

Responding to a child at risk of suicide - flow chart

Identify	Do risk factors and warning signs exist? Has there been a recent crisis, loss, conflict? Do you, or others, have concerns about the child’s mood or changes in behaviour? Has the child been talking about death or dying? Has the child lost hope about the future?
Notify	Notify your senior team leader about your concerns. Consult the cultural practice advisor for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child.
Contact	If you are not sure if the child is at risk or what support the child needs, contact the child’s treating health professional, CYMHS or 1300 MH CALL for advice.

TALK TO THE CHILD

Is the child having suicidal thoughts? Do they have a plan to die? Do they have access to the means to suicide?
Ask directly – are you thinking about killing yourself?

YES **NO**

If unable to keep the child safe— RESPOND

Do not leave the child alone—until a safety plan or professional support is in place.

If the child is at imminent or immediate risk, call **000** or take the child to a hospital.

If uncertain, contact MH Call: 1300 64 22 55.

If risk is not imminent—RESPOND

Support the child to remain in a safe place —**remove the means to suicide** and, if possible, develop a safety plan with the child.

Provide information about [crisis support services](#).

Connect the child with professional services—GP, Evolve, CYMHS).

If other risk factors and warning signs exist—RESPOND

Check for historic suicide risk alerts, management plans or safety plans on Unify

Support the safety and support network and important adults in the child’s life to keep the child safe.

Continue to monitor the child

Share your concerns with the child’s safety and support network.

Provide the child and support network with crisis support information, such as Kids Helpline.

Ask the child again about suicidal thoughts if concerns persist and **respond** where necessary.

Connect to services and support

Consider if a referral to Evolve or CYMHS is indicated.

Actively connect the child to support networks—family, culture, community.

Support the child to access social, spiritual, cultural, or sporting activities.

- **Create or update a *Suicide and non-suicidal self-injury risk alert***
- **Develop or update the child’s risk management plan**
- **Consider who is best placed to safety plan with the child**
- **Follow the relevant procedure in the Child Safety Practice Manual.**