
Principal source of income

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NCSDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000531 Version number: 2
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NCSIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: The source by which a person derives most (equal to or greater than 50%) of his/her income. If the person has multiple sources of income and none equal to or greater than 50%, the one, which contributes the largest percentage, should be counted.

Context: The element is an indicator of the needs and circumstances of individuals and sometimes, used in assessment of income equity.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: N(N)
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 2

Data Domain: 1	Primary cash income
2	Property cash income
3	Cash Transfers
31	Australian Government Cash Transfers
4	Other income
5	Nil income
9	Not stated/not known/inadequately described

Guide For Use: The data domain categories shown above can be linked to broad sources of cash income specified in the new (yet to be released) Australian Standard Classification of Sources of Cash Income. A person with more than one source of income should be categorised only to the data domain category, which best describes their primary source of income. If there is more than one source and they are exactly equal, list the source of

employment to which the person most identifies as a primary occupation.

This question is not asked of person's aged less than 15 years because they are generally dependants.

Primary cash income: includes employee cash income such as wages and salaries and cash income from entrepreneurial activity by an employer or own account worker.

Property cash income: includes cash income deriving from the ownership of assets; it comprises returns from financial assets (interest, dividend) from physical assets (rent) and from intellectual assets (royalties).

Cash transfers: can be broken down to 'Australian Government Cash Transfers' (Code 31). This category can be further classified to the 3-digit level which, is categorised by target groups.

For example, payments to parents could be broken down into payments to single parents and payments to partnered parents.

The latter can be broken down again between those receiving the basic amount and those on full or above basic amounts. Similarly, payments to persons of employable age not elsewhere included, can be divided between different payments like Newstart and Mature Age Allowance, or between job seekers and others. See 'Sources of cash income'.

Collection Methods: Individual community services data collections may use more detailed categories for one or more of the above for program or service-specific purposes. For example, the Commonwealth State Disability Agreement National Minimum Data Set separately identifies disability support pension recipients and other pension/benefit recipients.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Principal source of income version 1
is used in conjunction with Sources of cash income version 1

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: Australian Bureau of Statistics 1995. Directory of concepts and standards for social, labour and demographic Variables. Cat. no. 1361.30.001 (Statistical Concepts Library). Canberra: ABS.
Australian Standard Classification of Sources of Cash Income (under development).

Source Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM

Income characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
