

How-to guide

National disaster event: Eastern Australia flood-related deaths 2022

This guide relates to coding deaths attributed to the Eastern Australia flood disaster in late February and early March 2022.

Contact the [NCIS Unit](#) for further coding advice.

Why is it important to code this correctly?

Consistent coding of deaths related to the flood disaster is essential to ensure the deaths can be accurately identified within the NCIS.

Flood disaster related deaths

There are two areas, in addition to *Cause of death*, in local systems and/or NCIS in which it can be indicated that a death was related to the floods:

- *Mechanism of injury* and *Object or substance producing injury* coding
- Linking the case to the NCIS national flood disaster multiple fatality event (MFE)

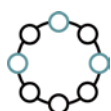
Coding a flood-related death

It is possible that multiple causes of death could be identified for flood victims including *drowning*, *blunt force trauma* (from debris in flood water) or *missing, presumed deceased*. The manner of death is to be coded first for example *Drowning/near drowning resulting from flood*. However, coders are instructed to code the exposure to the flood as the final Mechanism/Object coded for the case (coding shown in table 1).

If using Primary to code the manner, then Secondary1 should be coded as below. If using Primary and Secondary1 to code the manner, the Secondary2 should be coded as below.

Table 1. Primary Mechanism and Object coding to record flood-related deaths

Data field	Coding advice	
Mechanism of injury	Level 1	Exposure to (effect of) weather, natural disaster, or other force of nature
	Level 2	Exposure to (effect of) precipitation
	Level 3	Exposure to flood
Object or substance producing injury	Level 1	Other object/substance
	Level 2	Weather, natural disasters
	Level 3	Flood



Flood disaster multiple fatality event (MFE)

The NCIS Unit has assigned a national MFE to link all applicable deaths as deaths have occurred across multiple jurisdictions due to the same weather event.

What are the MFE details?

Data field	Coding advice
MFE number	E-00-2022-0001-04-2
Date of event	23/02/2022 ¹

How to add a case to the national MFE

Adding a case varies depending on the jurisdiction. Coding advice for specific jurisdictions is provided below.

New South Wales and Victoria

Link case to existing MFE in NCIS Online while coding case

1. On the *Case detail* screen, click on the MFE link on the top left-hand side of the screen, and a new MFE screen will open
2. In the *Event details* section at the top of MFE screen select:

Data field	Coding advice
Case state	National
Case year	2022
Event title	E-00-2022-00001-04-2 - 2022 Eastern Australia Flood

This will open the national MFE for the Eastern Australian 2022 floods.

3. Move to the *MFE Associated cases* section at the bottom of the *MFE screen* and select:

Data field	Coding advice
Case state	[as application – NSW or VIC]
Case year	2022

4. Identify the case from the list provided
5. Select and add the case to the *Selected case(s)* box
6. Save the MFE screen
7. Close the MFE screen and continue coding the case.

¹ The date the flood crisis commenced has been used as the date of the event

Australian Capital Territory and Queensland

Link case to existing MFE via the local court management system while coding case

1. On the *Case detail* screen, click on the MFE box – a new MFE screen will open
2. In the *MFE details* section at the top of MFE screen tick *NATIONAL*
3. Enter or copy the following information into the relevant fields

Data field	Coding advice
MFE number	E-00-2022-00001-04-2
Date of event	23/02/2022
Event title	2022 Eastern Australia Flood
Event details	A flood event occurred down the Eastern seaboard of Australia, extending from north Queensland to southern New South Wales. At least 33 places in Queensland recorded more than one metre of rain, parts of south-east Queensland and north-east NSW had at least 2.5 times their average rainfall for the month, and Brisbane had three consecutive days when more than 200mm fell.

4. In the *MFE Associated cases* section at the bottom of the MFE screen select:

Data field	Coding advice
Case year	2022

5. Identify the case from the list provided
6. Select and add the case to the *Selected case(s)* box
7. Save the MFE screen
8. Close the MFE screen and continue coding the case.