

Suicidal Client

WI.Co.W.20.01

For clients who show signs of suicidal behaviour, or inflicting self-harm

If a client shows signs of suicidal behaviour or there is an indication of self-harm, the following procedure must be followed.

Carer Procedure

If you are concerned that a client's behaviour indicates they are contemplating suicide or there are signs that cause you to be concerned about the possibility of suicide, call the Office to speak to an Assessment Officer or Manager. They will guide you through the questions to ask, information to be gathered.

Office Procedure

Ask the carer if they are confident to ask the following questions to determine the urgency of the situation.

- Do you have a suicide plan?
- Do you have what you need to carry out your plan? (eg gun, pills etc) MEANS
- Do you know when you intend to carry out your plan?
- Are you intending to commit suicide?

The following action can then be taken depending on the urgency of the situation.

- Call Access Line (1800 636 825)
- Older Persons Mental Health (03 5722 1784)
- Contact a family member / to advise them of the situation
- Contact an Ambulance to transport the client to hospital if contact not available.
- If a client is in the process of inflicting harm to themselves and/or someone else, call the Police on 000

Staff are NOT to transport a client who is showing suicidal or self-harm behaviour.

Helpful website: www.helpguide.org/articles/suicide-prevention