



**White Wreath
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"Action Against Suicide"

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Legislative Assembly
For the ACT

Standing Committee Health, Ageing, Community and Social services

Inquiry into Youth Suicide and Self Harm in the ACT

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission re youth suicide.

As you will be aware, we have written many very comprehensive submissions to this and other parliamentary committees over the past 17 years.

To the best of our knowledge nothing has improved. So we will make this submission very brief.

1. There should be one standard approach to all people for the treatment of people who ask for help for suicide/self help.
2. A standard period of at least two weeks admission for all people who are suicidal/self harmers. The current approach recommending people not be admitted has caused hundreds of thousands of deaths in Australia over the past 40 years.
3. Suicide/self harm should be regarded as one in the same thing, ie. suicidal behaviour. This is self-evident of course but ignored in "modern practice".
4. That there be financial and public sanctions when there is a suicide of a patient who is known to the service (similar to private prisons). Why? because despite years of countless inquiries nothing improves and the mental health system has its own "Gate-keeping Mechanisms" that ensure peoples who lives are obviously at risk are refused treatment. There is no accountability in the mental health system and as a result it makes government look like a toothless tiger.

We feel that this inquiry would be better served studying the numerous submissions made to the recent Commonwealth Government inquiry into suicide.

Yours sincerely

Fanita Clark
CEO