
Disability grouping - Australian national

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHADD
Knowledgebase ID: 000745 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHDAMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: Disability groupings are a broad categorisation of disabilities in terms of a person's underlying health condition, impairment, activity limitations, participation restrictions and environmental factors. The grouping that most clearly expresses the experience of disability by a person.

Context: This data element may be used as a basis for the description of groups of people with similar experiences of disability and patterns of impairments, activity limitations, participation restrictions and related environmental factors.
These Australian national disability groupings can be related to 'Disability groups - International' (National Community Services Data Dictionary, Version 2) and used in national and international comparisons.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: NN
Minimum Size: 2
Maximum Size: 2

Data Domain: 01 Developmental delay (apply to 0 to 5-year-olds only, where no other category is appropriate)
 02 Intellectual (including Down syndrome)
 03 Specific learning (including Attention Deficit Disorder)
 04 Autism (including Asperger's syndrome)
 05 Physical

06	Acquired brain injury
07	Deafblind (dual sensory)
08	Vision (sensory)
09	Hearing (sensory)
10	Speech (sensory)
11	Psychiatric
12	Neurological (including epilepsy and Alzheimer's Disease)
99	Disability group not yet classified

- Guide For Use: 01. Developmental delay is applicable to children aged 0-5 only. Conditions appearing in the early developmental period, with no specific diagnosis. Developmental delay maps into the Intellectual/learning category of the International disability grouping.
02. Intellectual disability applies to conditions appearing in the developmental period (age 0-18) associated with impairment of mental functions, difficulties in learning and performing certain daily life skills and limitation of adaptive skills in the context of community environments compared to others of the same age. Includes Down Syndrome, tuberous sclerosis, cri-du-chat syndrome etc. Intellectual disability maps into the Intellectual/learning category of the International disability grouping.
03. Learning disability is a general term referring to a group of disorders, presumed due to central nervous system dysfunction rather than an intellectual disability, covering significant difficulties in the acquisition and use of listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning or mathematical skills. Learning disability maps into the Intellectual/learning category of the International disability grouping.
04. Autism is used to describe pervasive developmental disorder involving disturbances in cognition, interpersonal communication, social interactions and behaviour (in particular obsessional, ritualistic, stereotyped and rigid behaviours). Autism maps into the Intellectual/learning category of the International disability grouping.
05. Physical disability is used to describe conditions that are attributable to a physical cause or impact on the ability to perform physical activities, such as mobility. Physical disability includes paraplegia, quadriplegia, muscular dystrophy, motor neurone disease, neuromuscular disorders, cerebral palsy, absence or deformities of limbs, spina bifida, arthritis, back disorders, ataxia, bone formation or degeneration, scoliosis etc. Impairments may affect internal organs such as lung or liver. Physical disability maps into the Physical/diverse category of the International

disability grouping.

06. Acquired brain injury is used to describe multiple disabilities arising from damage to the brain acquired after birth. It results in deterioration in cognitive, physical, emotional or independent functioning. It can be as a result of accidents, stroke, brain tumours, infection, poisoning, lack of oxygen, degenerative neurological disease etc. Acquired brain injury maps into the category of the Physical/diverse category of the International disability grouping.

07. Deafblind: is used to describe dual sensory impairments causing severe restrictions in communication, and in the ability to participate in community life. This Australian National disability group maps to the Sensory category of the International disability grouping.

08. Vision disability encompasses blindness, vision impairment, visual handicap (not corrected by glasses or contact lenses). This Australian National disability group maps to the Sensory category of the International disability grouping.

09. Hearing disability encompasses deafness, hearing impairment, hearing loss. This Australian National disability group maps to the Sensory category of the International disability grouping.

10. Speech disability encompasses speech loss, impairment and/or difficulty in communication. This Australian National disability group maps to the Sensory category of the International disability grouping.

11. Psychiatric disability includes recognisable symptoms and behaviour patterns associated with distress that may impair personal functioning in normal social activity. Conditions such as schizophrenias, affective disorders, anxiety disorders, addictive behaviours personality disorders, stress, psychosis, depression and adjustment disorders are included. This group maps to the Psychiatric category of the International disability group.

12. Neurological disability applies to impairments of the nervous system occurring after birth, and includes epilepsy and organic dementias (eg. Alzheimer's Disease) as well as such conditions as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's. Neurological disability maps into the physical/diverse category of the International disability grouping.

Collection Methods: Some collections may collect at a higher level of detail as long as it can be mapped to this disability grouping.

Related metadata: relates to the data element Support required flag version 1
relates to the data element concept Disability version 1

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: CSDA MDS Collections Data Guide, 2000
National Community Services Data Dictionary, Version 2

Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments: This way of grouping disabilities has been accepted for use in the CSDA MDS and has been developed and modified over a period of years in cooperation with government and non-government organisations, including consumer representative organisations. Examples given have been subject to discussion. Where there is more than one class that could be used, they are have been placed according to the class that is most appropriate for data users, such as the CSDA MDS network.
The purpose of this classification is to ensure that data are collected in a consistent way, reflecting current usage in the field. The categories should also relate to other relevant data collections.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
