COVID-19 and CRVS
the show must go on!

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 Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages,
 General Manager, Services and Access

30 June 2020

Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs

New Zealand Government
New Zealand Context
New Zealand Context

Population of 5 million – annually 60,000 births, 30,000 migrants become citizens, 30,000 deaths

Over last 7 years moved to 95% births and deaths registered online. MCCD fully online last year.

1506 COVID cases, 22 deaths, 0 cases (at 15 June 2020)

Prime Minister Ardern – “Flattening the Curve”
Maintaining high registration levels

• Civil registration deemed an ‘essential service’ under any emergency situation
• Business Continuity Plans in place and updated for pandemic response in February
• Understood staffing capacity needed to maintain core services
• Before lockdown started clearing work queues and split teams as infections increased
• Pushed stakeholders and customers online
• During lockdown maintained split teams and 2metre desk distancing. Stopped non-essential tasks.
Growth of online MCCD

Certificates completed on-line compared to total deaths certified on HP4720 certificates as at 18/6/2020

(May 2020 total HP4720 deaths is an estimate based on 2019 deaths in the same month)
Responding to the crisis

• Registrar General a key member of the COVID-19 Mass Fatality Response Team
• Daily reporting of all NZ deaths to predict storage capacity problems
• New database of all funeral directors and their storage capacity
• Daily reporting of storage occupancy and staff availability
• Regular e-newsletter to funeral directors
• Online MCCD reporting - www.deathdocs.services.govt.nz

Longer-term benefits
• Now have weekly death statistics on the StatsNZ website – administrative data at its best!
• Now have complete dataset for funeral sector with regular updating through to industry body
• Significant uptake of online DeathDocs, changes to delivery – appointment only and cash-free
Daily reporting to Mass Fatality Response Team

Data as at: Tuesday, 12 May 2020

Please be aware of the following caveats:
- Daily Registrations and Estimates will change over time as DIA and MoH are notified of Deaths. Estimates are expected to increase the most during the first 3 days from Date of Death, stabilising 5 days from Date of Death. We are currently looking into alternative methods of calculating Estimates.
- The data provided has been collated to the best of our ability and may have a small variance to any alternative publications.
- Death Estimates is based on the average daily variance (1st Jan 2020 - 17 Mar 2020) between Online Death Documents and Death Registrations Received by day of the week.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>22-Apr</th>
<th>23-Apr</th>
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Now weekly StatsNZ data – not quarterly
Plan not needed – curve flattened

Cases and deaths – 25 February to 15 June
(source Wikipedia)
Key lessons

• Ensure business continuity plans always up-to-date.
• Online, cloud-based systems give resilience in a crisis.
• Important to have civil registration categorised as an essential service in emergency plans and legislation.
• Administrative data can be provided quickly, is hugely valuable and popular with the public.
• Never miss the opportunity that a crisis brings.
Questions?