



CORONIAL SERVICES  
OF NEW ZEALAND

**MEDIA RELEASE FROM ACTING CHIEF CORONER  
4 April 2008**

**For immediate release**

**Restrictions on Making Public of Details of Self-Inflicted Deaths**

Attention is drawn to the restrictions that apply to any person who makes public any particular relating to the manner in which a death occurred if there is reasonable cause to believe the death was self-inflicted and no Coroner's inquiry has been completed.

Those restrictions have the statutory force of s.71 of the Coroners Act 2006.

"Making public" means publishing by means of broadcasting, newspaper, a book, journal magazine etc, a sound or visual recording, or through an internet site.

It is important to remember that a particular, as defined in s.73 of the Coroners Act 2006, means a detail relating to the manner in which the death occurred, to the circumstances of the death, or to an inquiry into the death.

The New Zealand Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2008-2012 states in respect to media reporting of suicide:

"It has been suggested that the main objectives behind this provision are to prevent suicide contagion, to protect the privacy of the deceased person and to minimise the impact on their family."

It is an offence to publish any information in contravention of these restrictions, which carries a fine of up to \$5000 for a corporation and \$1000 in other cases.

**ENDS**

Dr Wallace Bain  
Acting Chief Coroner

4 April 08