

2 Data available from the CSTDA NMDS

This chapter details the scope and nature of the redeveloped collection together with the final data items included within the CSTDA NMDS. The chapter also discusses some of the key uses of CSTDA NMDS data and provides a range of examples to illustrate the type of information now available from the new collection.

2.1 The scope and nature of the CSTDA NMDS

The most significant change in the new CSTDA NMDS (compared with the snapshot CSDA MDS collection) is that, for most service types, funded agencies are required to provide information about all service users during the year (rather than just those who receive a service on a snapshot day). This means that funded agencies are asked to collect and store information on an ongoing basis, for transmission to their funding department at specified points in time (quarterly in some jurisdictions and annually in others). Funding departments transmit annual data to the AIHW for national collation at the end of each financial year.

Box 2.1 summarises the key concepts of the CSTDA NMDS collection. Briefly, most agencies funded under the CSTDA are requested to provide information about:

- each of the service types they are funded to provide (i.e. service type outlets they operate);
- all service users who received support over the financial year; and
- the CSTDA NMDS service type(s) the service user received.

However, certain service type outlets (e.g. those providing advocacy or information/referral services) are not requested to provide any service user details, while other service type outlets (e.g. recreation/holiday programs) are only asked to provide very minimal service user details (see Table 8.1 for further details).

2.2 The data items included in the CSTDA NMDS

As detailed in later chapters of this report, the CSTDA NMDS data items were developed following extensive consultation with administrators, jurisdiction staff, funded agencies and service users. The final data items agreed for inclusion in the CSTDA NMDS are designed to:

- meet the information needs of stakeholders, including national disability administrators, funding departments, funded agencies and service users;
- align and integrate with data collection methods used by funded agencies and jurisdictions;
- be a *minimum* data set, seeking only information that is considered useful at a national level and feasible to collect (i.e. responder burden was considered throughout the redevelopment project);

- conform to national data collection standards (i.e. the *National Community Services Data Dictionary* where appropriate data elements are available, and to other developments in the field such as the Home and Community Care Minimum Data Set), and thereby reduce the likelihood of duplication by funded agencies; and
- provide some continuity with the previous CSDA MDS.

The data items included in the CSTDA NMDS at implementation are listed in Table 2.1 and also presented in the format of a simplified information model (Figure 2.1).

Box 2.1: Key definitions for the CSTDA NMDS collection

Service

A service is a support activity delivered to a service user, in accord with the CSTDA. Services within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided, during the specified period, by a government organisation operating under the CSTDA.

Service user

A service user is a person with a disability who receives a CSTDA-funded service.

A service user may receive more than one service over a period of time or on a single day.

Service type

Service type is the support activity which the service type outlet has been funded to provide under the CSTDA.

The NMDS classifies services according to 'service type'. The 'service type' classification groups services into seven categories: accommodation support; community support; community access; respite; employment; advocacy, information and print disability; and other support services. Within each of these categories there are subcategories.

Service type outlet

A service type outlet is the unit of the funded agency that delivers a particular CSTDA service type at or from a discrete location.

If a funded agency provides, say, both accommodation support and respite services, it is counted as two service type outlets. Similarly, if an agency is funded to provide more than one accommodation support service type (for example, group homes and attendant care) then it is providing (and is usually separately funded for) two different service types, that is, there are two service type outlets for the funded agency.

Funded agency

A funded agency is an organisation that delivers one or more CSTDA service types (service type outlets). Funded agencies are usually legal entities. They are generally responsible for providing CSTDA NMDS data to jurisdictions. Where a funded agency operates only one service type outlet, the service type outlet and the funded agency are one and the same entity.

Scope of the CSTDA NMDS collection

Services within the scope of the collection are those for which funding has been provided, during the specified period, by a government organisation operating under the CSTDA. A funded agency may receive funding from multiple sources. Where a funded agency is unable to differentiate service users and/or staff according to funding source (i.e. CSTDA or other), it is asked to provide details of all service users and staff (for each service type).

Source: AIHW 2002c.

2.3 Key uses of CSTDA NMDS data

In the past, CSDA MDS snapshot data had been used for a wide range of purposes, such as to:

- support budget submissions for increased funding or changing funding emphasis;
- support planning for future service delivery;
- resist proposals to increase the level of service user contributions by demonstrating the high proportion of CSDA service users who have benefits or pensions as their main income source;
- provide national comparisons of numbers of service users living in institutional vs community-based settings; and
- indicate that certain groups of people (e.g. people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin) are not accessing services as much as should be expected.

The new CSTDA NMDS is a full-year data collection, which introduces a number of new data items. These changes significantly improve the power of the information collected. For example, for the first time:

- a profile of all people receiving a CSDA-funded service in a financial year will be available;
- new data on carer arrangements will enable the issue of ageing carers to be monitored and planned for; and
- information will be available about the quantity of service provided to service users and this can be examined in relation to various characteristics of these service users, such as their support needs, disability group and carer arrangements, and whether they live in metropolitan or rural locations.

Table 2.1: Data items for the redeveloped CSTDA NMDS

Service type outlet items	Service user items	Information required for each service type received in the reporting period (per service user)
<p>A. Funded agency ID (J)</p> <p>B. Service type outlet ID (J)</p> <p>C. Service type (J)</p> <p>D. Service type outlet postcode (J)</p> <p>E. Service type outlet SLA (J)</p> <p>F. Funding jurisdiction (J)</p> <p>G. Agency sector (J)</p> <p>H. CSTDA funding*</p> <p>1. Full financial year operation</p> <p>2. Weeks per year of operation</p> <p>3. Days per week of operation</p> <p>4. Hours per day of operation</p> <p>5. Staff hours (reference week)</p> <p>6. Staff hours (typical week)</p> <p>7. Number of service users</p>	<p>B. Service type outlet ID(s) (J)</p> <p>1. Record ID</p> <p>2a. Letters of surname (H)</p> <p>2b. Letters of given name (H)</p> <p>2c. Date of birth (H)</p> <p>2d. Birth date estimate flag</p> <p>2e. Sex (H)</p> <p>3. Indigenous origin (H)</p> <p>4. Country of birth (H)</p> <p>5. Interpreter services required</p> <p>6. Communication method</p> <p>7. Living arrangements (H)</p> <p>8. Service user postcode (H)</p> <p>9. Residential setting (H)</p> <p>10. Disability group (primary, other significant)</p> <p>11. Support needs (9 areas)</p> <p><i>Carer arrangements (informal):</i></p> <p>12a. Carer—existence of (H)</p> <p>12b. Carer—primary status</p> <p>12c. Carer—residency status (H)</p> <p>12d. Carer—relationship to service user (H)</p> <p>12e. Carer—age group</p> <p>13. Receipt of Carer Allowance (Child)</p> <p>14. Labour force status</p> <p>15. Main source of income</p> <p>16. Individual funding status</p>	<p>17a. Service start date</p> <p>17b. Date service last received</p> <p>17c. Snapshot date flag (snapshot date previously assumed)</p> <p>17d. Service exit date</p> <p>17e. Main reason for cessation of services (H)</p> <p>17f. Hours received (reference week)</p> <p>17g. Hours received (typical week)</p>

* Jurisdictions have agreed to provide CSTDA funding at the funded agency or service type outlet level, depending on the nature of funding agreements with agencies. Therefore, funding data may or may not appear on Service Type Outlet forms, depending on jurisdiction practice.

(J) Item provided by jurisdiction rather than funded agency.

(H) Related HACC data item.

Italics New item in the CSTDA NMDS.

Notes

1. Some new items replace deleted items (e.g. 'interpreter services required' replaces 'main language spoken at home').

2. Not all service type outlets report on all data items; please refer to Table 8.1 for further details.

Source: AIHW 2002c.

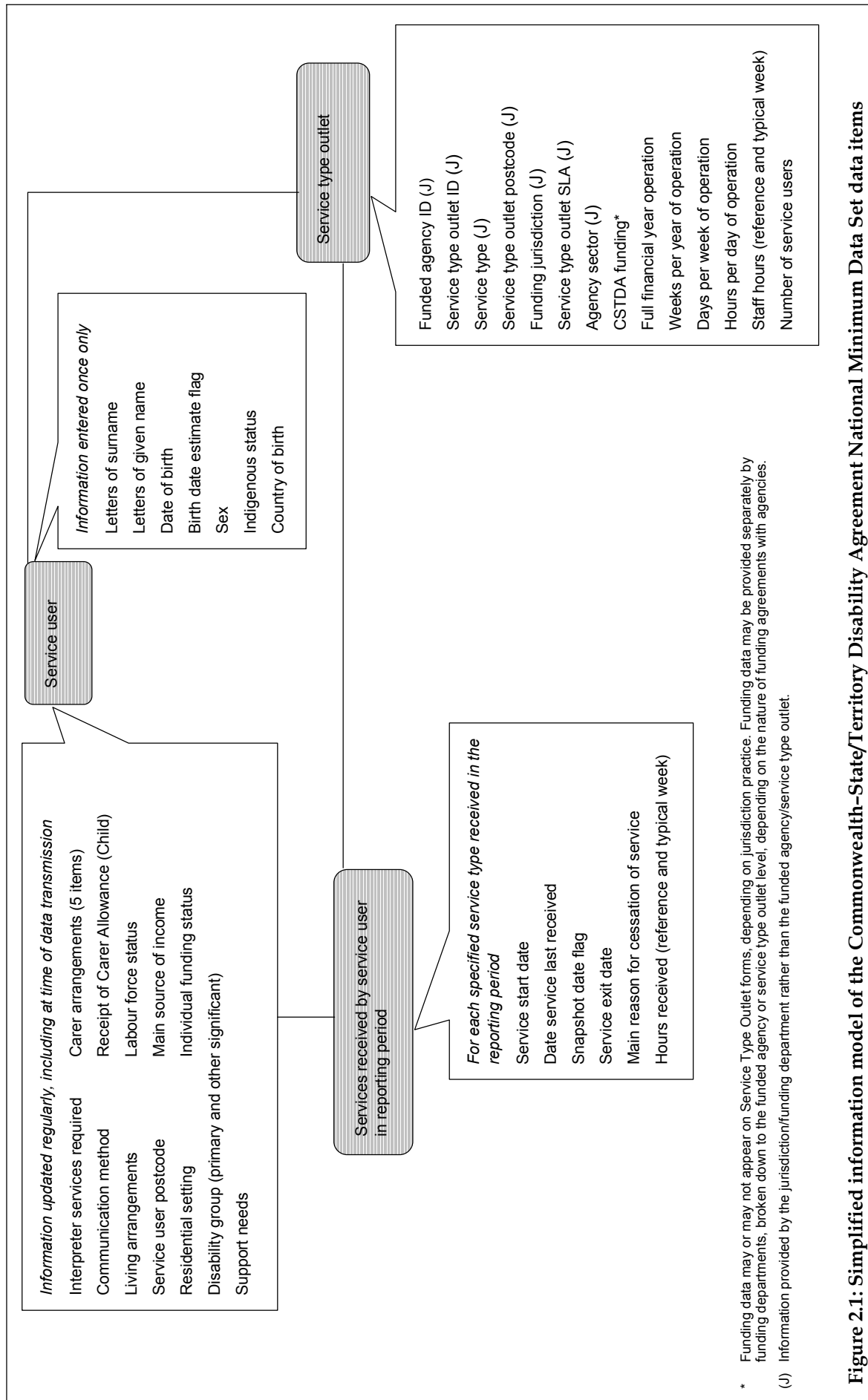


Figure 2.1: Simplified information model of the Commonwealth-State/Territory Disability Agreement National Minimum Data Set data items

2.4 Resourcing the project

The CSTDA MDS ongoing collections are resourced by the participants. Non-government organisation (NGO) data providers supply data to the funding jurisdiction, which may support NGO costs, or aspects of the collection, particularly during change periods. Each jurisdiction processes these and its own data and sends a data file to the AIHW for annual national collation and reporting. The AIHW has supported its work on national data development, collation, analysis and reporting from its own resources; this has increased some fourfold since 1993–94. The redevelopment project was also funded and supported by all participants, but with the AIHW receiving significant resources from the NDA, who contributed support for some 70% of the AIHW work on the project.

2.5 What information will the CSTDA NMDS give us?

For the first time, the new CSTDA NMDS collection provides information about all service users receiving CSTDA-funded support during a financial year (for most service types). The redeveloped collection also increases the range of information about each service user, by including extra data items on important characteristics such as carer arrangements and quantity of support received.

In summary, the new collection will provide information about:

- service users, in terms of age, sex, Indigenous status, country of birth, disability group, support needs and more;
- the characteristics of carers of service users such as their age group, relationship to the service user and whether they live with the service user;
- profiles of service type outlets, in terms of service type delivered, staffing hours and patterns of operation;
- funding provided under the CSTDA, related to the service unit which receives the funding, either the actual service type outlet or the higher level funded agency, thus enabling calculation or estimation of government funding per CSTDA service type (e.g. in-home support, centre-based respite, learning and life skills development); and
- indicators of the amount of service provided, varying with service type (e.g. hours for in-home accommodation support, people for residential accommodation support) and duration of support received.

Table 2.2 summarises the information the NDA wanted from the new data set, as stated during the preliminary stage of the redevelopment project, and details the relevant information that will be available from the redeveloped CSTDA NMDS collection.

Box 2.2 provides some examples of the types of questions that can now be answered using the CSTDA NMDS.

Table 2.2: Information to be available from the CSTDA NMDS collection, compared to the stated information needs of NDA

Information needs of NDA as reported to AIHW in 1999–00	Information available from the CSTDA NMDS
How many people were supported—and what were their characteristics and support needs?	The profile of all service users supported in a financial year (for most service types): age, sex, Indigenous status, country of birth, interpreter services required, communication method, living arrangements, service user postcode, residential setting, disability (primary and other significant), support needs, carer arrangements and details, income support, labour force status and individual funding arrangements—and the inter-relationships of these characteristics.
What was received—not just type of service, but some measure of 'quantity' of service provided by service type, e.g. staff hours, funding per service user?	<p>For each service user:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the service type(s) received and patterns of service they used during the year (e.g. use of multiple service types); • whether they were 'active' service users at the end of the CSTDA NMDS reporting period; • the duration of service received; • the quantity (hours) of service received (for some jurisdictions estimates based on actual hours in a week); • transition into and out of CSTDA-funded services over time (e.g. transition to mainstream services); • reason for service user transition out of CSTDA-funded service type outlets; for example, factors relating to the service type outlet's operations (e.g. budgetary issues) or changes in service user needs and circumstances (e.g. increased support needs, moving to a new area); • whether or not the service user received support on the 'snapshot day', which enables comparability with data from previous snapshot day collections (i.e. continued trends) and an evaluation of the success of the new CSTDA NMDS collection. <p>All of the above information on service type received, quantity of service type received, transition, etc., can be described according to service user characteristics such as age, sex, Indigenous status, disability, individual funding status, etc.</p> <p>For each service type outlet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of service users receiving support in a year (for many service types); • the staff hours (both paid and volunteer), which enables analysis of staff hours allocated to each CSTDA service type, average staff hours per service user, etc. (for some jurisdictions estimates based on actual hours in a week).

(continued)

Table 2.2 (continued): Information to be available from the CSTDA NMDS collection, compared to the stated information needs of NDA

Information needs of NDA as reported to AIHW in 1999–00	Information available from the CSTDA NMDS
<p>From whom was it received—details of the funded agency, e.g. size in terms of caseload, staff profile and hours; the agency’s role in the system, e.g. case coordinator or ‘secondary’ provider?</p>	<p>For each service type outlet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • service type funded; • total CSTDA funding*; • size—in terms of total service users per year, service users receiving support on a ‘snapshot’ date (i.e. an ‘as at’ count), and in terms of staff levels (both paid and volunteer); • operation patterns (e.g. days per week, weeks per year); • location (postcode and Statistical Local Area); • agency sector (e.g. government or non-government); • indications of service user turnover. <p>Service type outlets can be related to funded agencies (i.e. a funded agency is an organisation that delivers one or more CSTDA service types).</p>
<p>For how much (in terms of cost to government)?</p>	<p>How government funding is distributed across CSTDA service types.</p> <p>Average CSTDA funding (i.e. government funding contribution) per: service type outlet*, staff hour (for some jurisdictions estimates based on actual hours in a week), service user (most service types), service quantity (many service types).</p> <p>How much government funding was directed to the government vs non-government sector.</p>
<p>With what outcome?</p>	<p>Outcome indicators are available for Commonwealth employment services (e.g. duration of employment, hours per week of employment, etc.).</p> <p>A ‘Participation module’ is included in jurisdiction materials for use by interested jurisdictions (by a variety of means during normal agency processes). Individual service user outcomes, such as those available by asking people about their extent of and satisfaction with participation in a variety of life areas, are not, however, available from the CSTDA NMDS.</p> <p>Service-specific outcomes, such as percentage of accommodation support clients living in community settings, were not endorsed for inclusion as part of the CSTDA NMDS. The process of developing such draft indicators was, however, useful in defining the scope of essential data items for inclusion in the final CSTDA NMDS collection.</p> <p>(See Section 8.4, Chapter 8 for further details)</p>

* Jurisdictions have agreed to provide CSTDA funding at the funded agency or service type outlet level, depending on the nature of funding agreements with agencies.

Box 2.2: Types of questions that can now be answered using the CSTDA NMDS

Service users

- *How many people were supported by CSTDA-funded agencies in the last financial year?*
- *How many of these people were reported to have an intellectual or psychiatric primary disability?*
- *How many of these people were reported to have both an intellectual and a psychiatric disability?*
- *How do the people supported by CSTDA-funded agencies in the last financial year compare with those identified as having a disability in the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers?*
- *What proportion of service users moved out of CSTDA services in the last financial year? What were the main reasons service users left CSTDA-funded agencies? How does this compare with previous years? How many people left to take up mainstream services?*
- *What CSTDA service types were accessed by people with individual funding packages in the last financial year? What were the demographic characteristics of people with individual funding packages accessing services in the last financial year? How do these personal and service access characteristics compare with people who were not receiving individual funding packages?*
- *What proportion of service users accessed multiple CSTDA service types in the last financial year? What were the most common patterns of multiple service type use?*
- *How many CSTDA service users were living in institutional/residential accommodation this year compared with last year?*
- *How many CSTDA service users have an ageing carer (over 65 years) or one under 15 years? How does this compare with previous years? Does this differ across States and Territories?*
- *How many people received respite care under the CSTDA in the last financial year? What proportion of this support was in-home support vs out of home?*
- *What was the average number of hours of support received by people accessing in-home respite in the last financial year? How does this compare with the previous financial year?*
- *What was the support needs profile of people receiving in-home accommodation support compared with people receiving residential accommodation support? Employment support compared with learning and life skills development (i.e. day activities)?*

Service type outlets

- *What was the average CSTDA funding per service type outlet offering in-home accommodation support? How does this compare with the average CSTDA funding per service type outlet offering residential accommodation support?*
- *What was the average CSTDA funding per service user receiving centre-based respite support? How does this compare with CSTDA funding per service receiving in-home respite support or residential accommodation support?*
- *On average, what were the operating hours, days and weeks of respite services in the last financial year? How does this compare with learning and life skills development (i.e. day activities)?*
- *What were the average staff hours per week for service type outlets offering therapy support in the last financial year? How does this compare with the previous financial year? How does this compare with service type outlets offering early childhood intervention?*