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# HOMICIDE SQUAD LEADERSHIP OF HOMICIDE OR SUSPICIOUS DEATH INVESTIGATIONS



1. For the first 72 hours of an investigation into a homicide or suspicious death, the lead investigator should be a detective from the Homicide Squad, or if considered appropriate by the Homicide On-Call Inspector, an experienced investigator from the Police Area Command/Police District or other specialist unit.
2. An assessment of the appropriateness of the lead investigator and their investigative priorities will be made by the Homicide Squad On-Call Inspector. This assessment process will continue whilst the Homicide Squad is involved in the investigation. The On-Call Homicide Inspector will consider areas such as but not limited to the complexity of the investigation, whether it is likely to be protracted, in the public interest, impact on the area where the death took place and the requisite resources assigned to the investigation.
3. If the On-Call Homicide Squad Inspector considers that the investigation response is deficient, they will endeavour to address this with the Police Commander for the area where the investigation is operating from or assume leadership and control of the investigation beyond the initial response.
4. Current protocols and Standard Operating Procedures that are in place within each Region with respect to Region Response to major crime and investigations are to remain unchanged. The responsibility for costs associated with Region Response deployments also remains unchanged. Under this agreement staff who are provided as part of this response should hold relevant experience and investigative knowledge. If staff who are provided as part of the region response lack the experience or investigative knowledge to effectively contribute, replacement staff can be called for at the request of the Commander of State Crime Command.
5. At the end of the 72 hour period (or such earlier time as the Homicide Squad determines that it should no longer lead the investigation), the Homicide Squad should, in consultation with the relevant Police Area Command/Police Districts and respective Regions, determine which unit of the Police Force should continue the investigation and, if that unit is not the Homicide Squad, determine whether or not a Homicide Squad detective should be part of the investigating team.
6. If the Homicide Squad has determined that it should no longer continue to lead the investigation of a suspicious death or homicide, it should continue to have authority, after consultation with the relevant unit of the Police Force, to take over the leadership of the investigation or to assign a detective to the team conducting the investigation. The authority to reconsider leadership of an investigation rests with the Homicide Squad and State Crime Command, executive.
7. Throughout the investigation of a homicide or suspicious death, designated officers of the Homicide Squad will have access to [e@gle.i](#) entries regarding the investigation, even if the investigation is not being conducted by the Homicide Squad.

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8. If the investigation of a homicide or suspicious death is being led or conducted by an officer other than an officer from the Homicide Squad, that officer can at any time liaise with the Homicide Squad for advice either informally or formally by requesting a review of their investigation to date. This review process will be in front of a panel of investigators from the Homicide Squad.
9. A decision that an investigation of a homicide or suspicious death should not be led by the Homicide Squad should not prevent the investigation from having access to the resources and expertise of the Homicide Squad (or other parts of the Police Force) and in such cases, there should be clear procedures for requesting such assistance (*SCC Request for Assistance forms located on the SCC intranet site*).
10. At the discretion of the Commander of State Crime Command, investigators who are seconded to SCC led investigations and have returned to their substantive commands or another command after resolution and completion of brief can be recalled to SCC on a full-time or part time secondment if it is deemed, they are required for the preparation and management of complex trials which may be months prior to the commencement of trial. This requirement is regardless of the investigators current substantive position or location. Secondment and length of secondment will be negotiated through the Commander of SCC Homicide Squad.

Commander  
Homicide Squad  
State Crime Command

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