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Lookups for Non-Members - before you ask for a lookup please remember that fields displaying the wording "(members only)" **doesn't necessarily mean that it contains information for that field in that database.** You can request one of our researchers to research further for you which may/may not produce further information. For this you will need to ask for a research request - [click here](#)

Lookups for Members - before you ask for a lookup please remember that if a displayed field is **BLANK it means that there is no further information available for that field in that database.** You can request one of our researchers to research further for you which may/may not produce further information. For this you will need to ask for a research request - [click here](#)

## 1. Introduction

This document describes the Newspaper - Deaths (NP-Deaths) dataset.

## 2. Newspaper - Deaths

### 2.1 Summary

This database contains records representing a death notice in a newspaper. This includes notices in the category of Deaths, Funerals, Tributes & Condolences, In Memoriam, Lest We Forget and Mind Mass.

### 2.2 Coverage

Overall record coverage is from 1839 to December 2020 with varying degrees of coverage as detailed below.

- Good coverage: 1972 through to December 2020.
- Sparse coverage: 1839 to 1954, 1970, 1971.
- No records currently loaded for 1955 to 1969.

## 2.3 Source

From The Advertiser, Sunday Mail, and various country newspapers. Includes various early publications in the Blair Card Index and the David Gibson Death Index (see below).

Records from the Blair Card Index (compiled by Robert Blair) contain only a limited amount of information. However, this information is expanded by the card which is also shown on the record form.

The David Gibson Death Index (compiled by David Gibson) are records of death accounts published in various newspapers. Details of the persons death include location, age, cause of death and, where recorded, a brief description of what happened.

The Ian Shillabeer Western Australia newspaper index (compiled by Ian Shillabeer) are transcriptions of notices (Deaths, Funerals, Burials and Memorials) published in the West Australian newspaper. Some records relate to deaths during WWI and may indicate if Killed in Action (KIA), Died of Wounds (DOW) and occasionally provides a location.

Except where otherwise indicated these collections were transcribed & composed by Genealogy SA volunteers.

## 2.4 Volume

There are 1,896,251 records in this dataset version, up from 1,850,646.

## 2.5 Additional information

### Fields

- *Other Names* recorded where available. Includes alternate, maiden and previously known as names.
- *Age* is age at death in years. May be expanded on in *Notes* field.
- *Event Date* is the date of death, date of funeral, date of memorial.
- *Publication Date* is the date the newspaper was published.
- *Source* is the name of the newspaper at the time of publication.
- *Notes* record other information taken from the notice, eg Date of Birth, photo was published, alternate names, etc.

### Other

- A record appears for each time a notice of any type was published in the newspaper. Sometimes this can be multiple days in a row and sometimes multiple types of notice (eg Death and Funeral).
- Within the Notes field, the records from the David Gibson Index will, where recorded, provide an abbreviated form of:
  1. Cause of Death: descriptions of these can be found in *Appendix A Cause of Death Abbreviations*.
  2. Miscellaneous abbreviations or annotations: descriptions for these can be found in *Appendix B Miscellaneous Abbreviations / Annotations / Info*.

## 3. Versions

This is the latest of several updates to the Newspaper - Deaths dataset since it was first created in 2016. The updates are outlined below, and the action taken, where available, is provided for each update.

1. 27/08/2016: Original conversion for MPCviewer. Coverage up to Dec 2015.
2. 12/11/2017: Added records from Adelaide Morning Chronical and Gladstone Areas Express.
3. 24/06/2018: Added records from Blair Card Index.
4. 03/09/2018: Added records from Mortuary Returns.
5. 28/10/2018: Added records predominantly covering from Sep 2015 to Dec 2017
6. 02/12/2018: Added records from Southern Cross covering 1899 to 1954.
7. 14/02/2022: Added Deaths and Tributes & Condolences for 2018, Funerals for 2011 and 2019.
8. 28/06/2024: Added records predominantly covering 2019 and 2020.
9. 08/08/2025: Added records from the David Gibson Death Index covering from 1839 to 1983.
10. 14/11/2025: Added records from the Ian Shillabeer collection covering notices published from 1880 to 1915.

**3.1 Version M-20160827**

Original conversion from Excel Master files. Coverage is all records collected up until December 2015.

**3.2 Version M-20171112**

Added records from Adelaide Morning Chronical and Gladstone Areas Express. Normalised Source names and Ages. Member feedback update.

**3.3 Version M-20180624**

Added records from Blair Card Index notices. General normalisation and correction of existing records. Member feedback update.

**3.4 Version M-20180903**

Added records from Mortuary Returns from The Register.

**3.5 Version M-20181028**

Added records as follows:

- Death Sep2015-Dec2017
- Funeral Sep2015-Dec2017
- Mind Mass Sep2015-May2017
- In Memoriam Oct2015-May2017
- Birthday Memoriam Oct2015-Nov2016
- Return Thanks Oct2015-May2017
- Tributes & Condolences Jun2017-Dec2017

**3.6 Version M-20181202**

Added records from Death, Memoriam, Funeral and Obituary notices in the Southern Cross for the period 1899 to 1954 (Collated by Neville Bottger).

**3.7 Version M-20220214**

Added records from the Advertiser as follows:

- Deaths 2018
- Funerals 2011 and 2019
- Tributes and Condolences 2018

**3.8 Version M-20240628**

Added records as follows:

- Deaths 2019 and 2020, excluding June 2019
- Funerals 2019 and 2020, excluding June 2019
- Tributes & Condolences 2019 and 2020, excluding June 2019

**3.9 Version M-20250808**

Added records from David Gibson's Death notices in various newspapers covering the period 1839 to 1983 with varying levels of coverage.

**3.10 Version M-20251114**

Added records from the Ian Shillabeer collection covering notices published in the West Australian newspaper from 1880 to 1915.

## Appendix A – Cause of Death Abbreviations

Death records from the David Gibson Index will, where recorded, provide an abbreviated form of the Cause of Death. This table provides the description for those abbreviations.

Abbreviation	Meaning
A	Accident
AA	Aircraft accident
AM/S	Attempted murder then suicide
B	Bullock
Buckboard	Chevrolet utility vehicle or ute
BVA	Bullock Vehicle Accident
CA	Death caused by criminal action
CD	Contagious disease (unspecified)
Chlorodyne	Mixture laudanum, tincture of cannabis and chloroform
CNS	Could not swim
COD	Cause of death or certificate of death
D	Drowned
DOW	Died of wounds
DS	Double suicide
FS	Fractured skull
GSW	Gun shot wound
H	Horse
Heatstroke	Heat apoplexy
HO	Head on (i.e. collision)
HR	Hit and run
IEEC	Incapable exercising effective control (of motor vehicle) i.e. drunk
IQ	Inquest
KI	Killed instantly
KIA	Killed in action
Lysol	Disinfectant with Quaternary Ammonium salts
M/S	Murder then suicide
MVA	Motor Vehicle Accident
MVC	Motor Vehicle Collision
open (Verdict)	IQ agreed as to cause of death but unsure on circumstance surrounding subject's demise
P	Poison or Poisoning
Pertussis	Whooping cough
PG	Poison gas
Rough on Rats	Arsenic based rodenticide
S	Suicide
S?	No evidence to state of mind (E.g. Drowning - decided swimming or slipped into water)
T	Tram or Train
TA	Train or tram accident (Glenelg tram start 1929)
TB	Tuberculosis
WA	Workplace accident
WW1	World War One

**Appendix B – Miscellaneous Abbreviations / Annotations / Info**

Death records from the David Gibson Index will, where recorded, provide miscellaneous abbreviations or annotations. This table provides the description for those abbreviations.

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
# at Name end	Omission or serious error on S.A.G.H.S record
*	Subject on designated vehicle ie motorcycle*
A.A.S.C	Australian Army Service Corp
A.E.S.C.	Adelaide Electric Supply Company
A.N.A	Australian National Airlines
bro	Brother
Mortuary Returns	People with no relatives in S.A., or of transient residency and born outside S.A.
O.B.I.	Our Boy's Institute
res.	Residence
S.A.R	South Australian Railways
TB??	Bedford Park Military Consumptive's Sanatorium
v/v	Christian name switch in records