ABN Lookup – Bulk Extract

Version 2.6

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1 Getting started

The purpose of this document is to provide information about the ABN Lookup bulk extract service.

1.1 What is ABN Lookup?

ABN Lookup (http://abr.business.gov.au) contains the publicly available information provided by businesses when they register for an Australian Business Number (ABN). ABN Lookup is hosted by the Department of Industry on behalf of the Australian Business Register (ABR) – see http://abr.gov.au.

ABN Lookup contains current and historical information about an ABN.

As at November 2015, the ABN Lookup database held over 11.7 million ABNs and 26 million names.

1.2 What is the ABN Lookup bulk extract?

The ABN Lookup bulk extract is a snapshot of a subset of current ABN details. The extract is generated weekly and available in xml format.

The ABN details included in the snapshot are:

- ABN and current ABN status
- Current Goods and Services Tax (GST) registration
- Current Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) fund registrations and fund names
- Australian Company Number (ACN)
- Current entity name
- Current registered business names
- Current trading names
- State and postcode of current main business location

The extract includes both active and cancelled ABNs.

1.3 Bulk extract files overview

The ABN Lookup bulk extract data is written across 20 files. Each file contains a single *TransferInfo* node and many node *ABR* nodes.

TransferInfo contains:

- The file sequence number (1 to 20)
- The number of ABN records in the file
- Date of extract

For information about the ABR node see *1.4 ABN record Overview* below

As at November 2015, the ABN Lookup bulk extract files held a total of:

- 11.7 million ABNs
- 18 million names
- And contained 6 gigabytes of data (uncompressed)

The ABN Lookup bulk extract files are named:

*yyyymmdd*Public01.xml,

*yyyymmdd*Public02.xml

…

*yyyymmdd*Public20.xml

where *yyyymmdd* is the year, month and day that the files were generated.

1.4 ABN record Overview

The format of the ABN Lookup Bulk Extract files XML is described by the schema - see *APPENDIX A – Bulk Extract Schema*.

In summary an ABN record has:

- one ABN
- one entity type
- zero or one GST status
- zero or one ASIC Number
- If the entity is an individual (EntityTypeInd = IND) the ABN record will have one LegalEntity otherwise it will have one MainEntity
- zero or more OtherEntity elements (
  - OtherEntity hold registered business names and trading names
  - There are examples where an ABN has in excess of 300 OtherEntity nodes
- zero or more DGR elements

1.5 XML data elements and attributes

The table below summaries the main data element and attributes (highlighted with an @) that make up an ABN record.

Element/attribute name	Max length/format	Type
ABR		
@recordLastUpdatedDate	yyyymmdd	Date
ABN	11	Numeric
@status	3	String
@ABNStatusFromDate	yyyymmdd	Date
EntityType		
EntityTypeInd	4	String
EntityTypeText	100	String
MainEntity		
NonIndividualName		
@type	3	String
NonIndividualNameText	200	String
LegalEntity		
IndividualName		
@type	3	String
NameTitle	50	String
GivenName	100	String
FamilyName	50	String
ASICNumber	9	Numeric
GST		
@status	3	String
@GSTStatusFromDate	yyyymmdd	Date
DGR		
@ DGRStatusFromDate	yyyymmdd	Date
NonIndividualName		
@type	3	String
NonIndividualNameText	200	String
OtherEntity		
NonIndividualName		
@type	3	String
NonIndividualNameText	200	String
BusinessAddress		
AddressDetails		
State	3	String
Postcode	50	String

Table 1 - ABN record data elements and attributes

See APPENDIX A – Bulk Extract Schema for a diagrammatic representation of the schema.

1.6 Useful ABNs for test Scenarios

The following ABNs provide useful examples of when testing your bulk extract load.

88712649015
49991006857
30613501612
27776681795
27776681795
85832766990
86308026589
12850816238
38875128921
11092508586
45891839079
37601599422
56638257003
79002637069
45877249165
80776127243
13993250709
75812792400
66264753659

2 ABN Lookup Web Services

An alternative to the ABN Lookup Bulk extract is the ABN Lookup web services. Advantages of ABN Lookup web services include:

- The Bulk extract data is generated weekly whereas new ABNs are added and existing records updated at an average 150,000 transactions per week. The ABN Lookup Web Services returns the data from ABN Lookup in real time and therefore is up-to-date.
- The Bulk extract contains current information only. The ABN Lookup Web Services provides an option to include historical details.
- The size of the file makes it difficult to process and load the information in a timely manner;
- The ABN Lookup Web Services provide methods to *search by Name* as well as ABN.

2.1 Why use the ABN Lookup web services?

The ABN Lookup web services allow you to incorporate ABN information and search capabilities into your own applications. Furthermore, the web services provide more functionality and options than are available through the html interface at http://abr.business.gov.au. For example:

- The web service name search allows you to control the number of matching names returned by the search. As there is no upper limit, you are not restricted to the top 200 matching names imposed through the html interface.
- Additional search options include a search for all active ABNs within a selected postcode, new registrations, updated ABN etc.

Best of all, access to the web services is free of charge. To register, apply on-line at http://abr.business.gov.au/webservices.aspx.
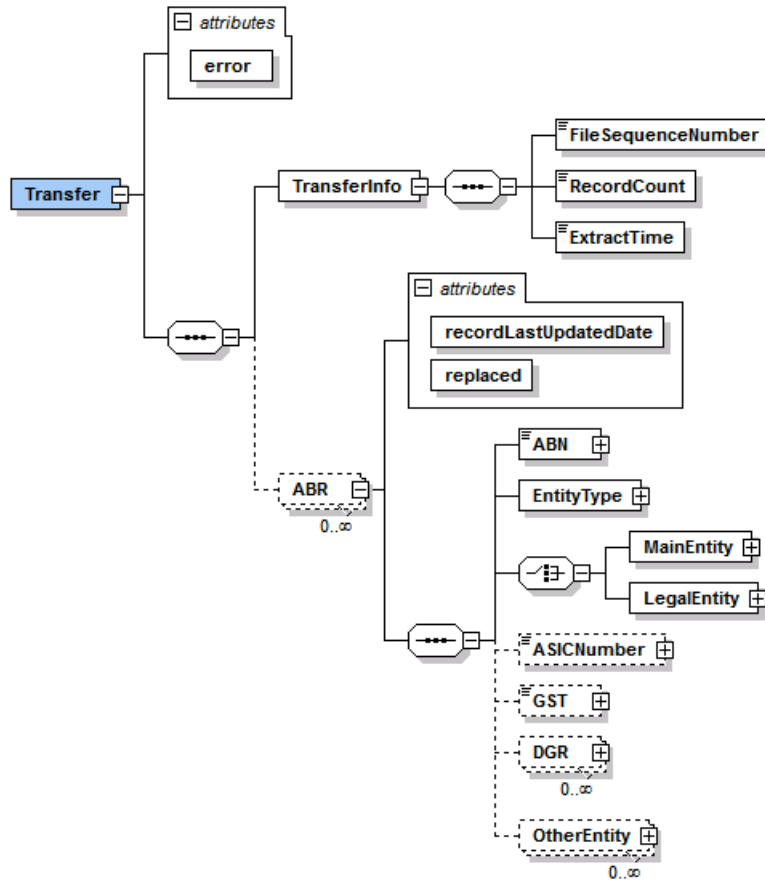
APPENDIX A – Bulk Extract Schema
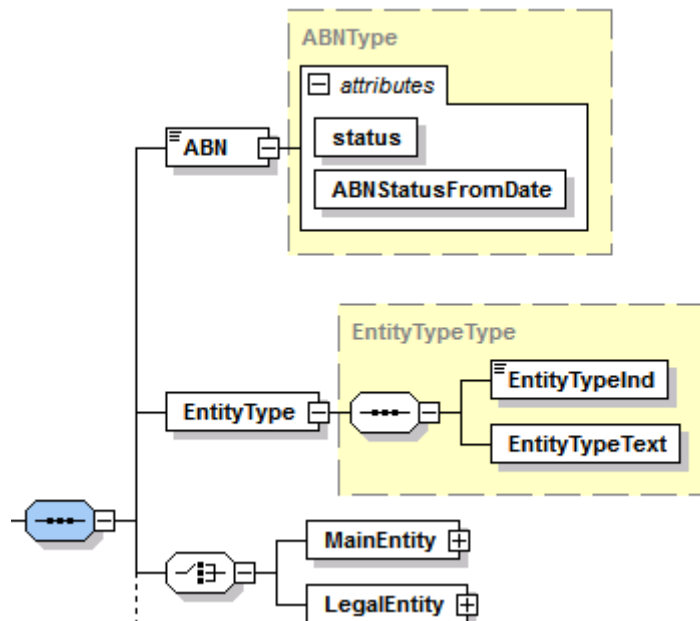

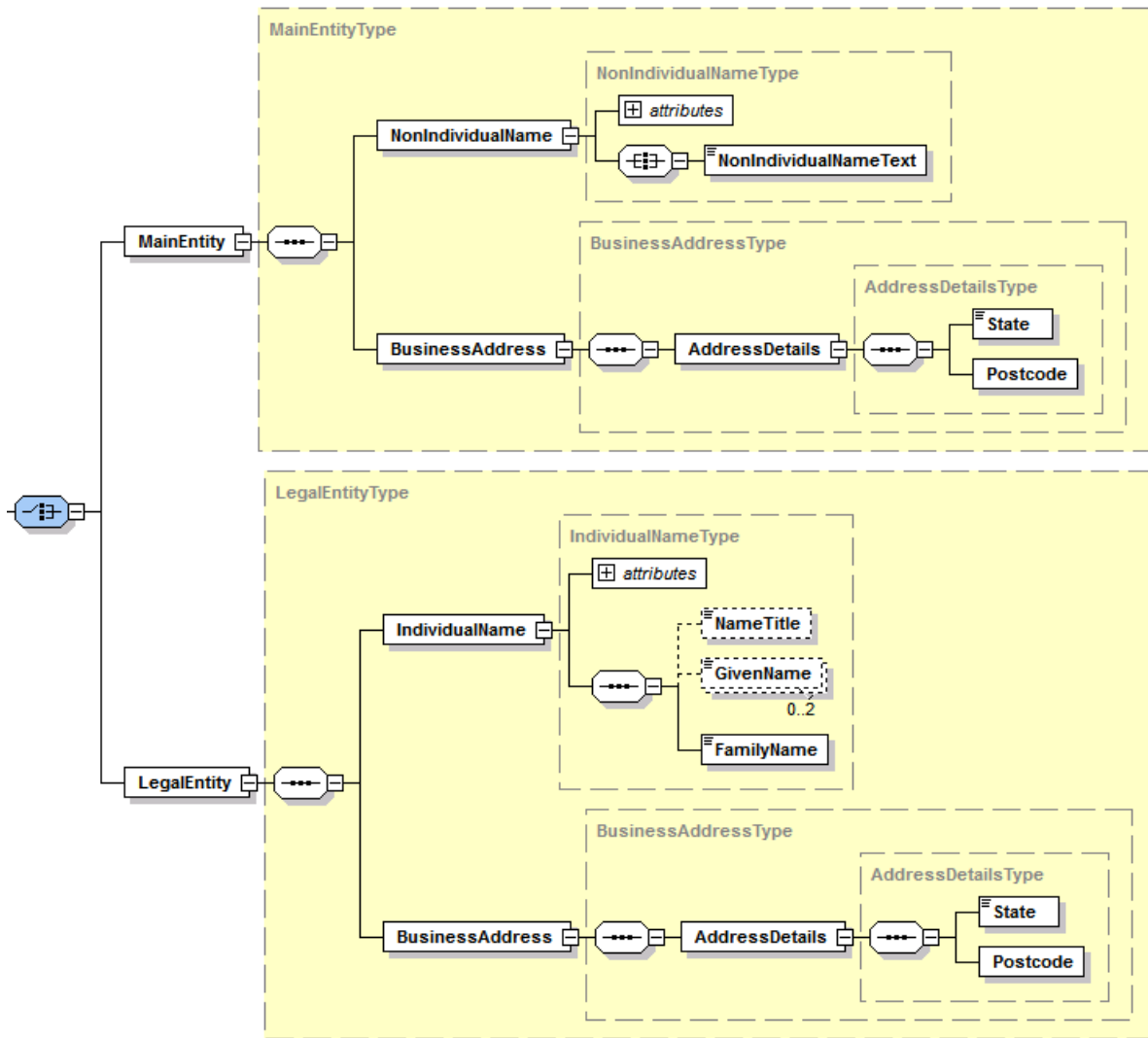**Figure 1 - Root node**

Figure 2 - ABN and Entity type

Figure 3 - Main Entity and Legal Entity
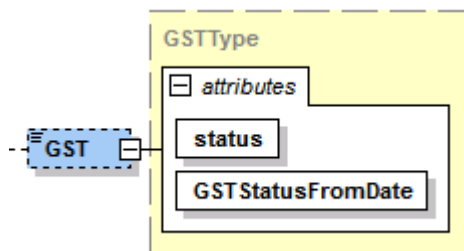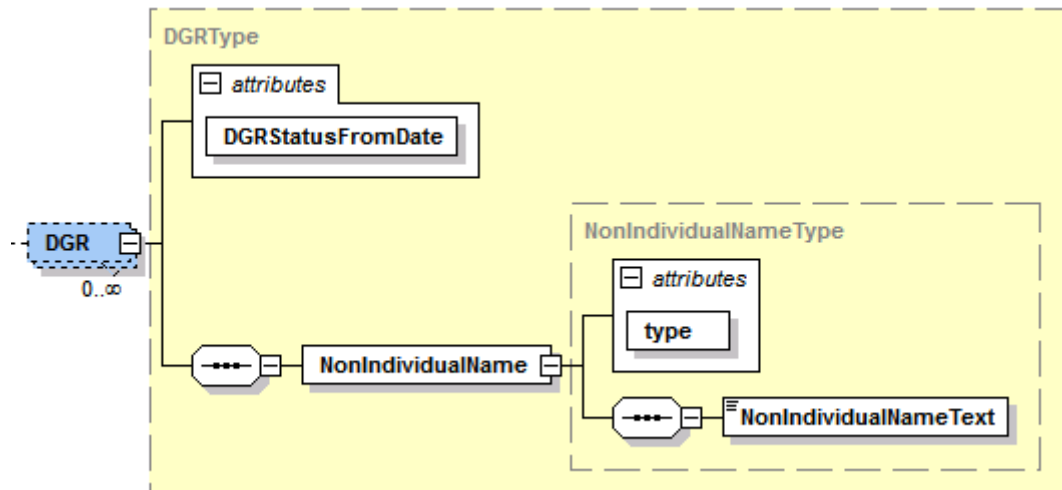

Figure 4 – ACN

Figure 5 – GST

Figure 6 – DGR

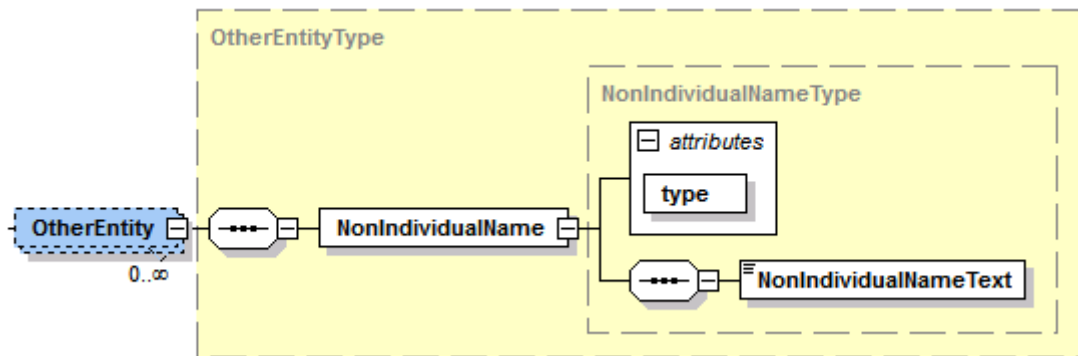**Figure 7 - Other Entity**

APPENDIX B – Entity type codes and descriptions

For a complete list of entity type codes and descriptions, please see
http://abr.business.gov.au/Documentation/UserGuideReferenceData.aspx on the ABN Lookup web
site.