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**THE EXPERIENCES OF NEW ZEALANDERS
BEREAVED BY SUICIDE**

*A thesis presented in partial
fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree
of Master of Arts
in Psychology at
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ABSTRACT

Bereavement by suicide is a relatively untapped facet of suicidology in New Zealand. The current study used a qualitative approach to investigate the experiences of New Zealanders bereaved by suicide. It was intended that such an approach would provide rich and detailed information. Audiotaped interviews were conducted with eight New Zealand suicide survivors. Grounded theory was used to analyse the transcribed data and to construct a theory of the experiences of New Zealanders bereaved by suicide. Grief responses which parallel those documented in suicide bereavement literature were identified and a host of Intensifying and Alleviating Factors were involved in compounding or lessening participants' grief. These findings are discussed in terms of the aims of the study. Limitations of the study are acknowledged and suggestions for further research are presented.

For Joanna

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Abstract	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table of Contents	v
Quotation	vii
PART ONE: Introduction	
Chapter One: Literature Review	2
INTRODUCTION	2
THE LITERATURE:	4
The Nature of Bereavement and Grief	4
Pathological or Abnormal Grief	6
Unnatural Death and Relationship with the Victim	6
The Nature of Suicide Bereavement	7
Coping Factors	15
Control Group Studies	16
Relationship between Survivor and Victim	19
Postvention	21
THE CURRENT STUDY IN RELATION TO THE LITERATURE	23
Chapter Two: Qualitative Research	27
RATIONALE FOR USING QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY:	27
Qualitative Approaches to Psychological Research	27
Grounded theory in the Current Study	28
TENETS/PROCEDURES OF QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY:	29
Reflexivity of the Researcher	29
Theoretical Sampling	30
Constant Comparison Method of Analysis	30
Using Raw Data	30
Writing up the Research	31
CONSTRUCTIVIST ARGUMENT FOR THEORY GENERATION	31
EVALUATING QUALITATIVE RESEARCH	32
Chapter Three: The Present Study	35
AIMS	35
THE HAND OF THE RESEARCHER	36
METHOD:	39
Participants	39
Procedure	40
ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS	41
GROUNDED THEORY METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS:	43
Open Coding	44
Axial Coding	44
Selective Coding	45

PART TWO:	Findings: Description and Analysis	
Chapter Four: Profiles and Stories of Participants		48
	ORGANISATION OF FINDINGS	48
	STORIES OF PARTICIPANTS	49
Chapter Five: Grief Responses		56
	OVERVIEW OF GROUNDED THEORY	56
	GRIEF RESPONSES:	57
	Emotional Reactions	57
	Intellectual Reactions	65
	Physical Reactions	68
Chapter Six: Intensifying Factors		70
	Perceived Lack of Support	70
	Impediments to Gaining Information	73
	Conflict	75
	Death as a Surprise	77
	Minimising	79
	Additional Exacerbating Factors	82
Chapter Seven: Alleviating Factors		88
	ALLEVIATING FACTORS AND COPING	88
	THE FACTORS:	89
	Social Support	89
	Information	92
	Special Significance	94
	Positive Memories	98
	Good from Bad	100
	Compromise	103
	Acceptance	105
	Philosophising	107
	THE ROLE OF TIME	109
PART THREE:	Conclusion	
Chapter Eight: Summary, Limitations, Suggestions for Further Research		112
	FINDINGS IN TERMS OF THE STUDY'S AIMS:	112
	A Theory of New Zealand Suicide Survivors	112
	Uniqueness of Each Participant's Experience	113
	A New Zealand Contribution to the Literature	114
	Utility	115
	LIMITATIONS OF THE CURRENT STUDY	116
	SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH	116
References:		120
Appendices:	Appendix A: Codes	134
	Appendix B: Summary of Research Findings	136
	Appendix C: Advertisement	139
	Appendix D: Information Sheet	140
	Appendix E: Semi-Structured Interview Schedule	142
	Appendix F: Transcription Notation	143
	Appendix G: Consent Form	144

Clinical diagnoses are important...but they do not help the patient. The crucial thing is the story. For it alone shows the human background and the human suffering...

(Jung, 1961/1989, p.124)