



Aged Care National Minimum Data Set (NMDS)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is an NMDS?	The Aged Care NMDS are content data standards . They set out how to collect and record 'core' aged care data relating to people, assessments, services, and providers. They draw on existing data and terminology within aged care, as well as national standards.
What do data standards achieve?	They create consistency so that there is a common data language. Data content standards outline agreed definitions, meaning and format.
Why is the Aged Care NMDS being developed?	Recommendation 108 of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety stated AIHW should develop standards for the sector, including National Minimum Dataset specifications. Once developed, the Department, as the Registration Authority, endorses the standards.
How will this affect Aged Care providers?	To be ready to provide data in accordance with the Aged Care NMDS by 01 November 2026, we ask that you consider the data standards and your existing systems (these may need to be modified to align with the standards) or future systems (these should be developed to align with the standards). The NMDS data standards apply to all instances where an applicable data item is collected. Many of the changes to the NMDS align with the new regulatory framework for aged care. Data using the NMDS data standards will be reported via the GEN website as it becomes available. Note as items already exist, outward change in reporting may not be noticeably different.
When will this take effect?	The Aged Care NMDS data standards will be effective November 2025. This is followed by a 12-month implementation period during which internal processes and digital systems at the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing will be aligned with the standards.
Will there be future versions of the Aged Care NMDS?	A new version of the NMDS is anticipated to be released in 2026, for implementation by 2027.
Where do I find the Aged Care NMDS?	The full data standards for the Aged Care NMDS are available via the METEOR website , the AIHW's online metadata repository. A PDF version of the data standards is available via AIHW's Gen Data Improvement website .

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Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's
Engagement Hub

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/videos/aged-care-engagement-hub?language=en>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's
aged care data website GEN

<https://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/data-improvements>