

## APPENDIX 7: LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review was carried out by the New Zealand Health Technology Assessment (NZHTA), Department of Public Health and General Practice, Christchurch School of Medicine.

Databases searched included Medline, Embase, Cinahl, Healthstar, Clinpsych, Psychlit, Current Contents, Cochrane Library, Database of Abstracts of Review of Effectiveness (DARE), NHS Economic Evaluation Database, Best Evidence NZBN (New Zealand Bibliographic Network), New Zealand university and medical libraries.

A limited search of Internet sources was undertaken along with the reference lists of publications obtained during the course of the project. Studies were selected and appraised if they met various selection criteria. A wide range of study types was included in this review (including expert opinion articles) and approximately 300 articles were appraised.

Critical appraisal forms standardised by study design were used to assist with the appraisal, which was conducted by a single reviewer. Most appraised articles were included in tables and then presented in the text. Evidence grades were applied to all of the literature based upon the study design of each article. The level of evidence was graded using an adapted version of the US Preventive Services Task Force protocol (US Preventive Services Taskforce, 1989).

A number of limitations were identified in the quality of the published literature that has examined the effectiveness of interventions to prevent suicidal behaviour among young people. Many studies have been unable to exclude chance, bias or confounding variables as alternative explanations for their findings. A significant amount of the research that has examined the recognition or assessment of suicide risk in young people has been based solely on expert opinion.

Copies of the literature review can be obtained from the  
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