

Appendix E: Linkage key for use with the CSNMDS

The proposed linkage key is one that is used in a number of health and welfare data collections at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and has proved to be a reliable tool. It is created from a combination of letters of a child's name, date of birth and sex, and as such it allows records belonging to an (unidentified) individual to be linked while preserving privacy. The accuracy of data linkage using such a linkage key is not 100% and there is no guarantee of an exact match. Even so, such linked data sets can be useful for statistical and policy development work where perfect matching is not required, but the quality of the data is sufficient for valid conclusions to be drawn.

The code for the key is XXXXXDDMMYYYYN where:

XXXXX = The combination of 2nd, 3rd and 5th letters of the person's legal family name and the 2nd and 3rd letters of the person's legal first given name.

DDMMYYYY = The person's date of birth

N = The person's sex

