

## **Analysis of ICF-compatible items on support needs in a national administrative dataset**

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Australia's Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement National Minimum Data Set (CSTDA NMDS) is an administrative data collection that covers all users of government-funded disability support services in Australia. The collection includes items on service usage, demographic items, items related to disability and items on the frequency of assistance a person needs with activities and participation in nine life areas. The items on assistance were specifically designed to be compatible with the ICF and are based on the Activities and Participation life areas in the classification. They are also compatible with items in the national Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers run by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

A Rasch item response analysis has been undertaken to determine whether there is a structured ordering among all or any of the items and whether each item acts as expected. The results of the analysis support the validity of the support needs questions in the collection and show that the categories of 'sometimes needs assistance' and 'always needs assistance' are distinct and widely separated. However, they suggest that it may be better to separate out questions on the use of aids and/or equipment as distinct items. The results also show that one subset of domains within the need for assistance items cannot be used to predict the values of another subset.