



MAHI MIHINARE
ANGLICAN ACTION

Suicidal Persons Policy

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October 2013

SUICIDAL PERSONS POLICY

PURPOSE

It is the policy of Anglican Action to ensure that any threat or indication of suicide, or attempted suicide by a client, visitor or fellow staff member is taken seriously and responded to immediately and in an appropriate manner.

PROCEDURES

- ☒ If a person discloses suicidal ideation, believe them and take them seriously.

- ☒ Listen to what they have to say, allow them to do the talking. Remain calm and understanding. Do not react with shock to anything you are told.

- ☒ If you feel unable to respond appropriately to the suicidal person, AND THEY ARE NOT IN A CRISIS SITUATION, then attempt to identify along with the suicidal person, who their support people are.

- ☒ It may also be appropriate to involve the Missioner or qualified counselling staff in discussion with the suicidal person. It is important to ensure the suicidal person is comfortable with this first.

- ☒ Check with the suicidal person if they have a plan and the means to carry it out. If so, ALERT SOMEBODY ELSE, a support person for example.

- ☒ SUICIDAL TENDENCIES, THOUGHTS OR BEHAVIOUR ARE NOT TO BE KEPT SECRET.

In the event of a crisis situation:

- ☒ If a person or staff member presents in an agitated state and is threatening suicide or has attempted it then the following emergency procedures must be applied:
 - ☒ The person is not, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, to be left alone.

 - ☒ Another staff member is to call the Psychiatric Emergency Team (Rapid Response) 0800 505 050, and an ambulance if this is appropriate.

 - ☒ The Missioner will provide assistance to the staff member dealing with the suicidal person.

 - ☒ If the person who is threatening suicide implies any threat to the safety of the staff the situation now becomes a violent and dangerous client situation.

 - ☒ After a situation has been dealt with staff involved are to be encouraged to take time to talk together and de-brief. Staff are to be encouraged to admit feeling afraid if this is accurate for them.

 - ☒ Staff will be available to give police statements if this is appropriate.

 - ☒ Pastoral care and counselling will be offered to staff members involved in a suicide incident.

☒ Counselling sessions will be available to any staff member experiencing significant trauma after offering assistance to a suicidal person in accordance with this policy.

☒ All incidents of suicide, or threatened or implied suicide, are to be documented in the Critical Incident Register and passed on to the Missioner for filing.

RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

☒ Violent Persons Policy

☒ Critical Incident Register