after the start of the reporting period. • The order start date must be on or before the order end date. • If the order end date is on or before the end of the reporting period, the order end reason must be a reason other than 0 (not applicable). • If the order identifier matches the order identifier of another record and the person identifiers are the same, the order end date of the first record should equal the order start date of the second record. 		
6	Order—order type, national youth justice legal order code NN	Mandatory	99
7	Order—order end reason, youth justice order end reason code N[N]	Mandatory	99

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
8	<p>Address—suburb/town/locality name, text X[X(45)]</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This item is collected for the young person's last known home address before entering youth justice supervision.</p> <p>Guide for Use</p> <p>A Suburb/Town/Locality may be a town, city, suburb or commonly used location name such as a large agricultural property or Aboriginal community. The name should be spelt correctly and consistently and should not be a youth justice detention facility.</p> <p>Enter 'UNKNOWN' where the locality name or geographic area is not known.</p> <p>Enter 'NO FIXED ADDRESS' where the young person has no fixed address or is homeless.</p> <p>Suburb and postcode information</p> <p>From July 2020, an all-inclusive list of postcodes and suburbs will be used to check postcodes in the YJ NMDS. This list consists of unique postcodes and suburbs across all current and historical versions of postcode data purchased by the AIHW.</p> <p>For the most current list of valid postcodes and suburbs, go to http://www.postconnect.com.au/postcode-data.</p>	Mandatory	99
9	<p>Address—Australian postcode, code (Postcode datafile) NNNN</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This item is collected for the young person's last known home address before entering youth justice supervision.</p> <p>Guide for Use</p> <p>Use the Australian Post postcode file.</p> <p>Leave the field blank if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the last known home address is unknown • the last known home address is outside Australia • the young person had no fixed address. <p>Suburb and postcode information</p> <p>From July 2020, an all-inclusive list of postcodes and suburbs will be used to check postcodes in the YJ NMDS. This list consists of unique postcodes and suburbs across all current and historical versions of postcode data purchased by the AIHW.</p> <p>For the most current list of valid postcodes and suburbs, go to http://www.postconnect.com.au/postcode-data.</p>	Mandatory	99

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
10	Person—Australian state/territory identifier, code N DSS specific information: This item is collected for the young person's last known home address before entering youth justice supervision. Guide for Use Leave the field blank if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the last known home address is unknown • the last known home address is outside Australia • the young person had no fixed address. 	Mandatory	99
3	Youth Justice Detention file cluster	Mandatory	99
1	Person—person identifier, XXXXXX[X(14)] DSS specific information: The person identifier is a jurisdictionally-specific code that uniquely identifies a young person (youth justice client) within the State or Territory youth justice department responsible for the young person. A State or Territory identifier should be the first character of the person identifier according to the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 New South Wales 2 Victoria 3 Queensland 4 South Australia 5 Western Australia 6 Tasmania 7 Northern Territory 8 Australian Capital Territory 9 Other territories (e.g. Christmas Island) 	Mandatory	1
2	Detention period—detention start date, DDMMYYYY DSS specific information: The period of time a person is detained in a remand or detention centre in relation to a particular detention type, without change in detention centre and without escaping or absconding. A person may have concurrent detention periods because detention periods relate to particular types of detention (e.g. remand, sentenced detention). For example, if a person is detained on remand at the same time as they are serving a sentenced detention order, they would have two concurrent detention periods—one period with the details of the remand detention and the other with details on the sentenced detention.	Mandatory	99

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
3	Detention period—detention end date, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	99
	DSS specific information:		
	Detention periods may be concurrent where the detention types are different.		
	When a detention end date is after the end of the reporting period (e.g. for the 2009–10 reporting period, after the 30/06/2010) or if the detention end date is null in the local data system, supply the actual detention end date or insert the dummy date (22/02/2222) if the detention end date is unknown. Do not end the order at the end of the reporting period.		
4	Detention period—detention type, youth justice detention type code N	Mandatory	99
5	Detention period—detention end reason, youth justice detention end reason code N N	Mandatory	99

DSS specific information:

Business rules:

- If the detention end reason is CODE 5 (release on parole), the [detention type](#) must be sentenced (CODE 3).
- If the detention end reason is released on bail, the [detention type](#) must be unsentenced (CODE 1, CODE 2).
- If the [detention end date](#) is on or before the end of the reporting period, the detention end reason must be a reason other than CODE 0 (not applicable).
- If the detention end reason for a previous detention period was CODE 2 (death) there must not be any subsequent detention periods.
- If the detention end reason is CODE 2 (death) there must be a corresponding order period with an [order end reason](#) of CODE 3 (death).
- If the [detention end date](#) is on or before the end of the reporting period, the detention end reason must be a reason other than CODE 0 (not applicable).
- If the [detention end date](#) is after the end of the reporting period, the detention end reason must be 0 (not applicable).
- If the detention end reason is CODE 4 (transfer to another youth detention centre within the jurisdiction), the next detention record must start within a day and have the same detention type.

No null values.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
6	<p>Address—suburb/town/locality name, text X[X(45)]</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This item is collected for the young person's last known home address before entering youth justice detention.</p> <p>A Suburb/Town/Locality may be a town, city, suburb or commonly used location name such as a large agricultural property or Aboriginal community. The name should be spelt correctly and consistently and should not be a youth justice detention facility.</p> <p>Enter 'Unknown' where the locality name or geographic area is not known.</p> <p>Enter 'No fixed address' where the young person has no fixed address or is homeless.</p> <p>Suburb and postcode information</p> <p>From July 2020, an all-inclusive list of postcodes and suburbs will be used to check postcodes in the YJ NMDS. This list consists of unique postcodes and suburbs across all current and historical versions of postcode data purchased by the AIHW.</p> <p>For the most current list of valid postcodes and suburbs, go to http://www.postconnect.com.au/postcode-data.</p>	Mandatory	99
7	<p>Address—Australian postcode, code (Postcode datafile) NNNN</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This item is collected twice: once for the young person's last known home address before entering youth justice detention and once for the youth detention centre.</p> <p>This item is collected for the young person's last known home address before entering youth justice supervision.</p> <p>Guide for Use</p> <p>Use the Australian Post postcode file.</p> <p>Leave the field blank if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the last known home address is unknown • the last known home address is outside Australia • the young person had no fixed address. <p>Suburb and postcode information</p> <p>From July 2020, an all-inclusive list of postcodes and suburbs will be used to check postcodes in the YJ NMDS. This list consists of unique postcodes and suburbs across all current and historical versions of postcode data purchased by the AIHW.</p> <p>For the most current list of valid postcodes and suburbs, go to http://www.postconnect.com.au/postcode-data.</p>	Mandatory	99
8	<p>Person—Australian state/territory identifier, code N</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This item is collected for the young person's last known home address before entering youth justice detention.</p>	Mandatory	99

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
9	Organisation—organisation name, text X[X(199)]	Mandatory	99
	DSS specific information:		
	This Data Element is used in the Detention file cluster to identify the name of the youth justice remand or detention centre where the young person is detained.		
	If the detention end date of the current detention period is after the detention start date of the next detention period, the organisation name (youth justice remand or detention centre) of the current period and the next detention period must be the same.		
4	Youth Justice Order types file cluster	Mandatory	1
1	Order—order type, identifier X[X(49)]	Mandatory	1
2	Order—order type, text X[X(99)]	Mandatory	1
	DSS specific information:		
	The Order type is a jurisdictionally-specific legal order or arrangement that has resulted in the supervision of the young person by the youth justice agency. A young person may be supervised as the result of multiple legal arrangements - each of these constitutes a separate order period.		
3	Order—order type, national youth justice legal order code NN	Mandatory	1
4	Service episode—reporting period, financial year YYYY-YY	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	This data element is not required if data supplied for a single reporting period.		
	If supplying data for multiple reporting periods, specify the reporting period to which the record relates		