
Main language other than English spoken at home

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: NCSDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000528 Version number: 2
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NCSIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 01-SEP-03

Definition: The language reported by a person as the main language other than English spoken by a person in his/her home (or most recent private residential setting occupied by the person) on a regular basis, to communicate with other residents of the home or setting and regular visitors.

Context: This data element is important in identifying those people most likely to suffer disadvantage in terms of their ability to access services due to language and/or cultural difficulties. In conjunction with Indigenous status, Proficiency in spoken English and Country of birth, this data element forms the minimum core set of cultural and language indicators recommended by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).
Data on main language spoken at home are regarded as an indicator of active ethnicity and also as useful for the study of inter-generational language retention. The availability of such data may help providers of health and community services to effectively target the geographic areas or population groups that need those services. It may be used for the investigation and development of language services such as interpreter/translation services.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: NNNN
Minimum Size: 4
Maximum Size: 4

Data Domain: NOVAL Refer to the ABS Australian Standard Classification of Languages, 1997, Cat no 1267.0 for details. For example, the Lithuanian language has a code of 3102: 31 denotes that it is a Baltic language, while 3 denotes, that it is an Eastern European language. The Pintupi Aboriginal language has a code of 8217: 31 denotes that the language is Central Aboriginal, 8 denotes that it is an Australian Indigenous language.

Guide For Use: At the most detailed level the ABS Classification comprises four-digit codes based on a hierarchical structure. It includes codes for indigenous Australian languages and sign language. Generally for output purposes, four-digit language codes are grouped into language regions, either at two-digit or one-digit level.

Example 1:

The Lithuanian language has a code of 3102.

3 denotes, that it is an Eastern European language.

1 denotes that it is a Baltic language

02 denotes the specific language

Example 2:

The Pintupi Aboriginal language has a code of 8217.

8 denotes that it is an Australian Indigenous language

2 denotes that the language is Central Aboriginal

17 denotes the specific language

Note that the code 9900 should be used where language is Not stated/inadequately described.

Persons not in private residential settings should respond for 'at home' as the most recent private residential setting in which that person has resided. The reference in the title to 'at home' may cause offence to homeless persons and should be shortened to 'Main language other than English spoken' where applicable.

Collection Methods: It is recommended that data be collected at the 2 or 4 digit level. Data collected at the 4 digit level will obviously provide more detailed information than that collected at the 2 digit level, but may be more difficult to collect.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Main language spoken at home version 1
relates to the data element Country of birth version 2
relates to the data element First language spoken version 2
relates to the data element Proficiency in spoken English version 1
relates to the data element Interpreter services required version 2

has been superseded by Main language other than English spoken at home version 3

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: Australian Bureau of Statistics. Australian Standard Classification of Languages, 1997, Cat. No. 1267.0. Canberra: AGPS

Source Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: Data may be collected at any level but is most accurate at the 4 digit level.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM Social-cultural characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

Draft DSS - CNMDSA for Community Nursing From 01-Jul-00 to
