Occupation of person

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: NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000230 Version number: 1

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Authority: Effective date: 30-JUN-99

Definition: The current occupation of the person is the current job or duties

which the person is principally engaged in.

Context: Injury surveillance: there is considerable user demand for data on

occupation-related injury and illness, including from Worksafe Australia and from industry, where unnecessary production costs are known in some areas and suspected to be related to others in work-related illness, injury and disability. The report Health for all Australians also identifies occupational related ill health as a focus

for health promotion and illness prevention activities.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational CODE

form:

Representation NN

layout:

Minimum Size: 2 Maximum Size: 2

Data Domain: 10 Managers and administrators

11 Legislators and government appointed officials

12 General managers13 Specialist managers

14 Farmers and farm managers

15 Managing supervisors (sales and service)
16 Managing supervisors (other business)

20 Professionals21 Natural scientists

22 Building professionals and engineers

23 Health diagnosis and treatment practitioners

24	School teachers			
25	Other teachers and instructors			
26	Social professionals			
27	Business professionals			
28	Artist and related professionals			
29	Miscellaneous professionals			
30	Paraprofessionals			
31	Medical and science technical officers and technicians			
32	Engineering and building associates and technicians			
33	Air and sea transport technical workers			
34	Registered nurses			
35	Police			
36	Miscellaneous paraprofessionals			
40	Tradespersons			
41	Metal fitting and machining			
42	Other metal tradespersons			
43	Electrical and electronics tradespersons			
44	Building tradespersons			
45	Printing tradespersons			
46	Vehicle tradespersons			
47	Food tradespersons			
48	Amenity horticultural tradespersons			
49	Miscellaneous tradespersons			
50	Clerks			
51	Stenographers and typists			
52	Data processing and business machine operators			
53	Numerical clerks			
54	Filing, sorting and copying clerks			
55	Material recording and despatching clerks			
56	Receptionists, telephonists and messengers			
59	Miscellaneous clerks			
60	Salespersons and personal service workers			
61	Investment, insurance and real estate salespersons			
62	Sales representatives			
63	Sales assistants			
64	Tellers, cashiers and ticket salespersons			
65	Miscellaneous salespersons			
66	Personal service workers			
70	Plant and machine operators and drivers			
71	Road and rail transport drivers			
72	Mobile plant operators (except transport)			
73	Stationary plant operators			
74	Machine operators			

80	Labourers and related workers		
81	Trades assistants and factory hands		
82	Agricultural labourers and related workers		
83	Cleaners		
84	Construction and mining labourers		
89	Miscellaneous workers		

Guide For Use: 2-digit Australian Standard Classification of Occupations code.

Occupation is coded using Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ABS 1986a). This classification is based on a type of work criterion with an emphasis on skill level (length and type of training) and skill specialisation (for example, subject matter knowledge). The structure of the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations has four levels:

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Major groups 1-digit codes
8
52
     Minor groups 2-digit codes
282
     Unit groups
                   4-digit codes
1079 Occupations 6-digit codes
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For example:

Level	Code	Title
Major group	2	Professionals
Minor group	28	Artists and related professionals
Unit group	2805	Designers and illustrators
Occupation	2805-13	Graphic designer

A Computer Assisted Coding system is available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to assist in coding occupational data to Australian Standard Classification of Occupations codes.

Collection Methods: Occupation is currently recorded on hospital morbidity forms or hospital admission forms in all States and Territories except Victoria. It is coded only in Western Australia and Tasmania.

> The 1991 Australian Census asked the following questions relating to occupation and industry:

- 29. In the main job held LAST WEEK, what was the person's occupation?
- Give full title.
- For example, Civil Engineer, Draftsman, Accounts Clerk, Fast Foods Cook, 1st Class Welder, Extruding Machine Operator, Coal Miner.
- Armed Service personnel state rank as well as occupation.
- 30. What are the main tasks or duties that the person usually

performs in that occupation?

- Describe as fully as possible.
- For example, preparing drawings for dam construction, recording and paying accounts, cooking hamburgers and chips, welding of high pressure steam pipes, operating plastic extruding machine, operating continuous mining machine.

Related metadata: relates to the data element concept Occupation version 1 has been superseded by Occupation of person version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National minimum data set working parties

Comments: Five of the eight morbidity systems currently collect current occupation but, apart from Western Australia, do not code it. The Morbidity Working Party examined the proposal to include current occupation in the National Minimum Data Set - Institutional Health Care and noted the following:

- Most States felt that it was difficult to code, had low level of accuracy and required substantial resources. The Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health argued that its accuracy was comparable to that of collected items such as principal diagnosis.
- The ABS noted that the limitations of collecting health data in sample surveys were much greater than those of collecting occupational data in administrative collections.
- New South Wales was sympathetic to the concept of collecting socioeconomic data but felt that the resources needed were not available. Several States expressed interest in collecting socioeconomic data if funded by the Commonwealth.
- Victoria has done a study which suggested it might be of limited use at the hospital level, but this would require asking several questions.
- South Australia uses a 2-digit Australian Standard Classification of Occupations code in psychiatric hospitals.
- Western Australia has collected it for years but regards it as neither reliable nor useful (big gaps in data).

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element
NHIM
Labour characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element