

Appendix 6 — Suicide classification model

The suicide classification model is used to classify all cases of suspected suicide into one of three levels of certainty.⁸⁹ In classifying these deaths, the QFCC considers a number of factors, including whether intent was stated previously, the presence of a suicide note, witnesses to the event, previous suicide attempts and any significant precipitating factors or life stressors.

Information used to classify suicide certainty is based on data available to the QFCC at the time of reporting. Information is gathered from numerous records, including the Police Report of Death to a Coroner (Form 1), additional information requested from police (including the contents of suicide notes), autopsy and toxicology report, child protection system records and coronial findings.

Levels of classification are as follows:

- **Confirmed:** The available information refers to at least one significant factor that constitutes a virtually certain level of suicide classification, or coronial investigations have found that the death was a suicide.
- **Probable:** The available information is not sufficient for a judgement of confirmed, but is consistent more with death by suicide than with death by any other means. Risk factors for suicide have been identified and/or the method and circumstances surrounding the death are such that intent may be inferred.
- **Possible/undetermined:** The police have indicated (on the Form 1) that the case is a suspected suicide or the QFCC identified the possibility of a suicide but, because of a lack of information on the circumstances of the death, there is a substantial possibility that the death may be the result of another cause, or is of undetermined intent.

⁸⁹ The QFCC classification model is an amended version of the Australian Institute of Suicide Research and Prevention's (AISRAP) suicide classification flow chart.

Figure 1. Suicide classification model

