

NCIS Coding Tips

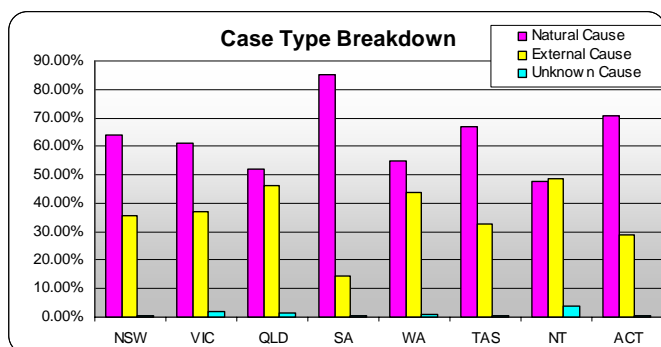
February 2006

This edition of the NCIS Coding Tips Newsletter provides some background as to the enhancements that have either already been made, or will shortly be made to the NCIS.

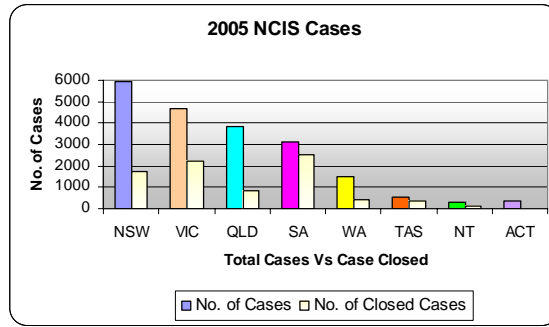
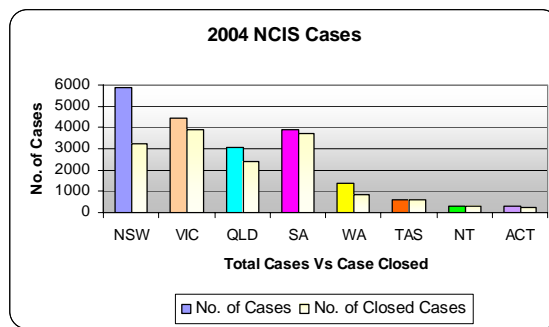
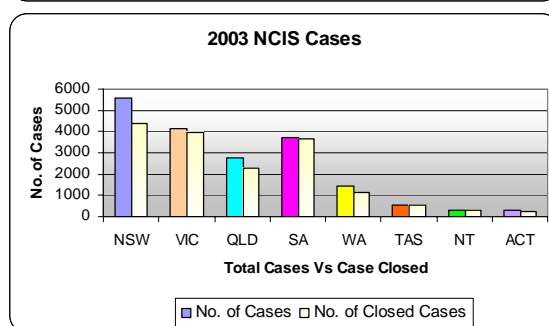
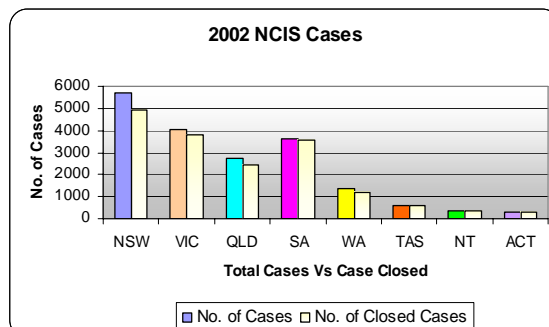
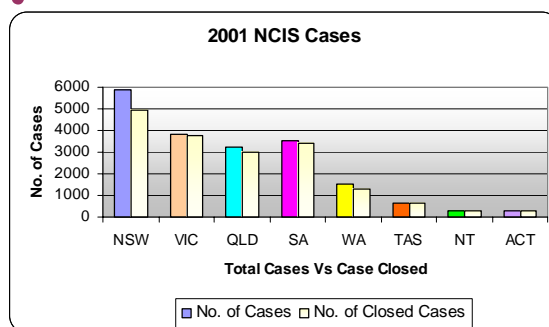
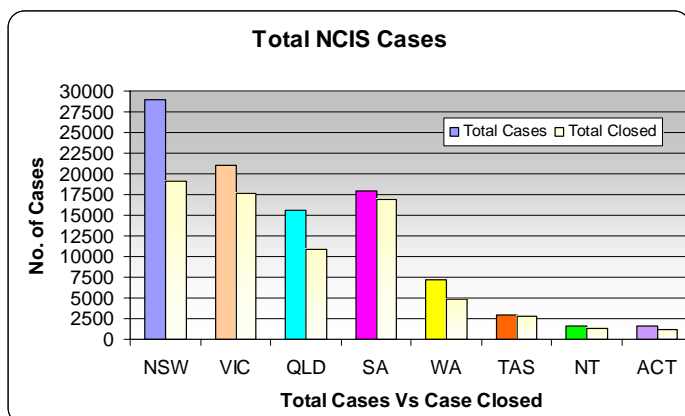
This is given just as a matter of interest for those coders who may be interested in the future direction of the NCIS and the ongoing uses for the work that you are doing.

Case Statistics

The following table illustrates the breakdown of Case Type upon Completion for each jurisdiction.



The following tables illustrate the case closure status for each jurisdiction for 2001-2005, as well as a yearly breakdown of closure status.



Inclusion of ABS Data

A major enhancement to the NCIS this past year has been the inclusion of several data items from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) mortality collection.

The coded fields outlined below have been received from ABS, matched to NCIS cases and uploaded to a separate screen for each case. At present we have codes for cases notified in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003. Data from subsequent years (2004 onwards) will be added to the NCIS as the data is released by the ABS.

The inclusion of these codes adds another dimension of search capability and research value to the NCIS.

ABS data items include:

ICD-10 Cause of Death Codes

The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Health Related Problems (Tenth Revision) (ICD-10) is the classification system used internationally to code health conditions, diseases and injuries.

The ABS uses ICD-10 to code each cause of death specified on the death certificate. At present a maximum of 20 contributory diseases, conditions and injuries may be coded per case.

The inclusion of ICD-10 codes allows users to search for cases where a specific disease or injury caused or contributed the death.

In coming months', a comparison will be conducted between the ICD-10 codes provided by ABS and the Cause of Death descriptions detailed in the Post Mortem Reports and Coronial Findings.

ASCO (Australian Standard Classification of Occupations) Codes

The ASCO is a coding system used by ABS to classify occupation data. The Second Edition of the codeset has been used from mid 1996 onwards, and provides a structure for the classification of particular occupations.

ASGC (Australian Standard Geographical Classification) Codes

ASGC is the classification standard used by the ABS for the collection and dissemination of geographic statistics. The inclusion allows searching if residential addresses by various geographic districts e.g. local council areas.

Future NCIS Enhancements

The NCIS team has commenced a number of projects to enhance or supplement the NCIS.

It is envisaged that the enhancements will address some of the known limitations of the NCIS, and/or provide added functionality that will benefit the majority of NCIS users.

Enhancement projects that of interest include:

NCIS Codeset Upgrade

Many of the NCIS codesets are based on the International Classification of External Cause Injuries (ICECI). The current NCIS codesets utilises version 1.0, released in March 2001.

The project involves upgrading the existing codeset to ICECI version 1.2. Affected codesets will be:

- Activity
- Context
- Counterpart
- Intent
- Location
- Mechanism of Injury
- Mode of Transport
- Object or Substance Producing Injury
- Sport and Recreation
- User

Note: Time permitting all NCIS codesets will be reviewed and updated where necessary.

Upgrades will include the retrospective mapping of all existing coding to the new codesets.

The upgrade of the codesets will ensure that the NCIS data continues to be useful when compared with international and national data.

Suggestions and comments made by coders and users of the NCIS are welcomed and will be taken into consideration when developing the new version of the codesets. All effort will be made to ensure that the language and terminology used is appropriate for Australia e.g. Utility used instead of Pick-Up Truck.

The upgrade process is yet to be finalised but will incorporate any coder training or refreshment required as a result of the upgrades.

A new NCIS Data Dictionary and Coding manual will be printed and distributed to all coronial offices to accompany these changes.

Comments or suggestions are most welcome and should be directed to Leanne Daking

Geo-coding Address Information

This project involves the cleaning and mapping of address data currently stored in the NCIS to a standard geographical code. This will likely include the latitude and longitude, which could then be further mapped to the ASGC – Australian Standard Geographical Classification code.

This will be done for a minimum of three addresses entered about a case (residential, incident and death address).

This enhancement will allow searches of the NCIS by particular geographical regions (statistical division/local government areas) with an analysis of fatalities by rural versus urban areas likely to be common and useful scenarios.

Automated Trend Analysis

Involves tailored computer algorithms which will aim to identify potential associations and/or data trends within the NCIS for further investigation.

This enhancement would allow potential trends or patterns which may not have previously been identified, to be highlighted and examined further, making the NCIS a more 'intelligent and proactive death and injury prevention tool.'

A prototype of this type of tool will be investigated to examine the value of the information that could be extracted from such a process.

Automated Case Identification

The project involves the automatic notification (via email) to death investigators and other NCIS users when a new case of a particular type is coded on the NCIS.

This will provide ongoing monitoring of particular issues of concern or interest to coroners, policy makers or researchers.

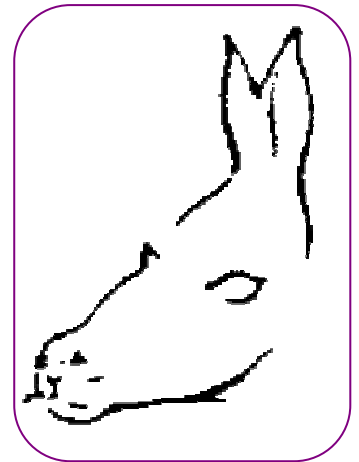
Visual Mapping of Trends / Location Information

This enhancement would involve the ability to display the frequency of certain types of deaths within the overall content of the NCIS in a visual form (tables, graphs, maps).

This would promote easier identification of overall trend patterns by death type and/or geographical region. Working in unison with the Geo-Coding, mapping would be able to produce maps detailing mortality frequency rates over certain regions of Australia.

Optical illusions just for fun What do you see?

A Donkey or a Seal?



A Rabbit or a Duck?

A Face or a Musician?



Let's Test Those Minds

Each capital letter in the statements below corresponds to a specific word. Can you work out each of the completed sentences? I've given you the first one as an example.

According to MENSA, if you get 25 of these correct you are a genius. So give it a go (try to avoid using the internet to research your answers).

Answers will be published in the next Coding Tips Newsletter.

	Clue	Answer
0	24 H in a D	24 Hours in a Day
1	26 L of the A	
2	7 D of the W	
3	7 W of the W	
4	12 S of the Z	
5	66 B of the B	
6	52 C in a P (WJs)	
7	13 S in the USF	
8	18 H on a G C	
9	39 B of the O T	
10	5 T on a F	
11	90 D in a R A	
12	3 B M (S H T R)	
13	15 P in a R T	
14	3 W on a T	
15	100 C in a D	
16	11 P in a F (S) T	
17	12 M in a Y	
18	8 T on an O	
19	29 D in F in a L Y	
20	27 B in the N T	
21	365 D in a Y	
22	13 in a B D	
23	52 W in a Y	
24	60 M in an H	
25	1000 Y in a M	
26	1,001 A N	
27	9 P in the S S	
28	88 K on a P	
29	5 S in the S C	
30	8 S on a S S	
31	20,000 L U the S	
32	8 S and T in A	
33	12 K of the R T	
34	6 W of H the E	
35	6 P for a G in F	