

# Person—preferred written language, code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN]

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## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element
<b>Short name:</b>	Preferred written language
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	666389
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired)</a> , Standard 20/06/2018
<b>Definition:</b>	A person's preferred language for written communication, as represented by a code.
<b>Data Element Concept:</b>	<a href="#">Person—preferred written language</a>
<b>Value Domain:</b>	<a href="#">Language code (ASCL 2016) N[NNN]</a>

## Value domain attributes

## 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

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

## Data element attributes

## Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** This data element refers to the person's preferred language for letters, advices and literature. For example, if a person speaks English, but is more comfortable reading in Greek, then Greek is coded as the preferred language.

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Government Department of Social Services

## Relational attributes

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:** [Demographics Cluster](#)  
[Commonwealth Department of Social Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 20/06/2018  
**DSS specific information:**

Preferred written language refers to the variables PREF\_LANG\_LANG in the PIA research data set.