
Postcode - Australian

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: Int. NCSDD & NHDD
Knowledgebase ID: 002021 Version number: 3
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NCSIMG & NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 01-MAR-05
Definition: The numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area, aligned with locality, suburb or place for the address of a party (person or organisation), as defined by Australia Post.
Context: Postcode is an important part of a person's or organisation's postal address and facilitates written communication. It is one of a number of geographic identifiers that can be used to determine a geographic location. Postcode may assist with uniquely identifying a person or organisation.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: NNNN
Minimum Size: 4
Maximum Size: 4
Data Domain: NOVAL Valid Australia Post postal code.
Guide For Use: The postcode book is updated more than once annually as postcodes are a dynamic entity and are constantly changing.
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.
Leave Postcode - Australian blank for:
Any overseas address
Unknown address
No fixed address.
Related metadata: relates to the NCSDD data concept Agency version 1

supersedes the NCSDD data element Postcode version 2
supersedes the NHDD data element Australian postcode version 1
relates to the NCSDD data concept Geographic indicator version 2
relates to the NCSDD data concept Address version 1

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: Standards Australia 2002. Australian Standard AS5017 - 2002 Health Care Client Identification. Sydney: Standards Australia. Australia Post Postcode book. Reference through:
<<http://www1.auspost.com.au/postcodes/>>

Source Organisation: Standards Australia.
National Health Data Committee.
National Community Services Data Committee.

Comments: This metadata item is common to both the National Community Services Data Dictionary and the National Health Data Dictionary. Postcode-Australian may be used in the analysis of data on a geographical basis, which involves a conversion from postcodes to the 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) is not always possible. When dealing with aggregate data, postal areas, converted from postcodes, can be mapped to ASGC 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 (eg SLAs) using the ABS National Localities Index (NLI). Refer to ABS Catalogue No. 1252.0 for full details of the NLI.

NHDD specific:

DSS Cardiovascular disease (clinical):

Postcode-Australian can also be used in association with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) index (Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia - CD-ROM Latest Issue: Aug 1996 was released on 30/10/1998) to derive socio-economic disadvantage, which is associated with cardiovascular risk. People from lower socio-economic groups are more likely to die from cardiovascular disease than those from higher socio-economic groups. In 1997, people aged 25 - 64 living in the most disadvantaged group of the population died from cardiovascular disease at around twice the rate of those living in the least

disadvantaged group (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2001. Heart, stroke and vascular diseases- Australian facts 2001.). This difference in death rates has existed since at least the 1970s.

[Data Element Links](#)

[Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element](#)

NCSIM Address

[Data Agreements which include this Data Element](#)

DSS - Cardiovascular disease (clinical) From 02-Sep-03 to

DSS - Health care client identification From 02-Sep-03 to
