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# Postcode

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## Specification

**Definition** Postcode of the locality in which the patient usually *resides* (not postal address).

**Datatype** Numeric **Form** Code

**Field size** Four **Layout** NNNN

**Reported for** All Waiting List episodes.

**Recorded when** The patient is first registered on the Waiting List.

**Code set** Refer to the Postcode/ Locality reference file available from:

<http://www.hdss.health.vic.gov.au/reffiles/index.htm>

Other codes for use in this field:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>
1000	No fixed abode
8888	Overseas (Report the four digit country code in the locality field)
9988	Unknown address

**Reporting guide** The Australia Post listing of postcodes and localities is available from:

[www.auspost.com.au](http://www.auspost.com.au)

From the Australia Post list, non-residential postcodes are excluded and common variations of locality spellings, as used in Melway references and the Australian Bureau of Statistics National Locality Index (Cat. No. 1252), are included.

The reporting organisation may collect the patient's postal address for its own purposes. However, for submission to ESIS, the Postcode must represent the patient's residential address. Non-residential postcodes (such as mail delivery centres) will be rejected.

**Edits** S122 Postcode/Locality Combination Invalid

**Related items** Section 3: *Locality*.

## Administration

**Purpose** To enable calculation (with Locality field) of the patient's appropriate Statistical Local Area (SLA) which enables:

- Analyses of service utilisation and need for services.
- Identification of patients living outside Victoria for purposes of cross-border funding.
- Identification of patients living outside Australia for the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement (RHCA).

**Principal data users** Multiple internal and external users.

<b>Collection start</b>	July 1997	<b>Version</b>	1 (Effective 01.07.97)
			2 (Effective 01.07.04)

<b>Definition source</b>	DHS	<b>Code set source</b>	Australia Post (DHS modified)
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