

It is believed that the actual number of suicides is even larger than is shown in the tables, especially during recent years; for there is a growing disposition on the part of coroners' juries to attribute to accident what is really the result of an impulse of self-destruction.

Total number of deaths.

State.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.	1906-08.
New South Wales.....	212	297	368	578	713	534
Victoria	446	505	463	638	630	363
Queensland	72	141	179	292	349	228
South Australia	79	93	146	134	156	122
Western Australia	3*	7	23	22	73	90
Tasmania	28	37	27	43	63	35
New Zealand.....	89*	195	261	267	339	201
Australasia .....	.....	1,275	1,467	1,974	2,323	1,573

Death rate per 10,000 living.

New South Wales .....	.78	.90	.87	1.12	1.19	1.37
Victoria	1.17	1.23	1.02	1.21	1.08	1.04
Queensland	1.00	1.38	1.33	1.62	1.68	1.67
South Australia .....	.81	.77	.99	.87	.93	1.14
Western Australia .....	.29*	.50	1.46	1.05	2.19	2.07
Tasmania .....	.54	.68	.44	.63	.82	.69
New Zealand.....	.72*	.91	.99	.89	1.03	.93
Australasia .....	.....	1.02	.98	1.12	1.16	1.22

* Four years—1872-75.

The experience of Australasia agrees with that of other countries, namely, that the tendency to self-destruction is increasing. From the table above it is seen that the rate has been slowly but surely increasing since 1870. Tasmania has always had the lowest rate, while in New Zealand the rate is now about equal to that in England, where it is 0.92 per 10,000 living. Up to 1893, the three first named colonies in the table exhibited the highest rates, Queensland coming first; but since that year Western Australia has shown the largest proportional number of victims by suicide, due, no doubt, to the relatively large number of males in the colony, since males are three or four times as prone to take their own lives as females.

The most favoured means of committing suicide, in all the colonies, are poisoning, drowning, shooting, which is more common now than formerly, and hanging amongst males, and poisoning and drowning amongst females.