Person—main language spoken at home, code (ASCL 2011) NN{NN}

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Person—main language spoken at home, code (ASCL 2011) NN{NN}

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Main language spoken at home
METEOR identifier:	570035
Registration status:	Health!, Recorded 24/04/2014
Definition:	The language reported by a person as the main language spoken by that 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, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Person—main language spoken at home
Value Domain:	Language code (ASCL 2011) NN{NN}

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Classification scheme:	Australian Standard Classification of Languages 2011
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 denotes that it is an Eastern European language, while 31 denotes that it is a Baltic language. The Pintupi Aboriginal language is coded as 8713. In this case 8 denotes that it is an Australian Indigenous language and 87 denotes that the language is a 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.

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Collection methods:	**Recommended question:**

Which language [do you] [does the person] [does (name)] [will (name of child under two years)] mainly speak at home? (If more than one language, indicate the one that is spoken most often.)

Response options for detailed data:

Alternative 1

      English []

      Mandarin []

      Italian []

      Arabic []

      Cantonese []

      Vietnamese []

      Spanish []

      Hindi []

      Tagalog []

      Other - please specficy _____

Alternative 2

      English []

      Other (please specify) _____

The above list includes languages based on their statistical significance in the Australian context. The list is reviewed when data indicate that different languages have been more or less frequently reported in the Census.

Response option for minimum data:

      English []

      Other []

Comments:	This metadata item provides data about the language spoken most frequently or commonly in Australian homes. It does not collect data about the full range of languages spoken by a person in the home.

This data element is used to measure cultural and linguistic diversity. It can be used in conjunction with Indigenous status, Proficiency in spoken language, Main language other than English spoken at home and Country of birth, which are the minimum core set of cultural and language indicators recommended by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The ABS publication Language Standards, 2012, Version 1.1 (ABS cat. no. 1200.0.55.005) was released in September 2012. The recommended question recognises children under two years of age.

Source and reference attributes

Origin:	Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011. Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 2011, ABS cat. no. 1267.0. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra. Viewed 24 April 2014,

http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/ 1267.0Main+Features12011

Reference documents:	Australian Bureau of Statistics 2012. Language Standards, 2012, Version 1.1, ABS cat. no. 1200.0.55.005. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra. Viewed 24 April 2014,
	http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1200.0.55.005

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:	See also [Person—first language spoken, code (ASCL 2011) NN{NN}](#) [Community Services (retired)](#), Standard 13/10/2011 [Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015 [Health!](#), Standard 13/10/2011 [Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018 [Housing assistance](#), Standard 13/10/2011
	See also [Person—main language other than English spoken at home, 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
	See also [Person—preferred language, code (ASCL 2011) NN{NN}](#) [Community Services (retired)](#), Standard 13/10/2011 [Health!](#), Superseded 25/01/2018 [Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018 [Housing assistance](#), Standard 13/10/2011 [Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 27/06/2017
Implementation in Data Set Specifications:	[Hospital patient experience DSS 2014-](#) [Health!](#), Recorded 11/10/2013 *Implementation start date:* 01/07/2014