

# Person—Indigenous status, code N

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# Person—Indigenous status, code N

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Data Element  
**Short name:** Indigenous status  
**Synonymous names:** Indigenous status  
**METEOR identifier:** 270157  
**Registration status:** [Health!](#), Superseded 04/05/2005  
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 25/08/2005

## Data element concept attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

**Data element concept:** [Person—Indigenous status](#)  
**METEOR identifier:** 269618  
**Registration status:** [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 01/03/2005  
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Standard 01/11/2012  
[WA Health](#), Standard 06/03/2014  
[Health!](#), Superseded 19/11/2015  
[Disability](#), Superseded 29/02/2016  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 01/09/2016  
[Children and Families](#), Standard 22/11/2016  
[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/08/2017  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 16/10/2017  
[Early Childhood](#), Superseded 24/07/2018  
[Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018

**Definition:** Indigenous Status is a measure of whether a person identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. This is in accord with the first two of three components of the Commonwealth definition.

**Context:** Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples occupy a unique place in Australian society and culture. In the current climate of reconciliation, accurate and consistent statistics about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are needed in order to plan, promote and deliver essential services, to monitor changes in wellbeing and to account for government expenditure in this area. The purpose of this metadata item is to provide information about people who identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. Agencies or establishments wishing to determine the eligibility of individuals for particular benefits, services or rights will need to make their own judgments about the suitability of the standard measure for these purposes, having regard to the specific eligibility criteria for the program concerned.

**Object class:** [Person](#)  
**Property:** [Indigenous status](#)

## Value domain attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

**Value domain:** [Indigenous status code N](#)  
**METEOR identifier:** 270885  
**Registration status:** [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 01/03/2005  
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Standard 01/11/2012  
[WA Health](#), Standard 06/03/2014  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 16/09/2014  
[Health!](#), Superseded 19/11/2015  
[Disability](#), Superseded 29/02/2016  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 01/09/2016  
[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/08/2017  
[Early Childhood](#), Superseded 24/07/2018  
[Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018  
[Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021

**Definition:** A code set representing Indigenous status.

### Representational attributes

**Representation class:** Code  
**Data type:** Number  
**Format:** N  
**Maximum character length:** 1

	Value	Meaning
<b>Permissible values:</b>	1	Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin
	2	Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin
	3	Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin
	4	Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin
<b>Supplementary values:</b>	9	Not stated/inadequately described

## Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** This metadata item is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) standard for Indigenous status. For detailed advice on its use and application please refer to the ABS Website as indicated in the Reference documents.

The classification for Indigenous status has a hierarchical structure comprising two levels. There are four categories at the detailed level of the classification which are grouped into two categories at the broad level. There is one supplementary category for 'not stated' responses. The classification is as follows:

Indigenous:

- Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin.
- Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin.
- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

Non-Indigenous:

- Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin.

Not stated/ inadequately described:

This category is not to be available as a valid answer to the questions but is intended for use:

- Primarily when importing data from other data collections that do not contain mappable data.
- Where an answer was refused.
- Where the question was not able to be asked prior to completion of assistance because the client was unable to communicate or a person who knows the client was not available.

Only in the last two situations may the tick boxes on the questionnaire be left blank.

## Data element attributes

### Collection and usage attributes

**Collection methods:** The standard question for Indigenous Status is as follows:

[Are you] [Is the person] [Is (name)] of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

(For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.)

No.....

Yes, Aboriginal.....

Yes, Torres Strait Islander.....

This question is recommended for self-enumerated or interview-based collections. It can also be used in circumstances where a close relative, friend, or another member of the household is answering on behalf of the subject. It is strongly recommended that this question be asked directly wherever possible.

When someone is not present, the person answering for them should be in a position to do so, i.e. this person must know well the person about whom the question is being asked and feel confident to provide accurate information about them.

This question must always be asked regardless of data collectors' perceptions based on appearance or other factors.

The Indigenous status question allows for more than one response. The procedure for coding multiple responses is as follows: If the respondent marks 'No' and either 'Aboriginal' or 'Torres Strait Islander', then the response should be coded to either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as indicated (i.e. disregard the 'No' response).

If the respondent marks both the 'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander' boxes, then their response should be coded to 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin'.

If the respondent marks all three boxes ('No', 'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander'), then the response should be coded to 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin' (i.e. disregard the 'No' response).

This approach may be problematical in some data collections, for example when data are collected by interview or using screen based data capture systems. An additional response category

Yes, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander...

May be included if this better suits the data collection practices of the agency or establishment concerned.

**Comments:** This metadata item is common to both the National Community Services Data Dictionary and the National Health Data Dictionary.

The following definition, commonly known as 'The Commonwealth Definition', was given in a High Court judgement in the case of *Commonwealth v Tasmania* (1983) 46 ALR 625.

'An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives'.

There are three components to the Commonwealth definition:

- descent;
- self-identification; and
- community acceptance.

In practice, it is not feasible to collect information on the community acceptance part of this definition in general purpose statistical and administrative collections and therefore standard questions on Indigenous status relate to descent and self-identification only.

### Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** National Health Data Committee

National Community Services Data Committee

Reference documents: Australian Bureau of Statistics 1999. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra. Viewed 3 August 2005, <http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/66f306f503e529a5ca25697e0017661f204de801c48453e4ca25697e0018fe46!OpenDocument>

## Relational attributes

### Related metadata references:

Has been superseded by [Person—Indigenous status, code N Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021  
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 25/08/2005  
[Disability](#), Superseded 29/02/2016  
[Early Childhood](#), Superseded 24/07/2018  
[Health!](#), Superseded 19/11/2015  
[Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018  
[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/08/2017  
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Standard 01/11/2012  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 16/10/2017  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 01/09/2016  
[WA Health](#), Standard 04/03/2014

Has been superseded by [Person—Indigenous status, code N Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021  
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 25/08/2005  
[Disability](#), Superseded 29/02/2016  
[Early Childhood](#), Superseded 24/07/2018  
[Health!](#), Superseded 19/11/2015  
[Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018  
[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/08/2017  
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Standard 01/11/2012  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 16/10/2017  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 01/09/2016  
[WA Health](#), Standard 04/03/2014

Is re-engineered from  [Indigenous status, version 5, DE, Int, NCSDD & NHDD, NCSIMG & NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (24.1 KB)

*No registration status*

### Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Health care client identification Health!](#), Superseded 04/05/2005

### Implementation in Indicators:

#### Used as Numerator

[Indigenous primary health care: PI23a-Number of regular clients with Type II diabetes who have had a blood pressure measurement result recorded, 2012](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 23/02/2012

[Indigenous primary health care: PI23a-Number of regular clients with Type II diabetes who have had a blood pressure measurement result recorded, 2013](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 21/11/2013  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 21/11/2013

[Indigenous primary health care: PI23a-Number of regular clients with Type II diabetes who have had a blood pressure measurement result recorded, 2014](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 13/03/2015  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 13/03/2015

[Indigenous primary health care: PI23b-Proportion of regular clients with Type II diabetes who have had a blood pressure measurement result recorded, 2012](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 23/02/2012

[Indigenous primary health care: PI23b-Proportion of regular clients with Type II diabetes who have had a blood pressure measurement result recorded, 2013](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 21/11/2013  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 21/11/2013

[Indigenous primary health care: PI23b-Proportion of regular clients with Type II diabetes who have had a blood pressure measurement result recorded, 2014](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 13/03/2015  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 13/03/2015

[Indigenous primary health care: PI24a-Number of regular clients with Type II diabetes whose blood pressure measurement result was less than or equal to 130/80 mmHg, 2012](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 23/02/2012

[Indigenous primary health care: PI24a-Number of regular clients with Type II diabetes whose blood pressure measurement result was less than or equal to 130/80 mmHg, 2013](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 21/11/2013  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 21/11/2013

[Indigenous primary health care: PI24a-Number of regular clients with Type II diabetes whose blood pressure measurement result was less than or equal to 130/80 mmHg, 2014](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 13/03/2015  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 13/03/2015

[Indigenous primary health care: PI24b-Proportion of regular clients with Type II diabetes whose blood pressure measurement result was less than or equal to 130/80 mmHg, 2012](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 23/02/2012

[Indigenous primary health care: PI24b-Proportion of regular clients with Type II diabetes whose blood pressure measurement result was less than or equal to 130/80 mmHg, 2013](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 21/11/2013  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 21/11/2013

[Indigenous primary health care: PI24b-Proportion of regular clients with Type II diabetes whose blood pressure measurement result was less than or equal to 130/80 mmHg, 2014](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 13/03/2015  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 13/03/2015

[National Disability Agreement: f\(1\)-Rate of non-Indigenous persons and Indigenous persons admitted to permanent residential aged care, 2013](#)

[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013  
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015

[National Disability Agreement: f\(2\)-Number of non-Indigenous persons and Indigenous persons receiving permanent residential aged care](#)

[services, 2013](#)

[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 23/05/2013  
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI09-Incidence of heart attacks \(acute coronary events\), 2015](#)  
[Health!](#), Superseded 08/07/2016

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI09-Incidence of heart attacks, 2013](#)  
[Health!](#), Superseded 30/04/2014

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI09-Incidence of heart attacks, 2014](#)  
[Health!](#), Superseded 14/01/2015

**Used as Disaggregation**

[National Disability Agreement: j-Proportion of people with disability receiving income support, 2011](#)  
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 05/03/2012

[National Disability Agreement: j-Proportion of people with disability receiving income support, 2012](#)  
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 23/05/2013

[National Healthcare Agreement: PB e-Better health: by 2018, reduce the national smoking rate to 10 per cent of the population and halve the Indigenous smoking rate over the 2009 baseline, 2014](#)  
[Health!](#), Superseded 14/01/2015

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI09-Incidence of heart attacks \(acute coronary events\), 2015](#)  
[Health!](#), Superseded 08/07/2016

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI09-Incidence of heart attacks, 2013](#)  
[Health!](#), Superseded 30/04/2014

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI09-Incidence of heart attacks, 2014](#)  
[Health!](#), Superseded 14/01/2015

**Used as Denominator**

[Indigenous primary health care: PI08b-Proportion of regular clients with a chronic disease for whom a Team Care Arrangement \(MBS Item 723\) was claimed, 2014](#)  
[Health!](#), Superseded 13/03/2015  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 13/03/2015

[Indigenous primary health care: PI08b-Proportion of regular clients with a chronic disease for whom a Team Care Arrangement \(MBS Item 723\) was claimed, 2015](#)  
[Health!](#), Superseded 05/10/2016  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 20/01/2017

[Indigenous primary health care: PI08b-Proportion of regular clients with a chronic disease for whom a Team Care Arrangement \(MBS Item 723\) was claimed, 2015-2017](#)  
[Health!](#), Superseded 25/01/2018  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 27/02/2018

[Indigenous primary health care: PI08b-Proportion of regular clients with a chronic disease who have received a Team Care Arrangement \(MBS Item 723\), 2012](#)  
[Health!](#), Superseded 23/02/2012

[Indigenous primary health care: PI08b-Proportion of regular clients with a chronic disease who have received a Team Care Arrangement \(MBS Item 723\), 2013](#)  
[Health!](#), Superseded 21/11/2013  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 21/11/2013