

# **National Community Services Data Dictionary**

## **Version 2**

**Community Services Ministers' Advisory Council**

**2000**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Canberra

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# Foreword

The Community Services Ministers' Advisory Council (CSMAC) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare are pleased to be able to publish the second version of the *National Community Services Data Dictionary*. The National Community Services Data Committee (NCSDC) has compiled the dictionary, under the broad direction of CSMAC and the National Community Services Information Management Group (NCSIMG). In conjunction with the *National Classifications of Community Services*, the *Data Dictionary* has considerable potential to improve the quality of Australian community services data collection by establishing a core set of uniform definitions relating to each community service sector.

This second version of the dictionary represents a considerable enhancement from Version 1.0, incorporating results of consultations with a range of community services data development groups and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Version 2 contains revised definitions of data elements and concepts from Version 1.0, as well as a large number of additional data items. Efforts have been made to maintain consistency between this dictionary and the *National Health Data Dictionary*, which forms the current base for the AIHW Internet-based Knowledgebase: Australia's Health and Community Services Data Registry. It is intended that the National Community Services Data Dictionary be available in electronic form in the future in the Knowledgebase, with additional details such as links between data definitions and entities in the National Community Services Information Model.

NCSIMG members have committed their agencies to use NCSDD definitions wherever possible. While not mandatory, implementation of this commitment will see a significant step forward towards nationally consistent community services data in Australia.

The compilation of Version 2 of the Data Dictionary has been greatly assisted by funds provided by CSMAC with supplemented funding from the Institute. The National Community Services Information Management Group and the National Community Services Data Committee played an important role by providing broad direction and support throughout the preparation of the Dictionary.

National Community Services Information Management Group  
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare



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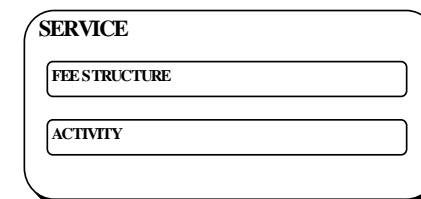
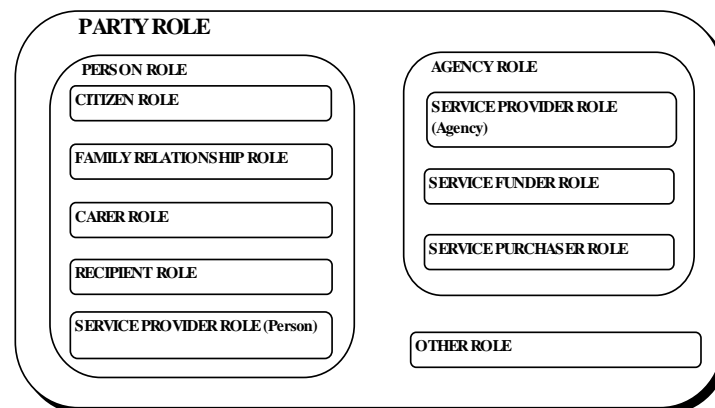
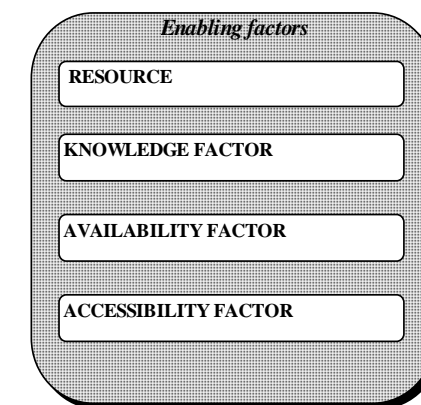
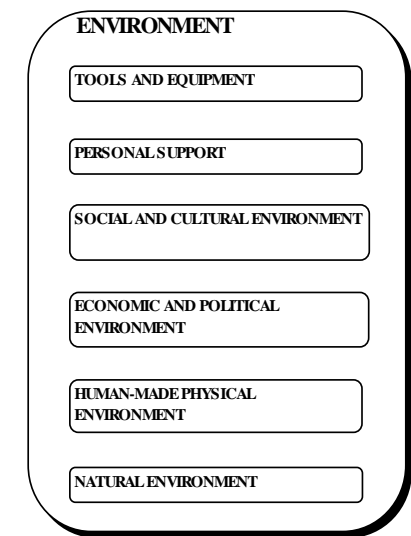
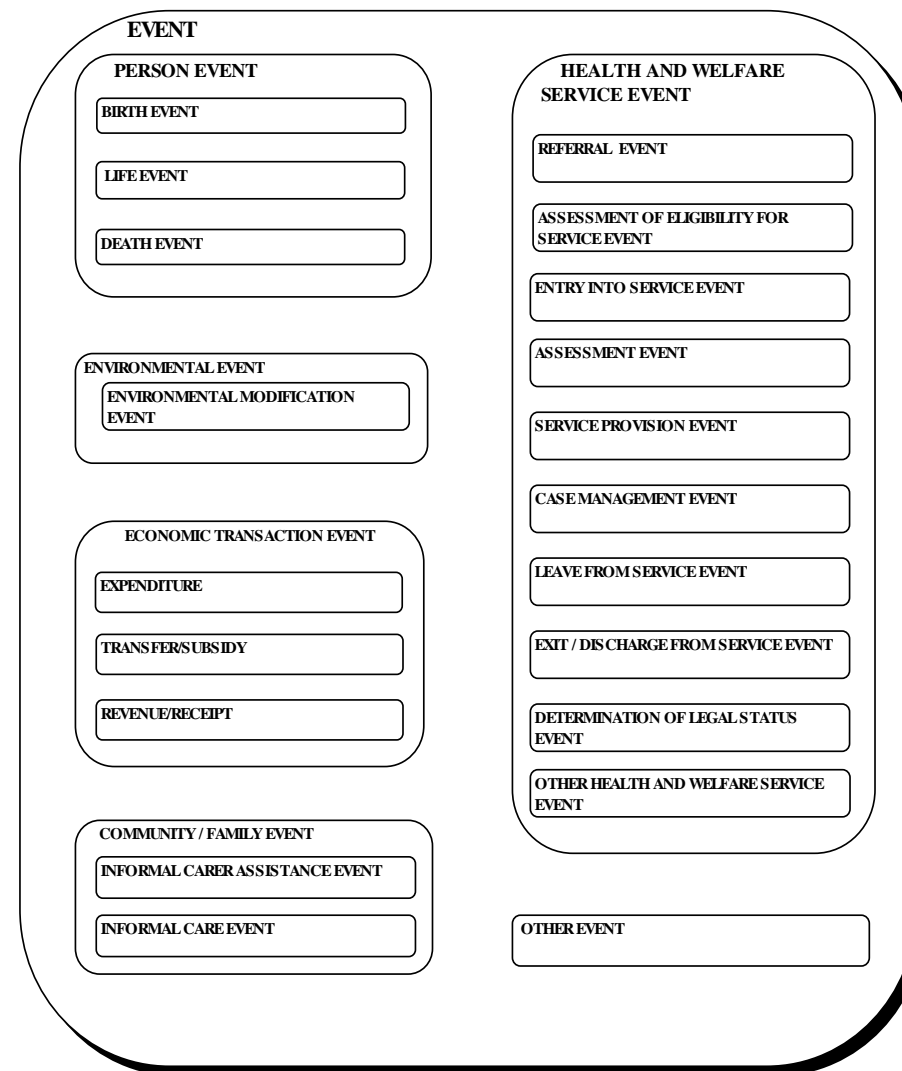
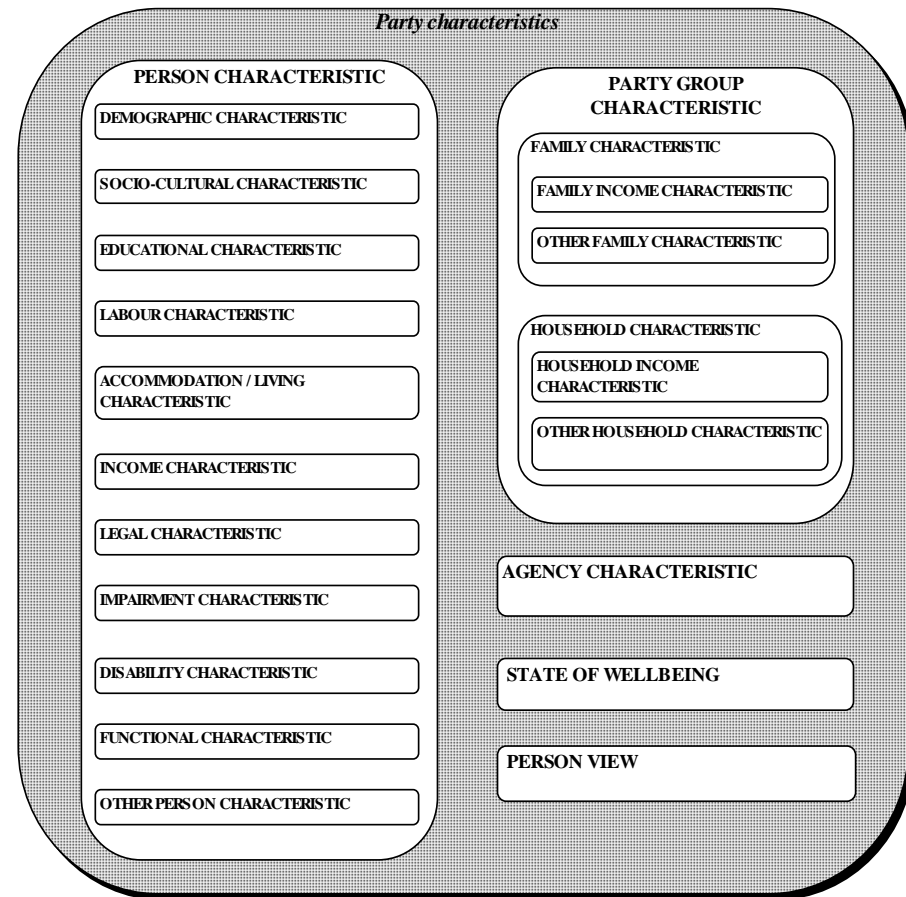
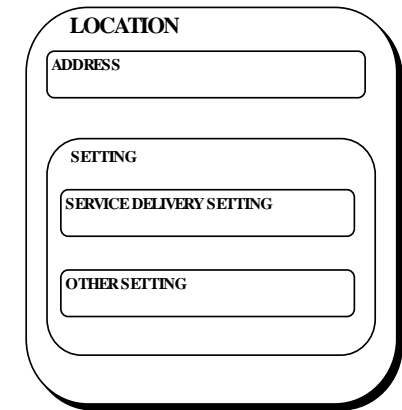
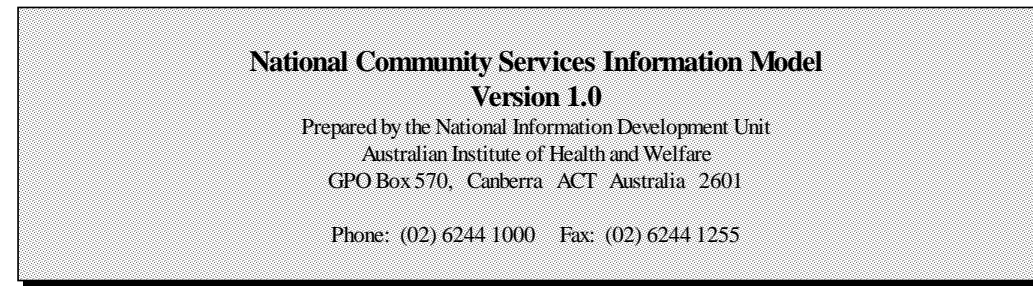
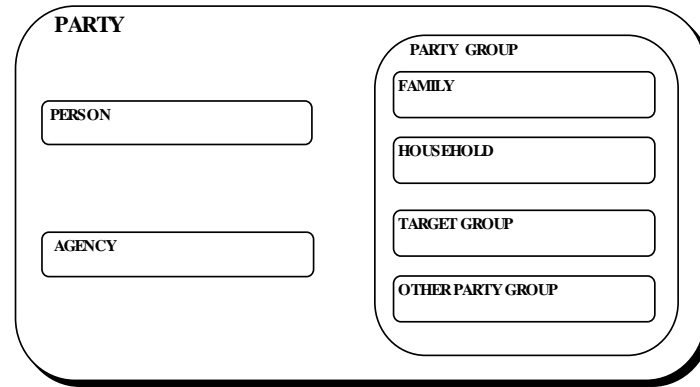
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# Preface

The improvement of community services information and the promotion of nationally consistent data on all aspects of community services are two of the main priorities of the National Community Services Information Management Group. In order to progress this work the Group established a subcommittee, the National Community Services Data Committee, in 1997. In 1998 the Committee published the first version of *the National Community Services Data Dictionary Version 1.0* (AIHW, 1998), incorporating an information model and 43 data elements and concepts.

This current volume, Version 2, represents the next stage in the process of developing a data dictionary that can be used across the community services sector. Data elements and concepts contained in Version 1.0 have undergone considerable discussion during consultations with community services data development groups and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, resulting in useful revisions. In addition, Version 2 contains 65 new data elements and concepts, broadening the scope and coverage of the dictionary. As with the first version, the data elements and concepts contained in Version 2 of *the Data Dictionary* can be mapped and grouped according to the National Community Services Information Model Version 1.0. This model is still under evaluation and review but has not been yet been revised. Consistency between this dictionary and the *National Health Data Dictionary Version 9* is maintained, where possible, in order to encourage the development of comparable data definitions across the community services and health sectors.

Development of the dictionary is an ongoing process. Version 2 is one more step to providing a tool that hopefully will facilitate the achievement of nationally consistent community services information. Feedback and suggestions to improve the Data Dictionary from all interested parties are encouraged. The Dictionary, in order to be useful, must reflect concurrent development and change within the community services sector and the nation as a whole. Therefore, it is expected that Version 2 will be the basis for further consultation, revision and testing. Wider dissemination and consultation with agencies not directly represented in the process will be a feature of these ongoing arrangements.

A number of organisations have made valuable contributions to the initial and further development of the data dictionary. Members of the National Community Services Data Committee, the National Community Services Information Management Group and the various data working groups including the Disability Data Reference and Advisory Group, Home and Community Care Officials and the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program Data and Research Advisory Committee are gratefully acknowledged for their contributions. The Australian Bureau of Statistics also contributed to the data dictionary, in particular in the development of socio-demographic data items. At the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Joe Christensen, Trish Ryan, Nikki Breheny, Malcolm Park, Anne Broadbent and Cid Mateo prepared material for this edition. In addition, staff members in the Institute's subject matter areas have been extremely helpful in preparing material and providing constructive comments. In particular, thanks are due to Catherine Sykes and Ros Madden for the development of disability data elements and the information annex on disability and John Goss for the development of data elements relating to expenditure and revenue.

National Community Services Data Committee  
July 2000