

**“Indigenous Mortality Data: Views of a NAGATSIHID Member”
Professor Ian Ring, University of Wollongong**

Abstract:

You could say that I am a member of NAGATSIHID, but I am not necessarily representing the views of NAGATSIHID (which includes ABS, AIHW, DoHA and others) as NAGATSIHID has not had an opportunity to discuss some of the issues I will raise.

So the comments I will be making are my personal views.

Bio:

Professor Ian Ring is a Professorial Fellow at the Centre for Health Service Development, at Wollongong University, and was previously Head of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at James Cook University, Principal Medical Epidemiologist and Executive Director, Health Information Branch, at Queensland Health, and Foundation Director of the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute at the Australian National University.

He has been a Member of the Board of the Australian Institute of Health, Member of the Council of the Public Health Association and the Australian Epidemiological Association. He was the Elkington Orator for the Qld Branch of PHA in 1992, and was awarded the Sidney Sax medal by JCU in 2001. His current interests include public health aspects of cardiovascular disease and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

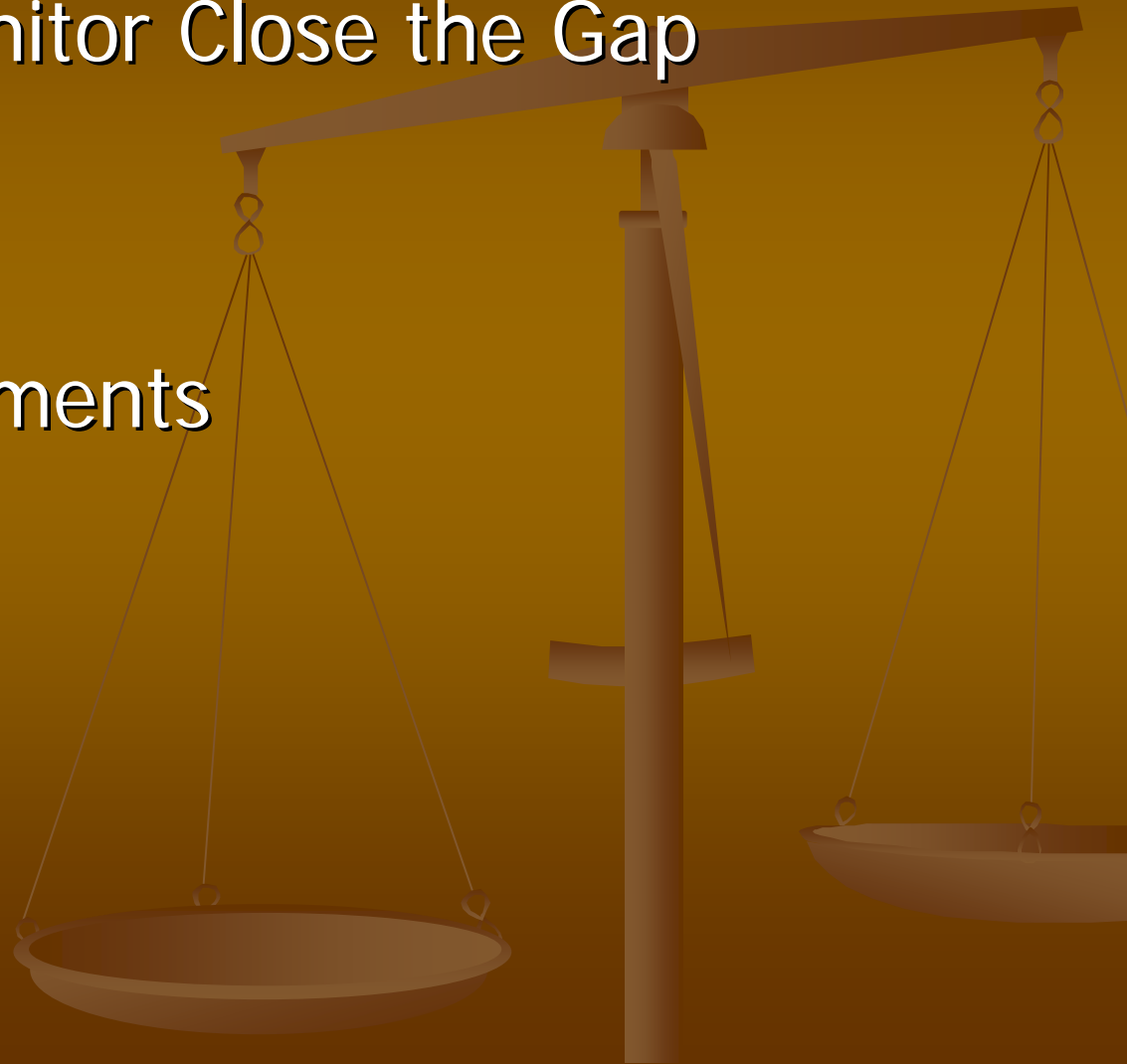


Indigenous mortality data

The views of a NAGATSIHID
member

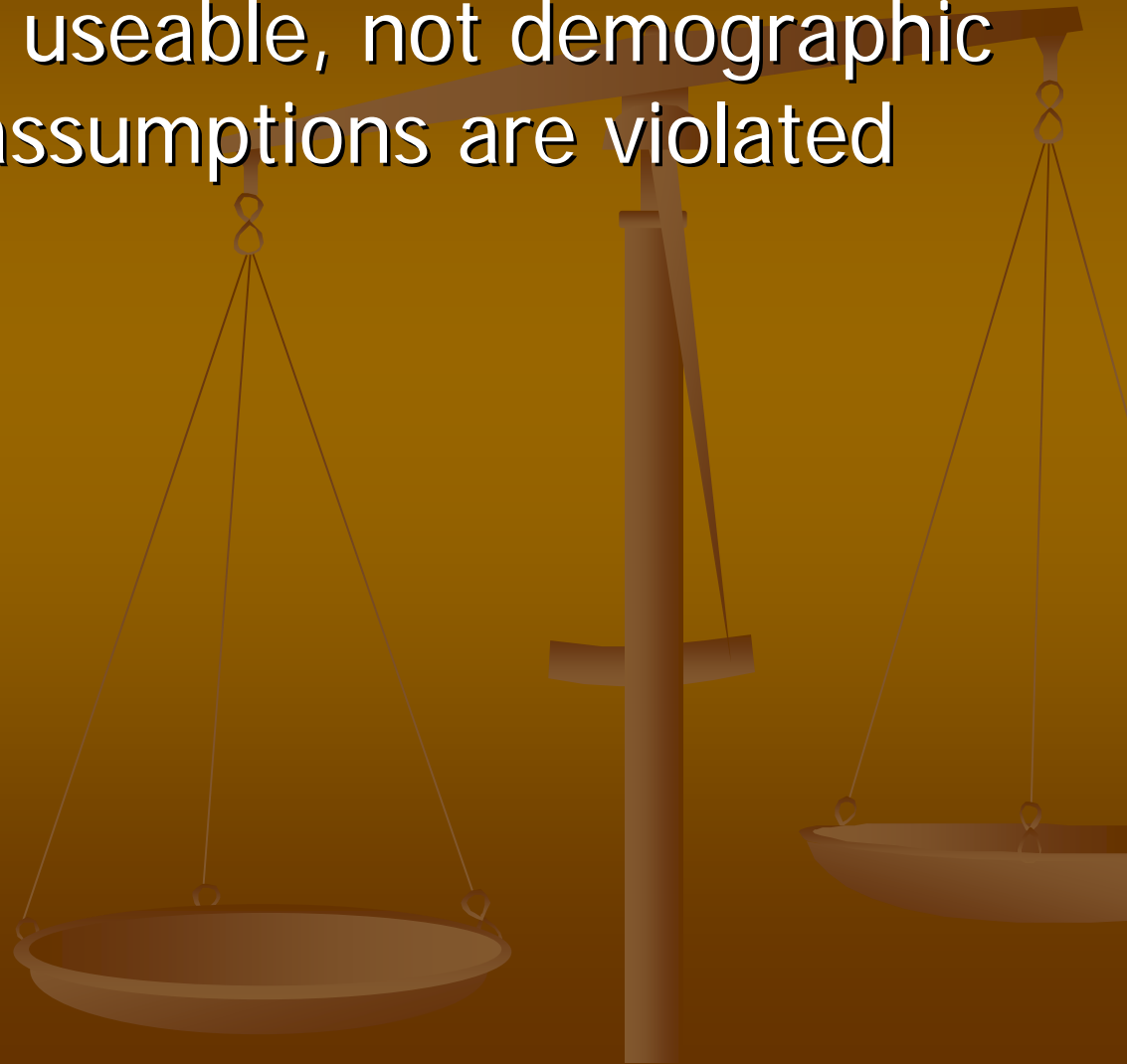
Indigenous mortality data

- Essential to monitor Close the Gap
- Life expectancy
- Child mortality
- Recent developments
- Way forward



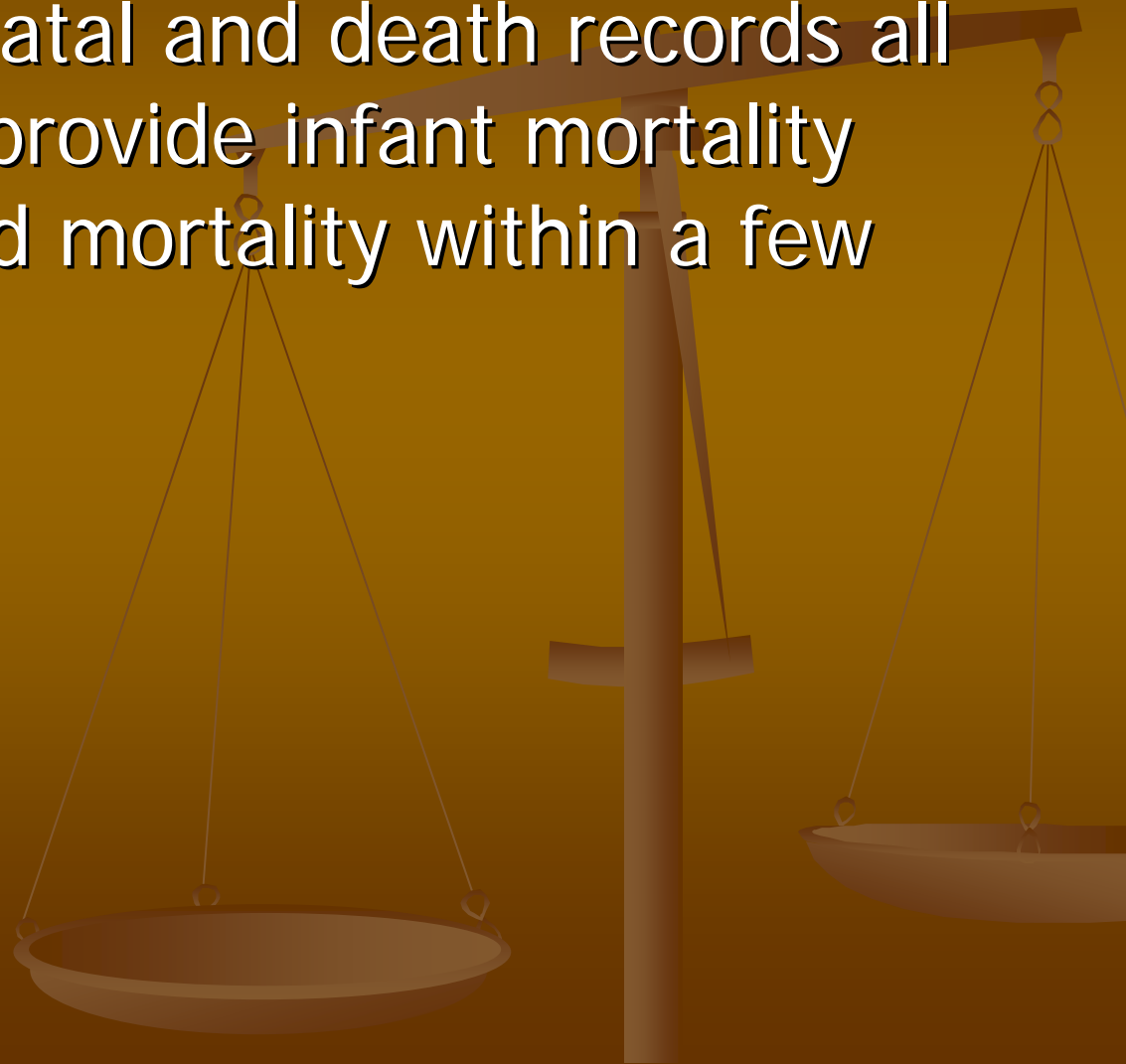
Monitoring Close the Gap – life expectancy

- Use data that is useable, not demographic models whose assumptions are violated



Monitoring Close the Gap – child mortality

- Link birth, perinatal and death records all jurisdictions to provide infant mortality initially and child mortality within a few years

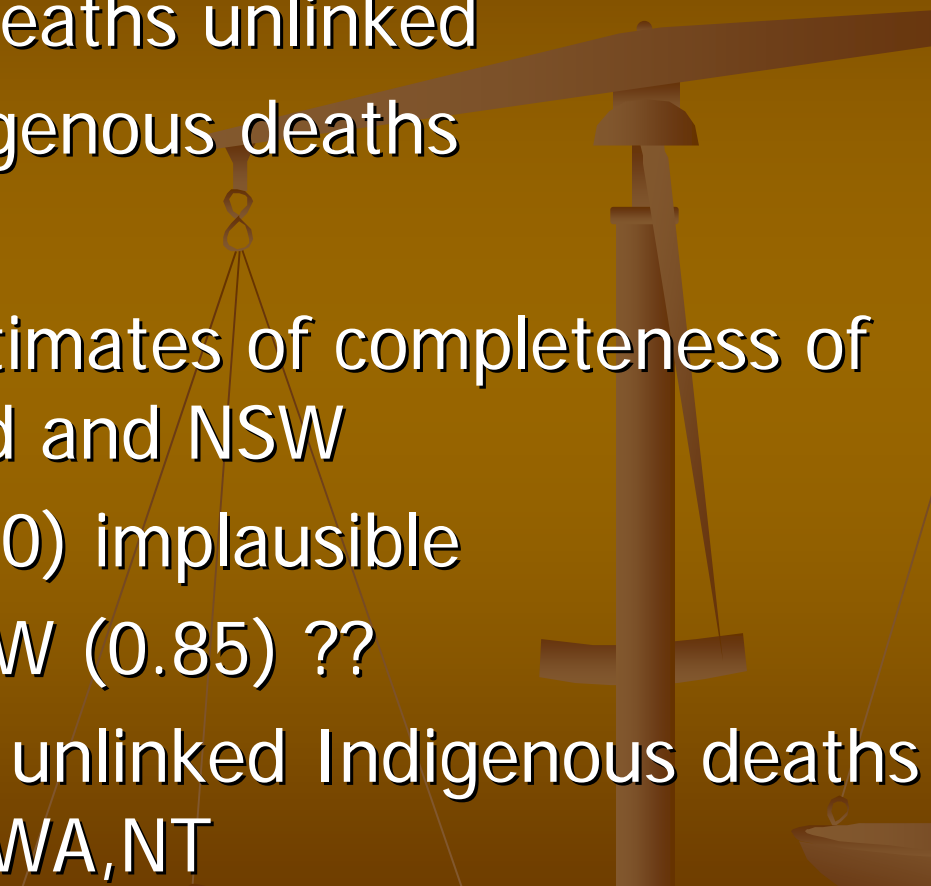


Recent developments

- Barnes, Smith
- Census/mortality linkage
- Discussion paper

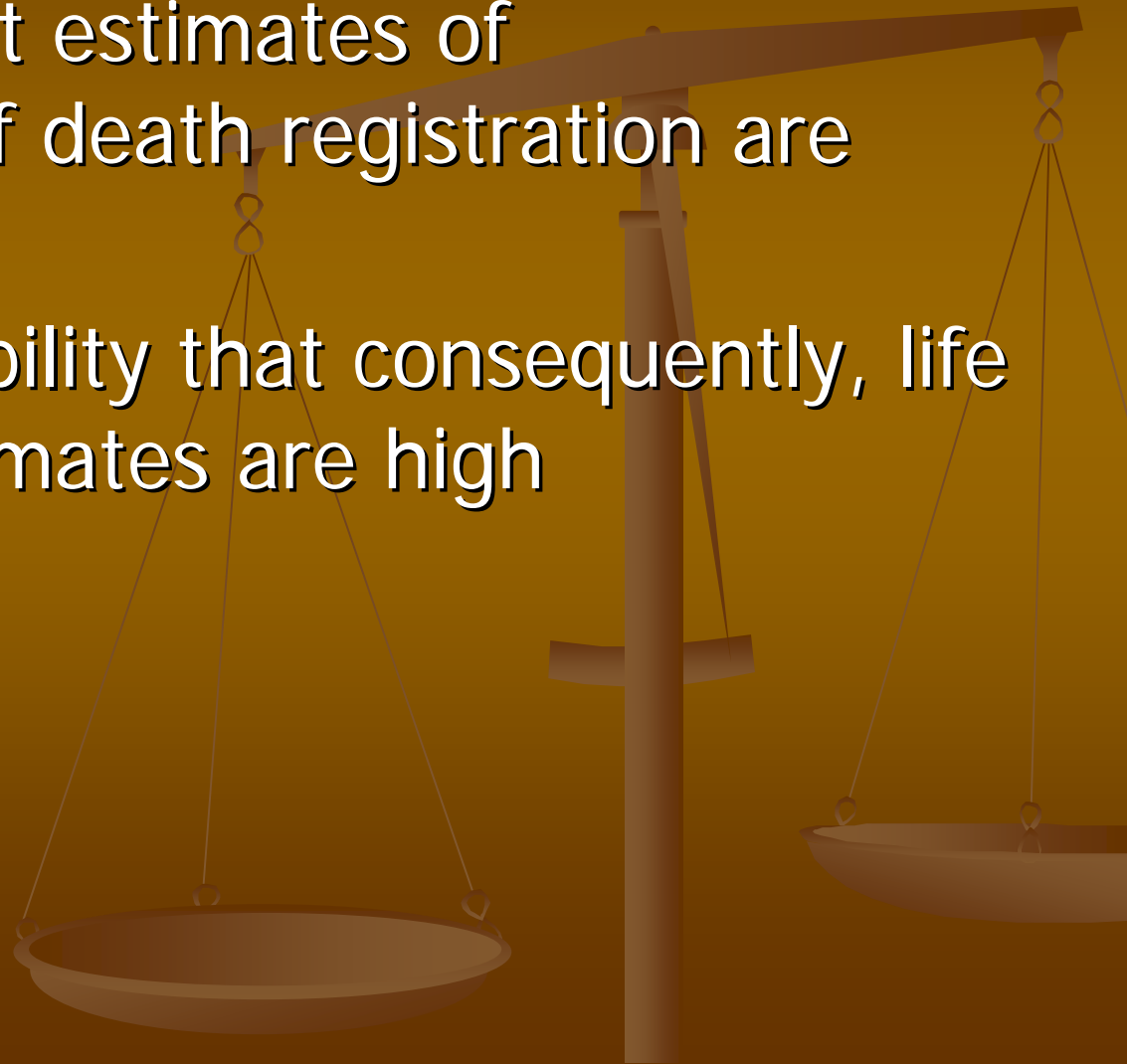


Discussion paper issues

- 26% Indigenous deaths unlinked
 - Unlinked non-Indigenous deaths
 - PES questions
 - Face validity of estimates of completeness of NT, WA and ?? Qld and NSW
 - NT (1.09), WA (1.10) implausible
 - Qld (0.93) and NSW (0.85) ??
 - Note link between unlinked Indigenous deaths and implausibility WA, NT
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Discussion paper estimates

- May well be that estimates of completeness of death registration are high
- At least a possibility that consequently, life expectancy estimates are high



Way forward



- Accountability – ABS, AIHW jurisdictions
- ABS to lead a national effort on vitals
- Jurisdiction –specified levels of completeness
- ? Link ABS surveys and death records to get alternative estimates of completeness of identification of Aboriginality on death records
- Increase scale of linkage project next census
- AIHW linkage project
- Other – review methods of estimating completeness of reporting death records