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# Informal carer

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**Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>**

## *Identifying and Definitional Attributes*

- Data Dictionary: NCSDD
- Knowledgebase ID: 000508                      Version number: 2
- Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT
- Admin status: SUPERSEDED                      Effective date: 01-MAR-05
- Definition: A carer includes any person, such as a family member, friend or neighbour, who is giving regular, ongoing assistance to another person without payment for the care given.  
The definition excludes formal care services such as homecare, care provided by volunteers or foster care that is arranged by formal services. It also excludes unregistered child carers who are receiving payment for their services. Where a potential carer is not prepared to undertake the caring role, the carer is considered to be not available.
- Context: Care and support networks where the carers are unpaid (other than pension or benefit) play a critical role in community services provision, especially in caring for frail aged and younger people with disabilities within the community. Information about carers is therefore of fundamental importance in assessing the ongoing needs of clients and their carers, and in service planning. The presence of a carer is often a key indicator of a person's ability to remain at home, especially if the person requires assistance. The absence of a carer, where a vulnerable client lives alone, is an indicator of client risk. Information on client living arrangement and informal carer availability provides an indicator of the potential in-home support and the extent to which the burden of care is absorbed by the informal caring system. The stability or otherwise of the carer's availability may be significant in the capacity of the client continuing to remain at home.  
Existing carer definitions (eg. for purposes of establishing eligibility for Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefits (DNCB/Carer Allowance; Carer's Pension/Carer Payment) definitions used in ABS population, surveys of disability, ageing and carers) vary in context and purpose.

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype:

Related metadata: relates to the data element Carer co-residency version 1  
relates to the data element Activity - level of difficulty version 1  
relates to the data element Relationship of carer to care recipient version 1  
relates to the data element concept Family version 2  
relates to the data element concept Volunteer version 2

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### *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document: Home and Community Care (HACC) Data Dictionary Version 1.0, 1998

Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

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### *Data Element Links*

#### *Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

NCSIM Carer role

#### *Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

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