

Language code (ASCL 2005) NN{NN}

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Value Domain
METEOR identifier:	304116
Registration status:	Housing assistance , Standard 10/02/2006 Health! , Superseded 13/10/2011 Community Services (retired) , Superseded 13/10/2011
Definition:	The ASCL (2005) code set representing languages.

Representational attributes

Classification scheme:	Australian Standard Classification of Languages 2005
Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	NN{NN}
Maximum character length:	4

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: The Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) has a three-level hierarchical structure. The most detailed level of the classification consists of base units (languages) which are represented by four-digit codes. The second level of the classification comprises narrow groups of languages (the Narrow Group level), identified by the first two digits. The most general level of the classification consists of broad groups of languages (the Broad Group level) and is identified by the first digit. The classification includes Australian Indigenous languages and sign languages.

For example, the Lithuanian language has a code of 3102. In this case 3 denote that it is an Eastern European language, while 31 denote that it is a Baltic language. The Pintupi Aboriginal language is coded as 8713. In this case 8 denote that it is an Australian Indigenous language and 87 denote that the language is Western Desert language.

Language data may be output at the Broad Group level, Narrow Group level or base level of the classification. If necessary significant Languages within a Narrow Group can be presented separately while the remaining Languages in the Narrow Group are aggregated. The same principle can be adopted to highlight significant Narrow Groups within a Broad Group.

Source and reference attributes

Revision status: If you require further information about this classification please email: social.classifications@abs.gov.au or telephone the Standards Support Hotline on (02) 6252 5736.

Relational attributes

**Related metadata
references:**

Supersedes [Language code \(ASCL 1997\) N{NNN}](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 04/04/2006

Supersedes [Language code \(ASCL 1997\) NN{NN}](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 04/04/2006
[Health!](#), Superseded 08/02/2006

Supersedes [Language code NN](#)
[Health!](#), Superseded 08/02/2006

Has been superseded by [Language code \(ASCL 2011\) NN{NN}](#)
[Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 13/10/2011
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
[Health!](#), Superseded 25/01/2018
[Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 13/10/2011
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 27/06/2017

**Data elements
implementing this value
domain:**

[Person—first language spoken, code \(ASCL 2005\) NN{NN}](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 13/10/2011
[Health!](#), Superseded 13/10/2011
[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/05/2013

[Person—main language other than English spoken at home, code \(ASCL 2005\) NN{NN}](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 13/10/2011
[Health!](#), Superseded 13/10/2011
[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/05/2013

[Person—preferred language, code \(ASCL 2005\) NN{NN}](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 13/10/2011
[Health!](#), Superseded 13/10/2011