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

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Overview

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

• 2014 formation of the National Civil Registration and Statistics Improvement Committee (Australian CRVS committee)
• First task of this committee was agreement on a National Minimum Dataset for births, deaths and causes of death
• NMDS covered key data items, question wording and focussed on maintaining consistency/harmonisation over time
• NMDS has proven useful especially as jurisdictions make system changes and changes to collection instruments
Collection of data from the RBDMs is under Census & Statistics Act, providing authority to collect and protection of data.

MOUs negotiated with each RBDM covering data collected – referenced back to National Minimum Dataset.

Work undertaken to ensure alignment between ABS legislation and RBDM legislation from a data provision/collection perspective.
Extending partnership to support data use

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