

Leanne Daking  
Quality Assurance Manager  
National Coroners Information System (NCIS)

## **“The challenges of collecting and disseminating indigenous data from the coronial system”**

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Safety Promotion Strategy seeks to reduce the incidence and harm of injury to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples.

In order to accurately assess the outcomes of the strategy and related actions, it is essential to have both the baseline and progressive data which provides details about injury issues facing this community. The data held within the coronial system is often the best and only method of identifying fatal injury deaths in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples. In turn the National Coroners Information System (NCIS) is the best source of national coronial data.

However, there are many challenges associated with the accurate collection of indigenous data in regard to the investigation of deaths. In addition issues surrounding the release of this data to researchers and government agencies in a way that respects the unique sensitivities can often be just as important.

This presentation aims to outline the major issues encountered by death investigators and the NCIS when collecting and disseminating data relating to indigenous fatalities and to suggest initiatives that may minimise these issues or complications in the future.

The key messages I hope to convey include:

- The main issues or problems associated with the method of data collection;
- Concerns regarding the quality of the available data; and
- Issues both ethical and cultural which surround the provision/release of the data

Further discussion and presentation conclusions will focus on the identified initiatives being undertaken to address some of the discussed key issues and the possible future role of the coronial data in monitoring the mortality and even the morbidity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples.