

# Person—sexual orientation

**Metadata item type:** Data Element Concept  
**METEOR identifier:** 755718  
**Registration status:**

- [Health](#), Qualified 03/06/2022

  
**Definition:** The [sexual orientation](#) of a person.

## Object Class attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

**Object class:** [Person](#)  
**Definition:** A human being.

### Collection and usage attributes

**Comments:** Prior to 13 March 2018, the definition of the 'Person' Object class was 'A human being, whether man, woman or child'. From 13 March 2018, the definition was edited by removing the words '...whether man, woman or child' so that a person is defined as 'A human being'. This amendment was undertaken to align the definition of a person with the *Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender* and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *Standard for Sex and Gender Variables*, which recognise that there are sex and gender types that are not exclusively male or female.

### Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
**Origin:** Macquarie University 2003. *The Macquarie Dictionary 3rd ed.* Sydney: The Macquarie Library Pty. Ltd  
**Reference documents:** Attorney-General's Department 2015. Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender. Viewed 26 July 2016, <https://www.ag.gov.au/Publications/Pages/AustralianGovernmentGuidelinesontheRecognitionofSexandGender.aspx>  
ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2016. Standard for Sex and Gender Variables, 2016. ABS Cat. no. 1200.0.55.012. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 26 July 2016, [http://abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1200.0.55.012Main+Features12016?OpenDocument](http://abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1200.0.55.012>Main+Features12016?OpenDocument)

## Property attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

**Property:** [Sexual orientation](#)  
**Definition:** [The sexual orientation](#) of an individual.  
**Property group:** [Demographic/social/cultural characteristics](#)

### Source and reference attributes

**Origin:** ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2021. Standard for Sex, Gender, Variations of Sex Characteristics and sexual Orientation Variables. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 24 Feb 2022, <<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/standard-sex-gender-variations-sex-characteristics-and-sexual-orientation-variables/latest-release>>

## Data element concept attributes

### Source and reference attributes

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

**Origin:** ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2021. Standard for Sex, Gender, Variations of Sex Characteristics and Sexual Orientation Variables. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 23 Feb 2022, <<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/standard-sex-gender-variations-sex-characteristics-and-sexual-orientation-variables/latest-release>>

### Relational attributes

**Data Elements implementing this Data Element Concept:**

[Person—sexual orientation, code N\[N\]](#)

- [Health](#), Qualified 03/06/2022

[Person—sexual orientation, text X\[X\(99\)\]](#)

- [Health](#), Qualified 03/06/2022