

**DATA EXTRACT OF VETERANS' HOME CARE (VHC) DATA**

**PROVIDED TO UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN LONGITUDINAL STUDY INTO WOMEN'S HEALTH  
(ALSWH)**

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**V1.0**

## Background

Veterans' Home Care (VHC) is a program provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to enable eligible clients to remain living in their home by providing a small amount of practical help. It is not designed to meet complex or high-level care needs. DVA has contracted organisations to provide assessment and coordination of VHC services (known as VHC Assessment Agencies) and contracted organisations to deliver VHC services (known as VHC Service Providers) across Australia.

### VHC Assessment Agencies

VHC Assessment Agencies assess client needs and approve services if appropriate. Where services are approved, the Assessment Agency, in consultation with the client, will arrange services with a contracted VHC Service Provider. A VHC Care/Service Plan will then be sent to the client. Service approvals are usually for six-month periods. Clients are then subsequently reassessed and further approvals are dependent on the outcome of that review assessment.

### VHC Service Providers

VHC Service Providers deliver the services approved by VHC Assessment Agencies.

### How the Assessment Data is Collected – VHC Assessment Instrument

VHC Assessment Agencies access a system provided by DVA to assess the client. The system includes an Assessment Instrument (AI), which has a series of questions that are used to determine client needs. There are approximately 500 questions (including sub-questions) in the AI, however most assessments only use a subset. Only the questions asked and answered appear in the data extract (although there may be some missing values).

## Data Provided in Extract

In broad terms, the following data is provided:

- only DVA clients that have been selected by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and have VHC assessments have been extracted. 'Client\_Surrogate\_Key' is used to match with a DVA client unique identifier
- assessment agency details eg. name, region, state
- service plans/services recommended
- quantity & cost of services  
NB: some services require the recipient to pay a small co-payment eg. \$5. The co-payment has been included in the cost. If required, we can provide separate DVA/client payments, however, the calculation isn't straight forward (some clients/services have a cap on the maximum payment that can be made by the client)
- assessment details of the client including AI questions asked, answers, comments (NB: where available)
- reference tables that may be useful in understanding the data

## VHC Data Relationships

- a client may have one or more assessments
- an assessment may have one or more service plans

- an Assessment Agency operates within a defined region
- an assessment may have multiple service plans for the same service for different periods.
- a service plan has one service type per plan eg. Domestic Assistance, Home & Garden Maintenance
- a service plan is an approval for one service for a period of time
- A service plan has a frequency of service (eg. weekly, fortnightly), approved hours of service, and a contracted rate at which the Service Provider will be paid for the service they supply

## **Data Quality Issues**

There are issues with the quality of the Assessment data that was collected from 2010 to 2012. A redeveloped system was implemented in February 2012 and assessment data that was created after this time should be reliable. Where there may be concerns about the quality of data, a comment has been made in the table descriptions provided. Data quality for ADL & IADL is so poor, it hasn't been provided.

There are assessments (approx 17,000) for which we have no assessment instrument details ie. no question & answers; yet these assessments have been completed. We've supplied AI details where they exist.

**VHC ASSESSMENT DETAILS (W\_ALSWH\_VH\_ASSESSMENT)**

Field Name	Type	Length	Format	Comment
Client_Surrogate_Key	Numeric	8		Client Key
Assessment_Id	Numeric	6		VHC Assessment Id
Assessment_Provider_Name	Character	80		Assessment Agency Name
Region_Name	Character	40		VHC Provider operating region
State	Character	3		VHC region State
Assessment_Service_Type_Desc	Character	40		Assessment Type eg. Full Assessment, Short Assessment, Assessment/Coordination
Assessment_Date	Numeric	5	ddmmyy	Date of Assessment
Assessment_Approved_Date	Numeric	5	ddmmyy	Date Assessment was approved by the Assessment Agency
Assessment_Payment_Amt	Numeric	8	dollar9.2	Amount paid to Assessment Agency when assessment completed ** NB: this field is missing for many records, which is probably not correct, particularly as payment dates exist
In_Home_Assessment_Ind	Character	1		Indicates if the Assessment was conducted in-home ** NB: not sure if this field is reliable
Referral_From_VHC_Desc	Character	30		How the client was referred to VHC
Contact_Type_Desc	Character	40		person or agency that contacted Assessment Agency
Living_Arrangement_Type_Desc	Character	40		

**VHC SERVICE PLAN DETAILS (W\_ALSWH\_VH\_SERVICE\_PLAN)**

Field Name	Type	Length	Format	Comment
Client_Surrogate_Key	Numeric	8		Client Key
Assessment_Id	Numeric	6		VHC Assessment Id
Service_Plan_Id	Numeric	6		Service Plan Id
Plan_Approved_Dte	Numeric	5	ddmmyy	Date service plan was approved
Service_Type_Desc	Character	40		the service that the service plan provides
Service_Period_Desc	Character	40		Frequency of service
Service_Start_Date	Numeric	5	ddmmyy	
Service_End_Date	Numeric	5	ddmmyy	
Service_Provider_Name	Character	80		Service Provider name
Plan_Hours_Provided_Num	Numeric	8		Number of hours provided for this plan
Hourly_Rate_Amt	Numeric	8	dollar9.2	Hourly rate for service ** this includes any co-payment amount made by client
Plan_Total_Cost_Amt	Numeric	8	dollar11.2	Total Cost of Plan (hours performed and claimed by service provider) ** this includes any co-payment amount made by client



**VHC ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT DETAILS (W\_ALSWH\_VH\_AI\_QSTN\_ANSWER)**

Field Name	Type	Length	Comment
Client_Surrogate_Key	Numeric	8	Client Key
Assessment_Id	Numeric	6	VHC Assessment Id
AI_Question_Num	Numeric	4	Identifies the Assessment Instrument questions asked by the Assessor.
AI_Question_Seq_Num	Numeric	4	Some questions have more than one part
AI_Question_Ref_Text	Character	130	The question text in the online application
AI_Answer_Text	Character	37	Many questions have standard answers. Where they do not exist, there should be a comment (but this is not the case for many assessments)
Comment_Txt	Character	500	Comment/free text as entered by Assessor

**REFERENCE TABLE**

This table is a reference table of VHC Assessment Instrument questions that are used in DVA's online VHC Assessment application. The VH\_AI\_Question\_Ref\_Num identifies the question.

**W\_ALSWH\_VH\_AI\_QR\_EXTR**

Field Name	Type	Length	Comment
AI_Question_Num	Numeric	8	Identifies the Assessment Instrument questions asked by the Assessor.
AI_Question_Display_Num	Character	12	This is used only by the online application system. It's included here to give an idea of the question hierarchy/grouping
AI_Question_Text	Character	130	The question text in the online application
AI_Question_Mandatory_Ind	Character	1	Indicates if the question is mandatory in the assessment