



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare**

# **Residential Mental Health Care**

## **National Minimum Data Set**

2024-25 version 6.00

The metadata for RMHC 6.00 can be found on the [Online Validator metadata page](#)

As at 23 July, 2024

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# 1. 2024-25 RMHC NMDS

## 1.1. Essential definitions

Scope - Residential mental health care NMDS (METEOR ID [775776](#))

Statistical Unit - Episodes of residential care (METEOR ID [723170](#))

## 1.2. Changes for 2024-25

The specific detailed changes to the 2024-25 specifications (version 6.00), compared to the 2023-24 (version 5.51) specifications, are detailed below.

### 1.2.1. Changes to the data model

The data model changes to the 2024-25 specifications, compared to 2023-24 are listed in [Table 1.1](#).

*Table 1.1 Changes made to 2024-25 data model compared to 2023-24 model*

Data items	Details	Rationale
<a href="#">Person—sex, code X</a>	This item is no longer Mandatory and is collected on a Conditional basis with the element Person—Gender, code X. Data must be reported for at least one of the two elements, either Sex or Gender. Data may be reported for both.	To support the implementation of the Gender data element in line with the Admitted Patient Care NMDS.
<a href="#">Person—gender, code X</a>	This item has been added to the NMDS. This data element is collected on a Conditional basis with the element Person—sex, code X. Data must be reported for at least one of the two elements, either Sex or Gender. Data may be reported for both.	To support the implementation of the Gender data element in line with the Admitted Patient Care NMDS.

### 1.2.2. Changes to definitions

No definitional changes have been made.

## 1.3. Reporting service provider entities

The reporting of service entities aims to create relationships between the mental health NMDSs, and where possible, the National Outcomes and Casemix Collection (NOCC), Local Hospital Networks/Public Hospital Establishments (PHE) NMDS and Admitted Patient Care (APC) NMDS (see [Table 1.2](#)).

The identifiers used in the RMHC NMDS are:

- State or territory (1 character)
- Region (2 characters)
- Specialised mental health service organisation (4 characters)

- Service unit cluster (5 characters)
- Service unit (6 characters)

Table 1.2 Reporting requirements for mental health care NMDS

Identifier element names	METEOR identifier	Community mental health care NMDS	Residential mental health care NMDS
Australian State or Territory identifier	720081	Yes	Yes
Region identifier	269940	Yes	Yes
Specialised mental health service organisation identifier	404186	Yes	Yes
Hospital/Service unit cluster identifier	722233 (MHE) / 404858 (MHE, CMHC & RMHC)	Yes	Yes
Service unit identifier	721740 (MHE) / 750360 (MHE, CMHC) / 722711 (MHE, RMHC)	Yes	Yes

The use of identical identifiers between the various mental health data sets is tested via the Mental Health Establishments Skeleton file (SKL), handled by the Online Validator. The reports section of the RMHC submission will highlight any mismatches which should be rectified either through re-supply of the Skeleton file, or adjustment to the RMHC submission.

The following section explores in more detail the reporting levels used in the RMHC NMDS.

### 1.3.1. State or territory

This level refers to the state or territory and should be reported using the *State/Territory identifier* data element.

### 1.3.2. Region

The region refers to an administrative concept not a geographical one. States and territories may have one or more regions into which the state or territory is divided and to which its mental health service organisations belong. Region would be reported using the *Region identifier* (RegId) data element. In the smaller states or in the territories there may only be one or no region. In these cases, the *Region identifier* is to be reported as '00' and the *Region name* (RegName) would repeat the name of the State or Territory.

### 1.3.3. Organisation

The organisation is defined according to the Object class *Specialised mental health service organisation* (METEOR identifier 286449) and reported using the *Organisation Identifier* (OrgId) data element. An organisation is a separately constituted specialised mental health service that is responsible for the clinical governance, administration and financial management of service units providing specialised mental health care. An organisation may consist of one or more service units based in different locations.

### 1.3.4. Service unit cluster

A specialised mental health service organisation may consist of one or more clusters of service units providing services in admitted patient, residential and/or ambulatory settings. For example, a specialised mental health service organisation may consist of several hospitals (clusters of admitted patient service units) and/or two or more ambulatory or residential service clusters (for example, a cluster of child and adolescent ambulatory service units, and a cluster of aged residential service units).

To allow service units (as defined below) to be reported individually, but still to be identified as part of a cluster, a separate reporting level has been created called 'Service unit cluster'.

Residential service units will not necessarily belong to a 'cluster'. However, groups of residential service units could be usefully reported as clusters. For example, clusters may exist of groups of residential services for aged persons in particular geographical areas. Where there is no service unit cluster then all service units within the organisation should be identified under a *Service unit cluster identifier* reported as '00000' and the *Service unit cluster name* would use the relevant organisation name.

### 1.3.5. Service units

Service units in-scope for reporting to the RMHC NMDS must be identical to those reported to the MHE NMDS—that is, at a minimum disaggregated by operator (government-operated and non government operated), hours staffed (24-hour staffed and non-24-hour staffed), and Target population, even though hours staffed and target population are not reporting requirements for the RMHC NMDS.

### 1.3.6. Sector

Sector is not considered part of the identifier, however, within this NMDS, sector is an important attribute for each service unit.

### 1.3.7. Consistency of identifiers across reference periods

Where no major service reorganisations have occurred, the region, organisation, service unit cluster and service unit identifiers (RegId, OrgId, ClusId, SUId) used by a jurisdiction should be preferably identical to the previous year. However, given that all jurisdictions have committed to aligning ID numbers between the different NMDSs, changes in ID numbers due to this process will be accepted, as will be the case for those jurisdictions that have

undergone significant reorganisation of service delivery that warrant new service entity identifiers. In these cases, jurisdictions should provide a supplementary mapping document that clearly illustrates the changes in ID numbers between collection periods, at all levels.

Region, organisation, service unit cluster and service unit name changes are acceptable, especially if the new name is more locally relevant. These will be identified as a change in the Online Validator, however will not affect the generation of the historical trends reports for RMHC in future.

#### **1.4. Data model of the RMHC Extract**

The basic design of the extract consists of a single data record for each *Episode of residential care*. Each *Episode of residential care* 'belongs' to a *Person* (the patient or consumer of services), who in turn is linked to a *Residential mental health service unit* (the provider of services), which may be linked to a *Residential service unit cluster*, which is linked to a *Specialised mental health service organisation*, which is linked to a *Region* which is linked to a *State/Territory*.

The structure of the data to be reported is represented in the data model shown in [Fig. 1.1](#). In the model, a single *Residential mental health service unit* has associated records for one or more *Persons*, who each may have one or more *Episodes of residential care*. Each of the six data model building blocks (region, organisation, service unit cluster, service unit, person, episodes) has a unique set of attributes which comprise the NMDS data elements and additional supplementary information.

Two features of the model should be noted:

1. First, details of the residential service units reporting episode of residential care data are incorporated as part of the data extract, allowing linkage to related data sets provided by states and territories (in particular, the MHE NMDS).
2. Second, non-volatile person-level data in respect of patients (Date of Birth, Sex, Country of Birth, Indigenous Status) are separated from person-level data items that may change between episodes. This is designed to remove the redundancy that would occur if all patient-level data items were reported with each episode record and allow more straightforward counts/analysis at client level.

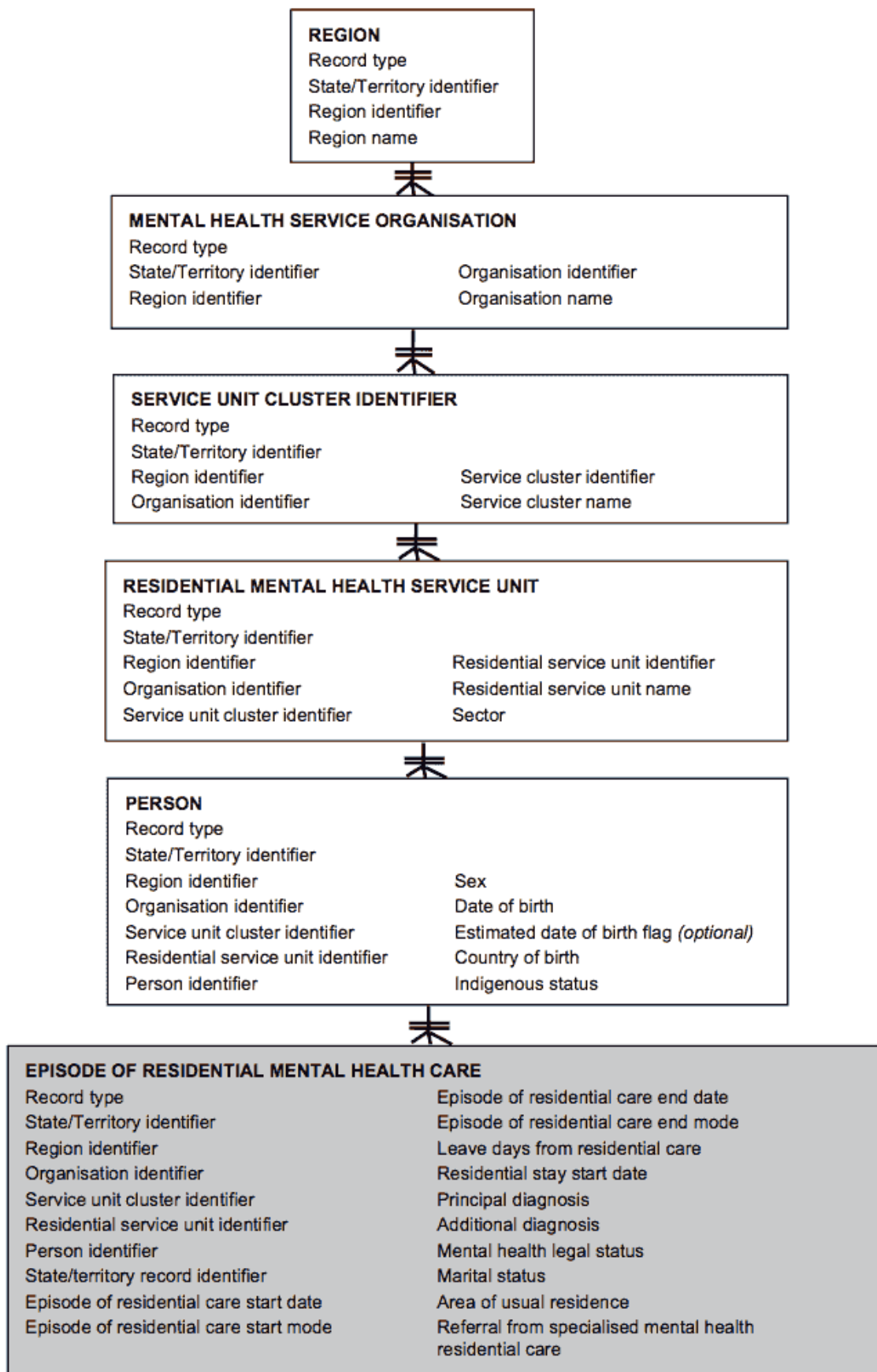


Fig. 1.1 Data model underlying the Residential Mental Health Care NMDS data extract

## 1.5. Data integrity

For cases of missing data (that is, unknown, not stated or not available):

- For **Numeric [Num] fields**, the data should be reported as zero, using leading zeros when necessary to pad out the field to the required length. The principle here is that all numeric fields require a valid value.
- For **Text [Char] fields**, the data should be space-filled to the required length. For single character fields where a 'missing/not stated' value has been specified for a particular data element (for example, '9' has been specified for missing data), use the stated value for 'missing/not stated' rather than simply space filling.

Values in **Date [Date]** fields must be recorded in compliance with the standard format used across the *National health data dictionary*; specifically, dates must be of fixed 8 column width in the format DDMMYYYY, with leading zeros used when necessary to pad out a value. For instance, 13 March 2025 would appear as 13032025.

Values in **Numeric [Num]** fields must be zero-filled and right-justified. These should consist only of the numerals 0 to 9 and the decimal ('.') point if applicable to the data element.

Note: Fields defined as 'Numeric' are those that have numeric properties—that is, the values, for example, can be added or subtracted in a manner that is valid. Where a field uses numeric characters that do not have these properties (for example, the use of numbers for *Patient identifier*), the field is defined as 'Character'.

Values in **Character [Char]** fields must be left justified and space-filled. These should consist of any of the printable ASCII character set (that is, excluding control codes such as newline, bell and linefeed).

## 1.6. Dataset specification (DSS)

The file structure for the transmission of data from jurisdictions to the AIHW is a single Fixed Format data file. The following tables specify the order in which the data items should be provided to the AIHW.

The extract format consists of a set of hierarchically ordered *Data records*, of which there are six types (see [Table 1.3](#)):

- Region details records
- Organisation details records
- Service unit cluster details records
- Service unit details records
- Person details records
- Episode of residential care details records

In each extract file for any given period, the *Data records* must be preceded by a single *File Header Record* having the structure outlined below in [Table 1.4](#).

All records presented in the extract file should be grouped in the following order: Header Record, Region details records, Organisation details records, Service unit details records, Person details records, followed by Episode of residential care records.



With the exception of Region, Organisation and Service unit cluster details records, all *Data records* should include the following elements in the order shown:

- Record Type
- Establishment identifier (comprising: *State/Territory identifier*, *Region identifier*, *Organisation identifier*, *Service unit cluster identifier* and *Service unit identifier*)
- Specific data in the format specified for the given record type.

The order of fields in a record must be the same as the order they are specified in the Record Layouts below. Field values should be formatted as shown in the Record Layouts.

The first field in each record must be *Record Type*. Valid values are shown in [Table 1.3](#).

*Table 1.3 Valid values for Record Type*

Record Type	Description
HR	File Header Record
REG	Region details records
ORG	Organisation details records
CLUS	Service unit cluster details records
SERV	Service unit details records
PER	Person details records
EPI	Episode of residential care details records

### 1.6.1. File header record

The first record of the extract file must be a File Header Record (Record Type = 'HR'), and it must be the only such record in the file.

The File Header Record is a quality control mechanism, which uniquely identifies each file that is sent to the AIHW (that is, who sent the file, what date the file was sent, batch number of file, etc). The information contained in the header fields will be checked against the actual details of the file to ensure that the file received has not been corrupted.

The layout of the File Header Record is shown in [Table 1.4](#).

*Table 1.4 Record Layout for File Header Record within the data extract*

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Record Type (RecType)	Char[8]	1	—	Value = HR

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
State/Territory Identifier (State) <sup>1</sup>	Char[1]	9	720081	<b>1:</b> New South Wales <b>2:</b> Victoria <b>3:</b> Queensland <b>4:</b> South Australia <b>5:</b> Western Australia <b>6:</b> Tasmania <b>7:</b> Northern Territory <b>8:</b> Australian Capital Territory
Batch Number (BatchNo)	Char[9]	10	—	Represents the YYYNNNNNN component of the extract file name.
Report Period Start Date (RepStart)	Date[8]	19	—	Report period start date
Report Period End Date (RepEnd)	Date[8]	27	—	Report period end date
Data File Generation Date (GenDt)	Date[8]	35	—	Data file generation date
Data File Type (FileType)	Char[4]	43	—	Value = RMHC
RMHC Specification Version Number (SpecVer)	Char[5]	47	—	Value = 06.00

Record length = 51

## Notes

[1]

METEOR includes code 9, but that is not applicable to the RMHC NMDS

### 1.6.2. Region data record

The extract format for the *Data records* is specified in detail in tables [Table 1.4](#) to [Table 1.10](#). The order of fields in each record must be the same as the order they are shown below. Field values should be formatted as specified.

Table 1.5 Data record layout - Region Details

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Record Type (RecType)	Char[8]	1	—	Value = REG

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
State/Territory Identifier (State) <sup>2</sup>	Char[1]	9	720081	1: New South Wales 2: Victoria 3: Queensland 4: South Australia 5: Western Australia 6: Tasmania 7: Northern Territory 8: Australian Capital Territory
Region Identifier (RegId)	Char[2]	10	269940	AA: Region (values as specified by individual jurisdiction) Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.
Region Name (RegName)	Char[60]	12	407187	Common name used to identify the Region.

Record length = 71

## Notes

[2]

METEOR includes code 9, but that is not applicable to the RMHC NMDS

### 1.6.3. Organisation data record

Table 1.6 Data record layout - Organisation Details

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Record Type (RecType)	Char[8]	1	—	Value = ORG

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
State/Territory Identifier (State) <sup>3</sup>	Char[1]	9	720081	1: New South Wales 2: Victoria 3: Queensland 4: South Australia 5: Western Australia 6: Tasmania 7: Northern Territory 8: Australian Capital Territory
Region Identifier (RegId)	Char[2]	10	269940	AA: Region (values as specified by individual jurisdiction) Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.
Organisation Identifier (OrgId)	Char[4]	12	404186	AAAA: Mental health service organisation identifier. Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in data for the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.
Organisation Name (OrgName)	Char[100]	16	405767	Common name used to identify the Organisation

Record length = 115

## Notes

[3]

METEOR includes code 9, but that is not applicable to the RMHC NMDS

### 1.6.4. Service unit cluster data record

Table 1.7 Data record layout - Service Unit Cluster Details

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Record Type (RecType)	Char[8]	1	—	Value = CLUS

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
State/Territory Identifier (State) <sup>4</sup>	Char[1]	9	720081	<p>1: New South Wales</p> <p>2: Victoria</p> <p>3: Queensland</p> <p>4: South Australia</p> <p>5: Western Australia</p> <p>6: Tasmania</p> <p>7: Northern Territory</p> <p>8: Australian Capital Territory</p>
Region Identifier (RegId)	Char[2]	10	269940	AA: Region (values as specified by individual jurisdiction) Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.
Organisation Identifier (OrgId)	Char[4]	12	404186	AAAA: Mental health service organisation identifier. Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in data for the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.
Service Unit Cluster Identifier (ClusId)	Char[5]	16	404858	AAAAA: An identifier to indicate that a service unit is one of a cluster of service units, defined through administrative or clinical governance arrangements. If no cluster applies, set to 00000. As this field enables linking with the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments, the identifiers used in this collection should be the same.
Service Unit Cluster Name (ClusName)	Char[100]	21	409209	If no cluster applies, enter organisation name as appears in previous line.

Record length = 120

## Notes

[4]

METEOR includes code 9, but that is not applicable to the RMHC NMDS

## 1.6.5. Residential service unit data record

Table 1.8 Data record layout — Residential Service Unit Details

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Record Type (RecType)	Char[8]	1	—	Value = <i>SERV</i>
State/Territory Identifier (State) <sup>5</sup>	Char[1]	9	720081	<p>1: New South Wales</p> <p>2: Victoria</p> <p>3: Queensland</p> <p>4: South Australia</p> <p>5: Western Australia</p> <p>6: Tasmania</p> <p>7: Northern Territory</p> <p>8: Australian Capital Territory</p>
Region Identifier (RegId)	Char[2]	10	269940	<p>AA: Region (values as specified by individual jurisdiction)</p> <p>Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.</p>
Organisation Identifier (OrgId)	Char[4]	12	404186	<p>AAAA: Mental health service organisation identifier. Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in data for the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.</p>
Service Unit Cluster Identifier (ClusId)	Char[5]	16	404858	<p>AAAAA: An identifier to indicate that a service unit is one of a cluster of service units, defined through administrative or clinical governance arrangements. If no cluster applies, set to 00000. As this field enables linking with the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments, the identifiers used in this collection should be the same.</p>
Residential Service Unit Identifier (SUId)	Char[6]	21	722711	<p>AAAAAA: Service unit identifier. Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.</p>

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Residential Service Unit Name (SUName)	Char[100]	27	722715	Common name used to identify the service unit
Sector (Sector)	Char[1]	127	269977	1: Public 2: Private

Record length = 127

## Notes

[5]

METEOR includes code 9, but that is not applicable to the RMHC NMDS

### 1.6.6. Residential person data record

#### Attention

Where multiple values for Sex, Date of birth, Where multiple values of Sex, Gender, Date of birth, Country of birth, or Indigenous status are recorded for different service contacts for one PersId, data providers should adopt the value recorded for the last valid service contact.

Table 1.9 Data record layout — Person Details

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Record Type (RecType)	Char[8]	1	—	Value = PER
State/Territory Identifier (State) <sup>6</sup>	Char[1]	9	720081	1: New South Wales 2: Victoria 3: Queensland 4: South Australia 5: Western Australia 6: Tasmania 7: Northern Territory 8: Australian Capital Territory

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Region Identifier (RegId)	Char[2]	10	269940	AA: Region (values as specified by individual jurisdiction) Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.
Organisation Identifier (OrgId)	Char[4]	12	404186	AAAA: Mental health service organisation identifier. Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in data for the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.
Service Unit Cluster Identifier (ClusId)	Char[5]	16	404858	AAAAA: An identifier to indicate that a service unit is one of a cluster of service units, defined through administrative or clinical governance arrangements. If no cluster applies, set to 00000. As this field enables linking with the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments, the identifiers used in this collection should be the same.
Residential Service Unit Identifier (SUIId)	Char[6]	21	722711	AAAAAA: Service unit identifier. Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.
Person Identifier (PersId)	Char[20]	27	290046	Person identifier is unique and stable for each individual patient within each service unit. Individual service units or collection authorities may use their own alphabetic, numeric or alphanumeric coding systems.
Sex (Sex)	Char[1]	47	741686	1: Male 2: Female 3: Another term 9: Not stated / inadequately described
Date of Birth (DoB)	Date[8]	48	287007	The date of birth of the person.



Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Estimated Date of Birth Flag (DoBFlag) <sup>7</sup>	Char[1]	56	—	<p><b>1:</b> Date of birth is accurate</p> <p><b>2:</b> Date of birth is an estimate</p> <p><b>8:</b> Date of birth is a “dummy” date (ie, 09099999)</p> <p><b>9:</b> Accuracy of stated date of birth is not known</p>
Country of Birth (CoB)	Char[4]	57	659454	The country in which the person was born. To be provided in accordance with the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC). ABS catalogue no. 1269.0 (2016). Values from 1601-1607, inclusive, are not permitted in this NMDS (Antarctica).
Indigenous Status (IndigSt)	Char[1]	61	602543	<p><b>1:</b> Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin</p> <p><b>2:</b> Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin</p> <p><b>3:</b> Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin</p> <p><b>4:</b> Neither Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin</p> <p><b>9:</b> Not stated/inadequately described</p>
Gender (Gender)	Char[1]	62	741842	<p><b>1:</b> Man, or boy, or male</p> <p><b>2:</b> Woman, or girl, or female</p> <p><b>3:</b> Non-binary</p> <p><b>4:</b> Different term</p> <p><b>5:</b> Prefer not to answer</p> <p><b>9:</b> Not stated / inadequately described</p>

Record length = 62

## Notes

[6]

METEOR includes code 9, but that is not applicable to the RMHC NMDS

[7]

Optional data element providing additional information regarding the quality of date of birth data. Code 1 should be used when it is known that the reported date of birth is accurate, code 2 when it is known that one or more parts of the date of birth is an estimate, code 8 when birth date is unknown and a 'dummy' date of birth has been used (that is, 09099999), and code 9 when it is not known whether the date of birth is accurate or an estimate.

### 1.6.7. Episode of residential care data record

Table 1.10 Data record layout — Episode of Residential Care Details

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Record Type (RecType)	Char[8]	1	—	Value = EPI
State/Territory Identifier (State) <sup>8</sup>	Char[1]	9	720081	1: New South Wales 2: Victoria 3: Queensland 4: South Australia 5: Western Australia 6: Tasmania 7: Northern Territory 8: Australian Capital Territory
Region Identifier (RegId)	Char[2]	10	269940	AA: Region (values as specified by individual jurisdiction) Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.
Organisation Identifier (OrgId)	Char[4]	12	404186	AAAA: Mental health service organisation identifier. Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in data for the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Service Unit Cluster Identifier (ClusId)	Char[5]	16	404858	AAAAA: An identifier to indicate that a service unit is one of a cluster of service units, defined through administrative or clinical governance arrangements. If no cluster applies, set to 00000. As this field enables linking with the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments, the identifiers used in this collection should be the same.
Residential Service Unit Identifier (SUId)	Char[6]	21	722711	AAAAAA: Service unit identifier. Identifiers used in this collection should map to the identifiers used in the NMDS for Mental Health Establishments.
Person Identifier (PersId)	Char[20]	27	290046	Person identifier is unique and stable for each individual patient within each service unit. Individual service units or collection authorities may use their own alphabetic, numeric or alphanumeric coding systems.
State/Territory Record Identifier (RecordId)	Char[10]	47	—	This should be a stable number in the data collection of the jurisdiction.
Episode of Residential Care Start Date (EpiStartDt)	Date[8]	57	723194	Valid date expressed as DDMMYYYY Date on which resident formally or statistically starts an episode of residential care.
Episode of Residential Care Start Mode (EpiStartMode)	Char[1]	65	723196	<b>2:</b> Start of new residential stay <b>3:</b> Start of a new reference period <b>4:</b> Start of expected short concurrent residential stay <b>9:</b> Unknown/not stated/ inadequately described
Episode of Residential Care End Date (EpiEndDt)	Date[8]	66	723189	Date on which resident formally or statistically ends an episode of residential care.

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Episode of Residential Care End Mode (EpiEndMode)	Char[1]	74	723192	<p>1: Died</p> <p>2: Left against clinical advice/at own risk</p> <p>3: Did not return from leave</p> <p>4: Formal discharge from residential care at this establishment</p> <p>5: End of reference period</p> <p>6: Return to other residential health service</p> <p>9: Unknown/not stated/inadequately described</p>
Leave Days From Residential Care (NLeaveDays)	Number[3]	75	723200	Represented as NNN.
Residential Stay Start Date (ResStartDt)	Date[8]	78	723256	Date on which resident formally started a residential stay.
Principal Diagnosis (DxPrinc)	Char[6]	86	746665	<p>Represented as ANN{.N[N]}</p> <p>The diagnosis established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning an episode of residential care, as represented by a code. The principal diagnosis must be a valid code from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) (12th Edition) or from the ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An integrated classification and diagnostic tool for community based mental health services (1st Edition).</p>

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Additional Diagnosis 1 (DxAdd01)	Char[6]	92	746667	Represented as ANN{.N[N]} Refers to a condition or complaint either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of residential care. The additional diagnosis must be a valid code from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) (12th Edition) or from the ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An integrated classification and diagnostic tool for community based mental health services (1st Edition).
Additional Diagnosis 2 (DxAdd02)	Char[6]	98	746667	Represented as ANN{.N[N]} Refers to a condition or complaint either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of residential care. The additional diagnosis must be a valid code from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) (12th Edition) or from the ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An integrated classification and diagnostic tool for community based mental health services (1st Edition).
Additional Diagnosis 3 (DxAdd03)	Char[6]	104	746667	Represented as ANN{.N[N]} Refers to a condition or complaint either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of residential care. The additional diagnosis must be a valid code from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) (12th Edition) or from the ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An integrated classification and diagnostic tool for community based mental health services (1st Edition).

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Additional Diagnosis 4 (DxAdd04)	Char[6]	110	746667	Represented as ANN{.N[N]} Refers to a condition or complaint either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of residential care. The additional diagnosis must be a valid code from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) (12th Edition) or from the ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An integrated classification and diagnostic tool for community based mental health services (1st Edition).
Additional Diagnosis 5 (DxAdd05)	Char[6]	116	746667	Represented as ANN{.N[N]} Refers to a condition or complaint either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of residential care. The additional diagnosis must be a valid code from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) (12th Edition) or from the ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An integrated classification and diagnostic tool for community based mental health services (1st Edition).
Additional Diagnosis 6 (DxAdd06)	Char[6]	122	746667	Represented as ANN{.N[N]} Refers to a condition or complaint either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of residential care. The additional diagnosis must be a valid code from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) (12th Edition) or from the ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An integrated classification and diagnostic tool for community based mental health services (1st Edition).

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Additional Diagnosis 7 (DxAdd07)	Char[6]	128	746667	Represented as ANN{.N[N]} Refers to a condition or complaint either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of residential care. The additional diagnosis must be a valid code from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) (12th Edition) or from the ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An integrated classification and diagnostic tool for community based mental health services (1st Edition).
Additional Diagnosis 8 (DxAdd08)	Char[6]	134	746667	Represented as ANN{.N[N]} Refers to a condition or complaint either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of residential care. The additional diagnosis must be a valid code from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) (12th Edition) or from the ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An integrated classification and diagnostic tool for community based mental health services (1st Edition).
Additional Diagnosis 9 (DxAdd09)	Char[6]	140	746667	Represented as ANN{.N[N]} Refers to a condition or complaint either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of residential care. The additional diagnosis must be a valid code from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) (12th Edition) or from the ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An integrated classification and diagnostic tool for community based mental health services (1st Edition).

Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Additional Diagnosis 10 (DxAdd10)	Char[6]	146	746667	Represented as ANN{.N[N]} Refers to a condition or complaint either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of residential care. The additional diagnosis must be a valid code from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) (12th Edition) or from the ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An integrated classification and diagnostic tool for community based mental health services (1st Edition).
Mental Health Legal Status (LegalSt)	Char[1]	152	727343	1: Involuntary patient 2: Voluntary patient 9: Not reported/Unknown
Marital Status (MaritalSt)	Char[1]	153	766507	1: Never married 2: Widowed 3: Divorced 4: Separated 5: Married (registered and de facto) 6: Not stated/inadequately described
Area of Usual Residence (ResArea)	Char[9]	154	747315	Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) code (ASGS Edition 3) N(9)



Data Element (Field Name)	Type [Length]	Start	METEOR Identifier	Notes / Values
Mental Health Care Referral Destination (ReferralMHRC)	Char[1]	163	723198	<b>1:</b> Specialised mental health admitted patient care <b>2:</b> Specialised mental health residential care <b>3:</b> Specialised mental health ambulatory care <b>4:</b> Private psychiatrist care <b>5:</b> General practitioner care <b>6:</b> Other care <b>7:</b> Not referred <b>8:</b> Not applicable (i.e. end of reference period or died) <b>9:</b> Unknown/not stated/inadequately described

Record length = 163

### Notes

[8]  
METEOR includes code 9, but that is not applicable to the RMHC NMDS

## 2. Submission and delivery of RMHC NMDS data files

Submission, delivery and validation of the 2024-25 RMHC data (version 6.00) will occur through the online [Online Validator](#). AIHW and the Department of Health and Aged Care will obtain jurisdictional DAT files directly from the Validator using the download functionality available to reviewers.

### 2.1. Timelines

Jurisdictions are requested to submit a stage 1 compliant file using the online Validator by **2 January 2026**. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the Department of Health and Aged Care are aiming to have Stage 2 validation completed by **17 April 2026** to facilitate timelier reporting of RMHC data, in accordance with the schedule in [Table 2.1](#). [Table 2.1](#) outlines the key progress points for validation.

*Table 2.1 CMHC and RMHC NMDS 2024-25 data validation*

Progress point description	Responsibility	Completion Time	Completion date
Stage 1 submission	Jurisdictions		2 January 2026
Submitter comment on all issues within the issue list	Jurisdictions	7 weeks	20 February 2026
Reviewer reply to all issues within the issue list and raise other issues based on historical reports	AIHW	3 weeks	13 March 2026
Resolution of any remaining issues - validation process completed	AIHW/Jurisdiction discussion back and forth	5 weeks	17 April 2026

### 2.2. File type and naming convention

DAT files should be a single Fixed Format data file, with each record in the file being terminated with Carriage Return (CR) and Line Feed (LF) characters.

The data file will have the naming convention of *RMHCSSSYYYNNNNN.DAT* where:

- RMHC denotes 'Residential Mental Health Care'
- SSS is the abbreviation for the State name, using the following convention:
  - New South Wales = NSW
  - Victoria = VIC
  - Queensland = QLD
  - Western Australia = WAU
  - South Australia = SAU
  - Tasmania = TAS
  - Australian Capital Territory = ACT
  - Northern Territory = NTE

- YYYY indicates the reporting year covered in the file, using the convention where financial years are abbreviated by referring to the last calendar year of the pair (for example, 2024-25 is identified as 2025)
- NNNNN represents an incremental batch number (leading zeros present).

Any resubmitted files should have a batch number greater than the file they replace. For example, the first RMHC data file submitted by the Australian Capital Territory covering the 2024-25 year would be named 'RMHCACT202500001.DAT'.

## 2.3. Validation

Mental Health National Minimum Dataset (NMDS) validation is the process of reviewing and cleaning the mental health service data received from state and territory governments using the [Online Validator](#) a web based validation tool. The process has two stages:

- Stage 1 validation
  - Structural check when file is submitted to validator
- Stage 2 validation
  - Respond to and accept all issues in the issues list
  - Review data set reports (CMHC and RMHC) and raise additional issues with the jurisdiction as necessary.

### 2. Stage 1 validation

Stage 1 validation ensures that the submitted data file structure is correct: that the data is in the correct layout, that there no blank fields or invalid characters. These checks ensures that each line of data is correctly formatted and aligns to the specifications.

### 2. Stage 2 validation

Stage 2 Validation is the process of reviewing unusual trends in the files submitted and accepted in stage 1 validation. Each collection is different and has its own structure, but the general process of validating is the same. Once stage 1 validation is complete:

1. Work though the issues list, either providing comments on known issues or updating and resubmitting the file. It is expected that most jurisdictions will need to submit updated files multiple times before validation is finalised. Note that jurisdictions must submit comments on issues before the AIHW is able to accept.
2. Engage with the AIHW when more information is required on an issue through the validator. Each jurisdiction will have an AIHW staff member assigned as the lead validator, who will be in touch early in the validation period. Please ensure that any email communication is also Cc'd to the [Mentalhealth@aihw.gov.au](mailto:Mentalhealth@aihw.gov.au) inbox in case of staff absences or changes in AIHW staffing.

3. The AIHW will review the Data Set Reports and will raise additional queries about any large fluctuations evident in these reports after investigating which regions, organisations and service units are causing them. The AIHW will endeavour to ensure that additional queries are limited to essential issues that impact the state-wide result.

## **2. Data quality survey**

States and territories must complete the data quality survey in the Online Validator for the RMHC submission. Details will be used to inform the Quality statements published on METEOR for each NMDS collection period.

### **2.5. Additional information and queries**

AIHW and Logicly staff are available to answer any queries in respect of changes to the Validator's RMHC module and validation rules. In order to obtain a coordinated response, requests should be sent to the following parties simultaneously:

#### **AIHW**

Email: [mentalhealth@aihw.gov.au](mailto:mentalhealth@aihw.gov.au)

#### **Logicly**

Email: [support@validator.com.au](mailto:support@validator.com.au)