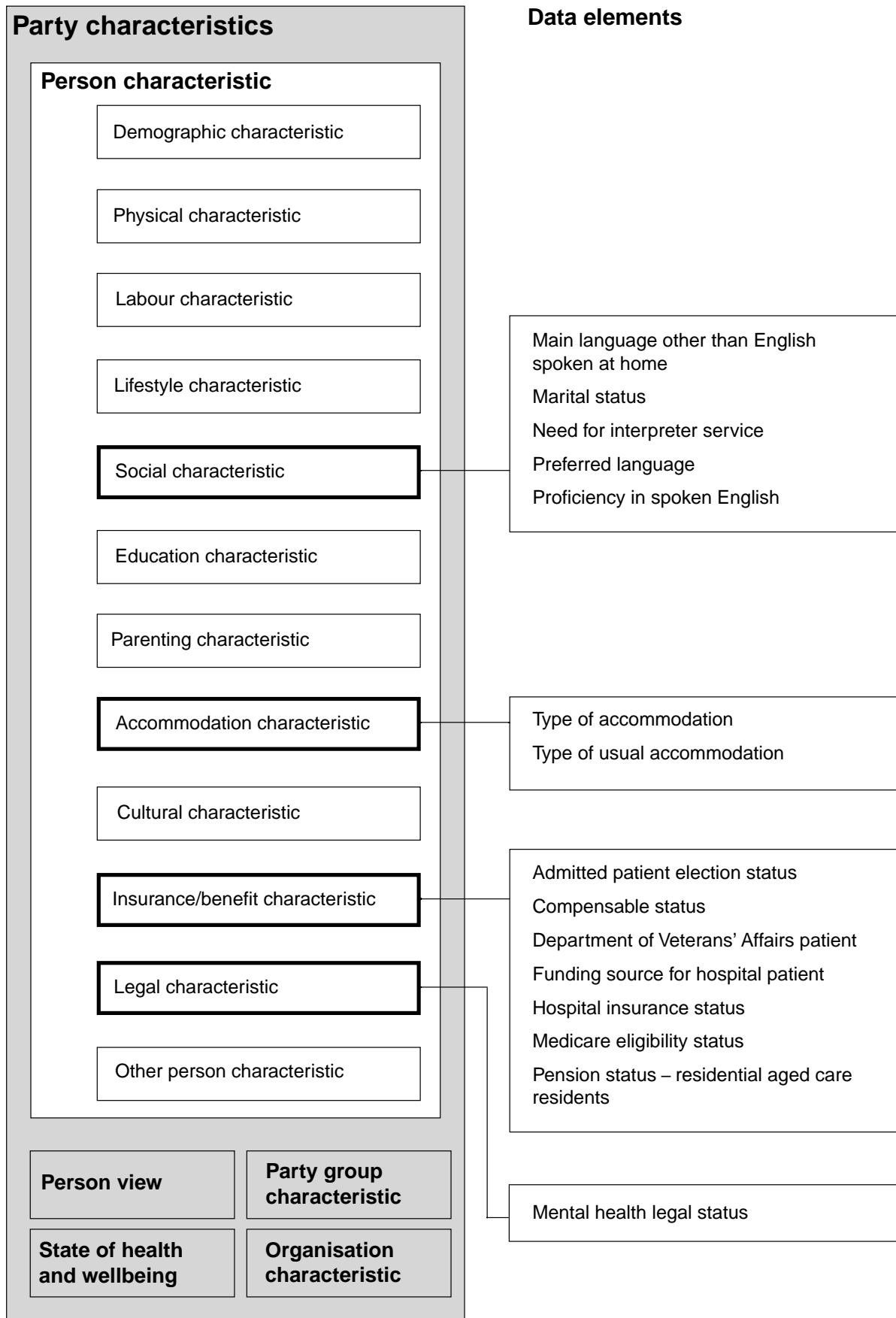


# National Health Information Model entity



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## Main language other than English spoken at home

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*Admin. status:* CURRENT 1/07/2001

### Identifying and definitional attributes

*Knowledgebase ID:* 000638 Version number: 1

*Data element type:* DATA ELEMENT

*Definition:* The language reported by a person as the main language other than English spoken by a person in his/her home (or most recent private residential setting occupied by the person) on a regular basis, to communicate with other residents of the home or setting and regular visitors.

*Context:* 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.

In conjunction with Indigenous status, Main language other than English spoken at home and Country of birth, this data element forms the minimum core set of cultural and language indicators recommended by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Data on main language spoken at home are regarded as an indicator of 'active' ethnicity and also as useful for the study of inter-generational language retention. The availability of such data may help providers of health and community services to effectively target the geographic areas or population groups that need those services. It may be used for the investigation and development of language services such as interpreter/translation services.

### Relational and representational attributes

*Datatype:* Numeric Field size: Min. 4 Max. 4 Layout: NNNN

*Data domain:* Refer to the ABS Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity, 1999, Cat No. 1289.0 for details.

*Guide for use:* At the most detailed level the ABS Classification comprises four-digit codes based on a hierarchical structure. It includes codes for Indigenous Australian languages and sign language. Generally for output purposes, four-digit language codes are grouped into language regions, either at two-digit or one-digit level.

Example 1 The Lithuanian language has a code of 3102 where:

3 denotes that it is an Eastern European language;

1 denotes that it is a Baltic language; and

02 denotes the specific language.

Example 2 The Pintupi Aboriginal language has a code of 8217 where:

8 denotes that it is an Australian Indigenous language;

2 denotes that the language is Central Aboriginal; and

17 denotes the specific language.

Note that the code 9900 should be used where language is Not stated/ inadequately described.

**Guide for use  
(continued):**

Persons not in private residential settings should respond for 'at home' as the most recent private residential setting in which that person has resided.

The reference in the title to 'at home' may cause offence to homeless persons and should be shortened to 'Main language other than English spoken' where applicable.

**Collection methods:**

It is recommended that data be collected at the 2 or 4 digit level. Data collected at the 4 digit level will obviously provide more detailed information than that collected at the 2 digit level, but may be more difficult to collect.

Recommended question:

Do you speak a language other than English at home?

No, (English only)

Yes, Italian

Yes, Greek

Yes, Cantonese

Yes, Mandarin

Yes, Arabic

Yes, Vietnamese

Yes, German

Yes, Tagalog (Filipino)

Yes, Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Related data:**

Is related to Country of birth, version 3

Is related to Proficiency in spoken English, version 1

**Administrative attributes****Source document:**

*Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity, 1999, Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat No. 1289.0*

**Source organisation:**

Australian Bureau of Statistics

**Comments:**

Data may be collected at any level but is most accurate at the 4 digit level.

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## Marital status

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*Admin. status:* CURRENT 1/07/1994

### Identifying and definitional attributes

*Knowledgebase ID:* 000089 Version number: 3

*Data element type:* DATA ELEMENT

*Definition:* Current marital status of the person.

*Context:* Marital status is a core data element in a wide range of social, labour and demographic statistics. Its main purpose is to establish the living arrangements of individuals, to facilitate analysis of the association of marital status with the need for and use of services and for epidemiological analysis.

The ABS has defined registered marital status based on a legal concept and social marital status, a social, marriage-like arrangement (i.e. de facto marriage). The ABS standards working party recommended that the ABS registered marital status be accepted (ABS 1993).

### Relational and representational attributes

*Datatype:* Numeric Field size: Min. 1 Max. 1 Layout: N

*Data domain:*

1	Never married
2	Widowed
3	Divorced
4	Separated
5	Married (including de facto)
6	Not stated/inadequately described

*Guide for use:* The category Married (registered and de facto) should be generally accepted as applicable to all de facto couples, including of the same sex.

*Collection methods:* While marital status is an important factor in assessing the type and extent of support needs, such as for the elderly living in the home environment, marital status does not adequately address the need for information about social support and living arrangements and other data elements need to be formulated to capture this information.

*Related data:* supersedes previous data element Marital status, version 1

### Administrative attributes

*Source organisation:* Australian Bureau of Statistics

#### *National minimum data sets:*

Admitted patient mental health care from 1/07/2000 to

Community mental health care from 1/07/2001 to

**Comments:**

ABS standards (see ABS: Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic statistics) identify two concepts of marital status:

- registered marital status-defined as whether a person has, or has had, a legally registered marriage;
- social marital status-based on a persons living arrangements (including de-facto marriages), as reported by the person.

ABS recommends that the social marital status concept be collected when information on marital status is sought, whereas the registered marital status concept need only be collected where it is specifically required for the purposes of the collection and only in areas of consent if necessary. Most community services data collections ask clients to self-report their marital status. Hence, the operative concept is one of social marital status.

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## Need for interpreter service

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*Admin. status:* CURRENT 1/07/1989

### Identifying and definitional attributes

*Knowledgebase ID:* 000100 Version number: 1

*Data element type:* DATA ELEMENT

*Definition:* Need for interpreter services (yes/no) as perceived by the person.

*Context:* To assist in planning for provision of interpreter services.

### Relational and representational attributes

*Datatype:* Numeric Field size: Min. 1 Max. 1 Layout: N

*Data domain:*  
0 Interpreter not needed  
1 Interpreter needed

*Related data:* used in conjunction with Preferred language, version 2

### Administrative attributes

*Source organisation:* National Health Data Committee

*Comments:* This data element has not been included in the National minimum data set – admitted patient care because of reservations about its utility in assessing demand for interpreter services and concerns that a question of this nature might raise expectations of service provision which could not always be fulfilled.

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## Preferred language

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*Admin. status:* CURRENT 1/07/1998

### Identifying and definitional attributes

*Knowledgebase ID:* 000132 Version number: 2

*Data element type:* DATA ELEMENT

*Definition:* The language (including sign language) most preferred by the person for communication. This may be a language other than English even where the person can speak fluent English.

*Context:* Health and welfare services: An important indicator of ethnicity, especially for persons born in non-English-speaking countries. Its collection will assist in the planning and provision of multilingual services and facilitate program and service delivery for migrants and other non-English speakers.

### Relational and representational attributes

*Datatype:* Numeric Field size: Min. 2 Max. 2 Layout: NN

*Data domain:*

00	Afrikaans
01	Albanian
02	Alyawarr (Alyawarra)
03	Arabic (including Lebanese)
04	Armenian
05	Arrernte (Aranda)
06	Assyrian (including Aramaic)
07	Australian Indigenous languages, not elsewhere classified
08	Bengali
09	Bisaya
10	Bosnian
11	Bulgarian
12	Burarra
13	Burmese
14	Cantonese
15	Cebuano
16	Croatian
17	Czech
18	Danish
19	English
20	Estonian
21	Fijian
22	Finnish
23	French
24	German
25	Gilbertese

<b>Data domain</b>	26	Greek
<b>(continued):</b>	27	Gujarati
	28	Hakka
	29	Hebrew
	30	Hindi
	31	Hmong
	32	Hokkien
	33	Hungarian
	34	Indonesian
	35	Irish
	36	Italian
	37	Japanese
	38	Kannada
	39	Khmer
	40	Korean
	41	Kriol
	42	Kuurinji (Gurindji)
	43	Lao
	44	Latvian
	45	Lithuanian
	46	Macedonian
	47	Malay
	48	Maltese
	49	Mandarin
	50	Mauritian Creole
	51	Netherlandic
	52	Norwegian
	53	Persian
	54	Pintupi
	55	Pitjantjatjara
	56	Polish
	57	Portuguese
	58	Punjabi
	59	Romanian
	60	Russian
	61	Samoan
	62	Serbian
	63	Sinhalese
	64	Slovak
	65	Slovene
	66	Somali
	67	Spanish
	68	Swahili
	69	Swedish

<b>Data domain (continued):</b>	70	Tagalog (Filipino)
	71	Tamil
	72	Telugu
	73	Teochew
	74	Thai
	75	Timorese
	76	Tiwi
	77	Tongan
	78	Turkish
	79	Ukranian
	80	Urdu
	81	Vietnamese
	82	Walmajarri (Walmadjari)
	83	Warlpiri
	84	Welsh
	85	Wik-Mungkan
	86	Yiddish
	95	Other languages, nfd
	96	Inadequately described
	97	Non verbal, so described (including sign languages e.g. Auslan, Makaton)
	98	Not stated

**Guide for use:** The classification used in this data element is a modified version of the 2-digit level Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ABS) classification.

All non-verbal means of communication, including sign languages, are to be coded to 97.

Code 96 should be used where some information, but insufficient, is provided.

Code 98 is to be used when no information is provided.

All Australian Indigenous languages not shown separately on the code list are to be coded to 07.

**Collection methods:** This information may be collected in a variety of ways. It may be collected by using a predetermined short-list of languages that are most likely to be encountered from the above code list accompanied by an open text field for 'Other language' or by using an open ended question that allows for recording of the language nominated by the person. Regardless of the method used for data collection the language nominated should be coded using the above ABS codes.

**Related data:** supersedes previous Preferred language, version 1

### **Administrative attributes**

**Source document:** *Australian Standard Classification of Languages, (ASCL)* Australian Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue number 1267.0

**Source organisation:** NHDC, Australian Bureau of Statistics

### **National minimum data sets:**

Alcohol and other drug treatment services from 1/07/2000 to

**Comments:**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has developed a detailed four-digit language classification of 193 language units which was used in the 1996 Census. Although it is preferable to use the classification at a four-digit level, the requirements of administrative collections have been recognised and the ABS has developed a classification of 86 languages at a two-digit level from those most frequently spoken in Australia. Mapping of this 2 digit running code system to the 4 digit Australian Standard Classification of Language is available from ABS. The classification used in this data element is a modified version of the 2-digit level ABS classification.

The National Health Data Committee considered that the grouping of languages by geographic region was not useful in administrative settings. Thus the data domain includes an alphabetical listing of the 86 languages from the ABS 2 digit level classification with only one code for 'Other languages, nfd'. By removing the geographic groupings from the classification information about the broad geographic region of languages that are not specifically coded is lost. However, the NHDC considered that the benefits to data collectors gained from simplifying the code listing outweighed this disadvantage.

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## Proficiency in spoken English

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*Admin. status:* CURRENT 1/07/2001

### Identifying and definitional attributes

*Knowledgebase ID:* 000643 Version number: 1

*Data element type:* DATA ELEMENT

*Definition:* A person's self stated proficiency in spoken English.

*Context:* 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.

In conjunction with Indigenous status, Main language other than English spoken at home and Country of birth, this data element forms the minimum core set of cultural and language indicators recommended by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

### Relational and representational attributes

*Datatype:* Numeric Field size: Min. Max. 1 Layout: N

*Data domain:*

0	Not applicable (person under 5 years of age)
1	Very well
2	Well
3	Not well
4	Not at all
9	Not stated/ inadequately described

*Guide for use:* This item is only used in conjunction with 'Main language other than English spoken at home'. The question should only be asked if a YES answer is given to the question "Do you speak a language other than English at home?"

Code 9 should only be used for past collections where this item was not collected or if the person does not respond to the question. It should not be a response included on the collection form.

*Collection methods:* Suggested question:

How well do you (does the person) speak English?

Very well	<input type="checkbox"/>
Well	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not well	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>

Generally this would be a self-reported question, but in some circumstances (particularly where a person does not speak English well)

assistance will be required in answering this question.

It is important that the person's self-assessed proficiency in spoken English be recorded wherever possible. This data element does not purport to be a technical assessment of proficiency but is a self-assessment in the four broad categories outlined above.

This data element is not relevant to and should not be collected for persons under the age of 5.

**Related data:** Is related to Main language other than English spoken at home, version 1  
Is related to Country of birth, version 3

### **Administrative attributes**

**Source document:** *Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity*, ABS 1999, Cat No. 1289.0

**Source organisation:** Australian Bureau of Statistics

**Comments:** The ABS advises that the most useful information provided by this data element is in the distinction between the two category groups of Very well/Well and Not well/Not at all.