

Suicide Prevention

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The Plan to rebuild essential services

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“...many young people have suicide as their biggest concern.”

Youth Network of Tasmania,
October 2013.

Suicide Prevention

A majority Hodgman Liberal government will invest an additional \$3 million into targeted and proactive suicide prevention strategies.

Every life lost to suicide comes at a huge personal cost to families, friends and communities.

Tasmania has the second highest rate of suicide in Australia, at 14.1 per 100,000ⁱ. That equates to around 70 people per year who take their own lives – twice the annual road toll. Suicide is the leading cause of death for Tasmanians aged between 15 and 45.

It is proven that appropriately funded, well-designed and targeted suicide prevention strategies can work in reducing the number of deaths by suicide.

However, while suicide rates have decreased across Australia, they have not decreased in Tasmania, and Coroners believe suicides in Tasmania to be under-reported by as much as 30 per cent.ⁱⁱ

The Liberals recognise that suicide is a complex issue and any effective suicide prevention needs a community-wide response.

Therefore, the additional \$3 million in funding will be prioritised into the following areas –

- Assisting local communities with the implementation of Community Suicide Prevention Plans;
- Establishing early intervention referral pathways, especially following a suicide attempt or self-harming;
- Delivering suicide prevention awareness training to persons in key occupations to recognise and respond to the signs;
- Ensuring Tasmanian researchers are able to access information needed to allow in-depth analysis of Tasmanian suicides, to better target prevention strategies;
- Developing a targeted Youth Suicide Strategy for Tasmania in consultation with the Youth Network of Tasmania; and
- Undertaking an analysis of suicide ‘hotspots’ to reduce risks if places are known for repeat suicides.

Costing: \$3 million over three years

ⁱ Australian Bureau of Statistics.

ⁱⁱ Lifeline, 2013.