Department of Justice and Attorney-General
Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Australian Coordinating Registry and Australian Bureau of Statistics

Cause of Death Unit Record File

User Guide

Revision History

Revision Date	Version No.	Author	Description of Change/Revision
April 2014	eDocs 1	QLD BDM (ACR) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)	Initial draft based on 2013 final document #2143799.
May-June 2014	eDocs 1	QLD BDM (ACR) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS	Minor updates. Content confirmed.
October 2014	eDocs 1	QLD BDM (ACR) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS	Minor updates. Content confirmed.
September 2015	eDocs 1	QLD BDM (ACR) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS	Minor updates. Content confirmed.
February 2017	eDocs 2	QLD BDM (ACR) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)	Updates to registration number character limit for 2015 onwards data sets.
January 2018	eDocs 2	QLD BDM (ACR) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS	Multiple updates. Content confirmed.
April 2018	eDocs 3	QLD BDM (ACR) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)	POB Data Domain updated.
October 2018	eDocs 4	QLD BDM (ACR) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)	Updates to LGA
December 2018	eDocs 5	QLD BDM (ACR) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)	Updates to geography data elements and 2006-2008 variables
November 2020	eDocs 6	QLD BDM (ACR) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)	Updates to Underlying cause of death, Record axis code and Entity codes.
December 2021	eDocs 6	QLD BDM (ACR) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)	Updates to UCOD source and notes, Record Axis data source and notes, Entity guide, attributes and notes, Indigenous source and notes, Sex notes and LGA notes and domain, POB classification guide and notes.
May 2022			Added SEIFA, Remoteness Area and Place of Death

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACR	Australian Coordinating Registry
ACME	Automatic Classification of Medical Entities
ACS	Automated Coding System
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
cat. no.	Catalogue number
COD	Cause of Death
ICD -10	International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision
LGA	Local Government Area
MCCD	Medical Certificate of Cause of Death
MCOD	Multiple Cause of Death
MICAR	Medical Indexing, Classification and Retrieval System
MMDS	Medical Mortality Data System
NCHS	National Centre for Health Statistics (USA)
NCIS	National Coronial Information System
RBDM	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SA2	Statistical Area Level 2
SLA	Statistical Local Area
TRANSAX	Translation of Axes
UCOD	Underlying Cause of Death
URF	Unit Record File
WHO	World Health Organization

Table of Contents

Introduction

Access to Cause of Death Unit Record File (COD URF) data is only available to approved applicants for statistical or research purposes. The COD URF is intended to be a snapshot of data for use in providing statistical outputs and/or research publications, not for individual interrogation of records/cases.

The COD URF is not warranted as free from discrepancies. While the data custodians (source agencies) and the ABS undertake a variety of quality assurance checks, discrepancies arise in collecting, recording and processing data, including a small percentage of records which may be duplicates.

The COD URF records are compiled and coded by the ABS based on data from the source agencies that are correct as at a point in time. As the Registry and Coroner databases are continual databases, amendments, cancellations and other actions may occur at later dates, post supply of the original information to the ABS.

The user guide contains information specifically relevant to unit record data, including data element field definitions. Not all data elements may be approved for provision to all users.

This user guide is supplied by the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages as the Australian Coordinating Registry (ACR) for the COD URF.

Data in the Unit Record File

Data is provided as a csv file (comma delimited format).

Queries Regarding the Data

Queries regarding the access, provision or use of the COD URF data should be directed to: ACR via bdm.codurf@justice.qld.gov.au

Queries relating to the unit record data which are not answered in this user guide should be directed to: The Australian Bureau of Statistics, Health and Vitals Statistics Unit on 1800 620 963. This includes queries regarding data items and the revisions process.

For further information relating to the COD URF data (including technical and explanatory notes), refer to the annual ABS 3303.0 Causes of Death Publication.

For further information relating to ICD-10 codes, refer to the World Health Organization website.

List of Data Elements (a, b)

Field Description	Field Name
Mortality Identifier	MORTALITY_ID
Registration Number	REG_NO
Reference Year	REF_YEAR
State/Territory of Registration	REG_STATE
Birth Year	BIRTH_YEAR
Birth Month	BIRTH_MONTH
Birth Day	BIRTH_DAY
Indigenous Status	INDIGENOUS_STATUS
Year of Registration	REG_YEAR
Month of Registration	REG_MONTH
Day of Registration	REG_DAY
Year of Death	DEATH_YEAR
Month of Death	DEATH_MONTH
Day of Death	DEATH_DAY
Age at Death	AGE
Place of Birth	BIRTHPLACE
Period of Residence in Australia	PERIOD_RESIDENCE
State/Territory of Usual Residence	URES_STATE
Usual Residence – 9 digit Code (ASGC) (c)	URES_9DIGIT
Usual Residence – 9 digit Code (ASGS) (d)	URES9_SA2
Sex	SEX
Certifier Type	CERTIFIER
Source of Cause of Death Data	COD_DATA_SOURCE
Underlying Cause of Death	UCOD
Record Axis Count	RECORD_AXIS_COUNT
Record Axis Data	RACS1—RACS20
Entity Axis Data	ENTITY1—ENTITY20
Place of Occurrence of External Death	PLACE_OCCURRENCE
Coronial Case Status Flag	CASE_STATUS
Mesh Block	MESHBLOCK
Local Government Area	LGA
Usual Residence – SEIFA Decile	SEIFA_IRSAD_DEC
Usual Residence – Remoteness Area	REMOTENESS_AREA
Place of Death	PLACE_OF_DEATH

Data element notes:

a) Due to the sensitivity of some data elements, not all elements listed above will be approved for release to all data users under the minimum/core set. Certain data elements (such as registration number and date of birth) will only be provided where justification for those elements has been supplied by the applicant, and endorsed by the data custodians for release.

b) The availability of data elements may change over time and therefore not be available for all year periods. Reference to the start and end dates for the data elements in the descriptions below should be completed.

c) ASGC - Up to and including 2010.

d) ASGS - From 2011. A break in series for geographic classification occurred between 2010 and 2011. An update to the ASGS classification occurred in 2016. Updates to ASGS will occur every five years.

e) The fine level geography in the 2009 final file refers to both ASGC and ASGS and both the data elements are supplied (e.g. URES_9DIGIT and URES9_SA2). From 2010 onwards only the ASGS data item (URES9_SA2) is provided - it does not include the ASGC (URES_9DIGIT) data item.

f) The field number order of a significant number of data elements changed within the COD URF file between the 2009 final file and the 2010 final file. The change in geography coding (the dropping of the ASGC code data element from the 2010 file) has also resulted in a change to the field number order of data elements from that file onwards. The 2010 final file only contains ASGS SA2 data (URES9_SA2) and no ASGC (URES_9DIGIT) SLA data.
g) These COD URF files include a coroner case status flag data element as the final element in the file.
h) The fine level geography in the 2011 file refers only to ASGS and the data element URES9_SA2. There is no ASGC data element (URES_9DIGIT) present in the 2011 file.

Changes for the 2006-2008 files:

a) The 2006 and 2008 final files contain the case status as the final variable. However for the 2007 final file this is not the final variable (it's the last variable before entities and RACS).
b) The final 2006 and 2007 files only contains URES_9DIGIT_SLA. The 2008 file contains reference to both SA2 (URES_9DIGIT_SA2) and SLA (URES_9DIGIT_SLA).

Mortality Identifier

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	2006
Definition	A unique identifier assigned by the ABS.
Context	Unique identifier for the record, used for matching purposes.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	MORTALITY_ID
Maximum Field Length	7
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NNNNNNN
Data Domain	Any number up to 7 digits
Guide for Use	Mortality ID is an identifier which is unique across jurisdictions and reference years.

Administrative Attributes

Source of Data item	ABS processes.
Source Organisation	ABS
Notes	

Registration Number

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	1964
Definition	A personal identifier assigned by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state or territory for administrative use.
Context	May be used for the purposes of identifying people and linking them to their associated registration information.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	REG_NO
Maximum Field Length	14
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NNNNNNNNNNNNN
Data Domain	Any number up to 14 digits
Guide for Use	Registration number tends to be unique within each state/territory of registration and registration year. However depending on processes within registries, these may be duplicated within or across registration years. Only the mortality identifier (see page 6) provides a unique value across reference years and jurisdictions. Registration numbers for data sets up to and including 2014 have a maximum field length number of up to 8. Registration numbers for data sets from 2015 onwards, have a maximum field length number of up to 14.

Administrative Attributes

Source of Data item	Derived during Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages processes.
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
Notes	Registration number is assigned by the Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages during processing. Registration numbers are only provided to applicants approved for data integration purposes. Where approved, the registration number may not be distributed to any other persons or organisations.

Reference Year

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	2007
Definition	Collection cycle in which a record was included in ABS counts.
Context	Indicates the collection cycle in which a record was counted in ABS mortality statistics.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	REF_YEAR
Maximum Field Length	4
Data Type	Numeric
Format	YYYY
Data Domain	Valid Year
Guide for Use	The reference year assigned to a death is determined by the scope of the collection and incorporates both registration date and the date when a record is received by the ABS. Deaths assigned any given reference year will include: ▪ all deaths registered in Australia during the reference year and received by the ABS by the end of the March quarter of the subsequent year; and ▪ deaths registered prior to the reference year but not previously received from the Registry nor included in any statistics reported for an earlier period. For example, records received by the ABS during the March quarter of 2017 which were initially registered in 2016 or prior (but not forwarded to the ABS until 2017) are assigned a reference year of 2016. Any registrations relating to 2016 which are received by the ABS after the end of the March quarter 2017 are assigned to the 2017 reference year. Similarly, records received by the ABS during the March quarter of 2016 which were initially registered in 2015 or prior will be assigned a reference year of 2015, and will be excluded from the 2016 reference year.

Administrative Attributes

Source of Data Item	Derived during ABS processes.
Source Organisation	ABS
Notes	Prior to 2007, Registration year was used for the purpose of matching a record to published ABS data; however, due to the complexity of the scope rules, this may not always be accurate.

State/Territory of Registration

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date 1964

Definition State or territory in which the death was registered.

Context Indicates the state/territory Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages which registered the death.

Representational Attributes

Field Name REG_STATE

Maximum Field Length 1

Data Type Numeric

Format N

Data Domain

1 New South Wales
2 Victoria
3 Queensland
4 South Australia
5 Western Australia
6 Tasmania
7 Northern Territory
8 Australian Capital Territory

Guide for Use The group of other territories of Jervis Bay, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island are out of scope for this data element. By convention, deaths in the Jervis Bay Territory are registered in the Australian Capital Territory and deaths in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas island are registered in Western Australia. From 1 July 2016, deaths registered on Norfolk Island are included in cause of death data for the first time. For this data element, deaths registered in Norfolk Island are included with deaths registered in New South Wales.

Administrative Attributes

Source of Data Item Derived during ABS processes

Source Organisation ABS

Notes Data for this item is referenced from the jurisdiction where the registration occurred. This differs from data published by the ABS which utilises data from the State of Usual Residence.

Birth Year

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	1964
Definition	Year of birth of the deceased person
Context	May be used to derive age at death and for demographic analysis and analysis by age.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	BIRTH_YEAR
Maximum Field Length	4
Data Type	Numeric
Format	YYYY
Data Domain	Valid Year 9999 Not stated 2099 Not stated
Guide for Use	If Birth Year is not known or cannot be obtained, it is imputed from age if available. Up to and including reference year 2009 if age is also unknown, Birth Year is assigned as 9999 Not stated. From 2010 reference year and onwards, not stated may be shown as 9999 or as 2099. From 2012 reference year, if age is also unknown, birth year is assigned only as 2099 Not stated.

Administrative Attributes

Source of Data Item	Death Notification Form
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
Notes	

Birth Month

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date 1964

Definition Month of birth of the deceased person.

Context May be used to derive age at death and for demographic analysis and analysis by age.

Representational Attributes

Field Name BIRTH_MONTH

Maximum Field Length 2

Data Type Numeric

Format NN

Data Domain

1 January
2 February
3 3 March
4 4 April
5 May
6 6 June
7 7 July
8 8 August
9 9 September or Not Stated/Unknown
10 10 October
11 11 November
12 12 December
99 Not Stated/Unknown
0 Not Stated/Unknown

Guide for Use If Birth Month is not known or cannot be obtained, it is imputed from age if available. If age is also unknown up to and including reference year 2009, Birth Month is assigned as 99 Not stated. For 2010 and 2011 reference years, Birth Month can be assigned to either 00 Not Stated/Unknown or 9 in cases where the value of the birth year is 2099. From 2012 reference year, if age is also unknown, only a value of 9 is used to represent Not Stated/Unknown for cases where the value of the birth year is 2099.

Administrative Attributes

Source of Data Item Death Notification Form

Source Organisation Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Notes

Birth Day

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date 1964

Definition Day of birth of the deceased person.

Context May be used to derive age at death and for demographic analysis and analysis by age.

Representational Attributes

Field Name BIRTH_DAY

Maximum Field Length 2

Data Type Numeric

Format NN

Data Domain 1 – 31 Day of Birth (note: a value of 9 may also mean not stated – see 'guide for use')

00 Not Stated
99 Not Stated

Guide for Use If Birth Day is not known or cannot be obtained, it is imputed from age if available. If age is also unknown up to and including reference year 2009, Birth Day is assigned as 99 Not stated. For 2009, 2010 and 2011 reference years, Birth Day can be assigned to either 00 Not Stated/Unknown or 9 in cases where the value of the birth year is 2099. From 2012 reference year, if age is also unknown, only a value of 9 is used for those cases where the value of the birth year is 2099.

Administrative Attributes

Source of Data Item Death Notification Form

Source Organisation Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Notes

Indigenous Status

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date 2005

Definition Indigenous Status is a measure of whether the deceased person has been identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Context The purpose of this data element is to provide information about people who identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples occupy a unique place in Australian society and culture. In the current climate of improving life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, accurate and consistent statistics about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are needed in order to plan, promote and deliver essential services, to monitor changes in well-being and to assess the effectiveness of government policy.

Representational Attributes

Field Name INDIGENOUS_STATUS

Maximum Field Length 1

Data Type Numeric

Format N

Data Domain

1	Aboriginal
2	Torres Strait Islander
3	Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
4	Non Indigenous
9	Not Stated

Guide for Use

Administrative Attributes

Source of Data Item Death Notification Form and Medical Certificate of Cause of Death, where available.
For 2007, Indigenous Status sourced from the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death was available for deaths registered in South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory.

Source Organisation Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Notes Information on a deceased person's Indigenous Status as collected on the Death Notification Form and Medical Certificate of Cause of Death is of varying quality and completeness. Presently, due to quality issues, the ABS only produces statistical analysis such as age-standardised death rates on deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for selected states/territories, namely New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory. Rates for other states/territories

are not published due to a combination of comparatively small numbers and relatively low coverage of reported Indigenous deaths.

For some records, there may be inconsistency in Indigenous status as collected on the Death Notification form and the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death. The ABS considers both sources, and will take any identification as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as being more accurate than identification of Non-Indigenous or Not stated. Similarly, identification as Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander is taken over any other response.

Registration Year

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	1964
Definition	Year in which a death is registered by the relevant Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
Context	Provides a measure of when a death was registered with the relevant Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. May be used in conjunction with date of death to measure registration lag.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	REG_YEAR
Maximum Field Length	4
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NNNN
Data Domain	Valid year
Guide for Use	For some deaths, there may be considerable lag between when the death occurred and when it is registered. These ‘late registrations’ predominantly occur during the month of December.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Derived during Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages processes.
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
Notes	Year of Registration is assigned by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages during processing. If Year of Registration is missing from the data received by the ABS, Year of Registration is imputed as the year in which the record is received by the ABS. All records are assigned a Year of Registration.

Registration Month

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date 1964

Definition Month in which a death is registered by the relevant Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Context Provides a measure of when a death was registered with the relevant Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. May be used in conjunction with date of death to measure registration lag.

Representational Attributes

Field Name REG_MONTH

Maximum Field Length 2

Data Type Numeric

Format NN

Data Domain Valid Month

Guide for Use

1	January
2	February
3	March
4	April
5	May
6	June
7	July
8	August
9	September
10	October
11	November
12	December

For some deaths, there may be considerable lag between when the death occurred and when it is registered. These ‘late registrations’ predominantly occur during the month of December.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document Derived during Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages processes

Source Organisation Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Notes Month of Registration is assigned by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages during processing. If registration month is missing from data provided by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, it is derived by the ABS as the month of the file in which the record is included. All records are assigned a Month of Registration.

Registration Day

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	2007
Definition	Day on which a death is registered by the relevant Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
Context	Provides a measure of when a death was registered with the relevant Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. May be used in conjunction with date of death to measure registration lag.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	REG_DAY
Maximum Field Length	2
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NN
Data Domain	1 – 31 Day of Registration 99 Not Stated
Guide for Use	For some deaths, there may be considerable lag between when the death occurred and when it is registered. These ‘late registrations’ predominantly occur during the month of December, when the Registry may be closed, or if the death has not been discovered for some time. Deaths identified as Indigenous are also over-represented in ‘late registrations’. In these cases, the date the death occurred may be a more reliable indicator of time.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Derived during Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages processes.
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
Notes	Day of Registration is assigned by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages during processing. If Day of Registration is missing from data provided by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, it is derived by the ABS as the last day of the month of the file in which the record is included. All records are assigned a Day of Registration. This data item is not available before 2007.

Death Year

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	1964
Definition	Year in which a death occurred.
Context	Provides a time reference to allow analysis of change over time.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	DEATH_YEAR
Maximum Field Length	4
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NNNN
Data Domain	Valid Year 9999 Not stated 2099 Not stated
Guide for Use	For some records, a date of death may be unknown (e.g. skeletal remains). Up to and including reference year 2009 these records are assigned a Year of Death of 9999 Not stated. From 2010 reference year and onwards, not stated may be shown as 9999 or as 2099. From 2012 reference year, Year of Death is assigned only as 2099 to represent Not stated.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Death Notification Form
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
Notes	

Death Month

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date 1964

Definition Month in which a death occurred.

Context Provides a time reference to allow analysis of change over time.

Representational Attributes

Field Name DEATH_MONTH

Maximum Field Length 2

Data Type Numeric

Format NN

Data Domain

1	January
2	February
3	March
4	April
5	May
6	June
7	July
8	August
9	September or Not stated/Unknown
10	October
11	November
12	December
99	Not stated
00	Not stated

Guide for Use For some records, a date of death may be unknown (e.g. skeletal remains). Up to and including reference year 2009 these records are assigned a Month of Death of 99 Not stated. For 2010 and 2011 reference years, Death Month can be assigned to either 00 Not Stated/Unknown or 9 in cases where the value of the Death Year is 2099. From 2012 reference year, only a value of 9 is used to represent Not Stated for those cases where the value of the Death Year is 2099.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document Death Notification Form

Source Organisation Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Notes

Death Day

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	1964
Definition	Day on which a death occurred.
Context	Provides a time reference to allow analysis of change over time.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	DEATH_DAY
Maximum Field Length	2
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NN
Data Domain	1-31 Day of death 00 Not stated 99 Not stated 09 Not stated
Guide for Use	For some records, a date of death may be unknown (e.g. skeletal remains). These records are assigned a Day of Death of 99 Not stated. If Death Day is not known or cannot be obtained, up to and including reference year 2009, Death Day is assigned as 99 Not stated. For 2010 and 2011 reference years, Death Day can be assigned to either 00 Not Stated/Unknown or 09 in cases where the value of the birth year is 2099. From 2012 reference year, if age is also unknown, only a value of 09 is used for those cases where the value of the Death Year is 2099.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Death Notification Form
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
Notes	

Age at Death

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	1964
Definition	Age of the deceased person
Context	Used for demographic analysis and analysis of cause of death by age.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	DTH_AGE
Maximum Field Length	3
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NNN
Data Domain	1-120 Age in years 201-211 Age in months with prefix of 2 299 Unknown months 301-327 Age in days with a prefix of 3 398 Unknown days 401-423 Age in hours with a prefix of 4 499 Unknown hours 500-559 Age in minutes with a prefix of 5 599 Unknown minutes 601-659 Age in seconds with a prefix of 6 699 Unknown seconds 999 Not stated
Guide for Use	Age at death during the first year of life (0 years) is recorded in completed months, days, hours or minutes. If aged between 1 and 11 months, Age at Death is recorded in months. If aged between 1 and 28 days, Age at Death is recorded in days. If aged between 1 and 23 hours, Age at Death is recorded in hours. If aged less than an hour, Age at Death is recorded in minutes. If age is less than one minute, Age at Death is recorded in seconds.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Death Notification Form
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
Notes	If age at death is not provided, ABS will impute from date of birth and date of death where possible.

Place of Birth

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	1964
Definition	The country or state/territory (if born in Australia) in which the deceased person was born.
Context	Place of birth is important in studying the access to services and health outcomes by different population sub-groups. Place of birth is the most easily collected and consistently reported of possible data items. The item provides a link between the ABS Census of Population and Housing, and other statistical collections. Place of birth may be used in conjunction with other data elements such as Period of residence in Australia to derive more sophisticated measures of access to services by different population sub-groups and may help in identifying population sub-group(s) that may be at increased risk of particular causes of death.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	BIRTH_PLACE
Maximum Field Length	4
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NNNN
Data Domain	Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016 (cat. no. 1269.0)
Guide for Use	

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Death Notification Form
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, standard classification codes are added by the ABS

Notes

In 2009 the classification changed from Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) 1998 (Revision 2.03) to the 2008 version of the SACC. In 2012 the 2011 version of the SACC was implemented. In the 2008 version o SACC, supplementary codes used to identify the state or territory of birth for persons born in Australia were included in the classification. These codes ranged from 0901-0909. These codes were not retained in the 2011 version of SACC. In order to capture this level of detail, the ABS retained these codes with the move to SACC 2011. The correspondence for these codes can be found below:

0901 New South Wales
0902 Victoria
0903 Queensland
0904 South Australia
0905 Western Australia
0906 Tasmania
0907 Northern Territory
0908 Australian Capital Territory
0909 Other territories of Australia

SACC was revised in 2016, but the only changes were to country names. Codes remain unchanged from the 2011 version.

SACC 2011, Version 2.3	**SACC 2016**
3206 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	3206 North Macedonia
3302 Czech Republic	3302 Czechia
5101 Myanmar, The Republic of the Union of	5101 Myanmar
8202 Bolivia, Plurinational State of	8202 Bolivia
8216 Venezuela, Bolivaran Republic of	8216 Venezuela
9226 Swaziland	9226 Eswatini

Period of Residence in Australia

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	1964
Definition	Period of residence in Australia, in years.
Context	Used in conjunction with data element Place of birth, this data item may be used for analysis relating to changes in mortality patterns of sub-populations over time.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	PERIOD_RESIDENCE
Maximum Field Length	2
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NN
Data Domain	00-96 years of residence in Australia 97 or more years of residence in Australia 98 Born in Australia (not applicable) 99 Not stated
Guide for Use	

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Death Notification Form
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
Notes	Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages provide the ABS with Year of Arrival rather than Period of Residence. The ABS derives Period of Residence from Year of Arrival and Year of Death.

State/Territory of Usual Residence

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	2006
Definition	Australian state/territory in which the deceased usually resided. Usual residence within Australia refers to that address at which the deceased has lived or intended to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year.
Context	Analyses facilitated by the inclusion of geographical information include comparison of patterns of mortality and health outcomes of persons residing in different geographical areas.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	URES_STATE
Maximum Field Length	1
Data Type	Numeric
Format	N
Data Domain	1 New South Wales 2 Victoria 3 Queensland 4 South Australia 5 Western Australia 6 Tasmania 7 Northern Territory 8 Australian Capital Territory 9 Other Territories (Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island, Jervis Bay Territory, and Norfolk Island (for deaths registered from 1 July, 2016 onwards, with a usual residence of Norfolk Island))
Guide for Use	Deaths registered in Australia of persons usually resident overseas have been classified according to the state or territory in which the death was registered.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Death Notification Form
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, coded by ABS
Notes	Usual residence is provided to the ABS by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the form of an address. This address is then coded by the ABS in accordance with the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) (cat no 1216.0) up to and including 2010 and with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) from 2009 onwards. From 2011 to 2015, ASGS 2011 was used. From 2016 onwards, ASGS 2016 is used. For a given reference year, the previous years version of the ASGC was used. E.g., For 2008 reference year, the 2007 version of the ASGC was

used.
If usual residence is not provided, state/territory of usual residence is imputed as the state/territory in which the death is registered.

Usual Residence – 9 digit Code (ASGC)

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	1988
End Date	2010
Definition	9-digit ASGC code denoting where the deceased usually resided. Usual residence refers to that address at which the deceased has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year.
Context	Analyses facilitated by the inclusion of geographical information include comparison of patterns of mortality and health outcomes of persons residing in different geographical areas.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	URES_9DIGIT
Maximum Field Length	9
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NNNNNNNNN
Data Domain	Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC, 2011 (Cat. no. 1216.0))
Guide for Use	*ASGC*: The geographic location is reported using a nine digit numeric code. This code is hierarchical and comprises a series of sub-codes indicating various levels of geography. The first digit of this code indicates the state or territory (S/T) of usual residence. Digits 2-3 show the Statistical Division (SD), digits 4-5 the Statistical Subdivision (SSD), and digits 6-9 show the Statistical Local Area (SLA).

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Death Notification Form
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, coded by ABS
Notes	Usual residence is provided to the ABS by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the form of an address. This address is then coded by the ABS in accordance with the geographic classification current at the time of coding A break in series for geographic classification occurred between 2010 and 2011. 2001 to 2010 data was coded using the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) (cat no 1216.0). 2011 data onwards is coded using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001) to Statistical Area 2 (SA2) level. To assist users better understand the impact of this change in geography

data for 2009 and 2010 has also been provided with a corresponding ASGS 9 digit numeric code. Consequently, the COD URF files for 2009 and 2010 contain both URES_9DIGIT and URES9_SA2 fields.

Further concordance of geography within the COD URF for data earlier than 2009 will not be undertaken by the ABS or ACR. COD URF users will need to aggregate the data, and then correspond from new to old coding or vice versa.

For a given reference year, the previous year's version of the ASGC was used (e.g. for 2008 reference year, the 2007 version of the ASGC was used).

From 2011 to 2015, ASGS 2011 was used. From 2016 onwards, ASGS 2016 is used.

Refer to the ABS website for more information on geography standards and correspondences.

If usual residence is not provided, state/territory of usual residence is imputed as the state/territory in which the death is registered, with no further detail.

Special purpose SLAs exist for certain circumstances: when a person has a usual address overseas (SA2s 188889299 – 888889299), when a person does not have a usual address, such as in the cases of long-term travellers or homeless people (SA2s 188889499 – 888889499), and when a person's usual address is unknown (SA2s 188889899 – 888889899). A further migratory – offshore – shipping SLA (185019799 – 985019799) is used when the person died whilst in transit to Australia or whilst on board vessels, oil rigs or other structures in Australian waters.

Usual Residence – 9 digit Code (ASGS)

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	2011
Definition	9-digit ASGS code denoting where the deceased usually resided. Usual residence refers to that address at which the deceased has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year.
Context	Analyses facilitated by the inclusion of geographical information include comparison of patterns of mortality and health outcomes of persons residing in different geographical areas.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	URES9_SA2
Maximum Field Length	9
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NNNNNNNNN
Data Domain	Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS, July 2016 (Cat. no. 1270.0.55.001))
Guide for Use	*ASGS*: The geographic location is reported using a nine digit numeric code (SA2). This code is hierarchical and comprises a series of sub-codes indicating various levels of geography. The first digit of this code indicates the state or territory (S/T) of usual residence. Digits 2-3 show the SA4, digits 4-5 show the SA3, and digits 6-9 show the SA2. The SA2 identifier is a 4-digit code, assigned in alphabetical order within an SA3 and numerically within an SA4. An SA2 code is only unique within an S/T if it is preceded by the S/T identifier.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Death Notification Form
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, coded by ABS
Notes	Usual residence is provided to the ABS by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the form of an address. This address is then coded by the ABS in accordance with the geographic classification current at the time of coding. A break in series for geographic classification occurred between 2010 and 2011. 2001 to 2010 data was coded using the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) (cat no 1216.0). For a given reference year, the previous years version of the ASGC was used (e.g. for 2008 reference year, the 2007 version of the ASGC was used). 2011 data onwards is coded using the Australian Statistical Geography

Standard (ASGS) (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001) to Statistical Area 2 (SA2) level.

From 2011 to 2015, ASGS 2011 was used. From 2016 onwards, ASGS 2016 is used.

To assist users better understand the impact of this change in geography data for 2009 and 2010 has also been provided with a corresponding ASGS 9 digit numeric code. Consequently, the COD URF files for 2009 and 2010 contain both URES_9DIGIT and URES9_SA2 fields.

Further concordance of geography within the COD URF for data earlier than 2009 will not be undertaken by the ABS or ACR. COD URF users will need to aggregate the data, and then correspond from new to old coding or vice versa.

Refer to the ABS website for more information on geography standards and correspondences.

If usual residence is not provided, state/territory of usual residence is imputed as the state/territory in which the death is registered, with no further detail.

Special purpose SA2s exist for certain circumstances: when a person has a usual address overseas (SA2s 199999299 – 999999299), when a person does not have a usual address, such as in the cases of long-term travellers or homeless people (SA2s 199999499 – 999999499), and when a person's usual address is unknown (SA2s 199999899 – 899999899). A further migratory – offshore – shipping SA2 (197979799 – 997979799) is used when the person died whilst in transit to Australia or whilst on board vessels, oil rigs or other structures in Australian waters.

Sex

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	1964
Definition	The sex of the deceased person.
Context	Used for demographic analysis and analysis of cause of death by sex.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	SEX
Maximum Field Length	1
Data Type	Numeric
Format	N
Data Domain	1 Male 2 Female
Guide for Use	

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Death Notification Form
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
Notes	Where sex is not stated, efforts are made to find other information provided by the Registry, which offers a strong indication of sex, such as the cause of death of the deceased. Failing this, sex is assigned during processing based on the last digit of the death registration number for that death.

Certifier Type

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date 1964

Definition The occupation of the person who certified the death.

Context The type of certifier, whether doctor or coroner, determines the process in which the cause of death is established.

Representational Attributes

Field Name CERTIFIER_TYPE

Maximum Field Length 2

Data Type Numeric

Format N

Data Domain

1 Doctor
2 Coroner
3 Unknown

Guide for Use

Administrative Attributes

Source Document Death Notification Form

Source Organisation Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and the National Coroners' Information System

Notes

Source of Cause of Death Data

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	2006
Definition	The source of cause of death information.
Context	Used to identify which organisation provided ABS with the cause of death information that was used for coding.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	COD_DATA_SOURCE
Maximum Field Length	1
Data Type	Numeric
Format	N
Data Domain	1 Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each State and Territory 2 National Coronial Information System
Guide for Use	

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Derived by the ABS
Source Organisation	Derived by the ABS
Notes	Cause of death data for Doctor Certified Deaths and unmatched coroner information is sourced from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Cause of death data for Matched Coroner Certified Deaths is sourced from the National Coroners' Information System.

Underlying Cause of Death

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	1997
Definition	The disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death. Accidental and violent deaths are classified according to the external cause, that is, to the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury rather than to the nature of the injury.
Context	Enables categorisation and classification of deaths according to cause. This information is necessary for epidemiological research and monitoring public health.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	UNDERLYING_CAUSE
Maximum Field Length	4
Data Type	Character/Numeric
Format	XNNN
Data Domain	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision (ICD-10).
Guide for Use	Underlying cause is recorded as four digits. If a particular cause does not have a four digit code, the fourth character is filled as #. For example, in the ICD-10, Parkinson's disease is coded as G20, however in the unit record file it is represented as G20#.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Doctor Certified Deaths – Medical Certificate of Cause of Death Coroner Certified Deaths – Medical certificate of cause of death, information available on the National Coronial Information System including police, toxicology, forensic pathology and coronial finding reports. - revise this?
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state and territory (Doctor Certified Deaths and Unmatched Coroner Certified Deaths) National Coronial Information System (NCIS) (Matched Coroner Certified Deaths)
Notes	The ABS codes and classifies the underlying cause of death according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision (ICD-10) rules and guidelines for mortality coding. From the 2013 reference year the ABS used Iris automated coding software managed by the German Institute of Medical Documentation and Information (DIMDI).The coding software directly interprets text and classifies all conditions reported on the death certificate to the corresponding ICD-10 code. The software also selects the underlying cause of death by application

of the ICD rules and guidelines for mortality coding.

Should a record fail automatic coding due to incorrect spelling, use of unfamiliar terms, illogical sequence of conditions or other reasons, it is coded clerically using the ICD rules and guidelines for mortality coding.

Up until the 2012 reference year the ABS used automated coding software, developed by the United States' National Centre for Health Statistics (NCCH) to process and code mortality data.

Updates to ICD-10 codes

The Update and Revision Committee (URC), a WHO advisory group on updates to ICD-10, maintains the cumulative and annual lists of approved updates to the ICD-10 classification. The updates to ICD-10 are of numerous types including the addition and deletion of codes, changes to coding instructions and modification and clarification of terms.
From the 2013 reference year, the ABS implemented a new automated coding system called Iris. The 2013-2019 data coded in the Iris system applied an updated version of the ICD-10 (2013 version for 2013 data, 2015 version for 2014-2017 data, 2016 version for 2018 data and 2019 version for 2019 and 2020 data) when coding multiple causes of death, and when selecting the underlying cause of death.

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Prior to the 2013 reference year, the 2006 version of the ICD-10 was the most recent version used for coding deaths, with the exception of two updates that were applied after the 2006 reference year. The first update was implemented in 2007 and related to the use of mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use, acute intoxication (F10.0, F11.0....F19.0) as an underlying cause of death. If the acute intoxication initiated the train of morbid events it is now assigned an external accidental poisoning code (X40-X49) corresponding to the type of drug used. For example, if the death had been due to alcohol intoxication, the underlying cause before the update was F10.0, and after the update the underlying cause is X45, with poisoning code T51.9. The second update implemented from the 2009 reference year was the addition of Influenza due to certain identified virus (J09) to the Influenza and Pneumonia block. This addition was implemented to capture deaths due to Swine flu and Avian flu, which were reaching health epidemic status worldwide.

Deaths where COVID-19 was certified on the death certificate are now included in the dataset. COVID-19 is coded to U07.1 (virus confirmed by laboratory), U07.2 (suspected COVID-19), U08.9 (personal history of COVID-19) and U09.9 (long term effects of COVID-19). Deaths where a negative COVID-19 result was noted have Z03.8 listed in the entities and racs.

The cumulative list of ICD-10 updates can be found online.

Record Axis Count

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	1997
Definition	A count of the number of causes recorded in the record axis data field after application of the ICD-10 coding rules and procedures for the selection of underlying and associated causes of death for mortality tabulation.
Context	Enables analysis of changes over time in the number of causes associated with a death.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	RECORD_AXIS_COUNT
Maximum Field Length	2
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NN
Data Domain	1-20 Number of causes mentioned on the death certificate
Guide for Use	

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Derived during ABS processes.
Source Organisation	ABS
Notes	

Record Axis Data

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	1997
Definition	The ICD-10 coded data representing all morbid conditions, diseases and injuries associated with the death as they are recorded after application of the ICD-10 coding rules and procedures for the selection of underlying and associated causes of death for mortality tabulation. Part of the process applies modification rules, improbable sequence rules and in addition duplicate codes and noise codes are removed.
Context	Inclusion of all causes associated with a death enables more detailed analysis of mortality and public health than analysis of underlying cause alone.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	RECORD_AXIS_DATA
Maximum Field Length	4
Data Type	Character/Numeric
Format	XNNN
Data Domain	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision (ICD-10).
Guide for Use	Each condition is listed in the form of the ICD-10 code..

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Doctor Certified Deaths – Medical Certificate of Cause of Death Coroner Certified Deaths– Medical certificate of cause of death, information available on the National Coronial Information System including police, toxicology, forensic pathology and coronial finding reports
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state and territory (Doctor Certified Deaths and Unmatched Coroner Certified Deaths) National Coronial Information System (NCIS) (Matched Coroner Certified Deaths)
Notes	Users should be aware that there is a quality issue with record axis codes for reference year 2009 and some record axis codes for 2011 where the number of codes is one less than the record axis count for that record. This occurs where the record axis count is 10 or greater. In 2017, the ABS undertook a pilot study to extend the range of information captured using the ICD. The main focus of this study was to incorporate codes relating to psychosocial risk factors in the coding of coroner-referred

deaths. This work has since been extended through a collaboration between the ABS, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Department of Health as part of the Suicide and Self-Harm Monitoring Project. Data is now available for 2017-2019 reference years in the form of ICD-10 codes beginning with Z. Interpretation of psychosocial data should be considered carefully in context with framework developed by the ABS based on ICD-10, available here.

Entity Axis Data

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date 1997

Definition The ICD-10 coded data representing the morbid condition, disease and injury as it appeared on the death certificate, including line and position details, prior to application of the ICD-10 coding rules and procedures for the selection of underlying and associated causes of death for mortality tabulation.

Context Enables analysis of certification practices and analysis of all causes of death as mentioned on the medical certificate of cause of death, without the influence of ICD-10 coding rules and procedures.

Representational Attributes

Field Name ENTITY_AXIS_DATA

Maximum Field Length 6

Data Type Numeric/Character/Numeric

Format NNXNNN.

Data Domain Positional coordinates representing row 1-6 and column 1-9, followed by a valid ICD-10 code.

Guide for Use Entity axis data is provided with six characters for each condition on the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD). The first two characters of each condition represent the positional coordinates, denoting the line and position in which it appeared on the MCCD. The remaining four characters indicate the ICD-10 coded condition.

As an example, consider the following extract from a MCCD:
Part I

(a) I2199
(b) I251
(c)
(d)
(e)

Part II
E119 I489 I10 E780

The Entity axis data field for this example would contain the following data:
11I2199 12I251 16E119 26I489 36I10 46E780

The positional coordinates work as if the MCCD has a matrix overlaid

	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7	Column 8
Row 1	(a) I2199							
Row 2	(b) I251							
Row 3	(c)							
Row 4	(d)							
Row 5	(e)							
Row 6	E119	I489	I10	E780				

ICD-10 codes are recorded as four digits. If the condition does not have a four digit code, the fourth character is filled as #. For example, in the ICD-10, Parkinson's disease is coded as G20, however in the unit record file it is represented as G20#.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document

Doctor Certified Deaths – Medical Certificate of Cause of Death
Coroner Certified Deaths – Reports relating to the coroners' investigation.

Source Organisation

Doctor Certified Deaths – Medical Certificate of Cause of Death
Coroner Certified Deaths– Medical certificate of cause of death, information available on the National Coronial Information System including police, toxicology, forensic pathology and coronial finding reports

Notes

Users should be aware that there is a quality issue with entity axis codes for reference years 2006 to 2010, and some entity axis codes for 2011 with entity axis codes being truncated to a limit of 10.

For an understanding of changes to the ICD-10 used for coding, see notes relating to 'Underlying Cause of Death'.

In 2017, the ABS undertook a pilot study to extend the range of information captured using the ICD. The main focus of this study was to incorporate codes relating to psychosocial risk factors in the coding of coroner-referred deaths. This work has since been extended through a collaboration between the ABS, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Department of Health as part of the Suicide and Self-Harm Monitoring Project. Data is now available for 2017-2019 reference years in the form of ICD-10 codes beginning with Z. Interpretation of psychosocial data should be considered carefully in context with framework developed by the ABS based on ICD-10 available here.

Place of Occurrence of External Cause of Death

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date 2007

Definition The place where the external mechanism leading to death occurred.

Context Enables categorisation of injury and poisoning according to factors important for injury control. Necessary for defining and monitoring injury control targets, injury costs and identifying cases for in-depth research. Potential data quality and consistency issues may exist.

Representational Attributes

Field Name PLACE_OCCURRENCE

Maximum Field Length 1

Data Type Character

Format N

Data Domain

0	Home
1	Residential Institution
2	School
3	Sports and athletics area
4	Street and highway
5	Trade and services
6	Industrial and construction area
7	Farm
8	Other specified places
9	Unspecified place
#	Place of occurrence not applicable

Guide for Use

Administrative Attributes

Source Document Doctor Certified Deaths – Medical Certificate of Cause of Death
Coroner Certified Deaths – Reports relating to the coroners' investigation.

Source Organisation Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
(Doctor Certified Deaths and Unmatched Coroner Certified Deaths)
National Coronial Information System (NCIS)
(Matched Coroner Certified Deaths)

Notes For data from 2007 to 2012, Place of Occurrence of External Cause of Death is derived from the 4th digit of the ICD-10 code assigned to deaths due to external causes, for matched coroner records. For 2013 data onwards, Place of Occurrence of External Cause of Death is coded directly from comments in the reports relating to the coroners' investigation.

Coronial Case Status Flag

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	2006
Definition	Flag to indicate whether the Coroner case was open or closed on NCIS when coded.
Context	Enables compliance with strictures that may be imposed by the data custodians regarding open coronial files.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	CASE_STATUS
Maximum Field Length	1
Data Type	Numeric
Format	N
Data Domain	0 Open 1 Closed 8 Dr Certified 9 Coroner Certified (unmatched)
Guide for Use	The coronial case status flag indicates the status of a coronial inquiry at the time the case was coded. See notes on the ABS revisions process below.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	National Coronial Information System
Source Organisation	National Coronial Information System
Notes	All coroner certified deaths registered after 1 January 2006 are now subject to a revision process. This is a change from earlier years where all ABS processing of causes of death data for a particular reference period were finalised approximately 15 months after the end of the reference period. Where insufficient information was available on NCIS to code a cause of death (e.g. a coroner certified death was yet to be finalised by the Coroner), less specific ICD-10 codes were assigned as required by the ICD-10 coding rules. The revisions process mainly impacts coroner certified deaths which remain open at the finalisation of ABS processing. The revision process is applied across the two years of data immediately preceding the current year of published data. It enables the use of additional information relating to coroner certified deaths as it becomes available over time. This may result in increased specificity of the assigned ICD-10 codes.

Traditionally, causes of death data has been released 15 months after the end of the reference period (i.e. data for the 2014 reference year was published in March 2016). The 2015 and 2016 Causes of Death publications have been released 6 months earlier (in September of the year following the end of the reference period). However, revised data has continued to be released approximately 15 months after the end of the reference period. For example, final 2013 and revised 2014 data was released in early April, 2016.

Note that inconsistencies in coding occurred for reference years 2006 to 2009. For analysis purposes, code all missing values to 8 where the certifier type is 1, and missing values to 9 where the certifier type is 2.

Local Government Area

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	2011
Definition	5-digit code denoting the Local Government Area (LGA) in which the deceased usually resided. Usual residence refers to that address at which the deceased has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year. Data for a particular reference year are coded to the corresponding year of LGA classification (eg. For 2016 reference year, the 2016 LGA classification is used).
Context	Analyses facilitated by the inclusion of geographical information include comparison of patterns of mortality and health outcomes of persons residing in different geographical areas.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	LGA_CODE
Maximum Field Length	5
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NNNNN
Data Domain	Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures, July 2016 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003)
Guide for Use	The geographic location is reported using a five digit numeric code identifying an LGA. The first digit of this code indicates the state or territory (S/T) of usual residence. The remaining four digits identify the LGA within the S/T. An LGA code is only unique if it is preceded by the S/T identifier. All LGA codes end with the digit 0.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Death Notification Form
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, coded by ABS
Notes	Usual residence is provided to the ABS by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the form of an address. This address is then coded by the ABS in accordance with the geographic classification current at the time of coding. Data for the 2016 reference years was coded using the 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001) to meshblock and SA2 level. Generally, the smaller the geographical area, the more precisely records can

be allocated to LGAs. For this reason, meshblock is the primary field used to assign LGAs to records. However, some records have sufficient address information provided to have an SA2 accurately determined, but not enough information to determine the appropriate meshblock. These records have their meshblock set to x0000009899 but have a legitimate SA2 code, and the LGA code has been derived from the SA2 for these records.

Mortality records where the deceased was listed as having no fixed address (i.e. homeless) have been assigned an LGA to reflect this. However, for some records the SA2 highlights the general region in which the person with no fixed address resided. These regions are not reflected in the LGA, however as the SA2 is provided on the URF, users are able to apply the geography standard to derive LGA if region is more pertinent than homelessness status.

Where meshblock level data is not available, dump LGA codes have been input, using SA2 special purpose code format. These codes are not available in the formal correspondence available on the ABS website, but have been input to assist data users in interpretation. As per LGA format, special purpose LGA codes begin with the state code, followed by 4 digits. Special purpose LGA codes not found in formal correspondence are as follows:

19299-99299	Overseas usual residence
19899-99899	Unknown usual residence

LGAs are an ABS approximation of officially gazetted LGAs as defined by each State and Territory Local Government Department. Data for LGAs are produced by allocating whole meshblocks to LGAs based on correspondences available from the ABS Geography Portal.

The LGA concordance has been updated for 2016 due to an error in concordance for the Hope Vale region in Queensland. This error had no effect on deaths for this period, but please note that the correct version listed in the data domain of this document should be used for LGA analyses.

Usual Residence – SEIFA Decile

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date 2018

Definition 2-digit code denoting where the deceased lived in terms of their relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage.

The Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) summarises information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area, including both relative advantage and disadvantage measures.

A **lower** score indicates relatively greater disadvantage and a lack of advantage in general. For example, an area could have a low score if there are:

- many households with low incomes, or many people in unskilled occupations, AND
- few households with high incomes, or few people in skilled occupations.

A **higher** score indicates a relative lack of disadvantage and greater advantage in general. For example, an area may have a high score if there are:

- many households with high incomes, or many people in skilled occupations, AND
- few households with low incomes, or few people in unskilled occupations.

Context These SEIFA deciles were created from Census 2016 data and represents the Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD).

Representational Attributes

Field Name SEIFA_IRSAD_DEC

Maximum Field Length 2

Data Type Numeric

Format NN

Data Domain

1 most relatively disadvantaged and least relatively advantaged decile
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10 least relatively disadvantaged and most relatively advantaged decile

If a SEIFA decile was unable to be derived for a record, it was assigned 99.

For more information refer to:
https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/2033.0.55.001

Guide for Use The SEIFA index is assigned to a geographical area, not to an individual.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document Death Notification Form

Source Organisation Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, coded by ABS

Notes Usual residence is provided to the ABS by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the form of an address. This address has been coded by the ABS in accordance with the geographic classification current at the time of coding. This data item has been concorded from Statistical Area 1 (SA1) level where possible, otherwise from the SA2.

Refer to the ABS website for more information on geography standards and correspondences.

If an Australian usual residence has not been provided, the SEIFA decile value will be set to 99 i.e. the deceased's usual residence is overseas, the deceased does not have a usual address, such as in the cases of long-term travellers or homeless people, when a deceased person's usual address is unknown (e.g.in transit to Australia or whilst on board vessels, oil rigs or other structures in Australian waters).

Usual Residence – Remoteness Area

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	2018
Definition	2-digit code denoting where the deceased lived in terms of their relative access to services.
Context	These Remoteness Areas were created from Census 2016 data and are based on the Accessibility and Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+).

Representational Attributes

Field Name	REMOTENESS_AREA
Maximum Field Length	2
Data Type	Numeric
Format	NN
Data Domain	The first digit represents the State or Territory, and for the second digit: 0 Major cities of Australia 1 Inner regional Australia 2 Outer regional Australia 3 Remote Australia 4 Very Remote Australia 5 Migratory – Offshore – Shipping 9 No usual address For more information refer to: 1270.0.55.005 - Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure, July 2016 (abs.gov.au)
Guide for Use	Remoteness Area is assigned to a geographical area, not to an individual.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Death Notification Form
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, coded by ABS
Notes	Usual residence is provided to the ABS by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the form of an address. This address has been coded by the ABS in accordance with the geographic classification current at the time of coding. This data item has been concorded from meshblock, and if meshblock did not yield a valid remoteness area, from SA2 level. Refer to the ABS website for more information on geography standards and correspondences.

If an Australian usual residence has not been provided, the Remoteness Area value will be set to 9 i.e. the deceased's usual residence is overseas, the deceased does not have a usual address, such as in the cases of long-term travellers or homeless people, when a deceased person's usual address is unknown (e.g.in transit to Australia or whilst on board vessels, oil rigs or other structures in Australian waters).

Place of Death

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Start Date	2019
End Date	2019
Definition	1-digit code denoting the location or setting in which an individual died.
Context	The Place of Death classification has been developed by the ABS as part of a pilot study. As it was a pilot study the Place of Death variable is available for the 2019 dataset only. For more information refer to the information paper Classifying Place of Death in Australian Mortality Statistics published on the ABS website.

Representational Attributes

Field Name	PLACE_OF_DEATH
Maximum Field Length	1
Data Type	Numeric
Format	N
Data Domain	1 Home/residence 2 Residential aged care facility 3 Hospital/medical service area 8 Other 9 Unspecified
Guide for Use	

Administrative Attributes

Source Document	Death Notification Form or Medical Certificate of Cause of Death
Source Organisation	Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, coded by ABS
Notes	Information on place of death is provided to the ABS by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in free text form. The ABS applied a hierarchical coding model to progressively assess the free text provided against relevant metadata, for example, a list of services subsidised under the Aged Care Act 1997. Where input data was limited and could not be directly matched to a particular facility, decisions were made about the default category. Place of Death data should be interpreted with consideration to how the framework has been applied.

Further information

Comprehensive explanatory notes and technical information relating to Causes of Death data can be found in the Causes of Death, Australia (cat. no 3303.0) suite of products on the ABS website.