

Client characteristics meta-data in residential aged care

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Abbreviations

2624 form	Aged Care Application and Approval form (2624)
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACAP MDS V2.0	Aged Care Assessment Program Minimum Data Set Version 2.0
ACAT	Aged Care Assessment Team
ACCMIS	Aged and Community Care Management Information System
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
CACP	Community Aged Care Packages
DoHA	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs
HACC	Home and Community Care
NCSD	<i>National Community Services Data Dictionary Version 2, 2000</i>
NHDD	<i>National Health Data Dictionary Version 10, 2001</i>
NMDS	National Minimum Data Set
SPARC	System for Payment of Aged Residential Care

Main recommendations

This report aims to facilitate cross-program analysis of client characteristics data, by completing a 'stocktake' of data items relating to client characteristics in primary data collection forms used in the residential aged care program. Client characteristics are basic socio-demographic variables such as *Date of birth*, *Sex* and *Country of birth*. Each data item has been assessed for consistency and mappability with national standards and other related national program data collections.

In the short-term it is proposed that the four recommendations listed below be implemented to improve the quality and policy relevance of data collected, reported and analysed for the residential aged care program. More detail about these recommendations is included in Section 2.

For the long-term, modifications have also been suggested to improve data items on residential aged care forms and achieve greater consistency with national standards and across all the forms. Suggested long-term modifications are summarised in Section 3 of this report.

Recommendation 1: Date of birth, sex and full name information on the Resident Entry Record form

Include guidelines for the reporting of *Date of birth*, *Sex*, *First given name* and *Family name/surname* on the Resident Entry Record form, to ensure that information is reported according to national standards. These changes will make identifying information on the Resident Entry Record form consistent with both national standards and the next version of the 2624 form (that will include ACAP MDS V2.0 reporting requirements). Improved consistency in the way data is reported on the two forms will assist in the manual matching of the Resident Entry Record to the 2624 form. In turn, this may assist to minimise any incorrect matching of forms and electronic records that may occur.

Recommendation 2: Accommodation setting

Include the following codes for *Accommodation setting* in future versions of the ACAP MDS, HACC MDS, and CACP data collection:

- Independent living within a retirement village
- Supported living within a retirement village
- Other supported accommodation

In relation to ACAP, CACP and HACC, these codes could serve to more clearly identify people living in retirement villages that are receiving support services (they are currently identified as people living in 'supported accommodation', which includes other types of accommodation). This recommendation assumes an ongoing policy interest in the support provided by aged and community care programs to people living in a retirement village setting.

Recommendation 3: Income information on the Resident Entry Record

Load data relating to questions 5 and 6 from the Resident Entry Record onto the Aged and Community Care Management Information System (ACCMIS) for the purposes of data analysis. Currently, data from the 2624 is used to provide information about the pension status of aged care residents (Centrelink/Veterans' Affairs or Self-funded retiree). The ACAP MDS Version 2.0 will be implemented from January 2003, and will replace client characteristics information currently reported on the 2624. The ACAP MDS Version 2.0 does not include information about client income, therefore data from the Resident Entry Record could be used to provide this information, including whether the person is a full-, part- or non-pensioner, and the type of pension they may receive (Centrelink or DVA).

Recommendation 4: ACAP MDS Version 2.0 data

Load all data included as a reporting requirement for the ACAP MDS Version 2.0 onto ACCMIS so that these data are available for analysis of the characteristics of the residential aged care population. Version 2.0 of the ACAP MDS is due for implementation in January 2003, and will be incorporated into the next version of the Aged Care Application and Approval (2624) form.