

Inquiry into residential and community aged care in Australia

Submission by Australian Bureau of Statistics

This submission is in response to a request made by Bill Bannear Research Officer Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee on the 9 April 2009.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produces a range of statistics classified using the ABS Functional Classification of Buildings (FCB), 1999 (cat. no 1268.0.55.001)
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/1268.0.55.001Contents11999?opendocument>.

The FCB, is designed to provide a standard framework for the classification of buildings according to their intended major function. Hence a building which is ancillary to other buildings, or forms a part of a group of related buildings, is classified to the function of the building and not to the function of the group as a whole. An example of this can be seen in the treatment of building work approved for a factory complex. In this case, a detached administration building would be classified to Offices, a detached cafeteria building to Retail/wholesale trade, while factory buildings would be classified to Factories.

The FCB is principally used by the economic collections of the ABS. Data are compiled using this classification in a range of ABS publications including:

- Building Approvals, Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Cat. no. 8731.0)
- Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Cat. no. 8750.0)
- Building Activity, Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Cat. no. 8752.0)
- Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Cat. no. 8755.0)

For these collections the function of the completed building is generally determined at the time the building approval is lodged.

Definition of Classification 431 Aged care facilities (including nursing homes)

Buildings used in the provision or support of aged care facilities, excluding dwellings such as retirement villages.

Retirement villages are specifically excluded from the non-residential building type "Aged Care Facilities" and considered as a type of residential dwelling.

In terms of functional building classification -

If the residential units are identified as "Independent Living Units" (or similar), they are coded as Houses or Other Residential as appropriate.

Whereas "Non-independent accommodation" **with** full-time medical care (Nursing Homes etc) and "Non-independent accommodation" **without** full-time medical care

(Hostels etc) are coded as "Aged Care Facilities".

Non-residential components of retirement / aged care facilities (eg Community buildings) are coded as "Aged Care Facilities".

The ABS is not in a position to make comment on the claims made in the various submissions. Neither the Building Approvals Collection nor the Building Activity Survey collect information on the source of the funding for any project. However the ABS does classify a building by sector of ownership.

The ownership classification is defined in the explanatory notes of the publication Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no 8731.0)

Building ownership is classified as either public or private sector and is based on the sector of intended owner of the completed building at the time of approval. Residential buildings constructed by private sector builders under government housing authority schemes are classified as public sector when the authority has contracted, or intends to contract, to purchase the building on or before completion. The same rule applies to the classification of aged care facilities.