National Coronial Information System

NCIS Strategic Plan 2013-17

July 2013

State Government Victoria — Department of Justice

NCIS Vision

"Comprehensive coronial data for those who need it"

Purpose

The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to outline the major activities that will be undertaken by the NCIS Unit during 2013-17 in order to achieve strategic goals associated with the NCIS.

Concepts and Goals

Three key concepts have informed the development of the goals and activities outlined in this strategic plan. These concepts and their associated goals are:

Data Coverage

- Goal: Improve the completeness, timeliness and reliability of data held on the NCIS.

Data Use

- Goal: Identify early trends: Make the best strategic use of initial data about reported deaths to identify and track mortality trends and patterns.

Data Accessibility

- Goal: Increase the availability of coronial data in interpretable forms such as aggregation and trend analysis so it can be used to inform community decision making.

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Background

- The National Coronial Information System (NCIS) is a national data storage, retrieval, analysis interpretation and dissemination system for coronial information. It assists coroners, their staff, public sector agencies, researchers and other agencies in obtaining coronial data to inform death and injury prevention activities.

- The NCIS is operated and maintained by the NCIS Unit, which is a business unit within the Performance, Planning and Projects area of the Victorian Department of Justice.

- The NCIS has been managed by the Victorian Department of Justice since July 2012 on behalf of the NCIS Board of Management. The Board of Management is comprised of representatives from major stakeholder groups (State/Chief Coroners, the Victorian Department of Justice, State/Territory and New Zealand data providers and funders, and system users).

- The governance framework surrounding the NCIS is outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding, signed in July 2012.

- A review of the governance of the NCIS was undertaken on behalf of the Board of Management in 2011. Resultant from this review were twenty-two recommendations relating to NCIS governance, communication/engagement, and database accessibility. While most recommendations have been implemented, a few longer term initiatives have been incorporated into NCIS strategic planning.

- The function of the NCIS Unit is to develop and maintain a high quality information service for coroners, policy makers and researchers to benefit the community by contributing to a reduction in preventable death and injury.

- This plan is prepared within the context of the current strategic environment of the NCIS. This environment may be subject to change over time based on the Board's consideration of the main focus and priorities for the NCIS.

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Stakeholders

There are a variety of stakeholders involved in the NCIS. These include the funding agencies, the NCIS Board of Management, the Victorian Department of Justice (as the host agency managing the NCIS), data providers, data users and the community in general.

A stakeholder may be involved with the NCIS in a variety of roles (i.e. as a data provider and funding agency, or as a funding agency and a data user).

There are 10 jurisdictions that provide funding and/or data to the NCIS (eight Australian States and Territory Justice Departments and two federal governments [Australia and New Zealand]). Each of these jurisdictions (other than the Australian federal government) have a State/Territory Coroner who is also a key stakeholder. There are several agencies within the Australian Government that provide NCIS funding and use data[1].

Many agencies, organisations and entities have access to coronial data online, or obtain statistical data reports in order to monitor, research and develop policy around death and injury prevention.

A strong strategic plan for the NCIS should both identify and outline a method for achievement of goals that result in all stakeholders obtaining the maximum benefit from their NCIS involvement.

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[1] These Australian government agencies are the Australian Department of Health and Ageing, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, the Australian Institute of Criminology, Safe Work Australia and the Department of Transport and Infrastructure.

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GOAL 1: IMPROVE Data Completeness, Timeliness and Reliability

ACTIVITIES	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Incorporation of additional data into the NCIS from external sources.		Prepare an issues paper for the NCIS Board about supplementing coronial data that is incomplete with data from other sources (i.e. ABS, Hospital data)		If determined to be appropriate, commence upload of additional data sets to supplement incomplete data.
Add additional fields to identify particular kinds of death	Add field to capture relationship between deceased and assailant for assault deaths (to aid Family Violence assessment)	Add field to capture published responses to recommendations		
Maximise interfaces between local coronial systems to allow for automating/streamlining NCIS data collection**	Investigate document upload from NSW Justice Link System	Examine automatic population of data fields into local coronial systems from police notification forms.		
Support accurate data entry at coronial offices	Publish NCIS Coder training application online		National rollout of version 2 of validation rules	
Focused and timely quality assurance activities	Conduct a review of NCIS Quality Assurance processes	Implement NCIS Quality Assurance Processes based on results of review		

** These activities require support and/or development at the relevant State/Chief Coronial offices. The successful completion of these activities are therefore not solely within the control of the NCIS Unit.

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GOAL 2: IDENTIFY Early Trends

ACTIVITIES	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Facilitate collection of preliminary data about deaths to inform trend identification**	Automatic upload of data from Queensland and Tasmanian police notification of death forms	Automatic upload of data from Victorian police notification of death form	Automatic upload of data from NSW police notification of death form	Automatic upload of data from WA, SA and NT police notification of death forms (pending jurisdictional adoption of national electronic police form)
Use preliminary data to inform trend identification	Obtain Board support for the appropriate use of early notification data.	Provide access to initial police notification data for specifically approved NCIS users; Prepare bi-annual statistical reports for State/Chief Coroners based on police notification data		

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GOAL 3: INCREASE the availability of coronial data in interpretable forms such as aggregation and trend analysis

ACTIVITIES	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Make summary death data available to the community in a manner that maximises interpretability.	Release interactive statistical data tables for suicide and drug deaths; Review quality and limitation statements in NCIS Data Reports	Online publication of tailored data reports produced about drug, suicide and injury deaths (which are originally compiled for DHA)	Prepare an Issues Paper for Board about coronial data being incorporated in data linkage hubs at Government/University Health Data Linkage Centres	
Enhance online search interface to meet user needs		Commence major redevelopment of NCIS search screens	Rollout of redeveloped search screens	
Examine the access levels associated with NCIS user matrix	Advise Board as to the feasibility of tailoring system access to specific types of cases or de-identified case information while still meeting user needs.			

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