

# Stakeholders

The NCIS is funded through a joint Commonwealth and State initiative by the following agencies :

- **The Justice Departments of each State/Territory**
- **The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing**
- **The National Occupational Health and Safety Commission**
- **The Australian Institute of Criminology**
- **The Commonwealth Department of Treasury (Consumer Affairs)**

The NCIS has also received support from a range of agencies including the Australian Bureau of Statistics; Flinders University Research Centre for Injury Studies; The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine; Monash University Accident Research Centre; and the Monash University Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine.

*Research*

## How can I get access to the NCIS ?

Death investigators and third party agencies with a bona fide interest in death and injury prevention or coronial case data can apply for access to the NCIS. Ethics Committee assessment is required.

For further Information visit :

[www.ncis.org.au](http://www.ncis.org.au)

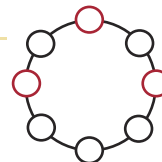
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**NCIS**



National  
Coroners  
Information  
System



**NCIS**

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The National Coroners Information System (NCIS) is the world's first collection of national coronial information. Data concerning every death reported to an Australian coroner since July 2000\* is stored within the system, providing a valuable hazard identification and death prevention tool for coroners and research agencies.

The NCIS is an initiative of the Australasian Coroners Society, and is based at and operated by the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine in Melbourne.

Supported on a national basis by a range of public sector agencies with an interest in death and injury prevention, the NCIS has already been shown to assist coroners in their role as death investigators, and provide valuable information to the agencies responsible for developing community health and safety strategies to reduce the incidence of unnatural death and injury in Australia.

\* Queensland data from 1st January 2001

[www.ncis.org.au](http://www.ncis.org.au)

# Why do we need the NCIS?

## *Mortui Vivos Docent.*

**(Let the dead teach the living)**  
Giovani Battista Morgagni, 1761

In Australia there are over 7,500 unnatural deaths every year. These deaths arise from circumstances such as workplace incidents; road incidents; suicides; drug use; medical adverse events; homicides; fires; drownings; firearm misuse and sporting accidents.

Australia is a federation with eight coronial jurisdictions, each with its own data collection and storage system. Before the NCIS there was no systematic national data storage system. The advent of the NCIS has made the identification of similar cases on a national basis quicker and simpler.

## *Information*

## What Information is on the NCIS?

The NCIS core data set contains both coded variables as well as full text reports. The variables coded for each case include:

- **Case demographics**
  - Such as name, date of birth, gender, occupation, marital status.
- **Incident and Death Information**
  - Time and location of incident and death, activity at incident.
- **Contextual Information**
  - Intent of deceased, mechanism and objects contributing to death.
- **Medical cause of death**

The above fields are coded by data entry staff in each state and territory, and are supported by the NCIS Data Dictionary, a reference manual which provides uniform definitions for coders. Where appropriate, the data set uses international classification systems such as the International Classification for External Causes of Injuries (ICECI).

Full text reports are also attached to each case where available, and consist of a police summary of circumstances, autopsy report, toxicology report, and coronial finding. These text reports can be searched using keywords.

# Benefits of the NCIS

The NCIS was primarily designed for use by Australian coroners, to allow them to review similar cases both inside and outside their jurisdiction, which may assist in the investigation of deaths within the community. In this way possible systematic hazards may be identified and addressed.

The NCIS has already been used to assist coroners and public health agencies in determining the frequency and details surrounding a range of incidents. Some of these include:

- **Deaths involving all terrain vehicles (ATV's)**
- **Overdoses involving a particular type of anti-depressant**
- **Plastic bag asphyxia deaths**

In order to assist in the funding of the NCIS, a user pays system has been implemented in which individuals or organisations requesting access to the system are required to pay a fee.

## *Prevention*