

# Ensuring complete registration for all: Out-reach to Indigenous populations in Australia



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- ◆ State and territory governments are legislatively responsible for enabling birth registration and certification: Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDMs).
- ◆ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) relies on the administrative data collected through the Registries for official population estimates, as well as more specific reports on Births, Deaths and Causes of Death.

# Births and Deaths Data Quality

- ▶ Overall, Australia has a very high level of data quality for births and deaths registration.
- ▶ Issues of non- and lagged registration high on Registrars' agenda.
- ▶ Working in partnership with other government agencies and key stakeholders, including community-based organisations key to success.

- ▶ To continually improve Australia's CRVS system the Registrars and the ABS formed the National Civil Registration and Statistics Improvement Committee (NCR SIC) in late 2013.
- ▶ The committee supports sharing of resources and information.
- ▶ Improving the quality and coverage of birth and death registration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians is a priority for the Committee.

# Issues and Challenges

- ◆ High proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in remote areas of Australia (access to government services limited).
- ◆ Identification of Indigenous status in administrative records is problematic throughout Australia.
- ◆ Myths regarding the registration process i.e. that birth registration costs money.
- ◆ Lack of understanding of the importance of births & deaths data for government service provision and funding.

# Improvement Strategies

- ◆ Collaboration with other key stakeholders critical: cross-agency work achieves more (*e.g. Transport & RBDM partnership*)
- ◆ Outreach programs & funded community liaison officer roles.
- ◆ Collaboration between government agencies and hospitals (*e.g. assistance with birth registration in hospital*).

# Improvement Strategies, continued ...

- ◆ Awareness raising and targeted campaigns (*free birth certificate incentive*).
- ◆ Education of service providers about data and statistics (*medical practitioners training*)
- ◆ Strong legislative underpinning is important.

# Regional Support

- ▶ Registrars and the ABS provide advice and support to Pacific Island Countries to improve coverage of births and mortality data.
- ▶ Through the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) the ABS has provided Cause of Death Coding and Data Quality Analysis training.
- ▶ Currently assisting to improve Civil Registration & Identity Management program in Nauru, Tuvalu and Kiribati (in partnership with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade).