

3 What's new for 2007–08?

As in previous years, the AODTS NMDS data elements have been refined and improved in accordance with the advice of the AODTS–NMDS Working Group. This year, the Working Group has agreed to make minimal changes to the dataset to allow the consolidation of the collection. Hence, over 2004–05 to 2007–08, there will be minimal changes to data elements, collection methods or scope of the collection.

The following information is presented to provide historical and complete background to each data element currently in the data set.

3.1 Treatment episodes reported by all jurisdictions

A treatment episode refers to a period of contact, with defined dates of commencement and cessation, between a client and a treatment provider. From the 2001–02 collection period onwards, closed treatment episodes were introduced as the unit of measurement. The inclusion of a treatment episode concept at the national level required the introduction of the following data elements:

- *Date of cessation of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs*
- *Main treatment type for alcohol and other drugs*
- *Number of service contacts within a treatment episode for alcohol & other drugs*
- *Other treatment type for alcohol and other drugs*
- *Reason for cessation of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs*
- *Treatment delivery setting for alcohol and other drugs*

and the following supporting items:

- *Service contact*
- *Episode of treatment for alcohol and other drugs.*

All jurisdictions supported the inclusion of the above data elements and supporting items in the AODTS–NMDS, on the condition that a phased uptake of the revised data set be adopted. The uptake process began on 1 July 2001 and all jurisdictions agreed to comply by 1 July 2002. Closed treatment episodes are the unit of measurement used by all jurisdictions for the 2007–08 collection period.

3.2 Changes to existing data elements—summary

Table 1 presents a historical record of changes made to data elements and the introduction of new elements, from 2001–02 through to 2007–08. For further information on what these changes entailed, please refer to Appendix C.

Table 3.1: Data elements that are agreed for collection by states and territories from 1 July 2007 for the alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS

| Data element | METeOR ID | New/changed | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|--------------------|
| | | 01–02 | 02–03 | 03–04 | 04–05 | 05–06 | 06–07 | 07–08 ^a |
| Establishment-level data elements | | | | | | | | |
| Establishment identifier (comprising) | 269973 | ✓ | | | | | | |
| — Australian state/territory identifier (establishment) | 269941 | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| — Establishment sector | 269977 | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| — Region code | 269940 | | | | | | | |
| — Establishment number | 269975 | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Geographical location of service delivery outlet | 329151 | — | — | New | | | | |
| Episode (client-level) data elements | | | | | | | | |
| Client type—alcohol & other drug treatment services | 270083 | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Country of birth | 270277 | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Date of birth | 287007 | | | | | | | |
| Date of cessation of treatment episode for alcohol & other drugs | 270067 | New | | | | | | |
| Date of commencement of treatment episode for alcohol & other drugs | 270069 | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Establishment identifier | 269973 | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Indigenous status | 291036 | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Injecting drug use | 270113 | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Main treatment type for alcohol and other drugs | 270056 | New | | | ✓ | | | |
| Method of use for principal drug of concern | 270111 | | | | | | | |
| Number of service contacts within a treatment episode for alcohol & other drugs | 270117 | New | ✓ | ✓ | Removed | | | |
| Other drugs of concern | 270110 | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Other treatment type for alcohol and other drugs | 270076 | New | | | ✓ | | | |
| Person identifier | 290046 | | | | | | | |
| Preferred language | 304128 | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Principal drug of concern | 270109 | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Reason for cessation of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs | 270011 | New | | | ✓ | | | |
| Sex | 287316 | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Source of referral to alcohol and other drug treatment services | 269946 | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Treatment delivery setting for alcohol and other drugs | 270068 | New | | | ✓ | | | |
| Supporting items | | | | | | | | |
| Cessation of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs | 327302 | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ |
| Commencement of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs | 327216 | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ |
| Episode of treatment for alcohol and other drugs | 268961 | New | | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| Service contact | 268983 | New | | | Removed | | | |
| Service delivery outlet | 268970 | — | — | New | | | | ✓ |

(a) Changes in 2007–08 are a consequence of re-engineering the data elements for inclusion in METeOR. It is important to note that these changes do not alter the way data is collected for the AODTS–NMDS.