

APPENDIX I: PROCESS USED TO DEVELOP THESE GUIDELINES

In December 1996 the Ministry of Education convened a meeting of health and education professionals to discuss the development of guidelines on youth mental health and suicide. This meeting was attended by Annette Beautrais, Mary Chamberlain, Carolyn Coggan, Maria Cotter, Birnie Duthie, David Fergusson, Janelle Grady, David Hannah, Stewart Newbury and Lewis Rivers.

In March, 1997 the Ministry of Education commissioned four authors with expertise in the area of youth suicide to provide advice and comment on how young people at risk of suicide might be better detected within a secondary school setting. The authors (in alphabetical order) were: Dr Annette Beautrais, Dr Carolyn Coggan, Associate Professor David Fergusson and Mr Lewis Rivers.

Specifically the authors were asked to report on the following issues:

- the spectrum of suicidal behaviour in young people and the causes
- the development of school based policies and strategies to manage and prevent suicidal behaviour in the school context
- recommendations for responses to suicidal behaviour in school students
- advice and recommendations to manage the aftermath of suicide, suicide attempts and suicidal behaviour in school students.

Each of the authors has concentrated on different sections of the report. Dr Beautrais and Professor Fergusson wrote Section 2; Dr Beautrais, Dr Coggan and Professor Fergusson all contributed to Section 3; Dr Coggan wrote Section 4; Dr Beautrais, Dr Coggan and Professor Fergusson all contributed to Sections 5 and 6; and Lewis Rivers (assisted by Bernadette J Holden and Glenis A Allen of Specialist Education Services) wrote Section 7. The compilation of the report and development of the **Guide for Schools** was managed by Don Smith (National Health Committee Secretariat).

The early drafts of the report were considered by two groups of education and health professionals from the perspectives of policy development and implementation. These professionals were: Janice Campbell, Barbara Collins, Maria Cotter, Pauline Dickerson, Sharon Ellis, Trish Grant, David Hannah, Bob Henare, Heather McDowell, Rosie Pears, Lexie Ridling, Tony Saxon, Bim Skudder, Brian Smith, Gillian Tasker and Sue Webb.

The penultimate draft was reviewed by the above group and the following people: Margaret Agee, Helen Bowbyes, Children, Young Persons and their Families National Office, Alana Davies, Barbara Disley, Mason Durie, Don Gooder, Paul Hirini, Janet Kelly, Wayne McLean, Ken Rae, Keri Lawson-Te Aho, R Thorpe and Michael Rimes.

The project was managed by Janelle Grady (Ministry of Education).

