



Advice of self-referred inquiry – Inquiry into men’s suicide rates

Statement pursuant to Standing Order 246A

Mr Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Policy relating to a new inquiry.

Pursuant to Standing Order 216, the Committee has resolved to inquire into male suicide rates.

I preface this statement by acknowledging that the issues the Committee will address during this inquiry are complex and may cause distress for some people. The Committee has included on its website information about organisations that are available for people to contact if they are affected by the issues raised in this inquiry.

Annual cause of death data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics last year showed that Australian men are three times more likely to die by suicide than women. Each of these deaths represents a life lost and a loved one who will be missed.

Given the significance of this statistic, the Committee will consider the factors contributing to male suicide rates in the ACT, including engagement with health services, risk-taking behaviours, social and emotional development and educational outcomes and participation.

The inquiry will also examine ways to promote positive health behaviours among boys and men, including increased access to mental health services, socialisation opportunities and emotion supports.

Submissions for this inquiry are open until 6 June 2025, and the Committee hopes to hear from a wide range of stakeholders.