

Person (address)—Australian postcode (Postcode datafile), code NNN[N]

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Person (address)—Australian postcode (Postcode datafile), code NNN[N]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Postcode - Australian
Synonymous names:	Postcode - Australian
METEOR identifier:	270515
Registration status:	Health! , Superseded 04/05/2005 Community Services (retired) , Superseded 25/08/2005
Data Element Concept:	Person (address)—Australian postcode
Value Domain:	Australian postcode code (Postcode datafile) NNN[N]

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Classification scheme:	Postcode datafile
Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	NNN[N]
Maximum character length:	4

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: The postcode book is updated more than once annually as postcodes are a dynamic entity and are constantly changing.

Collection methods: Leave Postcode - Australian blank for:

- Any overseas address
- Unknown address
- No fixed address.

Comments: Postcode may be used in the analysis of data on a geographical basis, which involves a conversion from postcodes to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) postal areas. This conversion results in some inaccuracy of information. However, in some data sets postcode is the only geographic identifier, therefore the use of other more accurate indicators (e.g. Statistical Local Area (SLA)) is not always possible.

When dealing with aggregate data, postal areas, converted from postcodes, can be mapped to Australian Standard Geographical Classification codes using an ABS concordance, for example to determine SLAs. It should be noted that such concordances should not be used to determine the SLA of any individual's postcode. Where individual street addresses are available, these can be mapped to ASGC codes (e.g. SLAs) using the ABS National Localities Index (NLI).

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Collection methods: May be collected as part of Address line or separately. Postal addresses may be different from where a person actually resides, or a service is actually located.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Standards Australia
National Health Data Committee
National Community Services Data Committee

Origin: Standards Australia 2002. Australian Standard AS5017-2002 Health Care Client Identification. Sydney: Standards Australia.

Reference documents: Refer to ABS Catalogue No. 1252.0 for full details of the NLI.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Has been superseded by [Person \(address\)—Australian postcode, code \(Postcode datafile\) {NNNN}](#)

[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 06/02/2012

[Early Childhood](#), Superseded 09/03/2012

[Health!](#), Superseded 07/12/2011

[Homelessness](#), Superseded 30/05/2013

[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/05/2013

Is re-engineered from  [Postcode - Australian, version 3, DE, Int. NCSDD & NHDD, NCSIMG & NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (18.3 KB)

No registration status

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Health care client identification](#)
[Health!](#), Superseded 04/05/2005

Implementation in Indicators: **Used as Disaggregation**
[National Health Performance Authority, Healthy Communities: Percentage of adults who are overweight or obese, 2011–12](#)
[National Health Performance Authority \(retired\)](#), Retired 01/07/2016