



Australasian Mortality Data Interest Group Workshop
Improving, Investigating and Using Mortality Data
THE MANTRA ON LITTLE BOURKE CONFERENCE CENTRE • MELBOURNE
18-19 November 2010

Call for Abstracts

Invitation

The 2010 Australasian Mortality Data Interest Group Workshop will be held in Melbourne from Thursday 18th November to Friday 19th November. We are pleased to invite prospective presenters to submit their abstracts for consideration by the Program Committee. In 2010, the workshop will be hosted by the National Coroners Information System (NCIS) and the Monash University Department of Forensic Medicine.

The 2010 workshop will bring together leading professionals from Australia, New Zealand and other countries for two days of discussion and networking about current issues surrounding mortality data with particular emphasis on the Australasian region.

Based around the theme of *Improving, Investigating and Using Mortality Data*, the workshop will:

- > Present a selection of the latest research findings associated with mortality data
- > Discuss the recent changes surrounding the classification of suicide deaths in Australia
- > Provide insight into death investigation processes which can influence mortality data
- > Highlight advances in data methods and data linkage
- > Outline key considerations when interpreting toxicology findings
- > Identify international developments in mortality data systems
- > Provide a forum for mortality data professionals and researchers to exchange information and forge constructive partnerships.

We look forward to your involvement in what promises to be a rewarding experience.

Professor Joan Ozanne-Smith & Professor Olaf Drummer
Program Committee Chairs

Who should attend

The annual AMDIG workshop is now a regular feature on the calendar of practitioners and researchers who have an interest in mortality data within Australasia and beyond. This workshop typically attracts around 70-100 delegates from a wide range of government, industry, community and research organisations, and allows focused discussion and networking around common issues surrounding mortality data. The workshop should be relevant to a wide range of participants including:

- > Epidemiologists within the health/mortality areas
- > Researchers or policy makers who use mortality data
- > Safety and injury prevention groups
- > Members of death review panels
- > Agencies who are responsible for mortality data collections and/or distribution
- > Coroners and
- > Forensic practitioners

Key Dates

1 June	Call for abstracts open
16 July	Abstract submission deadline
2 August	Early bird registration opens
16 August	Abstract notification to authors
25 August	Acceptance by authors
6 September	Early bird registration closes
7 September	Standard registration opens
18 November	Day 1 Conference (& conference dinner)
19 November	Day 2 Conference

Conference theme

Improving, Investigating and Using Mortality Data

The 2010 workshop theme focuses on issues associated with improving, investigating and using mortality data.

Papers and presentations are encouraged to focus on one or more of the following sub-themes:

- > **Suicide**
 - Research into suicide frequency, methods or prevention initiatives
 - Local community initiatives in better using suicide mortality data
 - Developments surrounding the identification and reporting of suicide

- > **Drugs and Alcohol**
 - Research into drug and alcohol related deaths
 - Issues surrounding the identification and/or interpretation of drug and alcohol involvement in deaths

- > **Methods, Data Sources and International Perspectives**
 - Administrative data sets and linkage
 - International developments surrounding mortality data
 - Other methodological issues with mortality data

- > **Death Investigation Processes**
 - Death Review Panels – how can the learnings be shared?
 - The role of forensic medicine in determining a cause of death
 - The role of coroners in determining a cause of death

Presentation types

The Program Committee seeks abstracts from interested parties for two types of presentation:

- > Paper for oral presentation (short or standard length)
- > Poster presentation

Authors should state their preferred presentation type in their abstract submission. Upon acceptance, oral presentation authors will be notified as to whether they have been allocated a short or standard presentation time.

Papers for Oral Presentation

There will be two types of oral presentation slots. Short oral presentations will be for 7 minutes while standard oral presentations will be for 15 minutes.

Oral presentations should be considered for participants who wish to demonstrate ideas or findings that will generate discussion, consist of new developments to the field and/or have a high relevance to the workshop themes.

Poster Presentation

Poster presentations enable participants to present research in summary form which is suitable for descriptive outline, and requires little additional explanation or context. Posters will be permanently on display throughout the conference and authors will be given an opportunity to discuss their work in a designated session for a 2-3 minute overview about each poster.

Poster content will need to be submitted in the form of an abstract for publication in the conference proceedings.

Abstract Assessment

All abstracts will be peer reviewed and the program will be finalised by the Program Committee. **Confirmation of acceptance or rejection will be emailed to each submitting author on 16 August** using the email address given during the submission process. It is the responsibility of the submitting author to ensure they receive this email communication. If your email address changes after completing the abstract submission form, be sure to advise your new email address to the conference organisers.

The selection criteria will be based on:

- > Relevance to the conference theme(s)
- > Importance to mortality data improvement
- > Quality of reported work
- > Originality of reported work
- > Clarity of presentation

Abstracts submitted as an oral presentation may be accepted as a poster presentation should the material be considered better suited for this format.

In order to have their papers and posters included in the conference program, **authors must accept their invitation to present by August 25.**

Method of submission

Abstracts will be submitted via email to Catherine Daley at catherined@vifm.org

Please ensure the phrase “AMDIG 2010 Abstract Submission – [Author Surname]” is in the subject heading. *E.g.* “AMDIG 2010 Abstract Submission – Smith”.

Abstracts must be submitted by 5pm 16 July 2010 (Melbourne time). An email reply will acknowledge receipt of abstracts.

All submissions should be a Word document, two pages in length, in the following format:

Page One

- > Relevant Workshop theme (refer above themes)
- > Proposed presentation type
- > Abstract title – less than 15 words
- > Name and contact details of corresponding author
- > Author’s names – presenter underlined
- > Author’s affiliations
- > Short biography of presenter (maximum 30 words). This information will be used by the session chair for introduction purposes or could possibly be published in conference literature.

Page Two

- > Author’s names (presenter underlined)
- > Abstract title
- > Abstract (250 words maximum)

The abstract should follow one of the following outlines:

A. Research

* Background *Aims *Methods *Results *Discussion and Conclusions

OR

B. Policy and Practice

* Context *Objectives *Key Messages *Discussion and Conclusions

All submissions should be thoroughly checked for spelling and grammar before submission.

Abstracts should be the author’s own work and be submitted in English, using Times New Roman 12 point font single-spaced with headings and sub-headings in bold type.

Submitted abstracts should be emailed in a Word format no higher than Word version 2002-2003. If using Word 7.0 formats, please save the document to a lower format.

File names should represent the surname of the main, first-presenting author underscored with the initial of their first name (e.g. pearse_m.doc)

All submissions should comply with the above criteria, and those that do not may not be

considered for inclusion.

By submission of an abstract, authors agree to allow publication of their abstract in workshop proceedings for distribution to participants.

On acceptance of an abstract, authors will be invited (but not required to):

- 1. Allow publication of the full text version of papers for distribution to participants;*
- 2. Allow publication of papers and slide presentations on the AMDIG website.*

Guidelines for preparation of papers/posters

Guidelines for preparation of oral presentations or posters will be provided to authors on acceptance of abstracts.

Costs

Successful presenters will be responsible for all costs associated with attending the workshop, and presentation of the paper.

A small number of partial scholarships may be available for successful authors who come from a low-middle income country.

For further information

For any queries relating to abstract submission please contact:

Catherine Daley, NCIS Administration Officer
+61 3 9684 4442 or catherined@vifm.org

For further information about AMDIG, or to subscribe to the AMDIG discussion list, see http://nis-web.fhs.usyd.edu.au/ncch_new/AMDIG.aspx