

# Language code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN]

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## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Value Domain
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	659404
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Tasmanian Health, Standard 27/06/2017</a> <a href="#">Health!, Standard 25/01/2018</a> <a href="#">Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired), Standard 20/06/2018</a> <a href="#">Homelessness, Standard 10/08/2018</a> <a href="#">Children and Families, Standard 20/01/2021</a>
<b>Definition:</b>	The Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) code set representing languages.

## Representational attributes

<b>Classification scheme:</b>	<a href="#">Australian Standard Classification of Languages 2016</a>
<b>Representation class:</b>	Code
<b>Data type:</b>	Number
<b>Format:</b>	N[NNN]
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	4

## Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** The ASCL has a three-level hierarchical structure. The most detailed level of the classification consists of 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 two-digit and three-digit codes. The most general level of the classification consists of broad groups of languages (the Broad group level) and is identified by one-digit codes. 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 the language level of the classification. Also, significant languages within a Narrow group can be presented separately with the remaining languages of the Narrow group aggregated. The same principle can be adopted to highlight significant Narrow groups within a Broad group.

## Source and reference attributes

<b>Submitting organisation:</b>	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
<b>Revision status:</b>	The first edition of the ASCL was published in 1997. The ASCL was revised in 2005, 2011 and 2016.

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:**

Supersedes [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:**

[Allied health service event—preferred language. code \(ASCL 2016\) N\[NNN\]](#)  
[Health!](#), Standard 12/12/2018

[Individual service provider—provider's clinically proficient language. code \(ASCL 2016\) N\[NNN\]](#)  
[Health!](#), Standard 25/01/2018

[Person—main language other than English spoken at home. code \(ASCL 2016\) N\[NNN\]](#)  
[Children and Families](#), Standard 20/01/2021  
[Health!](#), Standard 25/01/2018  
[Homelessness](#), Standard 10/08/2018

[Person—preferred language. code \(ASCL 2016\) N\[NNN\]](#)  
[Health!](#), Standard 25/01/2018  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 27/06/2017

[Person—preferred spoken language. code \(ASCL 2016\) N\[NNN\]](#)  
[Commonwealth Department of Social Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/06/2018

[Person—preferred written language. code \(ASCL 2016\) N\[NNN\]](#)  
[Commonwealth Department of Social Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/06/2018

[Survey—language. code \(ASCL 2016\) N\[NNN\]](#)  
[Health!](#), Standard 15/04/2021

[Survey—survey language. code \(ASCL 2016\) N\[NNN\]](#)  
[Health!](#), Superseded 15/04/2021