

# Service episode

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# Service episode

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Object Class

**METEOR identifier:** 320994

**Registration status:** [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 29/04/2006  
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 23/08/2010  
[Homelessness](#), Standard 23/08/2010  
[Disability](#), Standard 07/10/2014  
[Children and Families](#), Standard 22/11/2016  
[Youth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

**Definition:** A period of time during which a client receives assistance from an agency.

**Context:** Service provision and planning:

The concept of a service episode (and associated metadata items) is necessary for the analysis, of the length of provision of assistance to clients. In conjunction with information about the amount and type of assistance received by clients, information about the length of the service episode also gives some indication of the intensity of assistance provided by agencies.

A client's service episode always begins and ends with dates that mark the first and last time that the person received assistance from the agency. That is, a service episode will always begin and end with service event (see metadata item the service event).

The pathway or process followed by a person entering or exiting from a service episode varies from one agency to another and from one type of assistance to another. It cannot be assumed, for example, that every client has undergone an assessment (or the same type of assessment) before entering a service episode. At times, a client may receive services from an agency on the basis of a referral from an established source with which the agency has well-developed referral protocols. At other times, a client who has been previously assisted by the agency may begin to receive services again without undergoing the same level of assessment on entry into a subsequent service episode.

The definition of service episode has not assumed that any standard sequence of events applies to all service episodes for all clients across all types of agencies and across all programs. Rather, the definition of a service episode allows for the receipt of any of the types of assistance to serve as a trigger for the beginning of a service episode. That is, the service activity associated with the beginning of a service episode (i.e. the first service event) will vary across agencies.

While agency policies and practices will impact upon the determination of a Service episode to some extent (e.g. different policies for taking clients 'off the books') the basic feature across agencies remain the first and the last Service events received by a client within a period of receipt of assistance. Establishing greater consistency in the determination of Service episodes would require a national cross-program approach to standardising entry and exit procedures across the community service sector.

**Specialisation of:** [Service episode](#)


## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Origin:** Home and Community Care (HACC) Data Dictionary Version 1.0, 1998

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:**

Is re-engineered from  [Service episode, version 1, DEC, NCSDD, NCSIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (15.3 KB)  
*No registration status*

**Data Element Concepts implementing this Object Class:**

- [Service episode—care and protection order type](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 30/04/2008
- [Service episode—detention end reason](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 14/09/2009
- [Service episode—detention type](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 14/09/2009
- [Service episode—duration of service](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 10/04/2013  
Disability, Standard 13/08/2015
- [Service episode—episode end date](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 01/03/2005  
Disability, Standard 07/10/2014  
Homelessness, Standard 23/08/2010  
Housing assistance, Standard 23/08/2010
- [Service episode—episode identifier](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 27/03/2007
- [Service episode—episode start date](#)  
Children and Families, Standard 22/11/2016  
Community Services (retired), Standard 16/05/2006  
Disability, Standard 07/10/2014  
Homelessness, Standard 23/08/2010  
Housing assistance, Standard 23/08/2010
- [Service episode—financial payment indicator](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 30/04/2008
- [Service episode—funded out-of-home care placement](#)  
Children and Families, Standard 20/01/2021
- [Service episode—funded out-of-home care placement](#)  
Children and Families, Superseded 20/01/2021
- [Service episode—legal order indicator](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 30/04/2008
- [Service episode—legal order/arrangement indicator](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 30/04/2008
- [Service episode—legal order/arrangement type](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 27/03/2007
- [Service episode—number of funded out-of-home care placements](#)  
Community Services (retired), Recorded 21/02/2014
- [Service episode—order end reason](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 14/09/2009
- [Service episode—order expiry date](#)  
Community Services (retired), Recorded 19/08/2011
- [Service episode—order identifier](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 14/09/2009
- [Service episode—placement type](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 30/04/2008
- [Service episode—reason for order expiry](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 30/04/2008
- [Service episode—reporting period](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 14/09/2009  
Youth Justice, Standard 15/02/2022
- [Service episode—reporting period](#)  
Community Services (retired), Standard 19/09/2013  
Homelessness, Standard 01/05/2013  
Housing assistance, Standard 01/05/2013

[Service episode—service cessation reason](#)

[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 01/03/2005

[Disability](#), Standard 07/10/2014

[Homelessness](#), Standard 23/08/2010

[Housing assistance](#), Standard 23/08/2010

[Service episode—service ongoing indicator](#)

[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 30/11/2007

[Service episode—service ongoing indicator](#)

[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 17/11/2010

[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015

[Homelessness](#), Standard 23/08/2010

[Housing assistance](#), Standard 23/08/2010

[Service episode—transfer source](#)

[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 27/03/2007

[Service episode—type of goods and equipment received](#)

[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 01/03/2005