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1. Introduction

This document describes the BDM Registrations Deaths dataset.

2. Death Registrations

2.1 Summary

This database is an index of death records between 1845 and 1993 from the registers of the South Australian Birth, Deaths and Marriages Registrars Head Office.

Note: Genealogy SA holds index records for deaths registered in 1842, 1843 and 1844 however they are yet to be added into this online database. This work is planned to be completed mid-2024.

2.2 Coverage

Coverage is deaths from 1 January 1845 to 31 July 1993.

2.3 Source

From the District Registers of the South Australian Birth, Deaths and Marriages Registrar.

2.4 Additional information

2.4.1 Details/Fields

The Index contains core details from the registers with the Certificates holding additional information. More detail has been recorded on certificates over the years. Use the table below to see what details are available in the index data and when that data was first collected.

Detail / Field	Year of appearance
Date of death	1842
Name	1842
Gender	1842
Age	1842
Usual residence	1842
Place of death	1842
Relative (usually the Informant)	1842
Marital status	1968
Name of spouse	1968

Note that original Certificate holds additional content. A table of the details available on the Certificates over the years can be found on our website [here](#). More information about Certificates can be found in section 2.4.3 of this document.

In addition to the fields from the Certificate, we also include in the Index dataset:

- *Book/Register Number and Page Number* – which book and page the entry was recorded in
- *District* – which District the death was recorded in
- *Notes* – additional useful information provided by the BDM Registrar or Genealogy SA staff when collating the data. An example might be the Spouse, Occupation, or Age if less than 1 year.

2.4.2 Important Notes

- The *Relatives* field for records up from 1 January 1973 contains the names of up to 3 spouses. However for records before 1973, this field contains the name of a relative (any relationship to the person) or the informant.
- *District* is not available in the Index for records from 1 January 1973 but is available on Certificates for all time periods.
- Where the age of the person is less than 1 year (ie, months, weeks, days, minutes) the Age will appear as zero (0). In these cases, the recorded age can be found in the *Notes* field.
- *Marital Status* is set to 'C' for Child for persons aged under 16 years.

2.4.3 Certificates

Genealogy SA holds copies of the original District Registration Certificates for Births, Deaths, and Marriages from which this index entry was derived. The original Certificates hold additional information that many researchers find valuable. The Certificate information content varies according to when it was created and [you can see tables here](#) showing what you can expect to see.

However, Genealogy SA is not permitted by law to provide an image copy of these original Certificates, but we can provide a transcription of the Certificate. You can request a transcription of the Certificate via the detailed results page of your search and following the instructions under “Want More Information?” section.

Please note, transcriptions of death certificates are available for the period up to, and for most of, 1989, with the cut off being deaths recorded in 883A. There will be 1989 deaths in book 884A but we only have index details for these as we have not been provided certificates from that book onwards.

3. Versions

This is the second update to the BDM Registrations of Deaths dataset since it was first created. The updates are outlined below, and the action taken, where available, is provided for each update.

1. 04/09/2017: Original conversion for MPCviewer. Coverage from 1845 to 1972.
2. 03/10/2017: Added 'missing deaths'.
3. 22/01/2024: Added records from 1973 to 1993.

3.1 Version M-20170904

Table T_RDeath: records 605,992

- Original conversion for MPCviewer.
- Coverage from 1845 to 1972.

3.2 Version M-20171003

Table T_RDeath: records 606,099

- Added 107 records known as the 'missing deaths' from the MiscDB.
- Coverage: various years

3.3 Version M-20240122

Table T_RDeath: records 811,843

- Added 211,744 records.
- Coverage from 1973 to 1993.