



Help halve suicide in Australia Vote 1 Suicide Prevention at wspd.org.au

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL -- Friday 30 August 2013, Australia

Australian Institute for
Suicide Research and
Prevention

beyondblue

Black Dog Institute

ConNetica Consulting

headspace

Hunter Institute of
Mental Health

LGBTI Health Alliance

Lifeline

Mental Health Council
of Australia

Mental Illness Fellowship

Mindframe

MLC Community Foundation

NSW Mental Health
Commission

On the Line

ReachOut.com

R U OK?

SANE Australia

SuperFriend

Suicide Prevention Australia

United Synergies

Young and Well CRC

Today, just one week before the federal election, a national campaign to halve suicides in Australia by 2023 is being launched.

Led by the National Coalition for Suicide Prevention (NCSP) the timing is set to capitalise on election fever and is calling on Australians to cast a vote in support of suicide prevention by simply clicking online to vote prior to World Suicide Prevention Day on 10 September.

For too long the number of Australians taking their life each year has remained stubbornly high regardless of which major party is in government. Every day it is estimated that 180 people attempt to end their lives in Australia and of those around 2,300 Australians end their life each year.

“We want the new Government to work with us on a unified approach to prevent suicide in Australia. We have more than 25 organisations and businesses already involved” said Sue Murray, CEO Suicide Prevention Australia and spokesperson for the NCSP.

In addition, Government funding is needed to coordinate this new unified approach to suicide prevention in Australia. We are asking the new Government for \$1 million a year for three years plus dollar for dollar in matched funding for a further \$1 million each year, which is a total of \$9 million over three years.

Brendan Cowell, award winning writer, director, actor and Suicide Prevention Australia ambassador, has been personally impacted by suicide. He said “On World Suicide Prevention Day we want to take 400,000 votes to our political leaders, reflecting the number of Australians who think about taking their life each year. We have drawn a line in the sand and say, enough: **It is time for a new approach.**”

Nearly all suicides are preventable. The NCSP believes that through national and local efforts, a difference to the lives of many will be made. This World Suicide Prevention Day, take the time to learn about suicide, recognise the signs and help make sure that all Australians know that there are ways to get and to give help:

- Call....a help line; or ask a person for help
- Chat...with family and friends at work, at school and in the community
- Connect...in person or online.

The fact is that four out of five suicides in Australia are men and most are middle aged with families, partners, ageing parents, work colleagues and friends. For women under the age of 34 in Australia, suicide is the leading cause of death.

The vision of the NCSP is to work together to halve the number of suicides in Australia within ten years and your vote is needed to do this.

To Vote and find out more about World Suicide Prevention Day events around Australia go to www.wspd.org.au

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