

Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2014-15

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Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2014-15

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Set Specification
METEOR identifier:	581255
Registration status:	Homelessness , Superseded 24/11/2016 Housing assistance , Superseded 24/11/2016
DSS type:	National Minimum Data Set (NMDS)

Scope:

The Specialist Homelessness Services National Minimum Data Set (SHS NMDS) aims to provide quality information about people who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are seeking services from specialist homelessness agencies.

This collection is intended to obtain information about clients receiving ongoing or short term support as well as people who are seeking assistance but did not receive any services. Data collection includes basic socio-demographic information and the services required by and provided to each client. Details about accompanying children are also recorded. Additionally, information is obtained about the client circumstances before, during and after receiving support.

The base unit of this collection is a person who present to a Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) agency requesting a service or services. A person becomes a client once they receive a service or services. The period of time a client receives assistance from a SHS agency is commonly referred to as a support period. It relates to the provision of assistance and/or supported accommodation. A support period is considered finished when the relationship between the client and the agency ends or the client has reached their maximum amount of support.

During a support period there are, in most cases, a series of service episodes or assistance, other than supported accommodation, provided to the client by the SHS agency. For the purposes of the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, assistance also includes contact with a client, or work on behalf of a client.

The SHS NMDS has three 'views' for collection purposes, they are: Unassisted person, Client and Specialist homelessness agency.

An 'Unassisted person' in the context of this collection is any person who seeks assistance from an agency and is not successful in obtaining that assistance. A 'Client' is a person who receives services either directly or indirectly from an agency. A 'Specialist homelessness agency' is an organisation which receives government funding to deliver a specialist homelessness service to a client. If clients present collectively, information is collected for each client but the group is referred to as a 'Presenting unit'.

The 2011 SHS NMDS was developed to support the collection of data under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations for Homelessness. It replaced the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) collection from July 2011.

In 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to reform federal financial relations to improve the quality and effectiveness of government services. These reforms led to the establishment of the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), which includes specific performance measures in relation to homelessness.

In conjunction with these reforms, the Australian Government initiated a comprehensive policy review, setting out a national approach to reducing homelessness in the White Paper: The Road Home, A National Approach to Reducing Homelessness.

The 2014-15 SHS NMDS continues to reflect the outcome based performance framework promoted by the COAG Reforms and White Paper. It supports the collection, analysis and reporting of client-based data. This allows for the production of statistical information about clients' circumstances, the assistance they receive and the outcomes that are achieved for them. This information can be used to inform policy design, evaluation, service improvement and monitoring of specialist homelessness services in Australia.

In addition the 2014-15 SHS NMDS provides for the collection of information about SHS clients with disabilities. This information will be used to better understand the circumstances and experiences of clients with disabilities who access SHS agencies.

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: For jurisdictions who have high volume central intake or localised entry point agencies (for example ACT and Victoria), data for unmet demand and unassisted requests for services are not directly comparable with other states and territories.

Implementation start date: 01/07/2014

Implementation end date: 30/06/2015

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Housing and Homelessness Data Network.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2013-14 Homelessness](#), Superseded 26/08/2014
[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 26/08/2014
Has been superseded by [Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS 2015-17 Homelessness](#), Superseded 24/11/2016
See also [SAAP Administrative National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\) Community Services \(retired\)](#), Retired 01/07/2011

Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
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- [Specialist Homelessness Services accommodation type and start/end date cluster](#) Conditional 16

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.

DSS specific information:

Clients may enter start and end dates for each of the accommodation types provided during the collection month.

Multiple accommodation types, start dates and end dates may be entered. In a month of 31 days, up to 16 accommodation types, and related start dates or end dates are possible. The dates selected should be valid for the collection month (ie. For September the 30th is a valid date, but the 31st is not a valid date.)

- [Service event—accommodation period end date, DDMMYYYY](#) Mandatory 1

DSS specific information:

In the SHS NMDS, accommodation end date may be asked for three types of accommodation:

1) Short term or emergency, 2) Medium term or transitional, and 3) Long term.

Clients may have breaks in accommodation, or move between different types of accommodation. Clients may have multiple start and end dates for the various types of accommodation.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Service event—accommodation period start date, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	1
	DSS specific information:		
	In the SHS NMDS accommodation end date may be asked for three types of accommodation: 1) Short term or emergency, 2) Medium term or transitional, and 3) Long term.		
	Clients may have breaks in accommodation, or shift between different types of accommodation. Clients may have multiple start and end dates for the various types of accommodation.		
-	Service event—supported accommodation type, code N	Mandatory	1
	DSS specific information:		
	In the SHS NMDS, the accommodation type <i>Other</i> (CODE 4) is not a valid permissible value.		
-	Specialist Homelessness Services activity cluster	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.		
-	Client—referral arranged, homelessness activity type code N[N]	Mandatory	53
-	Client—service activity type needed, homelessness activity type code N[N]	Mandatory	53
-	Client—service activity type provided, homelessness activity type code N[N]	Mandatory	53
-	Specialist Homelessness Services disability flag cluster	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.		
	DSS specific information:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at presentation.		
-	Person—activity and participation life area, disability flag homelessness code N	Mandatory	1
-	Person—need for assistance with activities in a life area, disability flag homelessness code N	Mandatory	1
-	Specialist Homelessness Services financial assistance type and amount cluster	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.		
	DSS specific information:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this cluster is collected at the end of the reporting period (for the current service episode only).		

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—financial assistance amount, total Australian currency N[NNNN]	Mandatory	5
	DSS specific information:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected for the current service episode only. It relates specifically to assistance provided by the specialist homelessness agency and not assistance provided by any other source.		
	This item is repeated 5 times to capture the total amounts for the different types of financial assistance.		
	The client should provide dollar amounts for each type of assistance that was provided during the reference period (ie up to 5 valid responses).		
-	Person—financial assistance type, homelessness code N	Mandatory	5
	DSS specific information:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected for the current service episode only. It relates specifically to assistance provided by the specialist homelessness agency and not assistance provided by any other source.		
	The client may check all types of assistance that applied during the reference period (ie up to 5 valid responses).		
-	Statistical linkage key 581 cluster	Mandatory	1
	DSS specific information:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this cluster is collected at the date of presentation.		
	For the purposes of the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS the SLK of the Presenting Unit Head will be recorded on each their accompanying member's forms.		
1	Person—letters of family name, text XXX	Mandatory	1
2	Person—letters of given name, text XX	Mandatory	1
3	Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	1
4	Person—sex, code N	Mandatory	1
5	Record—linkage key, code 581 XXXXXDDMMYYYN	Mandatory	1
6	Date—accuracy indicator, code AAA	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	Where a date of birth is estimated the date accuracy indicator should be used		

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation Max occurs
-	<p data-bbox="231 168 1173 224">Address—Australian postcode, Australian postcode code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}</p> <p data-bbox="263 257 542 291">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 313 1085 369">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.</p> <p data-bbox="263 403 566 436">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 459 1125 515">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is reported twice, for:</p> <ul data-bbox="295 548 1109 638" style="list-style-type: none"> • where the person lived one week before the first service contact (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY) • where the person lived the last time they had a permanent place to live. 	Conditional 2
-	<p data-bbox="231 694 1173 728">Address—suburb/town/locality name, text X[X(45)]</p> <p data-bbox="263 761 542 795">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 817 1085 873">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.</p> <p data-bbox="263 907 566 940">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 963 1125 1019">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is reported twice, for:</p> <ul data-bbox="295 1052 1109 1131" style="list-style-type: none"> • where the person lived one week before the first service contact (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY) • where the person lived the last time they had a permanent place to live. 	Conditional 2
-	<p data-bbox="231 1198 1173 1232">Child—care arrangements, care and protection order code N[N]</p> <p data-bbox="263 1265 542 1299">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1321 1157 1433">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (Code 1).</p> <p data-bbox="263 1467 1149 1523">This data element is only collected for clients aged less than 18 years, who have a care and protection order.</p> <p data-bbox="263 1556 566 1590">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1612 1133 1668">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:</p> <ul data-bbox="295 1702 1157 1904" style="list-style-type: none"> • one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY) • at the date of presentation • at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY) • at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY). <p data-bbox="263 1926 845 1960">Only one permissible value is selected in each case.</p>	Conditional 4

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Client—case management goal status, code N Conditional obligation: Conditional on YES (CODE 1) response to Client—case management plan indicator, yes/no code. DSS specific information: In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the end of each reporting period, ie each calendar month.	Conditional	1
-	Client—case management plan indicator, yes/no code N Conditional obligation: In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients. DSS specific information: In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the end of each reporting period, ie each calendar month.	Conditional	1
-	Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N Conditional obligation: In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients. DSS specific information: The data collected in the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) NMDS will be used for policy development and agency activity reporting in a non-identifiable form. This information will enable better placement of agency services and enhance service provision to clients of homelessness agencies.	Conditional	1
-	Client—reason case management plan does not exist, code N Conditional obligation: This item is conditional on a response of No (CODE 2) in the data element <i>Client – case management plan indicator yes/no code N</i> . DSS specific information: In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the end of each reporting period, ie each calendar month.	Conditional	1
-	Client—reason case management plan does not exist, text [A(50)] Conditional obligation: This data element is conditional on a response of Other (CODE 8) for the data element <i>Client—reason case management plan does not exist, code N</i> . DSS specific information: In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the end of each reporting period, i.e. each calendar month.	Conditional	1

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person (employed)—full-time/part-time status, code N	Conditional	4

Conditional obligation:

In the SHS NMDS, this item is only asked of clients. This item is conditional on a response of Employed (CODE 1) in the data element *Person—labour force status, code N*.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (CODE 3), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (CODE 9) in the Standard.

-	Person—Australian state/territory identifier, code N	Conditional	2
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Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is reported twice, for:

- where the person lived one week before the first service contact (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- where the person lived the last time they had a permanent place to live.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation Max occurs
-	<p data-bbox="231 156 694 190">Person—conditions of occupancy, code N</p> <p data-bbox="263 224 542 257">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 280 1085 347">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.</p> <p data-bbox="263 369 566 403">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 425 1133 492">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:</p> <ul data-bbox="295 515 1157 728" style="list-style-type: none"> • one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY) • at the date of presentation • at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY) • at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY). <p data-bbox="263 750 845 784">Only one permissible value is selected in each case.</p> <p data-bbox="263 806 1157 896">Please note that Leased tenure - nominated on lease (CODE 1) - and Lease in place - not nominated on lease (CODE 2) are only selected if a lease is in place. Codes 3 to 6 only apply if the person's name is not on a lease.</p>	Conditional 4
-	<p data-bbox="231 952 805 985">Person—country of birth, code (SACC 2011) NNNN</p> <p data-bbox="263 1019 542 1052">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1075 1133 1142">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.</p> <p data-bbox="263 1164 1133 1254">This data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element <i>Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N</i>, must receive a response of Yes (CODE 1).</p>	Conditional 1
-	<p data-bbox="231 1310 829 1344">Person—first service request indicator, yes/no code N</p> <p data-bbox="263 1377 542 1411">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1433 1149 1550">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is only collected for turnaways. Turnaways are people who have not received any requested services or assessment. This data element is applied to an individual 24-hour reporting period.</p>	Conditional 1

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation Max occurs
-	<p data-bbox="231 156 1005 190">Person—formally diagnosed mental health condition indicator, code N</p> <p data-bbox="263 224 542 257">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 280 1157 403">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (CODE 1).</p> <p data-bbox="263 425 574 459">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 481 1133 548">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.</p> <p data-bbox="263 571 1157 750">Evidence suggests that the longer persons with mental health problems are supported by specialist homelessness services, the more likely they are to move into public, or community housing or rental housing rather than return to rough sleeping. Access to a range of longer-term supports and community-based services will increase the early intervention and recovery support options for people who are homeless with a mental illness and substance abuse disorders.</p>	Conditional 1
-	<p data-bbox="231 806 1165 840">Person—government funding identifier, Centrelink customer reference number N(9)A</p> <p data-bbox="263 873 542 907">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 929 1157 996">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the consent of the client.</p> <p data-bbox="263 1019 574 1052">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1075 1141 1164">The states and territories have agreed to include Centrelink customer reference numbers in the NMDS, however this information is not currently recorded as issues of confidentiality are yet to be resolved.</p>	Conditional 1
-	<p data-bbox="231 1220 813 1254">Person—housing tenure type, homelessness code N</p> <p data-bbox="263 1288 542 1321">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1344 1085 1411">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.</p> <p data-bbox="263 1433 574 1467">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1489 1133 1556">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:</p> <ul data-bbox="295 1568 1157 1780" style="list-style-type: none"> • one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY) • at the date of presentation • at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY) • at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY). <p data-bbox="263 1803 845 1836">Only one permissible value is selected in each case.</p>	Conditional 4

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
	<p data-bbox="231 156 622 190">- Person—Indigenous status, code N</p> <p data-bbox="263 224 542 257">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 280 1157 403">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (CODE 1).</p> <p data-bbox="263 425 574 459">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 481 1133 548">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.</p>	Conditional	1
	<p data-bbox="231 571 622 604">- Person—labour force status, code N</p> <p data-bbox="263 638 542 672">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 694 1085 761">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.</p> <p data-bbox="263 784 1157 873">This data element reflects the ABS Labour force status standard variable. Consequently, the value domain definitions explicitly exclude anyone aged under 15.</p> <p data-bbox="263 896 574 929">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 952 1133 1019">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:</p> <ul data-bbox="295 1041 1157 1254" style="list-style-type: none"> • one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY) • at the date of presentation • at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY) • at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY). <p data-bbox="263 1276 845 1310">Only one permissible value is selected in each case.</p> <p data-bbox="263 1332 1077 1422">This collection records a response of Don't Know (CODE 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (CODE 9) in the Standard.</p>	Conditional	4

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation Max occurs
-	<p data-bbox="231 156 798 190">Person—living arrangement, homelessness code N</p> <p data-bbox="263 224 542 257">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 280 1085 347">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.</p> <p data-bbox="263 369 574 403">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 425 1133 492">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:</p> <ul data-bbox="295 504 1157 728" style="list-style-type: none"> • one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY) • at the date of presentation • at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY) • at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY). <p data-bbox="263 750 845 784">Only one permissible value is selected in each case.</p> <p data-bbox="263 806 1077 896">This collection records a response of Don't Know (CODE 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (CODE 9) in the Standard.</p>	Conditional 4
-	<p data-bbox="231 940 957 974">Person—mental health services received indicator, yes/no code N</p> <p data-bbox="263 1008 542 1041">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1064 1157 1187">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (CODE 1).</p> <p data-bbox="263 1209 574 1243">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1265 1133 1332">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.</p>	Conditional 1
-	<p data-bbox="231 1344 893 1377">Person—mental health services received timeframe, code N</p> <p data-bbox="263 1411 542 1444">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1467 1157 1590">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (CODE 1).</p> <p data-bbox="263 1612 1149 1680">This item is also conditional on the client responding to the data element <i>Person—mental health services received, code N</i> with Yes (CODE 1).</p> <p data-bbox="263 1702 574 1736">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1758 1133 1825">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.</p>	Conditional 1

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—new client indicator, code N	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.		
	DSS specific information:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is used to gain an idea of the 'trend of homelessness'. It does this by collecting data as to whether or not the presenting person has accessed a specialist homelessness agency before.		
-	Person—number of people in the presenting unit, total N[N]	Mandatory	1
	DSS specific information:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.		
-	Person—previously homeless status, code N	Conditional	6
	Conditional obligation:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.		
	DSS specific information:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected a minimum of twice (for the client):		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within the previous month • within the previous year. 		
	If a client has indicated that they were homeless in the last month, then by default they should be recorded as homeless in the last 12 months.		
	This question allows the client to check all responses that apply, and therefore the client may have up to 3 valid responses for each instance of this question.		
	This collection records a response of Don't Know (CODE 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (CODE 9) in the Standard.		
-	Person—previously resided in institution/facility indicator, code N	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation. This data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (CODE 1).		
-	Person—principal source of cash income, code NNNN	Conditional	4
	Conditional obligation:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.		

Seq
No.

Metadata item

This data element reflects the ABS Sources of income standard variable. Consequently, the value domain definitions explicitly exclude anyone aged under 15.

Obligation
Max
occurs

If income information on children under 15 years is sought for the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, these persons may also be asked the sources of income questions. However, if comparability with ABS collections is required, the SHS data can be filtered using the age data element to remove responses for children aged under 15.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

For the purposes of the SHS collection the following list is used which aggregates to the ABS Sources of Income Classification.

Government pensions and allowances

Newstart Allowance

Parenting Payment

Disability support pension (Centrelink)

Youth allowance

Age pension

Austudy/ABSTUDY

Disability Pension (DVA)

Service pension (DVA)

War Widow(er)'s Pension (Including income support supplement) (DVA)

Sickness allowance

Carer Allowance

Carer Payment

Other government pensions and allowances

Other sources of income

Employee income

Unincorporated business income

Other income nec

Nil income

Not stated/not known/inadequately described

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	<p data-bbox="231 163 1173 197">Person—reason for seeking assistance, homelessness code N[N]</p> <p data-bbox="263 230 539 253">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 286 831 309">In the SHS NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.</p> <p data-bbox="263 342 571 365">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 398 1129 454">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.</p> <p data-bbox="263 488 820 510">This data element is collected twice (for the client):</p> <ul data-bbox="300 544 1114 600" style="list-style-type: none"> • for all the presenting reasons for seeking assistance; and subsequently • for the main presenting reason for seeking assistance <p data-bbox="263 633 922 656">In both cases the reasons are those nominated by the client.</p> <p data-bbox="263 689 1082 768">This question allows the client to check all responses that apply for all the presenting reasons for seeking assistance (up to 26 valid responses). The client should also select one main reason for seeking assistance.</p>	Conditional	27
-	<p data-bbox="231 835 1173 869">Person—reason for seeking assistance, text A[A(49)]</p> <p data-bbox="263 902 539 925">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 958 1129 1070">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation. This data element is conditional on the person responding with Other (CODE 26), in the data element Person—reason for seeking assistance, homelessness code N[N].</p>	Conditional	1
-	<p data-bbox="231 1137 1173 1171">Person—reason services not provided, code N[N]</p> <p data-bbox="263 1205 539 1227">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1261 1145 1339">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected only for 'turnaways'. Turnaways are people who have not received any requested services or assessment.</p> <p data-bbox="263 1373 571 1395">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1429 1137 1485">This question allows the person to check all responses that apply, and therefore the person may have up to 11 valid responses.</p>	Conditional	11

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—registered/awaiting government payment indicator, code N	Conditional	4
	Conditional obligation:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is only collected for clients who report nil income (CODE 17) in Person—principal source of cash income, code NNNN.		
	This question establishes whether clients may have applied for a government benefit, pension or allowance, but are still awaiting their first payment.		
	DSS specific information:		
	This data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY) • at the date of presentation • at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY) • at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY). 		
	Only one permissible value is selected in each case.		
	This collection records a response of Don't Know (CODE 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (CODE 9) in the Standard.		
-	Person—relationship to the presenting unit head, code N[N]	Mandatory	1
	DSS specific information:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.		
-	Person—relationship to the presenting unit head, text [A(50)]	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	This data element is conditional on the person responding with Other relationship (CODE 15), in the data element <i>Person—relationship to the presenting unit head, code N[N]</i> .		
	DSS specific information:		
	In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.		

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
	<p data-bbox="231 156 798 190">- Person—residential type, homelessness code N[N]</p> <p data-bbox="263 224 542 257">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 280 1085 347">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.</p> <p data-bbox="263 369 574 403">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 425 1133 492">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:</p> <ul data-bbox="295 515 1157 728" style="list-style-type: none"> • one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY) • at the date of presentation • at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY) • at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY). <p data-bbox="263 750 845 784">Only one permissible value is selected in each case.</p> <p data-bbox="263 806 1093 896">This collection records a response of Don't Know (CODE 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (CODE 99) in the Standard.</p>	Conditional	4
	<p data-bbox="231 1008 869 1041">- Person—school enrolment and attendance status, code N</p> <p data-bbox="263 1075 542 1108">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1131 1125 1220">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS this data element is collected for all clients from age 4 to 18 years (inclusive). This data element is not collected for children aged 4 years who have not started school.</p> <p data-bbox="263 1243 574 1276">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1299 1133 1366">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.</p> <p data-bbox="263 1388 1093 1478">This collection records a response of Don't Know (CODE 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (CODE 99) in the Standard.</p>	Conditional	1
	<p data-bbox="231 1523 798 1556">- Person—service requested, homelessness code N</p> <p data-bbox="263 1601 542 1635">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1657 1077 1747">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is only collected for 'turnaways'. Turnaways are people who have not received the requested services or assessment.</p> <p data-bbox="263 1769 574 1803">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 1825 1117 1892">This question allows the client to check all responses that apply, and therefore the client may have up to 4 valid responses for this question.</p>	Conditional	4

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	<p data-bbox="231 156 1077 190">Person—source of information on a mental health condition indicator, code N</p> <p data-bbox="263 224 542 257">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 280 1157 403">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (CODE 1)</p> <p data-bbox="263 425 574 459">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 481 1133 548">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.</p>	Conditional	1
-	<p data-bbox="231 571 981 604">Person—source of information on a mental health condition, code N</p> <p data-bbox="263 638 542 672">Conditional obligation:</p> <p data-bbox="263 694 1157 817">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (CODE 1).</p> <p data-bbox="263 840 1093 907">It is also conditional on a response of Yes (CODE 1) to <i>Person—source of information on a mental health condition indicator, code N</i>.</p> <p data-bbox="263 929 574 963">DSS specific information:</p> <p data-bbox="263 985 1133 1052">In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.</p> <p data-bbox="263 1075 1149 1225">This data element is collected from the perspective of the agency worker. The agency worker may answer this question based on their personal observations, or from information volunteered by the client. If the client does not agree to answer the questions which require consent, the agency worker will be unable to report this information.</p>	Conditional	1

Seq Metadata item
No.

Obligation Max
occurs

- [Person—student type, code N](#)

Conditional 4

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on responding to *Person—student/employment training indicator, code N with a Yes (CODE 1)*.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (CODE 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (CODE 9) in the Standard.

- [Person—student/employment training indicator, code N](#)

Conditional 4

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected four times, for the following points in time:

- one week before the start of the support period (the Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the date of presentation
- at the end of the reporting period (the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY)
- at the end of the support period (the Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY).

Only one permissible value is selected in each case.

This collection records a response of Don't Know (CODE 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/Inadequately described (CODE 9) in the Standard.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—time elapsed since last permanent residence, code N	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.</p> <p>This collection records a response of Don't Know (CODE 99), which is equivalent to the code Don't know/Not sure (CODE 9) in the Standard.</p>		
-	Person—type of institution recently left, homelessness code N[N]	Conditional	7
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is conditional on the client providing consent to release their personal data to the AIHW. The data element Client—consent obtained indicator, yes/no code N, must receive a response of Yes (CODE 1).</p> <p>This item is also conditional on a response of Yes in the data element <i>Person—previously resided in institution/facility indicator, code N</i>.</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation. This data element refers to institutions or facilities the client may have been in during the last 12 months. This question allows the client to check all responses that apply, and therefore the client may have up to 7 valid responses.</p> <p>The value Other (CODE 98) is not used by this collection.</p>		
-	Person—urgency of requested assistance, time period code N	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is only collected for 'turnaways'. Turnaways are people who have not received the requested services or assessment.</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This collection records a response of Don't Know (CODE 99), which is equivalent to the code Don't know/Not sure (CODE 7) in the Standard.</p>		

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—year of first arrival in Australia, date YYYY	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this Data Element is ascertained for all clients who have indicated that their Country of Birth is not Australia.</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.</p> <p>The supplementary code Don't know (Code 9999) is used to process client data if a valid year of arrival is not provided.</p>		
-	Referral—formal referral source, homelessness code N[N]	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected at the date of presentation.</p> <p>This collection records a response of Don't Know (CODE 99), which is equivalent to the code Don't know/Not sure (CODE 22) in the Standard.</p>		
-	Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS this data element is the support period end date.</p>		
-	Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS this data element is the support period start date.</p>		
-	Service episode—reporting period, date MMYYYY	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element reflects the month that information was collected from the person. It is recorded for both clients and turnaways.</p>		

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Service episode—service cessation reason, homelessness code N[N] Conditional obligation: In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients if the support period has finished. DSS specific information: This collection records a response of Don't Know (CODE 99), which is equivalent to the code Not stated/unknown (CODE 99) in the Standard.	Conditional	1
-	Service episode—service ongoing indicator, code N Conditional obligation: In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients. DSS specific information: The code Not stated/inadequately described (CODE 9) is not used by this collection.	Conditional	1
-	Service event—assistance request date, DDMMYYYY DSS specific information: In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this Data Element is relevant to 'turnaways' and clients. It captures the date on which a person sought assistance from a Specialist Homelessness Agency. This may not be the same date the assistance or service is received by the client.	Mandatory	1
-	Service event—first service contact date, DDMMYYYY Conditional obligation: In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients. DSS specific information: In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected for all clients. This data element is collected for the first service contact date within the reporting period. If the first service contact was also the start of the service episode, as recorded by the data element Service episode—episode start date, DDMMYYYY, then the same date will be recorded for both data elements. If the service episode is ongoing but the service event is new, then the actual date of the new service event should be recorded. This data element should ascertain the actual date of service, not the date when the data is recorded.	Conditional	1

Seq Metadata item
No.

Obligation Max
occurs

- [Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Conditional 1

Conditional obligation:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this item is only asked of clients.

DSS specific information:

In the Specialist Homelessness Services NMDS, this data element is collected for all clients.

This data element is collected for the last service provision date within the reporting period. If the last provision of a service was also the end of the service episode, as recorded by the data element Service episode—episode end date, DDMMYYYY, then the same date will be recorded for both data elements.

If the last provision of a service is not the end of the service episode (i.e. where other services continue to be provided) the actual date of the end of the service event should be recorded. However if the service event within the service episode is ongoing to the next reporting period, ie ongoing to the following month, then the Service event—last service provision date, DDMMYYYY will be recorded as the last day of the current month.

This data element should ascertain the actual date of service, not the date when the data is recorded.

- [Service provider organisation—organisation identifier, NNNNNA](#)

Mandatory 1