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## Abbreviations and dictionary

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AISRAP	Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention
ANISU	Australian National Injury Surveillance Unit
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia Plus (ARIA+). Index of remoteness derived from measures of road distance between populated localities and service centres. These road distance measures are then used to generate a remoteness score for any location in Australia. 2001 update uses population figures and spatial boundaries from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 Census of Population and Housing.
Autopsy	Also post-mortem. A detailed physical examination of a person's body after death. An autopsy provides detailed information about the person's health and as such, gives an understanding of the various factors which may have contributed to their death.
<i>Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act</i>	<i>Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000 (Queensland)</i>
CDCRC	Child Death Case Review Committee (Queensland)
CDHAC	Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care
CDRC	Child Death Review Committee (Western Australia)
CDRT	Child Death Review Team (Queensland)
CDSIRC	South Australian Child Death and Serious Injury Review Committee
CEMACH	Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health
<i>Child Protection Act</i>	<i>Child Protection Act 1999 (Queensland)</i>
Chroming	The intentional inhalation of the poisonous fumes from glue, paint and other household products.
CMC	Crime and Misconduct Commission (Queensland)
Commission	Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian
Commissioner	Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian
<i>Coroners Act</i>	<i>Coroners Act 1958 (Queensland) (repealed)</i> <i>Coroners Act 2003 (Queensland)</i>
DATSIP	Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy (Queensland)
DCD	Department of Community Development (Western Australia)
DChS	Department of Child Safety (Queensland)
Death in care	A death as defined under section 9 of the <i>Coroners Act 2003</i>
Death in custody	A death as defined under section 10 of the <i>Coroners Act 2003</i>
DES	Department of Emergency Services (Queensland)
DfES	Department for Education and Skills (United Kingdom)
DHS	Department of Human Services (Victoria)
DOF	Former Department of Families (Queensland)
DOH	Department of Housing (Queensland)

External causes of death	Pertaining to environmental events and circumstances that cause injury, poisoning and other adverse effects.
FII	Fabricated or induced illness (formerly Munchausen Syndrome by proxy)
Form 1	See Police Report of Death to a Coroner
ICAN	Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, United States of America
ICD	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems
ICD-10	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision
ICD-9	International Classification of Diseases: Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, Ninth Revision
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Boards, United Kingdom
Multiple cause of death codes	Where all causes of death documented on a death certificate are collected by the use of the International Classification of Diseases.
NCCH	National Centre for Classification in Health
Neglect	Neglect and negligent treatment is the inattention or omission on the part of the caregiver to provide for the development of the child in all spheres: health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter and safe living conditions, in the context of resources reasonably available to the family or caretakers and causes, or has a high probability of causing harm to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. This includes the failure to properly supervise and protect children from harm as much as is feasible (WHO, 1999).
Neonatal period	The neonatal period commences at birth and ends 28 completed days after birth. Neonatal deaths (deaths among live births during the first 28 completed days of life) may be subdivided into early neonatal deaths, occurring during the first seven days of life and late neonatal deaths, occurring after the seventh day but before 28 completed days of life.
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, United Kingdom
NSW	New South Wales
NSW CDRT	New South Wales Child Death Review Team situated within the New South Wales Commission for Children and Young People
NT	Northern Territory
OESR	Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Government
OFT	Office of Fair Trading (Queensland)
OSC	Office of State Coroner (Queensland)
PANOC	Physical Abuse and Neglect of Children Committee New South Wales (NSW) released a report in 1990 recommending that the NSW government establish an "independent review mechanism" to examine cases where children are injured or die and recommended policy, procedural, practice and service changes (NSW CDRT, 2001:2).
Perinatal period	The perinatal period commences at 22 completed weeks (154 days) of gestation (the time when birth weight is normally 500g) and ends seven completed days after birth.
Police Report of Death to a Coroner (Form 1)	A form completed by the police in accordance with section 7 of the <i>Coroners Act 2003</i> – Duty to Report Deaths.
Post-neonatal mortality	A death that occurs after 28 days of age of an infant
Post-mortem	See autopsy
QATSIAG	Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group, established by SIDS and Kids Queensland

QFRA	Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority
QFRS	Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
QGSPS	Queensland Government Suicide Prevention Strategy
QH	Queensland Health
QISU	Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit
QPS	Queensland Police Service
<i>Registry of Births, Death and Marriages Act</i>	<i>Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act 1962 (Queensland) (repealed)</i> <i>Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003 (Queensland)</i>
Registry	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Queensland)
Reportable death	A death as defined under sections 8, 9 and 10 of the <i>Coroners Act 2003</i>
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas 2001 developed by Australian Bureau of Statistics using data derived from 2001 Census of Population and Housing, SEIFA 2001 provides a range of measures to rank areas based on their relative social and economic wellbeing.
SIDS	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
<i>Standard Building Regulation</i>	<i>Standard Building Regulation 1993</i>
SUDI	Sudden unexpected deaths in infancy
Ombudsman	Queensland Ombudsman
Toxicology	The analysis of drugs, alcohol and poisons in the body fluids at autopsy.
Unascertained	See undetermined
Undetermined	Cause of death certified undetermined refers to a death in which available information is insufficient to classify the death into one of the specific causes of natural or unnatural death. If an extensive investigation and autopsy cannot clarify the circumstances, the death is placed in this category. Sudden unexpected deaths of infants are certified as undetermined when insufficient finds are present to support a particular diagnosis but when sufficient abnormal features in the history or at the scene examination autopsy or laboratory workshop were found that were not typical of sudden infant death syndrome (Mitchell et al., 2000:312).
Undetermined intent	A death where available information is insufficient to enable a medical or legal authority to make a distinction between accident, self-harm and assault.
USID	Unclassified sudden infant death
VCDRC	Victorian Child Death Review Team situated within the Office for Child Safety Commissioner
WHO	World Health Organisation
YANQ	Youth Affairs Network of Queensland

## Foreword

On behalf of the Commission, I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to the families and friends of the children and young people whose deaths have been reviewed by the Commission this year. I would also like to acknowledge the impact that those deaths have on the emergency services staff and medical professionals who come into contact with these children and their families under the most tragic of circumstances.

This is the Commission's inaugural report analysing the trends and patterns in the deaths of Queensland children and young people. This report presents the findings of the detailed consideration of 693 deaths of children and young people registered in the 18 month period from 1 January 2004 to 30 June 2005, with a particular focus on external causes of child mortality and sudden unexpected death in infancy. The analysis of these cases provides a rich qualitative and quantitative source of information to help better understand the sometimes complex interplay of risk factors associated with the deaths of children and young people.

The Commission's role is separate and distinct to those of the Queensland Police Service and the Office of State Coroner who are charged with statutory responsibility for investigating and determining the cause of death and criminal responsibility. The Commission's role is to review the circumstances and events surrounding the deaths of Queensland children and young people in an effort to identify risk factors associated with their deaths and more importantly, to make evidence based recommendations and raise community awareness to help reduce the likelihood of other deaths occurring.

I believe that this report will provide a valuable tool for policy makers, practitioners and researchers and will be of interest to the community.

Finally, I would like to thank the officers of the Commission's Child Death Review Team for their dedication and professionalism in preparing this report.

Elizabeth Fraser  
**Commissioner for Children and Young People  
and Child Guardian**