

1 Data Content Standard

2 Date of birth

3 Purpose of standard

4 Standards establish consistent ways for describing and recording data across agencies. Consistency
5 ensures there's only one way of talking about each different piece of information, helping to:

- 6 • maximise the value of data
- 7 • create a more complete view to inform government policy and investment decisions
- 8 • enable information sharing, and reconciling the data faster and more efficiently.

9 The purpose of this document is to:

- 10 • introduce the [ISO 8601 date and time format standard](#) which should be used to format date
11 of birth data for sharing purposes
 - 12 • endorse and mandate the use of the ISO 8601 standard as the standard across government
13 for data exchange of date of birth data
 - 14 • provide guidance on when and how to use the ISO 8601 standard for sharing date of birth.
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15 Definition

16 The date of birth is the year, month, and day an individual was born.

17 Guidance

18 The data content standard for date of birth is the [ISO 8601 date and time format standard](#).

19 Date of birth is derived from three flat classifications: date of birth year, date of birth month, and date
20 of birth day. Year has single categories consisting of century, decade, and year. Month has single
21 categories 01 to 12.

22 The minimum required format for compliance with this standard is YYYY-MM-DD. Use this standard if
23 you are sharing date of birth data across agencies.

24 While this standard does not mandate how date of birth data is collected or stored in databases, it is
25 implicit that these must be of sufficient quality to meet this data content standard.

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31 **Approval date**

32 **Review date**