

# MURDER INVESTIGATION MANUAL

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HELPING TO DEVELOP POLICING

All of the information obtained from callers should be passed to the officers making the initial response to the call. This will enable officers to minimise any risks associated with the incident and to prioritise their activity at the scene.

The initial response to an incident presents the greatest risk of scene contamination. Staff coordinating the resources deployed to the scene should be aware of the risk of cross-contamination; they should actively manage deployments to minimise the risk of the same officer inadvertently visiting more than one scene. This is a particular problem when suspects are identified during the initial response and officers are deployed to make arrests.

The details of all officers deployed in relation to the incident should be recorded and made available to the SIO.

The recordings of all telephone calls and radio transmissions relating to the investigation should be preserved and made available to the SIO.

### 2.2.2 INITIAL RESPONSE

The actions taken by the first officers attending the scene of a homicide or major incident are critical to the success of the investigation. From the outset, officers should adopt an investigative mentality and approach.

During the initial response it is sometimes difficult to determine if a death is the result of natural causes, an accident, suicide or homicide. If in doubt, investigate as homicide until the evidence proves otherwise.

Initial reports of vulnerable missing persons may also be difficult to assess. Those involved in the initial response should remember that every missing person report has the potential to become a homicide investigation.

Officers should carry out an initial assessment of the incident and send a situation report to the control room which, in turn, will coordinate the deployment of supervisors and additional resources to the incident.

Those making the initial response to an incident should be guided by the following principles which underpin all major investigations:

Figure 3 Five Building Block Principles

