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

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

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| Identifying and definitional attributes | |
| Metadata item type: | Data Element |
| Short name: | Postcode - Australian |
| Synonymous names: | Postcode - Australian |
| METEOR identifier: | 270515 |
| Registration status: | [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 04/05/2005  [Community Services (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/3), Superseded 25/08/2005 |
| Data Element Concept: | [Person (address)—Australian postcode](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/269894) |
| Value Domain: | [Australian postcode code (Postcode datafile) NNN[N]](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/270891) |

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| Value domain attributes | | |
| Representational attributes | | |
| Classification scheme: | [Postcode datafile](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/270561) | |
| Representation class: | Code | |
| Data type: | Number | |
| Format: | NNN[N] | |
| Maximum character length: | 4 | |

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| 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). |



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| 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}](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/287224)  [Community Services (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/3), Superseded 06/02/2012  [Early Childhood](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/15), Superseded 09/03/2012  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 07/12/2011  [Homelessness](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/16), Superseded 30/05/2013  [Housing assistance](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 30/05/2013  Is re-engineered from  [Postcode - Australian, version 3, DE, Int. NCSDD & NHDD, NCSIMG & NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/273959)  (18.3 KB)  *No registration status* |
| Implementation in Data Set Specifications: | [Health care client identification](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/273055)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), 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](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/527650)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016 |