

# Data sharing between the ABS and jurisdictional Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages

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**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
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# Overview

1. Determining a National Minimum Dataset
2. Creating agreements to support the flow of data
3. Extending the partnership to support broader uses of Vital Statistics in research, policy and planning

# Determining a national minimum dataset

- 2014 formation of the National Civil Registration and Statistics Improvement Committee (Australian CRVS committee)
- First task of this committee was agreement on a National Minimum Dataset for births, deaths and causes of death
- NMDS covered key data items, question wording and focussed on maintaining consistency/harmonisation over time
- NMDS has proven useful especially as jurisdictions make system changes and changes to collection instruments

# Creating agreements to support the flow of data

- Collection of data from the RBDMs is under Census & Statistics Act, providing authority to collect and protection of data
- MOUs negotiated with each RBDM covering data collected – referenced back to National Minimum Dataset
- Work undertaken to ensure alignment between ABS legislation and RBDM legislation from a data provision/collection perspective

# Extending partnership to support data use

- Mortality data used extensively as a foundation for research, policy and planning, including use in linked datasets
- ABS outputs include: annual statistical reports on births, deaths and causes of deaths & other consultancies
- Unit record file of Causes of Death, managed through a return to source arrangement
- Negotiation of these agreements was complex and required high level sign-off but the outcome is safe, legislatively supported use of mortality data

# Questions/discussion

