



# NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

Saving lives through the power of data

## What is the National Coronial Information System?

The **National Coronial Information System (NCIS)** is a secure database of information on all deaths reported to a coroner in Australia and New Zealand.

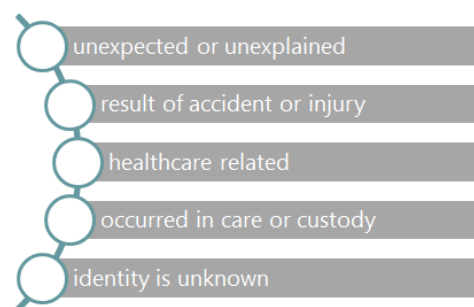
NCIS data supports research projects, policy development and death investigation carried out by organisations working towards reducing preventable death and injury.

## The coronial process

The coroner's role is to independently investigate reportable deaths in accordance with the relevant Coroners Act.

Coroners aim to determine the identity of the deceased and the cause and manner of death. In addition, they may make recommendations aimed at addressing public health and safety issues and preventing future deaths. Further information is available on the **Coroners Courts' websites**.

### Reportable deaths



The NCIS is a research database that enables information sharing among those who work in the death and injury prevention sector. The NCIS does not form part of the formal coronial process.

## About the data



The NCIS data collection consists of coded fields and investigative reports about every death reported to a coroner in Australia and New Zealand - around 12% of deaths annually.

The data includes demographic information, cause and manner of death, intent, circumstances, contributing external factors and searchable medico-legal reports.

Data is available for all Australian states and territories (except Queensland) from 1 July 2000. Queensland data is available from 1 January 2001 and New Zealand data from 1 July 2007.

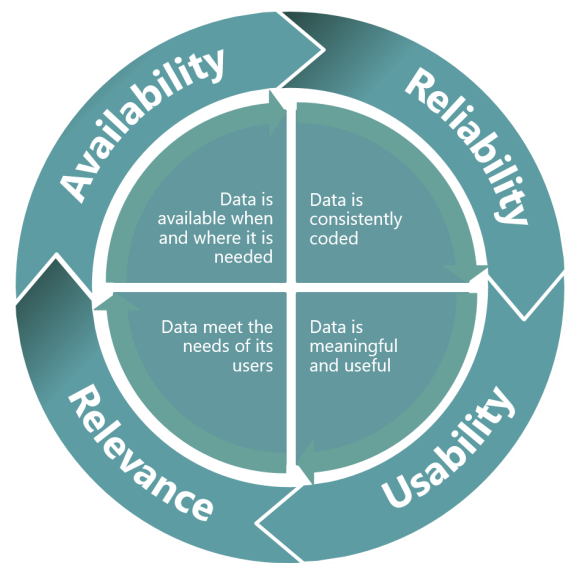
## Data quality

Data is securely uploaded to the NCIS from all coronial jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand, with coding performed by staff in the coroners courts.

The NCIS Unit undertakes initial data validation to ensure the data's consistency and compliance, and reviews cases to ensure high quality standards.

The NCIS Unit regularly reports on data quality, administers coding structures and provides training and feedback to coding staff in the jurisdictions.

Read more about the [NCIS Quality assurance framework](#)



## Accessing NCIS data

There are two avenues through which eligible organisations may access NCIS data - direct access and data reports.



### Direct access to the NCIS

Direct system access to the NCIS is available for authorised users, allowing them to view coronial case information via a secure online interface.

Applicants must have a bona fide interest or professional role in public health and safety or a statutory requirement to collect and publish data.

The following parties may be eligible to apply for access:

- **Death investigators** - users with a role in the coronial investigation process
- **Third party researchers** - users with an ethically approved research project

Read more and [request system access](#)



### NCIS data report service

NCIS data reports provide aggregate, statistical information and may include de-identified case summaries.

The NCIS Unit assesses requests based on the following criteria:

- Request is received from an organisation with a bona fide interest in death and injury prevention
- Intended use of data will meaningfully contribute to death and injury prevention
- Data will not be used for personal or legal purposes

All data reports require approval from the relevant State or Chief Coroner(s) prior to release.

Read more and [request a data report](#)

## Intentional self-harm data in practice

A variety of organisations utilise NCIS data to inform suicide prevention research, initiatives and awareness-raising activities. Some of these organisations include:



### Government and regulatory agencies

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Building Codes Board
- NSW Ombudsman
- WA Mental Health Commission
- Northern Beaches Council



### Academic institutions

- University of Melbourne
- University of Newcastle
- Charles Darwin University
- Edith Cowan University
- Monash University
- Deakin University
- University of Sydney
- Macquarie University
- University of Western Australia



### Research centres

- Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention
- Black Dog Institute
- Orygen, the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health
- Murdoch Children's Research Institute



### Healthcare providers

- Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network
- Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service



### Media outlets

- Australian Broadcasting Corporation
- The Australian
- The Advertiser

## Testimonials

*NCIS data has been invaluable in helping us identify some of the potential drivers for suicide in our community; but more importantly to us as a non-academic community-based group. NCIS staff are incredibly patient, responsive and thorough. We can't recommend NCIS highly enough.*

- **Kerry Haby**, Research and Policy Development Officer, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

*The report was presented in a clear and professional way and in a timely fashion... This report will be used by MATES in Construction to further our knowledge of our industry and help us to develop suicide prevention programs that more accurately reflect our understanding of the issues involved. I have been unable up to this point to extract information from any source for South Australia statistics that is anywhere near as good as what you have presented to us... What you do is unique.*

- **Bob Clifford**, Field Officer, MATES in Construction

## Publicly available NCIS resources

### NCIS fact sheets

**NCIS fact sheets** provide de-identified statistics outlining mortality trends and issues in response to community interest and safety concerns. There are three suites of fact sheets:

- **Mortality data series** - deaths due to injury, drug contribution and intentional self-harm on a calendar year basis
- **Intentional self-harm series** - deaths among specific populations, including by age, occupation and ethnicity
- **Common interest topics** - deaths based on other categories of interest, including sport and recreation, animal and drug-related

Explore [NCIS fact sheets](#)

### Fatal facts

**Fatal facts** is a unique source of case summaries and findings for deaths reported in Australia where coronial recommendations have been made.

The Fatal facts search tool can be searched by year, jurisdiction and category - such as law enforcement, mental health, aged care, work-related and transport incidents - to identify cases of interest.

The search tool is regularly updated with recently closed cases.

Explore [Fatal facts](#)

### Research publications and reports

NCIS data is made available to experts who investigate mortality and develop death and injury prevention strategies. These include annual reports from organisations such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Institute of Criminology, Surf Life Saving Australia and Safe Work Australia.

Recent publications using NCIS intentional self-harm data include:

- [Suicide in Queensland: Annual report 2020](#)
- [Economic and epidemiological impact of youth suicide in countries with the highest human development index](#)
- [Acute alcohol use in Australian coronial suicide cases, 2010-2015](#)
- [Australian Suicide Prevention using Health-Linked Data \(ASHLi\): Protocol for a population-based case series study](#)

Explore [external research publications and reports](#)