

# “The Masks We Wear”: A Qualitative Study of Suicide in Australian Farmers

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## Abstract

### Purpose

Farmer suicide is a major public issue in Australia. Using the psychological autopsy method, this study aimed to examine the life and death circumstances of Australian male farmers who died by suicide through verbal reports from their close significant others.

### Methods

Individual semistructured interviews were conducted with 12 relatives of male farmers who had died by suicide in Queensland or New South Wales, Australia (2006-2014). This study followed the COREQ checklist criteria for the reporting of qualitative research.

### Findings

Six interrelated themes were identified: (1) masculinity, (2) uncertainty and lack of control in

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