

# **Qualitative Investigation Of Suicidality, Workplace Stressors, And Moral Injurious Events**

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## **QUALITATIVE INVESTIGATION OF SUICIDALITY, WORKPLACE STRESSORS, AND MORAL INJURIOUS EVENTS**

**Introduction:** Suicide is a critical public health concern requiring deeper understanding of its complex influences. This study explores veterinarians' workplace stressors and moral injurious events, investigating how these may cascade into suicidal thoughts and behaviours.

**Material and Methods:** Participants are veterinarians who are registered to practice in Australia. Recruitment is via invitation on surveys and social media platforms, and is guided by purposive sampling<sup>1</sup> with sample size guided by information power.<sup>2</sup> Upon confirmation of eligibility and consent, a semi-structured interview lasting 30-60 minutes is scheduled. An interview guide developed based on extant literature and team member expertise gathered data on veterinarians' thoughts, opinions and experiences around the factors that may be associated with suicidality. Audio-recordings are transcribed verbatim and responses analysed using reflexive thematic analysis.<sup>3</sup> The study is conducted and reported in accordance with the Consolidated Criteria for Reporting Qualitative Research (COREQ) guidelines.

**Results:** The subjective voices of the veterinarians highlighted the workplace as a source of many stressors and exposure to potential moral injurious events that can lead one to think about suicide.

**Conclusions:** Findings advance current understandings of how workplace stressors and moral injurious events may lead to suicidality, thus highlighting a unique occupational pathway for intervention in this profession. By identifying psychosocial hazards, real and life-threatening challenges in this profession can be addressed and solutions proposed. Findings can inform policies and practice, prioritising the needs of the veterinary profession. Overall, results can contribute to suicide prevention programs for the veterinary profession ensuring relevant and impactful outcomes.

### **References:**

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