



## Limitations of the NCIS

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### Access levels

Authorised users are able to access information contained on the NCIS only in accordance with the level(s) of access they have been authorised. Therefore you may not be able to identify cases that are open on the NCIS, or to view documents which may be attached to a case, until the case is closed on the NCIS. In accordance with your authorised access permissions, you may also be unable to view cases from particular jurisdictions.

### Data completeness

Information is coded and uploaded to the NCIS on an ongoing basis as information becomes available during the coronial investigation. However in most jurisdictions, the majority of the coding involving object, mechanism, location and activity will only be coded once the case has been completed by the coroner, and is ready to be closed on the system.

In some cases, the NCIS will not have access to full text reports for a particular case or jurisdiction. You should take this into account when attempting to identifying cases through keyword searching.

### *Reports not currently available on the NCIS*

NSW toxicology reports SA Autopsy and PM reports QLD Autopsy and PM reports
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ICD-10 and ASGC codes and Registration Numbers are provided to the NCIS by the Australian Bureau of Statistics once they have been publicly released. This data is normally provided for the time period 18 months prior (eg. in early 2008, ABS coding for 2006 fatalities will become available).

Therefore we suggest you utilise alternative search methods if you are attempting to identify recent cases on the NCIS.

There are also some cases where the ICD-10 and other ABS provided code sets will not be available. This is due to the fact that these cases were not able to be matched with confidence by the ABS to any of their records. (The NCIS has ICD-10 and ASGC codes for 87% of cases reported in 2005).

### Keyword searching

If you are searching the attached reports for the occurrence of certain keywords or phrases, you should take into account that your results may be affected by the following:

- spelling errors within reports
- different use of terminology within reports
- documents may not be attached to the NCIS
- false positives (although the term is mentioned within the document, it does not necessarily mean the case is relevant to your area of interest)