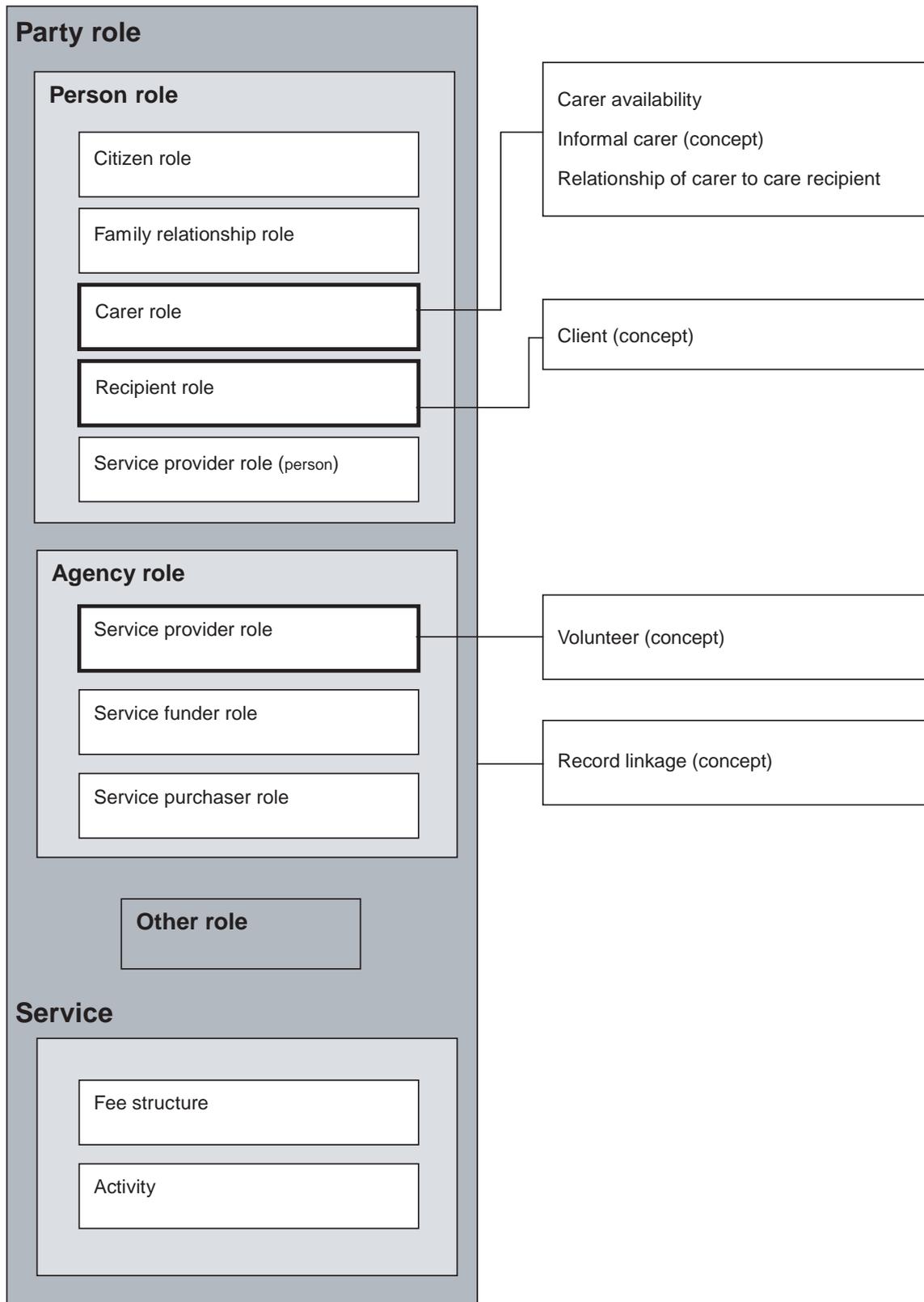


National Community Services Information Model, version 1, Entities



Carer availability

<i>New</i>	<i>Status</i> CURRENT	<i>Effective Date</i> 1/07/2000	<i>Reg. Auth.</i> NCSIMG	<i>ID No.</i> 000552
<i>NCSI Model Location</i> Party role/person role/carer role			<i>Data Class</i> Cross-Program	<i>Version</i> 1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: Whether someone, such as a family member, friend or neighbour, has been identified as providing regular and sustained care and assistance to the person requiring care.
Carers include those people who receive a pension or benefit for their caring role but does not include paid or volunteer carers organised by formal services.

Context: Personal and social support:
Recent years have witnessed a growing recognition of the critical role that informal support networks play in caring for frail older people and people with disabilities within the community. Not only are informal carers responsible for maintaining people with often high levels of functional dependence within the community, but the absence of an informal carer is a significant risk factor contributing to institutionalisation.
Increasing interest in the needs of carers and the role they play has prompted greater interest in collecting more reliable and detailed information about carers and the relationship between informal care and the provision of and need for formal services.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric *Representational form:* CODE

Field size: *Min.* 1 *Max.* 1 *Representational layout:* N

Data domain:

0	Has no carer
1	Has a carer
9	Not stated/inadequately described

Guide for use: This data element is purely descriptive of a client's circumstances. It is not intended to reflect whether the carer is considered by the service provider to be capable of undertaking the caring role.

In line with this, the expressed views of the client and/or their carer should be used as the basis for determining whether the client is recorded as having a carer or not.

A carer is someone who provides a significant amount of care and/or assistance to the person on a regular and sustained basis. Excluded from the definition of carers are paid workers or volunteers organised by formal services (including paid staff in funded group houses).

Carer availability (*continued*)

Guide for use (continued): When asking a client about the availability of a carer, it is important for agencies to recognise that a carer does not always live with the person for whom they care. That is, a person providing significant care and assistance to the client does not have to live with the client in order to be called a carer.

The availability of a carer should also be distinguished from living with someone else. Although in many instances a co-resident will also be a carer, this is not necessarily the case. The data element Living arrangement is designed to record information about person(s) with whom the client may live.

Collection methods: Agencies may collect this item at the beginning of each Service episode and also assess this information at subsequent assessments or re-assessments.

Some agencies may record this information historically so that they can track changes over time. Historical recording refers to the practice of maintaining a record of changes over time where each change is accompanied by the appropriate date.

Related data: Is related to:

Informal carer v.2 and
Carer co-residency v.1.

Administrative attributes

Source document: DHFS: 1998. HACC Data Dictionary Version 1.0. Commonwealth of Australia.

Source organisation: Department of Health and Family Services

Comments: There is inconsistency between this definition of 'Carer availability' and the ABS definition of 'Principal carer', 1993 Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey and 'Primary carer' used in the 1998 survey. The ABS definitions require that the carer has or will provide care for a certain amount of time and that they provide certain types of care. This may not be appropriate for community services agencies wishing to obtain information about a person's carer regardless of the amount of time that care is for or the types of care provided. Information such as the amount of time for which care is provided can of course be collected separately but, if it is not needed, it would place a burden on service providers.

Informal carer

Revised	Status CURRENT	Effective Date 1/07/2000	Reg. Auth. NCSIMG	ID No. 000508
NCSI Model Location Party role/person role/carer role			Data Class Cross-Program	Version 2

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: A carer includes any person, such as a family member, friend or neighbour, who is giving regular, ongoing assistance to another person without payment for the care given.

The definition excludes formal care services such as home care, care provided by volunteers or foster care that is arranged by formal services. It also excludes unregistered child carers who are receiving payment for their services. Where a potential carer is not prepared to undertake the caring role, the carer is considered to be not available.

Context: Care and support networks where the carers are unpaid (other than pension or benefit) play a critical role in community services provision, especially in caring for frail aged and younger people with disabilities within the community. Information about carers is therefore of fundamental importance in assessing the ongoing needs of clients and their carers, and in service planning. The presence of a carer is often a key indicator of a person's ability to remain at home, especially if the person requires assistance. The absence of a carer, where a vulnerable client lives alone, is an indicator of client risk. Information on client living arrangements and carer availability provides an indicator of the potential in-home support and the extent to which the burden of care is absorbed by the informal caring system. The stability or otherwise of the carer's availability may be significant in the capacity of the client continuing to remain at home.-

Existing carer definitions (e.g. for purposes of establishing eligibility for Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefits (DNCB)/Carer Allowance; Carer Pension/Carer Payment) definitions used in ABS population, surveys of disability, ageing and carers) vary in context and purpose.

Relational attributes

Related data: Related to the data elements:

- Activity areas v.1,
- Assistance with activity v.1,
- Activity – level of difficulty v.1,
- Interpreter services required v.2,
- Family type v.2,
- Household type v.2,
- Living arrangements v.2,
- Marital status v.1.

Informal carer (*continued*)

Administrative attributes

Source document: AIHW: 1999. HACC Minimum Data Set Project. Catalogue No. AGE 13.
Canberra: AIHW.

Source organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments:

Relationship of carer to care recipient

<i>New</i>	<i>Status</i> CURRENT	<i>Effective Date</i> 1/07/2000	<i>Reg. Auth.</i> NCSIMG	<i>ID No.</i> 000585
<i>NCSI Model Location</i> Party role/person role/carer role			<i>Data Class</i> Cross-Program	<i>Version</i> 1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The relationship of the carer to the person for whom they care.

Context: Resource and service planning:
Information about this relationship assists in the establishment of a profile of informal caring relationships and the assistance provided (such as by the HACC program) to maintain and support those relationships. As such it increases knowledge about the dynamics of caring and provides an insight into the gender and inter-generational patterns of informal care giving in the community.

Relational and representational attributes

Datatype: Numeric *Representational form:* CODE

Field size: *Min.* 1 *Max.* 1 *Representational layout:* N

Data domain:

1	Spouse/partner
2	Parent
3	Child
4	Child-in-law
5	Other relative
6	Friend/neighbour
9	Not stated/inadequately described

Guide for use: This data element should always be used to record the relationship of the carer to the person for whom they care, regardless of whether the client of the agency is the carer or the person for whom they care.

For example, if a woman were caring for her frail aged mother-in-law, the agency would record that the carer is the daughter-in-law of the care recipient (i.e. code 4). Similarly, if a man were caring for his disabled son, then the agency would record that the carer is the father of the care recipient (i.e. code 2).

If a person has more than one carer (e.g. a spouse and a son), the coding response to Relationship of carer to care recipient should relate to the carer who provides the most significant care and assistance related to the person's capacity to remain living at home. The expressed views of the client and/or their carer or significant other should be used as the basis for determining which carer should be considered to be the primary or principal carer in this regard.

Code 1 includes defacto and same sex partnerships.

Collection methods: To obtain greater detailed information about carers data can be collected using other elements such as 'Age' and 'Sex' etc.

Related data:

Relationship of carer to care recipient (*continued*)

Administrative attributes

Source document: DHFS: 1998. HACC Data Dictionary Version 1.0. Commonwealth of Australia.

Source organisation: Department of Health and Family Services

Comments: There is inconsistency between this definition of 'Informal carer' with the ABS definition of 'Principal carer'.

Client

<i>New</i>	<i>Status</i> CURRENT	<i>Effective Date</i> 1/07/2000	<i>Reg. Auth.</i> NCSIMG	<i>ID No.</i> 000555
<i>NCSI Model Location</i> Party role/person role/recipient role			<i>Data Class</i> Cross-Program	<i>Version</i> 1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: A person, group or organisation eligible to receive services either directly or indirectly (i.e. through partner organisations) from an agency.

Context: Community service agencies may provide assistance to individual persons, groups of persons (e.g. support groups) or to other organisations. All of these may be considered clients of an agency. Specific data collections may circumscribe the type of clients that are included in the collection. For example, at the current stage of development of the HACC MDS, HACC funded agencies are only required to report on clients who are individual persons. Future developments may extend the coverage of the HACC MDS collection to include organisational or group clients.

The definition of a 'client' may also be circumscribed by the definition of 'assistance'. What is included as 'assistance' may depend on what activities are considered significant enough to warrant separate recording and reporting of the nature and/or amount of the assistance provided to a person. For example, an agency worker answering a telephone call from an anonymous member of the public seeking some basic information (e.g. a phone number for someone) would not usually consider that this interaction constituted assistance of sufficient significance to warrant recording that person as a 'client'.

Furthermore, what constitutes 'assistance' may be influenced by the type of assistance, the agency was established to provide. In the above example, the agency in question was funded specifically to provide telephone advice, and referral information, to members of the public or specific sub-groups of the public. The agency may have a policy that all persons telephoning the agency for information are classified as clients, albeit anonymous clients.

The level of support or the amount of support given to a person by an agency can also be used to define them as a client or not. For example in the SAAP National Data Collection clients are defined be either taking up an amount of time of an agency; being accommodated by an agency; or by entering an ongoing support relationship with an agency.

Relational attributes

Related data:

Administrative attributes

Source document:

Source organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments:

Volunteer

<i>New</i>	<i>Status</i> CURRENT	<i>Effective Date</i> 1/07/2000	<i>Reg. Auth.</i> NCSIMG	<i>ID No.</i> 000608
<i>NCSI Model Location</i> Party role/person role/service provider role			<i>Data Class</i> Cross-Program	<i>Version</i> 1

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element type: DATA CONCEPT

Definition: A person who willingly gives unpaid help in the form of time, service or skills, through an organisation or group.

The reimbursement of expenses in full or part (e.g. token payments) or small gifts (e.g. sports club T-shirts or caps) is not regarded as payment of salary, and people who receive these are still considered to be voluntary workers. People who receive payment in kind for the work they do (for example, receiving farm produce as payment for work done on a farm, rather than cash) are not considered to be volunteers.

An organisation or group is any body with a formal structure. It may be as large as a national charity or as small as a local book club. Purely ad hoc, informal and temporary gatherings of people do not constitute an organisation.

Persons on Community Service Orders and other similar programs should be excluded from surveys.

Context: Voluntary work is an important contribution to national life. It meets needs within the community at the same time as it develops and reinforces social networks and cohesion.

Relational attributes

Related data: Full-time equivalent volunteer/unpaid staff v.1
Hours per week-volunteer/unpaid staff v.1.

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS: 1996. Voluntary Work, Australia. Catalogue No. 4441.0. Canberra: AGPS.

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics.
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Record linkage

Revised	Status CURRENT	Effective Date 1/07/2000	Reg. Auth. NCSIMG	ID No. 000532
NCSI Model Location Party role/agency role/general			Data Class Cross-Program	Version 2

Identifying and definitional 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.
Linkage can occur across data systems or within data systems and may be done by using a range of identifiers.

Context: Record linkage may facilitate improved service provision, treatment or case management to individual clients. For statistical purposes, including planning, research or the measurement of service or program outcomes, record linkage facilitates separating multiple items clustered around individuals from total counts (for example, double counting of clients can be reduced when calculating total numbers of clients across several agencies).

Relational attributes

Related data:

Administrative attributes

Source document: AIHW: 1999. HACC Minimum Data Set Project. Catalogue No. AGE 13.
Canberra: AIHW.
Linkage Key: Issues Paper

Source organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments: The proposed use of a linkage key in the HACC minimum data set is intended to make it possible to count the number of HACC clients (without counting clients more than once) and the services which they receive. The CSDA MDS is using the statistical linkage key based on that for the HACC MDS.