

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: civil registration, vital statistics and statelessness statistics

Document E/CN.3/2022/9 – Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the UN Legal Identity Agenda – Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Statement provided by:

Australia

Statement:

Thank you Chair,

Distinguished delegates, Australia welcomes the Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the UN Legal Identity Agenda – Civil Registration and Vital Statistics and expresses its support for the work and activities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/WHO Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment.

In common with other member states mortality data is of utmost importance to Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic. Australia has data from death registrations and has, during COVID-19, introduced a new provisional data series providing monthly mortality statistics covering all deaths certified by doctors. This new series is part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) responsiveness to provide information to understand and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

Australian provisional mortality statistics are released 2-3 months after the deaths occur. The reporting lag is because deaths are only registered after burial or cremation, it takes time to finalise registrations and report them to the ABS, and for the ABS to process the data and code causes of death. The ABS is currently discussing ways to improve the timeliness of reporting with data custodians. Options include providing new, targeted preliminary data and longer-term system changes.

Australia code COVID-19 related deaths according to rules from WHO and publish a range of information on COVID-19 deaths including demographics, comorbidities, consequences of the virus and socio-economic status. The ABS will be releasing an excess mortality report at the end of March 2022.

Australia notes, contrary to what is stated in document E/CN.3/2022/13 – Report of the World Health Organization on health statistics: strengthening statistical systems to track the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, excess mortality estimates scheduled for publication in December 2021 have not yet been released.

We seek clarification on when the WHO report containing comparable country estimates of excess mortality will be published. The report would provide valuable and much sort-after international comparisons for Australia. We encourage WHO to publish them as a matter of priority.

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: civil registration, vital statistics and statelessness statistics

Document E/CN.3/2022/9 – Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the UN Legal Identity Agenda – Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

<i>Submitted on:</i>	2/25/2022