Suicide Attempts in University Halls of Residence — Read the Facts

What happens following suicidal behaviour by a student living in one of our halls of residence?

1. Each case is examined individually and an appropriate approach is agreed on.

2. Hall staff consult with mental health professionals, with the student themselves and, where possible, with the students' family, about what should happen next.

3. The student is encouraged to spend recovery time following a suicide attempt in a supportive ~~family~~ environment away from the hall. This is generally with family. ~~.~~ This respite break allows them to recover their emotional wellbeing and gives time for a longer term wellness plan to be developed.

   In many cases, a hall environment is not an appropriate or safe place for a student recovering from a suicide attempt. The period after a suicide attempt can be a high risk time for a more serious attempt. It would be irresponsible to expect fellow residents or halls staff to watch over them or provide the care they need.

   ~~4.~~ No student is ever evicted from our halls of residence due solely to their mental health.

4. ~~5.~~ Support is provided to other residents and staff in the hall of residence, who may be traumatised by suicidal or intentional self-harm behaviour.

5. ~~6.~~ Students are treated with care and compassion, even if ultimately a decision has to be made that they are not happy with.

6. ~~7.~~ After a break, it would be very rare for a student not to be allowed back to the hall, provided an acceptable wellness plan was developed and all concerned thought it was realistic.

The process and principles outlined ~~above have been~~are followed in all cases involving suicide attempts in our halls of residence.

Find out more about student counselling services provided at Victoria University of Wellington here:

www.victoria.ac.nz/news/2018/09/student-counselling-at-victoria-university-of-wellington

www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support