

Attachment 3: 1267.0 - Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 2011 Coding Index

A coding index is required to link responses to the 'Main language other than English spoken at home' question to the *1267.0 - Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 2011*. This enables data to be coded accurately and quickly to the appropriate category in the classification.

Schools and school systems should ensure that information collected for the first time on the 'Main language other than English spoken at home' of the student and both the student's parents is coded in accordance with the ASCL (2011) coding index.

The index can be obtained in the form of an electronic text file from the [ABS website](#).

The base-level units of the classification are languages as described in the *1267.0 - Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 2011*. The term 'language' is used to describe languages, dialects, pidgins, Creoles, and invented and sign languages.

The 1267.0 - Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 2011

The first edition of the ASCL was published in 1997. Analysis of 2001 and the 2006 Census data revealed that the language profile of Australia had changed significantly since the development of the first edition. The ASCL was reviewed and amended to improve its usefulness with a second edition being published by the ABS in July 2005 and revised again in August 2011.

The ASCL (2011)

- extended the coverage in 2005 of non-Indigenous languages to include an additional 56 languages in the classification, giving a total of 194 categories
- extended the coverage in 2005 of Australian Indigenous languages to include an additional 115 Australian Indigenous language categories in the classification, giving a total of 170
- extended the coverage in 2011 of non-Indigenous languages to include an additional 27 languages in the classification, giving a total of 221 categories
- extended the coverage in 2011 of Australian Indigenous languages to include an additional 48 Australian Indigenous language categories in the classification, giving a total of 218
- revised the structure of Australian Indigenous languages at the narrow groups level to provide increased consistency, a more useful structure and improve the statistical balance among the narrow groups
- reclassified certain non-Indigenous languages and groups of languages so that they align more closely with the *1269.0 - Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011* and they are more appropriately classified
- renamed a number of categories and groups to make them more transparent and accurate.

Further information on the changes made to the ASCL (2011) can be found at pages 16–22 in the ABS publication, *1267.0 - Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 2011*.

Some users may need to convert data collected using the ASCL (1997) First Edition to the ASCL (2011) Second Edition. The ABS publishes a correspondence table between the second and first editions of the ASCL to facilitate this process. The table can be obtained in electronic form from the [ABS website](#).

Coding rules

A range of coding rules is applied in the coding index to facilitate accurate coding of responses to the ASCL (2011) classification. These rules include:

- Responses that match exactly with an entry in the coding index are assigned the code allocated to that index entry.
- Responses that cannot be identified as relating to a separately identified language in the classification are assigned a residual category code, or a supplementary 'n.f.d.' (not further defined) code.
- Responses that are not precise enough to be coded to any category of the classification are assigned the appropriate supplementary code, for example, 'inadequately described' (0000) or 'not stated' (0002).