

Appendix 2: Key changes to the CSDA MDS collections 1996–1999

A few changes, some significant, were made to the 1999 collection.

- The snapshot day was brought forward from August to May. In jurisdictions other than Western Australia, the consumer data had not been collected in the same financial year as the service funding data; there were August recipient data in most jurisdictions with end of financial year (30 June) service funding data. A decision was made to align the timeframe of the recipient data more closely to that of the service and financial data by bringing the collection date forward to 26 May 1999.
- The use of a linkage key was accepted as the norm for the national collections, although Western Australia continued with its previous method of ascertaining duplicate records for 1999 only.
- Revised definitions of 'group home' and 'in-home support services' were adopted to more clearly separate the two service types.
- The categories for Indigenous origin were amended to allow separate identification of recipients of Aboriginal origin from those of Torres Strait islander origin, although Western Australia continued with its previous identification question for 1999 only.

To facilitate comparison between the 1998 and 1999 collections, the key changes incorporated in the 1998 collection were:

- dropping the service income question from the Service Form for 1998;
- trialling a Linkage Key in selected jurisdictions; and
- collecting an estimate of consumer numbers over the week before snapshot day, to enable comparison with the staff hours data item already collected.

To facilitate comparison with collections before 1997, the key changes incorporated in the 1997 collection were:

- The data item 'service income sources and amounts' was removed from the Service Form.
- The definition of in-home support services (service type category 1.05) was amended to add 'supplied independently of the accommodation', and to further clarify that such services could operate for up to 24 hours per day.
- The order of the response categories for the question on 'Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander' status was changed so that the 'yes' response was first and more prominent.
- The Consumer Form stated that only one response should be given to the question on main language spoken at home.
- The 'disability type' data item was renamed 'disability group' to better reflect the current names of response categories.
- The 'disability group' response category of specific learning was amended to include Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), rather than pervasive developmental delay.
- The 'disability group' response category of physical no longer includes multiple sclerosis as an example, as the main effect of multiple sclerosis may be memory loss, mood swings or other non-physical factors.

- The 'frequency of support or assistance needed' response category of 'not applicable' was explicitly related to age considerations, to avoid services using it to indicate that the service does not offer the type of support concerned. The intention of the question is to relate to the person's overall situation, not to the service's situation.
- The 'frequency of support or assistance needed' response category of 'never' was altered to 'needs no support to undertake task/participate'. This is to avoid it being used to indicate that the person's restrictions are so great that they cannot undertake the task/participate even with support, therefore support was 'never provided'. The intention of the question is to record that the person can undertake the task/participate without needing support.
- The 'frequency of support or assistance needed' response category of 'always' was emphasised as including persons who cannot undertake the task at all, even with help or assistance (this would bring the category in line with relevant Australian Bureau of Statistics definitions).
- The 'type of support or assistance needed' category of managing emotions was amended to include behaviour as an example and the Data Guide was amended accordingly.