



Australian Government

**Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare**

National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse Data Dictionary

Version 1.0 2016



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*Authoritative information and statistics
to promote better health and wellbeing*

National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse

Data Dictionary

Version 1.0

2016

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The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is a major national agency that provides reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. The Institute's purpose is to provide authoritative information and statistics to promote better health and wellbeing among Australians.

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Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Board Chair

Dr Mukesh C Haikerwal AO

Director

Mr Barry Sandison

Any enquiries relating to copyright or comments on this publication should be directed to:

Digital and Media Communications Unit

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

GPO Box 570

Canberra ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6244 1000

Email: info@aihw.gov.au

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Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACAP	Aged Care Assessment Program
ACAT	Aged Care Assessment Team
ACAP MDS	Aged Care Assessment Program Minimum Data Set
ACCR	Aged Care Client Record
ACMPS	Aged Care Management Payment System
ACPR	Aged Care Planning Region
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
CACP	Community Aged Care Package
CHSP	Commonwealth Home Support Program
DoH	Department of Health
DSS	Department of Social Services
EACH	Extended Aged Care at Home
EACHD	Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia
HACC	Home and Community Care
MDS	Minimum Data Set
MERLIN	Management of Expenditure and Resident Linked Information System
NACDC	National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse
NAPS	National Approved Provider System
PIAC	Pathways in Aged Care
SPARC	System for the Payment of Aged Residential Care

1 Introduction

The AIHW National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse (NACDC) is a central, independent repository of national aged care data. It coordinates data collection through various portals and government departments, and creates data sets from the information that is collected to provide aged care data to a range of stakeholders including policy makers, researchers, service providers and consumers.

1.1 Background

The Productivity Commission's inquiry report *Caring for Older Australians* (PC 2011) first recommended the establishment of a data clearinghouse to improve aged care data quality and access. At that time, a significant amount of data was already captured in different databases. While the AIHW has produced regular publications on aspects of aged care since 1998-99, few consolidated analyses or raw data were available to inform research and planning in the sector. In response to the recommendations made in the inquiry report, the Australian Government launched an ongoing program of aged care reforms. As part of these reforms, the NACDC was established at the AIHW in 2013.

1.2 Objectives of the NACDC Data Dictionary

The objectives of the NACDC Data Dictionary are to:

- describe the context of data collection, the sources of the data, and the content of NACDC, including the tables that NACDC draws on for analyses
- outline the common data concepts and data elements that underpin much of the NACDC's analyses and reporting outputs
- document definitions and assists in the interpretation of the NACDC data to facilitate consistency and transparency in aged care data.

This data dictionary should be read in conjunction with the supporting spreadsheet '[NACDC priority tables and items](#)' which outlines the key tables and data items that inform the NACDC's work.

2 NACDC data content

NACDC data are available from 1997 onwards, and largely relate to government-funded aged care programs operating under the *Aged Care Act 1997*. The data sources that the NACDC brings together cover information at different levels from services, providers and places to people and payments, as well as other associated details of the aged care system, such as care need assessments.

2.1 Data included in the NACDC

The data received by NACDC are comprised of 70 separate tables, each of which relate to aged care program activity, services or providers, or their recipients (and some tables provide additional information on a given table). The NACDC receives data on the following national aged care programs.

Residential aged care

Residential aged care provides care either on a permanent or respite basis in residential aged care facilities. Respite care continues to be offered as either low care or high care, but this distinction was removed for permanent care from 1 July 2014. Residential aged care data have been captured reliably since 1997–98. Two separate categories of residential aged care (nursing homes and hostels) were combined into one program from 1 October 1997.

Program data capture episodes of care, but each person in care is also identified by a unique recipient identifier, allowing an individual's overall program use within permanent or respite care to be followed. After entering permanent residential aged care, people's care needs are assessed with the Aged Care Funding Instrument (see Section 2.1.5).

Data on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program are not available through NACDC, as this program operates outside of the *Aged Care Act 1997*.

Home Care Packages Programme

Home Care Packages Programme provides coordinated and personalised care at home at four different levels. It has been operating since August 2013, when it replaced the earlier aged care packages – Community Aged Care Packages Programme (CACP), Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) and Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACHD). CACP had been operating since 1992, EACH since 2006, and EACHD since 2008.

Program data capture episodes of care, and each person in care is also identified by a unique recipient identifier. However, while the recipient identifiers used for the earlier community aged care packages have carried over into Home Care where people were in care at the time of the transition, people who had left CACP/EACH/EACHD and later returned to Home Care are not identified in the data, as these people have received a new recipient identifier for Home Care.

More information on the program is available in the [Home Care Packages Programme operational Manual](#).

Flexible care

Flexible care provides aged care in mixed delivery settings. The three types of flexible care programs – Transition Care, Innovative Care (or Pool), and Multi-Purpose Services – are designed to meet people’s needs in ways other than those provided through mainstream care (residential aged care or Home Care).

Transition Care is the largest of the flexible care programs and its operation is guided by a set of guidelines. The program aims to prevent premature entry into permanent residential aged care following a hospital stay, and people’s eligibility is assessed by the Aged Care Assessment Program (ACAP). Program data capture episodes of care, as well as an assessment of people’s level of functioning both at the beginning and end of their episode of care. It has been operating since 2004–05.

More information on the program is available in the [Transition Care Program guidelines](#).

Aged Care Assessment Program

To access services through these programs, people must be assessed under ACAP, which assesses care needs and grants approval for the type and level of care, as required. ACAP assessments are conducted by the multidisciplinary Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACAT), and the program’s objective is to comprehensively assess older people’s needs and direct them towards appropriate services, such as residential aged care or Home Care. However, ACAP only grants approval for care – the process for entering care is handled by service providers, and a varying amount of time passes between people’s approval for and entry into a given care type.

The ACAP Minimum Data Set and data dictionary inform the data that are collected on ACAP assessments. The original ACAP MDS was introduced in 1994, and has been updated several times.

The data received by NACDC on ACAP assessments relates to the MDS. The data therefore only capture information recorded under comprehensive ACAP assessments, not all ACAT activity (such as other services an ACAT member may provide to a person, or follow-up reviews of earlier assessments).

More information on the program is available through the [ACAP MDS \(Version 4.0\) data dictionary](#).

Aged Care Funding Instrument

Other care assessment programs also operate under the Act. Once people enter permanent residential aged care, their care needs are assessed under the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) as a basis for allocating funding – or, prior to 2008, the Residential Classification Scale (RCS). People can also be re-assessed as their care needs change.

The ACFI consists of 12 questions about core care needs, each rated on the day-to-day frequency of care, and two diagnostic sections for conditions that most affect people’s care needs. The ACFI provides basic information on care needs with a focus on the cost of care, and it is not a comprehensive assessment tool.

More information on the program is available through the [ACFI user guide](#).

Commonwealth Home Support Programme

Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) was launched in 2015, and it consolidated a number of existing community-based aged care programs. These were the Commonwealth Home and Community Care Program (HACC), National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP), the Day Therapy Centres (DTC) Program and the Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged (ACHA) Program.

HACC was the largest of these programs and now forms the main part of the CHSP. The HACC Minimum Data Set (Version 2) has informed the data collection, and approval under ACAP is not required to access the program. Instead, assessments are carried out by the Regional Assessment Services (RAS) using the National Screening and Assessment Form to inform and document the process.

More information on the program is available through the [Department website](#).

Other programs

Some programs not covered by the Act are also included in NACDC data holdings.

People's contact with the aged care system is progressively captured on their central client record, the Aged Care Client Record (ACCR). This record is used in home support assessments carried out by the RAS and comprehensive assessments conducted under the ACAP. Since the rollout of the My Aged Care gateway, an ACCR is initiated for clients as part of their initial contact.

More information on the ACCR is available through the [National Screening and Assessment Form user guide](#).

3 NACDC data supply process

The aged care data environment is complex and accumulates through different databases. Data available in the NACDC are sourced from the Department of Health (DoH). DoH in turn sources the bulk of the data from the Department of Human Services (DHS), which collects the data from service providers in the course of administering payments for service delivery.

Types of data captured include information on payments made, as well as other aged care activity – such as admissions, separations and people’s characteristics, available or occupied places, as well as services and providers. Different systems capture different aspects of aged care data, and some of these systems have seen a number of changes over time.

The National Approved Provider System (NAPS) identifies providers who deliver government-funded services and assigns a NAPS service ID to each.

The System for the Payment of Aged Residential Care (SPARC) has operated since 1997, and the system collects information on activity in residential aged care as it administers payments to approved providers (recipients are identified with the prefix ‘SPARC’).

The Management of Expenditure and Resident Linked Information System (MERLIN) was used under the CACP program to record payments made to approved providers and collect information on community-based aged care until the program ceased (recipients were identified with the prefix ‘CACP’). In its place, the Aged Care Management Payment System (ACMPS) was launched in 2013. It is currently being used to pay approved providers for Home Care service delivery, and it collects information on this program only (recipients are identified with the prefix ‘ACMPS’).

Information captured through these systems is provided to the DoH aged care data warehouse and from there forwarded to the NACDC. In addition to the activity and payments data supplied by DHS, statistical and reference data relating to populations and locations are supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The NACDC has limited control over the collection and cleaning processes used to produce the data, and limited capacity to independently verify its quality. However, the NACDC assesses all received data and carries out consistency checks to validate them in this way. DoH also publishes administrative data on the aged care system, such as the annual stocktake available through their website.

To ensure consistency in the aged care data sets, the NACDC receives an annual supply of all source data. This takes place in September each year and provides a full refresh of all historical and current aged care data held by the NACDC. From this point, the NACDC carries out initial verification processes and extensive analyses prior to being able to publish data on aged care activity for the previous financial year.

4 Concepts and interpretation

The NACDC contains aged care data that is available to researchers, planners and the general public through custom data requests. In addition, the NACDC completes its own analyses, with a particular focus on residential aged care and Home Care. Key measures used across most products are places, services, and providers in aged care, and the people using these (including program activity through admissions and separations).

4.1 Data concepts used in NACDC

The following data concepts are commonly used in NACDC reporting. The definitions for each concept are outlined in further detail in Appendix A.

Data concept	Category
Age	Person's age at 30 June (or date of admission/separation for episodes of care), as calculated from date of birth
Care level	Level of care (high/low) (respite residential aged care, and permanent care prior to 2014) Level of care (1–4) (Home Care)
Indigenous status	Person's identified Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin
Length of stay	Calculated from all episodes of care in the same program and care type, regardless of time between episodes
Location	Service delivery location (places) Service location (services and people)
Non-English-speaking background	Person's country of birth is a country other than Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, United States of America, Canada or South Africa
Organisation type	Provider's organisation type (not-for-profit, private or government)
Program type	Aged care program type (residential, community or transition care)
Provider	Organisation that operates a service or multiple services
Recipient	Person using aged care services
Record linkage	Process, technique or method that brings together two or more records that are considered to belong to one individual
Service	Residential aged care facility or Home Care service outlet
Separation reason	Reason recorded for separation at discharge from aged care service
Sex	Person's biological sex
Size of service	Number of places at a service facility (or number of places at a service outlet offered at a given care level)
Status	Operational (applies to places, services and providers—while other codes exist in source data, only operational places, services or providers are reported)

4.2 Interpreting NACDC data

There are some key considerations to take into account when interpreting NACDC data:

- Number of places is produced by summing the places available at a given service by care level. In some aged care programs, such as Home Care, one service outlet/facility may offer places at different levels and the number of places would not therefore capture this. On the other hand, places in residential aged care are not distinguished by permanent or respite places.
- Services refer to the outlets or facilities that provide aged care services – one provider may operate multiple services. Recipients are counted for each program, but some may have received multiple services from different aged care programs. The data do not capture this without additional, extensive work on linkage, which has been done for the PIAC database.
- Information about geographical location – namely aged care planning region, state/territory, and remoteness – is based on the location of the aged care service (outlet or facility), rather than the location of the person receiving the aged care service. The location of a permanent residential aged care facility corresponds with the current location of a person receiving that service, but this is not the case for respite residential aged care or Home Care services. Although the location of an outlet or facility can be used to infer the location of people receiving that service, it is possible that outlets provide services to people who live outside their jurisdiction or geographical area. The only exception to this is HACC (now the CHSP), where geographical location is by the address of the person receiving the service. While the ACCR includes address information, this refers to contact information at the time of the person's ACAT assessment, which may not be the same as their usual residence.
- Some socio-demographic characteristics of the people using aged care services are recorded at the time of application or assessment, and as a consequence, they may not reflect later, changed characteristics. These include usual residence status and living arrangements, as well as potentially marital status.
- Indigenous status is self-identified and disclosing it is non-compulsory. As a consequence, the number of people using an aged care program and identifying as of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin may be an underestimation of the true number of Indigenous people using the program.
- In some cases, Indigenous people may also appear under-represented in mainstream residential aged care because there are additional programs that specifically target this population group, such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program. These operate outside of the *Aged Care Act 1997* and are not reported through the NACDC.
- The number of people with particular characteristics, or receiving a specific aged care program – particularly respite residential aged care at a point in time – can be relatively small. Care should be taken when assessing year-to-year fluctuations involving small numbers, as apparent differences may be due to chance.
- Small numbers also present a challenge in managing confidentiality. The data may suppress or aggregate small numbers to reduce the chance of identifying an individual care recipient or service/provider.

- While much of the data held by the NACDC are comparable across years (some since the Aged Care Act 1997), details may have changed. Care levels, program details or assessment methods in particular have not all remained constant.
- The ACFI has been in effect since 2008, but for that year, a large number of people in permanent residential aged care still had a current RCS record. While the ACFI record captures details of health and mental/behavioural conditions experienced by people in permanent care, these are only recorded where the condition affects people's care needs, potentially resulting in under-reporting on the true prevalence of conditions.

4.3 Tables from source data

The following table presents the source data and reference tables and a brief description. The common data elements that are obtained through these tables, provide a link between them, and are used to derive the data concepts, are detailed in Appendix B.

Data table	Description
Source data tables	
ACCR assessment	Covers information captured on the Aged Care Client Record (information may be captured on multiple occasions)
ACFI assessment	ACFI assessment categories and their components and associated scores
Assessment	A summary table specifying the type of aged care assessment (ACFI, ACCR or RCS) and selected items from that assessment
Assessment details ACAP	Specifies the details captured under each question in ACAP assessments
Assessment details ACFI	Specifies the details captured under each question in ACFI assessments
Assessment details RCS	Specifies the details captured under each question in RCS assessments
HACC MDS	Covers the HACC Minimum Data Set, collecting information on people and services
HC assessments	Covers ACAP information captured in assessments for Home Care
HC care recipient	Provides details of HC recipients
HC dementia	Specifies details of eligibility for the dementia supplement
HC entry	Records dates of admission and separation for Home Care, as well as the associated level of care
HC leave info	Provides detail on leave taken from HC
HC occupancy	Specifies service occupancy and claim days
HC pay adjustment	Records details of payment adjustments made to services
HC recipient care level	Specifies the level of care received
HC subsidies and supplements	Provides detail on the subsidies and supplements paid to services for certain care/service requirements *(such as basic HC subsidies, and supplements for oxygen use and enteral feeding)
HC workforce supplement	Specifies service eligibility for the workforce supplement
Location ACAT	Specifies the location of the Aged Care Assessment Team

(continued)

Data table	Description
Location address	Specifies the service delivery location (for services, this is where a service can be delivered—for places, this is where a service has been delivered)
Place stocktake	Specifies the places available in services/programs for a given financial year from 2009–10 onwards
Place stocktake hist	Species the places available in services/programs for a given financial year. These records relate to financial years prior to those provided in the 'Place stocktake' table
Provider	Provides information on the organisations that provide aged care services
Provider approval	Specifies the details of approvals for providers
Provider services	Captures the association between providers and services
RCS Assessment	Specifies the overall rating (8 categories) given on the RCS assessment for people in permanent residential aged care prior to 2008
Recipient	Captures details of recipients in aged care—does not include Home Care (from August 2013)
Recipient care level	Records care level in residential aged care (both permanent and respite prior to 2014, after this time only for respite)
Recipient hours of service	Specifies the number of hours received through community aged care packages, aggregated by recipient, service and claim period
Recipient leave	Specifies the period and reason for leave taken from residential aged care or community aged care packages
Recipient respite care days	Specifies the number of respite days used in residential aged care, aggregated by recipient, service and claim period
Recipient respite extra care days	Provides detail on applications made for extensions to respite care (applications are captured regardless of whether the application is approved, or the days approved subsequently utilised)
Recipient service	Provides service records (episodes of care) for residential aged care and Transition Care, as well as community aged care packages
Recipient transition care days	Specifies details of Transition Care days and their setting, aggregated by claim period, recipient and service
Service	Covers details of aged care services relating to residential aged care, Home Care (and previous community aged care packages) and Transition Care
Service accreditation	Specifies the accreditation status of a service, but does not record details of the accreditation process
Service certification status	Specifies the certification status of a service, provided for the premises
Service payment	Records payments to services, aggregated by month, payment classification and service
Service ward	Provides detail on where extra services are provided
Viability supplement stats	Specifies the measures that are used to determine service eligibility for the supplement (scored on remoteness, size and client characteristics)
Viability supplement rate	Provides viability supplement amounts that correspond to number of points service has been scored

(continued)

Data table	Description
Reference tables	
ACFI funding model	Describes the ACFI assessment categories (levels)
Age	Specifies age groupings for statistical analyses
Assessment questions	Describes care need response questions
Care level	Specifies associations between care levels and service types
Code description	Provides values for some codes supplied by different source systems
Country	Specifies country codes and descriptions
HACC MDS lookup	Provides values for some codes used in the HACC MDS table
HC codebook	Provides values for some codes used in the HC tables
HC recipient ID mapping	Provides corresponding CACP and SPARC recipient IDs for HC (ACMPS) recipient IDs where applicable
Indigenous population	Indigenous population projections
NAPS SPARC mapping	Provides corresponding NAPS and SPARC service ID values where applicable
Place status	Specifies values for place status codes applied to places
Population statistics	Population projections
Service type	Specifies values for service type codes applied to services

5 Output and reporting

Aged care data and information from the NACDC are published in a range of reports and bulletins. In addition, the NACDC releases an annual web report on residential and community-based aged care, offering statistical information on services, facilities and people in care. These products are available through the [National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse](#).

In addition, the national aged care data has been used to develop the Pathways in Aged Care (PIAC) link map – which connects aged care assessment data with aged care usage and death records. PIAC uses statistical linkage to identify individual recipients across different aged care programs. The resulting data can be used to analyse people's use of aged care services across time. The PIAC currently covers program use between 1 July 1997 and 30 June 2014. It contains person-level data on:

- use of seven service programs operational between 2002 and 2014: HACC, RAC (including both permanent and respite care), HCP, CACP, EACH, EACHD, and TCP
- assessments conducted by ACATs under ACAP
- all deaths.

All people who used services provided by the above programs in the reference period or who died between 1 January 1997 and 30 June 2015 are included in the database, irrespective of age. The PIAC currently contains data for 5.8 million people. More information is available in the ['Introduction to Pathways in Aged Care 2014'](#).

5.1 Limitations to NACDC reporting

Any data the NACDC publish may differ from those found elsewhere, because the source data have been prepared or analysed differently. These differences are small, and the additional verification adds value to the results. Prior to publishing data, the NACDC carries out internal quality control processes to ensure data are as accurate as possible, and the published data will include details of any potential interpretation issues.

5.2 Data Quality Statements

There are currently two Data Quality Statements (DQS) available that are relevant to the NACDC:

- a general DQS for the [NACDC](#).
- a DQS for [ACFI](#).

6 Accessing the NACDC holdings

A range of aged care data from the NACDC is accessible through self-service options including the National Aged Care Places Stocktake Reporting Tool and the Aged care data cubes. In addition, customised data can be requested through the online data request function of the NACDC.

6.1 National Aged Care Places Stocktake Reporting Tool

The National Aged Care Places Stocktake Reporting Tool ([The Stocktake Reporting Tool](#)) provides a quick, user-driven view of the number of operational aged care places in Australia at 30 June from 2006–2015. The Stocktake Reporting Tool summarises the number of aged care services and places into interactive graphical representations that enable the user to obtain an overview or to specify the year, Aged Care Planning Region, care type, and provider type.

6.2 Aged care data cubes and supplementary tables

The aged care data cubes include some detailed data relating to residential aged care, community aged care and the Transition Care Program from 2009–2012. The supplementary tables are updated annually and provide expanded data to support the Residential aged care and Home Care web reports. The cubes and data are available through the [Aged Care Data](#) page of the NACDC web page.

6.3 Customised data requests

The NACDC provides customised aged care data to researchers and other stakeholders such as aged care sector and community agencies, and other government agencies. Data can be requested through the [AIHW custom data request service](#).

Appendix A

Data concept definitions

Alphabetical list of common data concepts

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Age

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: The person's age, calculated from their date of birth.

Context: Age may be calculated for a given point in time (commonly at 30 June), or at the date of admission into or separation from an aged care program.

Related data item(s): Derived from 'Date of birth'.

Care level

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: The level of care a person receives through an aged care program.

OR

The level of care assigned to an aged care place.

Context: Terminology varies between program types.

Home Care has four levels:

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

Community aged care packages had three levels:

CACP (which became HC Level 2 in July 2013)

EACH (which became HC Level 4 in July 2013)

EACHD (which became HC Level 4 in July 2013)

Respite residential aged care has two levels (prior to 1 July 2014, these two levels also applied to permanent residential aged care):

High

Low

Related data item(s): Derived from 'Care level code' or 'Care level'.

Indigenous status

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: Whether or not the person identifies themselves as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Context: Information on people's Indigenous status is collected aged care in order to plan, promote and deliver services, to monitor changes in wellbeing, and to account for government expenditure in this area. Due to the lower life expectancy of Indigenous people, they can also be expected to require aged care services at an earlier age than is the case for the wider community. As a result, the Indigenous population aged 50–64, as well as all people aged 65 and over, are considered in aged care planning.

Broadly categorised as:

Person identifies as Aboriginal/Torre Strait Islander

Person does not identify Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander origin

Unknown

Related data item(s): Derived from 'ATSI code'.

Length of stay

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: The amount of time a person spends in an aged care program.

Context: Calculated from a person's dates of admission to and separation from an aged care program.

'Total length of stay' includes all episodes of care in the same program and care type for an individual, regardless of time between episodes.

'Current length of stay' includes only the time spent in the program and care type for most recent episode of care.

Related data item(s): Derived from 'Admission date' and 'Separation date'. Depending on the program type and information sought, it may be necessary to also consider the items 'Admission type code', 'Care level' and 'Discharge code' or 'Discharge reason'.

Location

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: The location where aged care services have been (or can be) delivered, based on the location of the service.

Context: Location is based on service delivery location, derived from the location of the service (Home Care outlet or residential aged care facility). Therefore, location does not necessarily reflect where service is provided to a person. The only exception to this is HACC, where location is based on the recipient's residential address.

Location can be represented through various structures, such as:

Remoteness structure (*Major cities, Inner regional, Outer regional, Remote and Very remote*) as defined by the ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

State/territory

Aged Care Planning Region (ACPR) as defined by DoH

Local government areas (LGA)

Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2)

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

Related data item(s): Derived from 'Service delivery location ID' or 'Location ID'.

Non-English-speaking background

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: People are considered to come from non-English-speaking backgrounds when the country in which a person was born is classified as a non-English-speaking country.

Context: The following countries are classified as English-speaking, as defined by ABS Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC):

Australia

United Kingdom

Ireland

United States of America

Canada

South Africa

People whose countries of birth are recorded as anything else are considered to have a non-English-speaking background.

This concept can be further strengthened by analysing it in conjunction with the data elements 'Main language (other than English) spoken at home' or 'Preferred language'.

Related data item(s): Derived from 'Country of birth'.

Organisation type

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: Type of organisation providing aged care services through a national aged care program.

Context: Organisations provide a description of their organisation type. Organisation types are broadly categorised as:

- Not-for-profit (charitable, community-based or religious organisations)
- Private (for-profit and incorporated companies)
- Government (local or state/territory governments)

Related data item(s): Derived from 'Organisation type code', 'Organisation sub type' and 'Organisation type desc'.

Program type

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: Type of aged care program.

Context: Relates to ACAP-assessed and approved care delivery programs only.
Program types are broadly categorised as:

Residential

Community

Transition Care

Related data item(s): Derived from 'Service type code'.

Provider

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: An organisation that operates an aged care service (or multiple services) through a national aged care program.

Context: Each provider has their own unique identifier. The NACDC has some provider-centred data sets. That is, the information that is recorded on them is structured around the organisation providing aged care services.

Related data item(s): Derived from 'Provider ID'.

Recipient

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: A person who receives aged care services through a national aged care program. These may relate to care delivery or care need assessments.

Context: Each person has their own unique identifier within each program type, but not across different programs. The NACDC has many client-centred data sets. That is, the information that is recorded on them is structured around the people receiving aged care services through a program.

Record linkage is required to associate recipients between different programs.

Related data item(s): Derived from 'Recipient ID'.

Record linkage

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: A process, technique or method that enables the bringing together of two or more records that are believed to belong to the same individual.

Context: Linkage can occur across data systems or within data systems and may be done by using a range of identifiers. For instance, in PIAC, HACC and ACAP, record linkage is used for statistical purposes (such as planning, research or the measurement of service or program outcomes), and it makes it possible to count the number of people using an aged care program nationally – without counting clients more than once – and the services which they receive through the program. In the case of PIAC, the record linkage also makes it possible to identify people using different programs.

Statistical record linkage does not need to achieve a 100% matching of client records. The linkage of records only has to be sufficiently reliable to draw valid statistical conclusions.

Related data item(s): Commonly derived from 'Letters of name', 'Date of birth' and 'Sex', as well as 'Recipient ID'.

Service

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: Residential aged care facility or Home Care service outlet.

Context: One provider (organisation) can operate multiple services.

Related data item(s): Derived from 'Service ID'.

Separation reason

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: The reason recorded for discharge from aged care service on separation. These are effectively the person's destination on separation from aged care.

Context: Separation reasons are broadly categorised as:

Hospital

Transfer to residential aged care

Transfer to community-based care

Return to family/home

Death

Other

Related data item(s): Derived from 'Discharge code' and 'Discharge reason'.

Size of service

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: The size of the service outlet or residential aged care facility, calculated by the number of operational places available through the outlet/facility.

Context: For residential aged care, this is the number of places (beds) in a given residential aged care facility, as defined by a unique service identifier.

For Home Care, this is the number of places (packages) in a given service outlet, as defined by a unique service identifier. The NACDC reports size of service for Home Care based on the number of places offered at the nominated care level – one service may offer places at different care levels, and as a result the “true” size of the service may differ.

Related data item(s): Derived from ‘Number of places’, ‘Place status code’, ‘Care level code’ and ‘Packet ID’.

Status

Attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: The operational status of places, services and providers.

Context: While other codes for status exist in source data, NACDC commonly only reports on operational places, services or providers.

Related data item(s): Derived from 'Place status code', 'Service status code' or 'Care type approval code'.

Appendix B

Common data elements from source data

Alphabetical list of common data elements

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ACFI category

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *acfi_category*
assessment_category

Definition: ACFI assessment category

Context: Made up of four letters for each of the three ACFI domains (assistance with daily living (ADL), behavioural needs (BEH) and complex health care (CHC)).

Relational attributes

Data type: Alpha

Data domain: AAA – made up of N (nil), L (low), M (medium) and H (high) for each domain (ADL, BEH and CHC).

Guide for use: Scores for each domain can be obtained on the 'Assessment' table. Scores for each individual question that underlies the domains can be obtained from the table 'Assessment details ACFI'.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Assessment' and 'Assessment details ACFI'.

Admission date

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *admission_date*

entry_date

Definition: Identifies the date a person was admitted into care.

Relational attributes

Data type: Date

Data domain: DD/MM/YYYY

Guide for use: Moving from one type of place to another within the same service/facility will involve two records with differing admission dates.

The data table 'Recipient service' also has a data element for *entry_date*, which is defined as the person's date of entry into a service/facility, and when used combined with *exit_date*, provides dates for a continuity of service record.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Assessment', 'Recipient service' and 'HC entry'.

Assessment ID

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *assessment_id*

Definition: The assessment identifier.

Context: Unique to each assessment, but individual records may be generated for different aspects of assessment (that is, multiple records associated to single assessment). Assessment identifiers assigned under ACAP have no relationship to assessments under other programs.

Relational attributes

Data type: Alphanumeric – various lengths

Data domain: Concatenation of:
AAAA – Source system
NNNN – Unique assessment identifier

Guide for use: Foreign key for linking tables.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Assessment', 'ACCR assessment' and 'ACFI assessment'.

Assessment type

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *assessment_type*

Definition: Identifies the type of assessment undertaken.

Context: The type will determine the kinds of assessment information collected, and the data tables to which the information then relates.

Relational attributes

Data type: Alpha

Data domain: AAA(A) – Values in use:
ACCR
ACFI
RCS

Data tables: Included in tables 'Assessment', 'ACCR assessment' and 'ACFI assessment', as well as 'Assessment details ACFI' and 'Assessment details RCS'.

Assessment start/end date

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *assessment_start_date*
assessment_end_date

Definition: The effective start date of approval for care (ACAP/ACCR) or funding (ACFI/RCS), and the effective end date for same.

Context: The type will determine the kinds of assessment information collected, and the data tables to which the information then relates.

Relational attributes

Data type: Date

Data domain: DD/MM/YYYY

Data tables: Included in tables 'Assessment', 'ACCR assessment' and 'ACFI assessment', as well as 'Assessment details ACFI' and 'Assessment details RCS'.

Country of birth

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *country_of_birth*
country_of_birth_code
cob

Definition: The country in which a person was born.

Context: Coded to ABS Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC)

Relational attributes

Data type: Numeric

Data domain: Values in use are from 1101 to 9999 as per ABS classification.

Guide for use: Used to estimate cultural and linguistic diversity.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Assessment details ACAP', 'HACC MDS', 'Recipient' and 'HC care recipient'.

Date of birth

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *date_of_birth*
dob

Definition: The date on which a person was born.

Context: Used to calculate age.

Relational attributes

Data type: Date

Data domain: DD/MM/YYYY

Guide for use: Used alongside sex and letters of name for statistical record linkage.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Assessment details ACAP', 'HACC MDS', 'Recipient' and 'HC care recipient'.

Discharge date

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *discharge_date*

departure_date

Definition: The date on which a person left an aged care service.

Relational attributes

Data type: Date

Data domain: DD/MM/YYYY

Guide for use: Used to calculate periods of care. Moving from one type of place to another within the same service/facility will involve two records with differing discharge dates.

The data table 'Recipient service' also has a data element for *exit_date*, which is defined as the person's date of exit from a service/facility, and when used combined with *entry_date*, provides dates for a continuity of service record.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Recipient service' and 'HC entry'.

Discharge reason

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *discharge_code*
discharge_reason
departure_code

Definition: The reason that the person was discharged from the service.

Context: Effectively, this is the person's destination upon separating from aged care.

Relational attributes

Data type: Alphanumeric

Data domain: Values commonly in use:
1 - Hospital
2 - Residential aged care (low)
3 - Residential aged care (high)
4 - Death
5 - Return to family/home
6 - Return to community (with HCP)
7 - Return to community without support
8 - Care recipient terminated service
9 - Care recipient moved out of service area
10 - Provider ceased providing service to recipient
11 - Other
12 - Auto (system generated only)
13 - Return to community (with HACC)
14 - Return to community (with CACP)
15 - Return to community (with TC)
16 - Return to community (with EACHD)
17 - Residential aged care
AU - Auto

Guide for use: Used to compile the data concept 'Discharge reason'.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Recipient service' and 'HC entry'.

Effective end/start date

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *effective_start_date / transaction_start_date*
effective_end_date / transaction_end_date

Definition: The date from which a record is effective, and the date to which a record is effective.

Context: Separate element to admission, separation and assessment dates.

Relational attributes

Data type: Date

Data domain: DD/MM/YYYY

Guide for use: End date is frequently open-ended and indicates the record is active.

Data tables: Included in almost all data tables.

Indigenous status

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *atsi_code*
indigenous_status
indigenous_status_code

Definition: Whether or not person identifies as Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander.

Relational attributes

Data type: Numeric

Data domain: Values commonly in use:
1 - Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander
2 - Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal
3 - Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
4 - Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander
9 - Unknown

Guide for use: Due to low numbers and differences between how Indigenous status is collected in each data set, any mention of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identification is commonly compiled into the broader Indigenous status data concept.

Data tables: Included in tables 'HACC MDS', 'Recipient' and 'HC care recipient'.

Language spoken

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *main_language_spoken_at_home*
language_spoken_code
language_spoken_name

Definition: Name of the language mainly spoken by person to communicate at home with friends and family.

Context: Coded to ABS Standard Australian Classification of Languages (ASCL)

Relational attributes

Data type: Numeric

Data domain: Values in use are from 0 to 9999 as per ABS classification.

Guide for use: Used to estimate cultural and linguistic diversity. Separate data element to 'Preferred language', which is available through the data table 'Recipient' only.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Assessment details ACAP', 'HACC MDS' and 'HC care recipient'.

Letters of name

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *letters_of_name*
lettname

Definition: A specific combination of letters selected from the person's first and last name.

Context: The rules for creating letters of name are specified in the HACC MDS and ACAP MDS data dictionaries, with some differences between them.

Relational attributes

Data type: Alpha

Data domain: Various

Guide for use: Used alongside date of birth and sex for statistical record linkage.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Assessment details ACAP', 'HACC MDS', 'Recipient' and 'HC care recipient'.

Living arrangements

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *living_arrangements*
livarr
living_arrangements_code

Definition: The person's usual living arrangements in relation to other people.

Context: Identifies whether person lives alone, with family members, or with other people.

Relational attributes

Data type: Numeric

Data domain: Common values in use:
1 - Lives alone
2 - Lives with family
3 - Lives with others
9 - Unknown

Guide for use: Under another variable, *cohabit_code*, ACCR assessment captures more detailed codes for cohabiting people – for example, whether person lives alone, with spouse, child or siblings.

Data tables: Included in tables 'ACCR assessment', 'Assessment details ACAP', 'HACC MDS' and 'HC assessments'.

Location ID

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *location_id*
service_delivery_location_id
address_location_id

Definition: The location identifier.

Context: Identifies where a service has been (can be) delivered, based on the location of the service.

Relational attributes

Data type: Alphanumeric – various lengths

Data domain: Concatenation of:
AAAA – Source system
NNNN – Unique recipient identifier

Guide for use: Foreign key for linking tables.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Location address' and 'Location ACAT'.

Recipient ID

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *recipient_id*
cacp_care_recipient_id
sparc_care_recipient_id
acmps_care_recipient_id

Definition: The recipient identifier.

Context: Unique to each recipient within a program type. The same individual may receive a new identifier when entering a different aged care program – some are connected via a secondary mapping table, but for most recipients, record linkage would be required to connect these different identifiers to the same individual.

Relational attributes

Data type: Alphanumeric – various lengths

Data domain: Concatenation of:
AAAA – Source system
NNNN – Unique recipient identifier

Guide for use: Foreign key for linking tables.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Recipient', 'Assessment' and 'ACFI assessment'.

Provider ID

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *provider_id*

Definition: The provider identifier.

Context: Unique to each organisation that operates aged care services. The same provider may operate more than one service.

Relational attributes

Data type: Alphanumeric – various lengths

Data domain: Concatenation of:
AAAA – Source system
NNNN – Unique recipient identifier

Guide for use: Foreign key for linking tables.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Provider' and 'Provider services'.

Provider type

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *organisation_type_desc*

organisation_type_code

Definition: Categorises the provider organisation by type of business.

Context: Self-reported by organisation.

Relational attributes

Data type: Numeric – various lengths

Data domain: Values in use:
105729 - Religious/Charitable
105730 - Territory Government
105146 - Government
105145 - Not-for-profit (all)
105144 - For-profit (all)
105675 - Unknown
326 - Charitable
327 - Community Based
328 - Local Government
330 - Religious
331 - State Government
332 - Unknown
381 - Publicly Listed Company
382 - Private Incorporated Body
383 - Private Non-Incorporated Entity

Guide for use: Used to compile the data concept 'Provider type'.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Provider' and 'Provider services'.

Service ID

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *service_id*
naps_service_id

Definition: The service identifier.

Context: Unique to each aged care service.

Relational attributes

Data type: Alphanumeric – various lengths

Data domain: Concatenation of:
AAAA – Source system
NNNN – Unique service identifier

Guide for use: Foreign key for linking tables.

Data tables: Included in tables 'Service' and 'Provider services'.

Snapshot period

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *snapshot_period*

Definition: The financial year to which data relates.

Context: The snapshot is taken around two months after 30 June for an 'as at' date of 30 June to allow for lagging data to be received.

Relational attributes

Data type: Alphanumeric – various lengths

Data domain: Concatenation of:
AA – FY
NNNN – Year

Data tables: Included in all tables.

Usual residence

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Variable name: *accommodation_setting_code*
accommodation_setting_usual_code

Definition: The type of accommodation in which person usually lives.

Context: May relate to type of accommodation at the time of assessment for care, and may not reflect a more “current” arrangement.

Relational attributes

Data type: Numeric

Data domain:

- 1 - Private residence (client owns/is purchasing)
- 2 - Private residence (private rental)
- 3 - Private residence (public rental or community housing)
- 4 - Independent living with a retirement village
- 5 - Boarding house
- 6 - Short term crisis, emergency, or transitional accommodation
- 7 - Supported community accommodation
- 8 - Residential aged care service (low level care)
- 9 - Residential aged care service (high level care)
- 10 - Hospital
- 11 - Other institutional care
- 12 - Public place/temporary shelter
- 13 - Other
- 14 - Private residence (family member or related person owned/is purchasing)
- 15 - Private residence (Indigenous community/settlement)
- 16 - Residential aged care
- 99 - Not stated/inadequately described

Data tables: Included in tables ‘Assessment details ACAP’, ‘HACC MDS’ and ‘HC assessments’.

