



**New South Wales Government**  
**Attorney General's Department**

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## **Homicide and Missing Persons**

***Support issues for those who are left behind***

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[www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/missingpersons](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/missingpersons)



## Missing Persons in the Australian Community

- Research by the Australian Institute of Criminology in 2008 “Missing persons in Australia” addressed the complexity of the missing persons population.
- 35000 reports about the whereabouts of a person made each year to Police and non-Police tracing Services
- Small percentage relate to homicide cases where the body has not been recovered.



## Characteristics of missing, presumed murdered

- Females between 18- 25 years
- No children / single
- Disappearance occurs on a Saturday between 6pm and midnight
- Last seen in a public space
- Out of character to not make contact
- Reporter states misadventure
- No previous attempts of suicide, mental health, drug and alcohol or stressors

(AIC 2008)

# What is available to families of missing, presumed homicide victims?



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- Police jurisdictions – cases are held either by missing persons units or unsolved Homicide teams.
- Families and Friends of Missing Persons Unit, NSW Attorney Generals Department
- Victims of Crime agencies\*
- Victims of Crime advocacy Groups\*

*\*Without a 'body' some families may not meet criteria for some services offered.*



- Male missing since 2001. Homicide suspected 2 weeks after disappearance.
- Coronial Inquest in 2005, missing person deceased due to suspected homicide. Death certificate provided to family ‘ *Why would I want a certificate acknowledging my son’s death when all of the details on it are blank?*’
- Case only referred to unsolved homicide in 2006.
- Family have accessed support from advocacy groups and Victims Compensation following the inquest. Previously felt that they couldn’t without the finality and certainty of remains.
- Family feel they fit somewhere between ‘missing persons’ and ‘homicide’ but never completely in one.



- FFMPU is the only designated government service in Australia involved in direct service provision through the delivery of counselling, information and referral services for the families and friends of missing persons (AIC 2008)
- FFMPU also provides professional support to health care providers responding to families of missing persons

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