Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD)

Data Dictionary

Version 0.3

July 2023

Foreword

This data dictionary compiles data variables used in an Australian context, contributing to the meaningful collection of data for the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities that can affect the treatment and access to health services for this group. It is meant to be a guide and draws upon existing definitions and standards.

Where no data variables or standards exist, these will be clearly stated.

The VCCC Alliance Program 8 Health Equity is undertaking a project to understand how health service and cancer registry data on culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities are collected, particularly at VCCC Alliance member health services. This draft data dictionary collates the national standards recommended by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity (SSCLD), 1999 in one document for easier reference. Only key information is summarised and not meant to be a comprehensive inclusion of all definitions and metadata. It is to be used as the basis for discussion to better understand and improve on the barriers and gaps in the collection of CALD data experienced by health services.

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Abbreviations

ABS	Australasian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ASCL	Australian Standard Classification of Languages
ASCRG	Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse
ICD-10-AM	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification
METeOR	Metadata Online Registry
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SSCLD	Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity
VCCC	Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre

Dataset Definition Sources

Dataset variables should offer substantial levels of national and international comparability while still providing usefulness for the specific local requirements. At the same time, ease of collection (in terms of time required or cost) is essential, particularly in order to obtain data from health services or organisations which do not currently have existing data collection (and hence are more likely to be resource-poor).

For purposes of national point of reference, the default health standard sought for each variable is a definition from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Australian National Health Data Dictionary (NHDD). Data elements may form part of published data standards or dataset specifications. Several standards are in turn based on, derived from or compatible with routinely collected International Classification of Diseases (ICD) codes.

Where no standard is felt to apply to a variable, best matches are provided, or references made to published articles, or international classification or definitions, and noted that data variables may require future development.

Guide to Using This Data Dictionary

This data dictionary references the recommendations of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity (SSCLD), 1999 developed for a nationally consistent framework in the collection and dissemination of data on cultural and language diversity. The recommended 12 Standard Set of Cultural and Language Indicators are presented in this data dictionary as the Minimum Core Set (1.1 - 1.4) and Non-core Variables (1.5 – 1.12). In addition, Other Variables (1.13 – 1.18) are proposed (and not a recommendation) to preface discussions on merits of other data elements in defining CALD communities with an intersectional approach, noting that some of these may be captured in other datasets and accessible through linked data. Definition references to existing national health data standards where available. The national health metadata standards are overseen by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and is hosted online at the Metadata Online Registry (METeOR) website. For more information about METeOR, please go to:

http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/181162

The format of the following data dictionary is an adaptation based on the ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3:2003 (Information Technology - Metadata Registries - Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes), as interpreted by AIHW. The following guide provides an overview of the types of data attributes and their definitions used for each of the data elements.

Dates and times are in accordance with the recommendations of ISO 8601:2004 (Data elements and interchange formats - Information interchange - Representation of dates and times)

Guide to Meaning of Categories and Headings

DATA ELEMENT NAME

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition   A concise statement that expresses the essential nature of a data item and its differentiation from all other data items.

Rationale   The reason for collecting this data item.

Obligation

An indicator of whether the data element is mandatory or optional for the data collection or transmission.

Mandatory   Data element that must be collected.

Minimum   A data element that has been determined to be important and forms part of a minimum core dataset.

Optional   Optional collection. It is recommended that data be collected if deemed essential, relevant and feasible.

Derived   Value is calculated.

Representational attributes

Data domain
The set of possible values for the data item. This may take the form of a code set, or a description of the possible values. Domain values are only specified where size of the code set is small enough to be reasonably reproduced in the document. In other instances the domain may be indicated by reference to a source document.

Guide for use
These are comments designed to assist in further defining aspects of the data domain and help users in data collection.

Validation rules
These are included to assist in reducing input errors.

Related data element
Other data elements in this data dictionary that have some direct relationship with the data element being described.

Data type
The type of symbol or character, or other designation used to represent the data element, for example, String, Number, Date/Time.

Representational class
Describes whether the valid values for the data item take the form of a code set or free text. If the form is described as 'Code' the relevant code set or sets will be specified in the Data Domain section.

Maximum field size
The maximum number of characters or numbers allowable to represent the data item values.

Format
A generic example of what the data element should look like in the unit record. It is a template for the presentation of values, including specification and layout of permitted characters. For example, dates should be represented in the format of YYYY-MM-DD where DD represents the day, MM represents the month, and YYYY represents the four-digit numeric for the year. Refer to Figure 1 for format used in this data dictionary.

Additional information

References	Documents listed here have been used as references when designing the specified item. Also listed are names of the organisations that developed the source document or provided advice on the data item.
Related metadata	Relationship between other metadata items.

Figure 1. Format values and their associated meanings

Value	Valid character range
A	Alphabetic character set: contains the letters a-z and A-Z and may contain special characters*, but not numeric characters.
N	Numeric character set: contains whole and decimal numbers and may contain special characters, but not alphabetic characters.
X	Alphanumeric character set: contains alphabetic and numeric characters, and may contain blank characters.
DD	A numeric character representing the day within a date
MM	A numeric character representing month within a date
YYYY	A numeric character representing year within a date
S	Positive or negative sign
[ ]	The string within the square brackets is optional in any ordered combination (e.g. [XXX] indicates 0, 1, 2 or 3 alphanumeric characters (i.e. blank, X, XX or XXX)).
( )	The character preceding the round brackets (parentheses) is repeated the number of times specified (e.g. X(9) indicates 9 alphanumeric characters).

*A special character is a character which has a visual representation and is neither a letter, number, ideogram, or blank. For example, punctuation marks and mathematical symbols.

Limitations

Work on the dataset and data dictionary is an on-going iterative process, therefore there may be limitations and refinement required of the current version. Readers will need to be aware of certain limitations in the current version but these do not affect the intended purpose or definitions for each of the data items.

Acknowledgments

We thank the following individuals for their review and comments: Dr Tilini Gunathillake, Dr Vijaya Joshi, Dr Sundresan Naicker.

Minimum Core Dataset

1.1 Country of birth of person

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	The country in which the person was born.
Justification	Country of birth used in demographic analyses and is important in the study of access to services by different population sub-groups.
Obligation	Mandatory
	Minimum

Representational attributes

Guide for use	Classification of country at birth as per the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) lowest level (4 digits), available on ABS website.
	Recommended question:
	i. In which country were you/was the person/was (name) born?
Validation rules	
Related data element	Country of birth of father, Country of birth of mother
Data type	Number
Representational class	Code
Field size maximum	4
Format	N(4)
Data domain	Refer to Standard Australian Classification of Countries, 2016, Australian Bureau of Statistics
	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/standard-australian-classification-countries-sacc/2016/sacc_12690do0001_202301.xlsx

Administrative information

References	Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016), Country of Birth Standard, ABS Website, accessed 5 May 2023
Related metadata	METeOR ID: 659454

1.2 Main language other than English spoken at home

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	The language reported by a person as the main language other than English spoken by that person in his/her home (or most recent private residential setting occupied by the person) to communicate with other residents of the home or setting and regular visitors.
Justification	This data element is important in identifying those people most likely to suffer disadvantage in terms of their ability to access services due to language and/or cultural difficulties. This data element forms the minimum core set of cultural and language indicators recommended by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity, 1999. Data on main language other than English spoken at home are regarded as an indicator of 'active' ethnicity. Main language other than English spoken at home when used in conjunction with other variables, such as County of Birth, the combined data may provide insight into language usage in first and second generation Australians.
Obligation	Mandatory
	Minimum

Representational attributes

Guide for use	This metadata item is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Language Standards. For detailed advice on its use and application please refer to the ABS Website: Main language other than English spoken at home Recommended question: i. Do you/Does the person/Does (name)/ Will (name of child under two years) speak a language other than English at home? (If more than one language, indicate the one that is spoken most often.) The ABS Language Standards, 2016 (cat. no. 1200.0.55.005) was released in July 2016. The recommended question recognises children under two years of age.

Validation rules

Related data element	First Language Spoken, Languages Spoken at Home, Main Language Spoken at Home, and Proficiency in Spoken English
Data type	Number
Representational class	Code
Field size maximum	4
Format	N(4)
Data domain	Refer to Australian Standard Classification of Languages, Australian Bureau of Statistics – level 3 (4 digit)
	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-languages-ascl/2016/ASCL_12670DO0001_201703.xls

Administrative information

References	Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) 2016. ABS cat. no.1267.0. Canberra: ABS.
	Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. Language Standards 2016. ABS cat. no.1200.0.55.005. Canberra: ABS.
Related metadata	METeOR ID: 659402

1.3 Proficiency in spoken English

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	A person's self-assessed level of ability to speak English.
Justification	An indicator of the level of skill in speaking English. A lack of proficiency in spoken English may impact a person's access to employment, education and other government and non-government services including health services.
Obligation	Mandatory
	Minimum

Representational attributes

Guide for use

This metadata item is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Language Standards. For detailed advice on its use and application please refer to the ABS Website: [Proficiency in spoken English](#)

Recommended question:
   i.   How well do you speak English?

CODE 0   Not applicable - is to be used for people under 5 year of age and people who speak only English.

CODE 9   Not stated/inadequately described - is not to be used where the item has not been collected.

The ABS advises that the most useful information provided by this metadata item is in the distinction between the two category groups - Very well/Well and Not well/Not at all.

Validation rules

Related data element	First Language Spoken, Languages Spoken at Home, and Main Language Spoken at Home
Data type	Number
Representational class	Code
Field size maximum	1
Format	N

Data domain

Value	Meaning
0	Not applicable (persons under 5 years of age or who speak only English)

1	Very well
2	Well
3	Not well
4	Not at all
9	Not stated/inadequately described

Administrative information

References [Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity 1999](). Cat. no. 1289.0. Canberra: ABS.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. [Language Standards 2016](). ABS cat. no.1200.0.55.005. Canberra: ABS.

Related metadata METeOR ID: [270203]()

1.4   Indigenous status

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition   Indigenous Status is a measure of whether a person identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Justification   Indigenous peoples occupy a unique place in society and culture. In the current climate of reconciliation, accurate and consistent statistics about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia are needed in order to plan, promote and deliver essential services, to monitor changes in wellbeing and to account for government expenditure in this area. The purpose of this metadata item is to provide information about people who identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, and to be considered separately to CALD communities to better identification of potential health disparity and needs in CALD and indigenous communities.

Obligation   Mandatory

                          Minimum

Representational attributes

Guide for use   The term 'Indigenous Status' is an endorsed term for use in data collection only and in terms of identifying the characteristics of a person widely accepted as the '[Commonwealth Definition](#)', which states that: 'An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives'. However, collecting information on the basis of community acceptance is often impractical in a survey or administrative data collection setting. For these reasons definition of Indigenous Status is therefore operationalised as whether or not a person identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. A person's indigenous status is determined by their response to the [ABS Standard Indigenous](#).

                          Recommended question:
                          i.   [Are you] [Is the person] [Is (name)] of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

                          The classification is as follows:
                              Indigenous:

- Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin.
- Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin.

- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

Non-indigenous:

- Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin.

CODE 9   Not stated/ inadequately described - is intended for use when:

- Importing data from other data collections that do not contain mappable data.
- Where an answer was refused.
- Where the question was not able to be asked prior to completion of assistance because the client was unable to communicate or a person who knows the client was not available.

Validation rules

Related data element

Data type   Number

Representational class   Code

Field size maximum   1

Format   N

Data domain

Value	Meaning
1	Identifies as Aboriginal, but not Torres Strait Islander origin
2	Identifiers as Torres Strait Islander, but not Aboriginal origin
3	Identifies as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
4	Does not identify as Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander
9	Not stated/inadequately described

Administrative information

References   Australian Bureau of Statistics 2014. Indigenous Status Standard Version 1.5, Canberra.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2010. National best practice guidelines for collecting Indigenous status in health data sets. Cat. no. IHW 29. Canberra: AIHW. http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=6442468342.

Related metadata   METeOR ID: 291036

Non-core Variables

1.5   Ancestry

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	Ancestry describes the ethnic origin or cultural heritage to which a person identifies and/or to which a person's forebears are/were attached.
Justification	Used to measure an association with ethnic and cultural groups which do not equate directly to countries or languages and thus cannot be readily identified using country of birth or language variables. It is recommended for use in conjunction with these variables in order to identify particular ethnic origin or cultural groups, as it provides a self assessed measure of ethnic origin and cultural background
Obligation	Optional

Representational attributes

Guide for use	Ancestry data alone is not considered a good measure of service needs or the extent to which persons from certain backgrounds are associated with advantage or disadvantage. It is recommended to be used in conjunction with these Country of Birth variables, Indigenous Status, Religious Affiliation, and language variables in order to identify particular ethnic origin or cultural groups.

Recommended question:
  i.   [What is [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] ancestry?

Ancestry is defined as the ethnic origin or cultural groups which a person identifies as being his or her ancestry. For example, a respondent may indicate four ancestries because each grandparent is from a different ethnic origin or cultural background (say Italian, Greek, German, English). However, another person with the same ancestry may choose to identify as 'Australian' because one or both parents were born in Australia, or because of a cultural or national attachment to this country. Ancestry therefore involves measures of self-identification of ethnic origin or cultural group affiliation or nationality as well as of descent from one or more particular groups.

Validation rules	
Related data element	
Data type	Number
Representational class	Code

Field size maximum	4
Format	N(4)
Data domain	Refer to [Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG), 2019](#) – level 3 (4 digit)

Administrative information

References	Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2014-version-2.1). [Ancestry Standard](#). ABS.
	Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG), 2019
Related metadata	METeOR ID: N/A

1.6   Country of birth of father

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	The country in which the person's birth father was born, as represented by a code.
Justification	Country of birth used in demographic analyses and is important in the study of access to services by different population sub-groups.
Obligation	Optional

Representational attributes

Guide for use   The country of birth for father is intended to be limited to birth parents. People who are adopted, or have step or foster parents or other guardians, should provide the country of birth for their birth parents, if known. If the country of birth for birth parents is unknown, no response should be provided.

Recommended question:

    i.   In which country was [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] father born?

Classification of country at birth as per the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011, Version 2.3, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) lowest level (4 digits), available on ABS website.

Validation rules	
Related data element	
Data type	Number
Representational class	Code
Field size maximum	4
Format	N(4)
Data domain	Refer to Standard Australian Classification of Countries, 2016, Australian Bureau of Statistics
	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/standard-australian-classification-countries-sacc/2016/sacc_12690do0001_202301.xlsx

Administrative information

References	Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016), Country of Birth Standard, ABS Website, accessed 5 May 2023.
Related metadata	METeOR ID:

1.7   Country of birth of mother

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	The country in which the person's birth mother was born, as represented by a code.
Justification	Country of birth used in demographic analyses and is important in the study of access to services by different population sub-groups.
Obligation	Optional

Representational attributes

Guide for use	The country of birth for mother is intended to be limited to birth parents. People who are adopted, or have step or foster parents or other guardians, should provide the country of birth for their birth parents, if known. If the country of birth for birth parents is unknown, no response should be provided.

Recommended question:

    i.   In which country was [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] father born?

Classification of country at birth as per the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011, Version 2.3, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) lowest level (4 digits), available on ABS website.

Validation rules	
Related data element	
Data type	Number
Representational class	Code
Field size maximum	4
Format	N(4)
Data domain	Refer to Standard Australian Classification of Countries, 2016, Australian Bureau of Statistics
	https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/standard-australian-classification-countries-sacc/2016/sacc_12690do0001_202301.xlsx

Administrative information

References   Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016), Country of Birth
                           Standard, ABS Website, accessed 5 May 2023.

Related metadata   METeOR ID:

1.8   First language spoken

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	The language a person identifies as being the first language which they could understand to the extent of being able to conduct a conversation.
Justification	Contributes to understanding proficiency in spoken English, which may be an indicator of ability to participate effectively in Australian society, including accessing government and other services.
Obligation	Optional

Representational attributes

Guide for use	Should be interpreted to include 'native language' and 'mother tongue'. This metadata item is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) standard for classification of Languages 2nd level. For detailed advice on its use and application please refer to the ABS website: First language spoken Recommended question: i. Which language [did you] [did the person] [did (name)] [will (name of child under two years)] first speak as a child? The recommended question recognises children under two years of age.
Validation rules	
Related data element	
Data type	Number
Representational class	Code
Field size maximum	4
Format	N(4)
Data domain	Refer to Australian Standard Classification of Languages, Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 – level 3 (4 digit) https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-languages-ascl/2016/ASCL_12670DO0001_201703.xls

Administrative information

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) 2016. ABS cat. no.1267.0. Canberra: ABS.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. Language Standards 2016. ABS cat. no.1200.0.55.005. Canberra: ABS.

Related metadata

METeOR ID: 269743

1.9   Languages Spoken at Home

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition   The language or languages spoken by a person in the home, on a regular basis, to communicate with other residents of the home and regular visitors to the home.

Justification   Contribute to understanding proficiency in spoken English, which may be an indicator of ability to participate effectively in Australian society, and may be used to assess, measure and monitor service needs.

Obligation   Optional

Representational attributes

Guide for use   This metadata item is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) language standards and the definition of language in the Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 2016. For detailed advice on its use and application please refer to the ABS website: [Languages spoken at home](#)

Recommended question:
  i.   Which language or languages [do you] [does the person] [does (name)] [will (name of child under two years)] speak at home?

Validation rules

Related data element

Data type   Number

Representational class   Code

Field size maximum 4

Format   N(4)

Data domain   Refer to [Australian Standard Classification of Languages, Australian Bureau of Statistics](#) – level 3 (4 digit)

[https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-languages-ascl/2016/ASCL_12670DO0001_201703.xls](#)

Administrative information

References   Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. [Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) 2016](#). ABS cat. no.1267.0. Canberra: ABS.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. [Language Standards 2016](#). ABS cat. no.1200.0.55.005. Canberra: ABS.

Related metadata   METeOR ID: [659402](#)

1.10 Main Language Spoken at Home

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	The main language spoken at the persons home, on a regular basis, to communicate with other residents and regular visitors to the home.
Justification	Contribute to understanding proficiency in spoken English, which may be an indicator of ability to participate effectively in Australian society, and may be used to assess, measure and monitor service needs.
Obligation	Optional

Representational attributes

Guide for use	This metadata item is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) language standards and the definition of language in the Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 2016. For detailed advice on its use and application please refer to the ABS website: [Main language spoken at home](#)

Recommended question:
   ii.   Which language [do you] [does the person] [does (name)] [will (name of child under two years)] mainly speak at home?

The recommended question recognises children under two years of age. |
Validation rules	
Related data element	
Data type	Number
Representational class	Code
Field size maximum	4
Format	N(4)
Data domain	Refer to [Australian Standard Classification of Languages, Australian Bureau of Statistics](#) – level 3 (4 digit)

https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-languages-ascl/2016/ASCL_12670DO0001_201703.xls |

Administrative information

References	Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. [Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) 2016](). ABS cat. no.1267.0. Canberra: ABS.
	Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. [Language Standards 2016](). ABS cat. no.1200.0.55.005. Canberra: ABS.

Related metadata	METeOR ID: [746554]()

1.11 Religious affiliation

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	The religion to which a person nominates they have an affiliation.
Justification	Allow agencies to provide more culturally relevant services to some clients. It also provides a useful indicator of aspects of cultural diversity.
Obligation	Optional

Representational attributes

Guide for use	Religious or spiritual beliefs and practices to which a person adheres or the religious group to which a person belongs, include other spiritual beliefs or no religious or spiritual beliefs.
	This metadata item is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG). For detailed advice on its use and application please refer to the ABS website: Religious affiliation
	Recommended question: i. What is [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] religion?

Validation rules	
Related data element	
Data type	Number
Representational class	Code
Field size maximum	4
Format	N(4)
Data domain	Refer to Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups, Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016. https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-religious-groups/2016/ASCRG_12660DO0001_201707.xls

Administrative information

References	Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) 2016. Canberra: ABS.
Related metadata	METeOR ID: 269421

1.12 Year of arrival in Australia

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	The year a person (born outside of Australia) first arrived in Australia, from another country, with the intention of living in Australia for one year or more.
Justification	Used to determine Period of Residence in Australia which can be used in cross classification with other data, to analyse how the characteristics of migrants change with the length of time they have been in Australia and impact on health outcomes.
Obligation	Optional

Representational attributes

Guide for use	Should only be asked of those people born in a country other than Australia. First ask the Country of Birth question then country outside Australia to the Year of Arrival in Australia question.
	Recommended question:
	i. In what year did [you] [the person] first arrive in Australia to live here for one year or more?
Validation rules	Not null if Country of Birth of Person is not Australia (SACC codes 1101, 1102, 1199)
Related data element	Country of Birth of Person
Data type	Date/ Time
Representational class	Date
Field size maximum	4
Format	YYYY
Data domain	

Administrative information

References	Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity 1999. Cat. no. 1289.0. Canberra: ABS.
Related metadata	METeOR ID: N/A

Other Variables

1.13 Ethnicity

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	The ethnic group that the person primarily identifies with or feels they belong to. It is the shared identity or similarity of a group of people on the basis of one or more distinguishing characteristics.
Justification	Ethnicity is a known demographic factor that is associated with clinical outcomes. By collecting ethnicity this variable can be included in statistical analysis.
Obligation	

Representational attributes

Guide for use	Based on the [Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG)](#) definition where 'ethnicity' refers to the shared identity or similarity of a group of people on the basis of one or more factors. Ethnicity is based on the self-perceived group identification approach.

Ethnicity and culture are self-assessed measurements from the Ancestry variable, which, when used in conjunction with the person's and their parents' countries of birth provides a good indication of the ethnic background of first and second generation Australians. (https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/variables-topic/cultural-diversity/ancestry-multi-response-ancp)

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has adopted a multidimensional approach to represent ethnicity in Australia. This approach was recommended by Borrie Report (1984) and is consistent with the United Kingdom Law Lords definition of 'ethnicity' which refers to the shared identity or similarity of a group of people based on one or more distinguishing characteristics (https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/cultural-diversity-australia#measuring-cultural-and-ethnic-diversity):

- a long shared history, the memory of which is kept alive
- a cultural tradition, including family and social customs, sometimes religiously based
- a common geographic origin
- a common language (but not necessarily limited to that group)
- a common literature (written or oral)
- a common religion
- being a minority (often with a sense of being oppressed)
- being racially conspicuous.

The persons ethnicity is determined by their response to the question:

i. "Does your family belong to any specific cultural or ethnic group?"

The response is to be recorded according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) standard for classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups level 3. For detailed advice on its use and application please refer to the ABS Website: Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG), 2019
https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-cultural-and-ethnic-groups-ascceg/2019/12490do0001_201912.xls

Validation rules	
Related data element	Ancestry
Data type	Number
Representational class	Code
Field size maximum	4
Format	N(4)
Data domain	Refer to Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG), 2019 – level 3 (4 digit)

Administrative information

References	Australian Bureau of Statistics. 1986 Population Census Ethnicity Committee. (1984). The measurement of ethnicity in the Australian census of population and housing : report to the Australian Statistician. Canberra : ABS
	Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG) 2019). Canberra: ABS.
Related metadata	METeOR ID: N/A

1.14 Culture

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	Culture describes the collective behaviour patterns of a group of people - that is, their way of life.
Justification	
Obligation	

Representational attributes

Guide for use	Based on the definition on the ABS website: https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/0/B8784B639DB 52193CA2571B9001E1458?opendocument
	Culture and ethnicity are self-assessed measurements from the Ancestry variable, which, when used in conjunction with the person's and their parents' countries of birth provides a good indication of the ethnic background of first and second generation Australians.
Validation rules	
Related data element	Ancestry
Data type	
Representational class	
Field size maximum	
Format	
Data domain	

Administrative information

References	
Related metadata	METeOR ID: N/A

1.15 Race

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	A concept used to describe a group of people who regard themselves as having a particular historical identity in terms of their colour, or their racial, national or ethnic origins. They may also share similar social or cultural identities and ancestral backgrounds.
Justification	Race, together with ethnicity, are terms which could be used to study and view disparities and inequities in health, health care, and medical practice, education, and research. Some diseases, such as cancer, may be more common in certain races than in others.
Obligation	

Representational attributes

Guide for use	Race and ethnicity are social constructs, without scientific or biological meaning. There are many racial groups, and a person may belong to or identify with more than one group. The historical construct of race referring to broad categories of people that are divided arbitrarily but based on ancestral origin and physical characteristics is largely considered to be outdated.
	Reporting of race and ethnicity should not be considered in isolation and should be accompanied by reporting of other sociodemographic factors and social determinants, including concerns about racism, disparities, and inequities, and the intersectionality of race and ethnicity with these other factors.
Validation rules	
Related data element	Ancestry
	Ethnicity
Data type	
Representational class	
Field size maximum	
Format	
Data domain	

Administrative information

References	Butterworths Australian Legal Dictionary, 1997, 975, [Encyclopaedic Australian Legal Dictionary](), accessed 26 July 2023.
	Frey, Tracy, and Roxanne K. Young, 'Correct and Preferred Usage', AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors, 11th ed. (New York, 2020; online edn, AMA Manual of Style, 3 Feb. 2020), [https://doi.org/10.1093/jama/9780190246556.003.0011](), accessed 26 July 2023.
	National Cancer Institute. [NCI Dictionary of Cancer Terms]()
	Updated Guidance on the Reporting of Race and Ethnicity in Medical and Science Journals. A. Flanagin, T. Frey, S. L. Christiansen and A. M. o. S. Committee. [JAMA 2021 Vol. 326 Issue 7 Pages 621-627]()
Related metadata	METeOR ID: N/A

1.16 Date of Birth

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	The date the person was born.
Justification	Required for a range of clinical and administrative purposes. Date of birth enables derivation of age for use in demographic analyses, assists in the unique identification of clients if other identifying information is missing or in question, and may be required for the derivation of other metadata items.
Obligation	

Representational attributes

Guide for use	Collect or estimate age if date of birth is not known or cannot be obtained. Estimated age in years for adults, to the nearest three months (or less) for children aged less than two years. An estimated date flag should be used in conjunction with all estimated dates of birth.
	Recommended question:
	i. What is your/(the person's) date of birth?
Validation rules	Value must be greater than 01/01/1900 and less than or equal to today's date
Related data element	
Data type	Date/ Time
Representational class	Date
Field size maximum	8
Format	DDMMYYYY

Administrative information

References	
Related metadata	METeOR ID: 287007

1.17 Gender

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	Gender of person. Gender is about social and cultural differences in identity, expression and experience as a man, boy, woman, girl, or non-binary person.
Justification	Collected for administrative purposes, to assist in identification of duplicates and for identifying person characteristics in demographic analyses.
Obligation	

Representational attributes

Guide for use

Gender should be differentiated from sex (https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/standard-sex-gender-variations-sex-characteristics-and-sexual-orientation-variables/latest-release#gender). A person's gender may differ from their sex and may also differ from what is indicated on their legal documents. A person's gender may stay the same or can change over the course of their lifetime. The gender response option chosen will reflect a person's gender at that point in time. Some people may not identify with a specific gender or with the concept of gender at all. The gender question must always be asked as written and no assumptions made.

This Value Domain is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics Standard for sex, gender, variations of sex characteristics and sexual orientation variables (ABS 2021).

The values are defined as follows:

CODE 1   Man, or boy, or male
A person who describes their gender as man, or boy, or male.

CODE 2   Woman, or girl, or female
A person who describes their gender as woman, or girl, or female.

CODE 3   Non-binary
A person who describes their gender as non-binary.

CODE 4   Different term
A person who describes their gender as a term other than man/boy/male, woman/girl/female or non-binary.

CODE 5   Prefer not to answer

A person who prefers not to respond on how they describe their gender.

Validation rules

Related data element

Data type	String
Representational class	Code
Field size maximum	1
Format	X

Data domain	Value	Meaning
	1	Man, or boy, or male
	2	Woman, or girl, or female
	3	Non-binary
	4	Different term
	5	Prefer not to answer
	9	Not stated/inadequately described

Administrative information

References	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2021. Standard for sex, gender, variations of sex characteristics and sexual orientation variables. Canberra: ABS
Related metadata	METeOR ID: 741842
	METeOR ID: 750032

1.18 Current Postcode

Identifying and definitional attributes

Definition	The Australian numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area for an address of the person. It is the postcode where the person currently lives.
Justification	Postcode may be used in the analysis of data on a geographical basis that involves coding data containing a postcode to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) areas. Postcode can be used as a marker of socioeconomic status which is an important variable associated with clinical outcomes.
Obligation	

Representational attributes

Guide for use	For a full list of Australian postcodes visit the Australia Post website: www.austpost.com.au
Validation rules	
Related data element	
Data type	Number
Representational class	Code
Field size maximum	4
Format	N(4)
Data domain	

Administrative information

References	
Related metadata	METeOR ID: 429894

Appendix