

**Question:**

The Hon CATHERINE CUSACK asked: With the child deaths that you are investigating, that you are matching up with a death certificate, do all of those children identified as indigenous on the death certificates also have birth certificates or are you finding there is a gap there?

**Response:**

Yes. All the children identified as indigenous in the period 1996 to 2005 on their death certificate, had a birth certificate.

**Question:**

The Hon CATHERINE CUSACK asked: What is the extent of the discrepancy between indigenous status recorded on these birth certificates and the death certificates and how is it decreasing? Also how many death certificates are there where there is not a birth certificate also?

**Response:**

All the children identified as indigenous in the period 1996 to 2005 on their death certificate, had a birth certificate. In some cases, the birth certificate did not state that the child was indigenous.

The CDRT has noted the discrepancy between indigenous status on birth and death certificates only for those cases it has studied in detail. The Team has not looked routinely for this discrepancy for every child who died.

Based on those the Team has studied, it seems that this discrepancy occurs only in a small minority of cases.

From the work the Team has done, I am unable to suggest a reason for any change in the rate of discrepancy.

**Question:**

Ms MARIE ANDREWS asked: Has any research been undertaken in relation to drownings of children and young people in ponds located in public parks, and if so, have any recommendations been made?

**Response:**

National and international research consistently points to swimming pools, beaches and rivers and bath tubs as the most common locations for childhood drownings.

I have not been able to locate any research on the issue of drownings in ponds located in public parks.

**Question:**

The Hon CATHERINE CUSACK asked: With regard to deaths and injuries of children in motor vehicle accidents, has there been adequate study on the problem as a basis for policies and regulations on booster seats and seat belts for children, and are the regulations to come into force next year the right solution for the problem?

**Response:**

There has been a great deal of research on these issues in Australia and elsewhere.

The proposed regulations are consistent with the research findings. There may need to be some additional consideration given to the issue of how disadvantaged families can obtain the necessary equipment.

If the Committee is interested in finding out more about the evidence, I suggest you contact Dr Lynne Bilston at the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute at the University of New South Wales.

**Question:**

The Hon CATHERINE CUSACK asked: In relation to youth suicides, has there been any study of boys who are apparently succeeding on all fronts, but who are nonetheless suffering from depression?

**Response:**

I have not been able to locate any national or international research on this issue.

You may find it helpful to seek the advice of Dr Michael Dudley, a Senior Staff Specialist in Psychiatry at Sydney Children's Hospital. Dr Dudley is also chairperson of Suicide Prevention Australia.

**Question:**

The Hon CARMEL TEBBUTT asked: With regard to the coronial definition of the SIDS category, has there been any progress with aligning the definition employed by NSW Coroner with that of the NSW Department of Health, so that national and international comparisons can be made?

**Response:**

I am seeking advice from the Coroner on this issue and I expect to receive that advice before the end of April 2008.

I will advise the Committee further once that advice is received.