Indigenous status

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000001   Version number: 3

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration Authority: NHIMG   Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 30-JUN-03

Definition: An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.

Context: Given the gross inequalities in health status between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Australia, the size of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations and their historical and political context, there is a strong case for ensuring that information on Indigenous status is collected for planning and service delivery purposes and for monitoring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: CODE

Representation layout: N

Minimum Size: 1

Maximum Size: 1

Data Domain:
1	Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin
2	Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin
3	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin
4	Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin
9	Not stated

Guide For Use: There are three components to the definition:
- descent;
- self-identification; and
- community acceptance.

The classification for 'Indigenous Status' has a hierarchical structure comprising two levels. There are four categories at the detailed level of the classification which are grouped into two categories at the broad level. There is one supplementary category for 'not stated' responses. The classification is as follows:
- Indigenous
  - Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander Origin
  - Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal Origin
  - Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin
- Non-indigenous
  - Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander Origin
- Not Stated

This category is not to be available as a valid answer to the questions but is intended for use:
- primarily when importing data from other data collections that do not contain mappable data;
- where an answer was refused; or
- where the question was not able to be asked prior to discharge because the patient was unable to communicate (eg patient unconscious) or a person who knows the patient was not available.

Only in the last two situations may the tick boxes on the questionaire be left blank.

Collection Methods: The standard question for Indigenous Status is as follows:

[Are you] [Is the person] [Is (name)] of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

(For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.)
No
Yes, Aboriginal
Yes, Torres Strait Islander

This question is recommended for self-enumerated or interview-based collections. It can also be used in circumstances where a close relative, friend, or another member of the household is answering on behalf of the subject.

When someone is not present, the person answering for them should be in a position to do so, i.e. this person must know the person about whom the question is being asked well and feel

confident to provide accurate information about them. However, it is strongly recommended that this question be asked directly wherever possible.

In circumstances where it is impossible to ask the person directly, such as in the case of death, the question should be asked of a close relative or friend, and only if a relative or friend is not available should the undertaker or other such person answer.

This question should always be asked even if the person does not 'look' Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

The Indigenous Status question allows for more than one response. The procedure for coding multiple responses is as follows:

If the respondent marks 'No' and either 'Aboriginal' or 'Torres Strait Islander', then the response should be coded to either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as indicated (i.e. disregard the 'No' response).

If the respondent marks both the 'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander' boxes, then their response should be coded to 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin'.

If the respondent marks all three boxes ('No', 'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander'), then the response should be coded to 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin' (i.e. disregard the 'No' response).

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Aboriginality version 1
has been superseded by Indigenous status version 4

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity, ABS Catalogue Number. 1289.0, November 1999.

Source Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: .

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM   Demographic characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Admitted patient care   From 01-Jul-00 to 30-Jun-03
NMDS - Admitted patient mental health   From 01-Jul-97 to 30-Jun-03

care

NMDS - Perinatal	From 01-Jul-97 to 30-Jun-03
NMDS - Community mental health care	From 01-Jul-00 to 30-Jun-03
NMDS - Alcohol and other drug treatment services	From 01-Jul-00 to 30-Jun-03
Draft DSS - CNMDSA for Community Nursing	From 01-Jul-00 to
Draft DSS - Telehealth (NHIMAC sub-committee)	From 14-Jul-00 to