

# Person—marital status

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# Person—marital status

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Data Element Concept

**METEOR identifier:** 269533

**Registration status:** [Health!](#), Standard 01/03/2005  
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 01/03/2005  
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/02/2006  
[WA Health](#), Standard 19/03/2015  
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015  
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Qualified 23/11/2015  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 01/09/2016  
[Commonwealth Department of Social Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/06/2018

**Definition:** A person's current relationship status in terms of a couple relationship or, for those not in a couple relationship, the existence of a current or previous registered marriage.

**Context:** Marital status is a core metadata item in a wide range of social, labour and demographic statistics. Its main purpose is analysis of the association of marital status with the need for and use of services, and for epidemiological analysis.

Marital status also acts as an indicator for the level of support adult recipients of the welfare system have at home. The item is also used in comparisons of administrative data and population censuses and surveys.

## 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:** [Marital status](#)  
**Definition:** An indicator of involvement in a couple relationship or marriage.  
**Property group:** [Demographic/social/cultural characteristics](#)

## Source and reference attributes

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

# Data element concept attributes

## Relational attributes

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

- [Person—adoptive parent marital status, code N](#)  
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/05/2013
- [Person—marital status, code AAA](#)  
[WA Health](#), Standard 19/03/2015
- [Person—marital status, code N](#)  
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 25/08/2005  
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015  
[Health!](#), Standard 04/05/2005  
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/02/2006  
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Qualified 23/11/2015
- [Person—marital status, code N](#)  
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 25/08/2005  
[Health!](#), Superseded 04/05/2005
- [Person—marital status, housing assistance code N](#)  
[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 10/02/2006
- [Person—marital status, recipient code AAA](#)  
[Commonwealth Department of Social Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/06/2018
- [Person—marital status, Tasmanian code X{XX}](#)  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 01/09/2016