

# NCIS System upgrade

## Finding the most applicable code and linking cases

February 2020

This NCIS system upgrade included five enhancements that were rolled out on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020.

System enhancement #1	
Title	<b>Expanding the codeset search options</b>
Benefit to users	Users are now more likely to find an applicable code in the <i>Location type</i> , <i>Activity at incident</i> , <i>Mechanism of injury</i> , and <i>Object or Substance producing Injury</i> fields.
Why did we make the change?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) It was previously not possible to search across the <i>Location Type</i> and <i>Activity at Incident</i> codesets. As the codeset size has increased over time, locating the appropriate code to best describe the circumstances surrounding a fatality became more difficult.</li> <li>2) The codeset search options that were available for <i>Mechanism of injury</i> and <i>Object or substance producing injury</i> were limited to only identify terms that were in the codeset description. For example, a codeset search for <i>campfire</i> would not have generated any applicable object codes, as the term <i>campfire</i> was not contained in any codeset description. The same search would now return the applicable code <i>Controlled fire, flame, not in a building or structure</i>.</li> </ol>
Change result	<p>New codeset search buttons are available next to the <i>Location</i> code and <i>Activity</i> code drop down boxes on the Query Design – Time Location search screen (tab 3) and on the Time Location screen in a case record.</p>  <p>A broader range of search terms can now be entered into the search dialogue box to find an applicable code.</p>

### Location Code Search

Keyword:

Description	Select Code
Detached House	<a href="#">Select</a>
Granny Flat, Bungalow	<a href="#">Select</a>

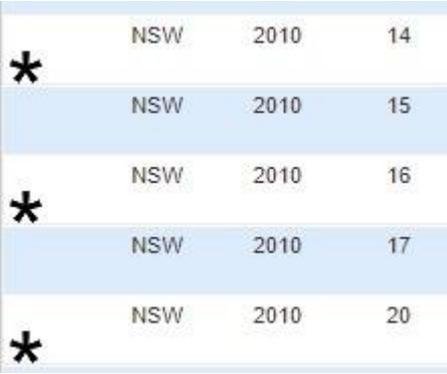
**System enhancement #2**

Title	<b>Updating the NCIS codeset</b>
Benefit to users	Users can more easily identify cases of relevance if there are specific codes that represent the specific circumstances around the fatal incident.
Why was the change made?	The NCIS Unit systematically reviews the codes used on the database to ensure they remain relevant, comparable and can describe the majority of fatal events reported to coroners. New codes are added, existing codes and descriptions are adjusted or removed to best reflect the various scenarios surrounding a death.
Change result	<p>More than 460 new codes have been added to the NCIS dataset (18 at the top hierarchy level), with a revised description for an additional 245 codes (12 at the top hierarchy level). Forty-three codes have been removed or amalgamated. The numbering structure for the <i>Mechanism of injury</i>, <i>Object or substance producing injury</i>, and <i>Pharmaceutical substance for human use</i> codes have also changed, with one additional character added to the final section of the sequence (xx.xx.xxx).</p> <p>A full list of the coding amendments can be accessed from <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

**System enhancement #3**

Title	<b>New validation rules on the NCIS interface</b>
Benefit to users	<p>Increased quality of coding and consistency across the dataset.</p> <p>Logical errors at data input stage will be reduced. For example, a poisoning mechanism must have a chemical or pharmaceutical substance as the associated object.</p>
Why did we make the change?	Additional system rules were identified that could be applied to ensure only particular combinations of codes are possible.
Change result	Certain coding combinations are now required when entering codes to describe motor vehicle incidents, hangings, drug overdoses and drownings. Users are prompted to consider whether farm related incidents were work-related, whether a leisure activity should instead be a sport or exercise activity, and whether a transport incident in a certain vehicle type is a work related event.

**System enhancement #4**

Title	<b>Linking multiple case records for the same deceased</b>
Benefit to users	Users will be aware when there have been multiple investigations into the one death and be less likely to count a fatality twice. If they have appropriate access permissions, users can review all medico-legal findings that relate to a death investigated across different States/Territories. They can also identify which record is considered the “primary” case for the purposes of the NCIS.
Why did we make the change?	<p>To allow for easy identification of duplicate cases within the NCIS.</p> <p>In a small number of cases on the NCIS (around 0.1%), there are multiple coronial records on the NCIS about the same fatality. This can result when an injury incident and death occur in different states/territories. Both jurisdictions may examine the death but investigate different issues. There was previously no way for users to easily identify such cases or have the related case numbers linked.</p>
Change result	<p>An asterisk will appear next to a case record on a search result screen to indicate there are other records that relate to this deceased person.</p>  <p>The case detail screen for a relevant record has new fields of <i>Case category</i> and <i>Linked case</i> to indicate whether the record is the primary or an auxiliary case, and the linked case numbers.</p> 

**System enhancement #5**

Title	<b>Small interface adjustments – font size and ICD-10 version information</b>
Benefit to users	<p>Users will be able to more easily view NCIS menu items, with the and font type and size adjusted to be more legible.</p> <p>Users will have a more clarity about the version of the ICD-10 codes available for Australian coronial cases.</p>
Why did we make the change ?	<p>The font changes will make menu items easier to read for all users, including those who have a vision impairment.</p> <p>The current column heading on the Externally provided data screen in a case record incorrectly stated that all cause of death codes were final versions.</p>
Change result	<p>The column heading on the Externally provided data screen in a case record now dynamically changes to reflect whether the displayed ICD-10 code is preliminary, revised or final. The font for of menu items is now larger and is a different style.</p>

ICD Cause of Death Codes (Revised)	Code
Level 1	X700
Level 2	F209
Level 3	T71
Underlying Cause of Death *	X700