

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+). An 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. The 2001 update uses population figures and spatial boundaries from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 Census of Population and Housing.
ATSI	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
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 gives an understanding of the various factors which may have contributed to their death.
AWSC	Australian Water Safety Council
BDMR Act	<i>Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003 (Qld)</i>
Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act	<i>Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000 (Qld)</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 (New South Wales)
CDSIRC	Child Death and Serious Injury Review Committee (South Australia)
CEMACH	Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health
Child Guardian	The Child Guardian's responsibility is to monitor and investigate complaints against the Department of Child Safety or other service providers, conduct proactive audits, and monitor and review service providers.
Child Protection Act	<i>Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)</i>
Chroming	The intentional inhalation of the poisonous fumes from glue, paint and other household products.
CMC	Crime and Misconduct Commission (Queensland)
The Commission	Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian (Queensland)
The Commissioner	Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian (Queensland)
Coroners Act	<i>Coroners Act 1958 (Qld) (repealed)</i> <i>Coroners Act 2003 (Qld)</i>
CSO	Child Safety Officer
CYMRC	Child and Youth Mortality Review Committee (New Zealand)
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)
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services (Tasmania)
DHS	Department of Human Services (Victoria)

DoCS	Department of Community Services (New South Wales)
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.
Fatal assault	Fatal assault is defined as the death of a child from “acts of violence perpetrated upon him or her by another person” even when the perpetrator may not have intended the outcome.
FII	Fabricated or induced illness (formerly Munchausen Syndrome by proxy)
Form 1	See ‘Police Report of Death to a Coroner’
GDL	Graduated Driver Licensing
GISCA	National Centre for the Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems
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
JAOP	Juvenile Arson Offenders Program
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 are jointly defined as 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; it is treatment that 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 begins 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 7 days of life, and late neonatal deaths, occurring after the seventh day but before 28 completed days of life.
NNDSS	National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System
‘Other’ non-intentional injury-related death	‘Other’ non-intentional injury-related deaths include falls, electrocutions, poisoning, suffocation, strangulation and choking and ‘other’ injury-related deaths that are outside the non-intentional injury deaths discussed elsewhere in the report – that is, fire, drowning and transport incidents.
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)
Ombudsman	Queensland Ombudsman
OSC	Office of State Coroner (Queensland)
PANOC	The Physical Abuse and Neglect of Children Committee, New South Wales 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 begins at 22 completed weeks (154 days) of gestation (the time when birth weight is normally 500 g), and ends 7 completed days after birth.
PN&IMC	Perinatal and Infant Mortality Committee (Western Australia)
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 – Duty to Report Deaths</i> .
Post-neonatal mortality	A death of an infant that occurs after 28 days of age
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
QG	Queensland Government
QGSPS	Queensland Government Suicide Prevention Strategy
QGSPSC	Queensland Government Suicide Prevention Steering Committee
QH	Queensland Health
QISU	Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit
QPS	Queensland Police Service
Births, Deaths and Marriages Act	<i>Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act 1962</i> (Qld) (<i>repealed</i>) <i>Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003</i> (Qld)
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>
SAAP	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas 2001. Developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics using data derived from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, SEIFA 2001 provides a range of measures to rank areas based on their relative social and economic wellbeing.
SES	Socio-economic status
SIDS	Sudden infant death syndrome
Standard Building Regulation	Standard Building Regulation 1993
SUDI	Sudden unexpected death in infancy
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 findings 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 Committee situated within the Office of the Child Safety Commissioner.
WHO	World Health Organisation
YANQ	Youth Affairs Network of Queensland

Foreword

This is the Commission's second annual report analysing the deaths of children and young people in Queensland.

At the outset, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the children and young people who died during the reporting period. I would also like to acknowledge the professionals who assisted and worked with these children and young people.

In the 12-month period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, the deaths of 426 children and young people were registered in Queensland, 55 fewer than in the previous 12-month period.

This report presents findings about and detailed consideration of these deaths. The report has also looked closely at the quality of the Commission's source data, making recommendations in relation to the coding and registration of deaths in Queensland and nationally, to improve the integrity and reliability of the data.

This report focuses on the external causes of child mortality and sudden unexpected deaths in infancy. While last year's report focused on infant deaths, it also identified the issue of childhood suicide in Queensland. This year's report again highlights this issue, a phenomenon that has hitherto been masked in official statistics in Australia.

This report also begins to clarify trends and patterns in causes of death for children in the child protection population and makes recommendations in relation to those deaths not obviously within the Department of Child Safety's jurisdiction to review. Generally the deaths of children in the child protection population are reviewed and reported on by the Department of Child Safety and then by the Child Death Case Review Committee. As the Commission is responsible for analysing the deaths of all children, it can bring into view a population of at-risk children and young people who are not, or not obviously, within the child protection system.

The information contained in this report will provide a valuable dataset that builds on existing statistics and furthers our understanding of the factors contributing to the deaths of children and young people in Queensland.



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