

Terms of reference

At its meeting on Thursday, 11 February 2016, the Assembly passed the following resolution:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that, according to the ABS’ last recorded data from “Causes of Death” in 2013:
 - (a) a third of young people aged 15-25 who died in the ACT in 2013 died as a result of suicide;
 - (b) in 2013, suicide was the leading cause of death of children between 5 and 17 years of age;
 - (c) intentional self-harm is one of the top ten leading causes of death in males;
 - (d) 37 persons died due to suicide in the ACT in 2013, which is a 54% increase on the previous year;
 - (e) there was a 13% increase of persons aged 15-19 dying from suicide in Australia in 2013 compared to 2012;
 - (f) between 2011 and 2013, there were more deaths by suicide in the ACT than there were in transport accidents;
 - (g) intentional self-harm is the leading cause of death among Australian children and young people aged 15-24 years;
 - (h) as at November 2014, one child under 18 years of age takes their own life every week, and 18 227 children and young people were hospitalised in Australia for intentional self-harm over the last five years;
 - (i) between 50 and 60 children every week are admitted to hospital for self-harming incidents in Australia; and
 - (j) there has been a 650% increase in deaths from self-harm, when comparing 12 and 13 year olds with 14 and 15 year olds from 2007 to 2012;
- (2) resolves to refer the issues related to youth suicide and self harm to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services to examine the extent and impact of these in the ACT, having regard to:
 - (a) ACT Government and Commonwealth Government roles and responsibilities in regard to youth mental health and suicide prevention, particularly in relation to the recently announced Commonwealth response to the National Mental Health Commission Report and the mental health and suicide commissioning role for the Primary Healthcare Networks as it affects the ACT;
 - (b) any gaps or duplicate roles and responsibilities;

- (c) whether there are unique factors contributing to youth suicide in the ACT, taking into account the small number of young people who have died by suicide in the ACT in recent years, and the impact public investigation may have on families and close friends, that can be identified through submissions and expert witnesses; and
- (d) ACT government-funded services, agencies and institutions, including schools, youth centres, and specialist housing service providers' role in promoting resilience and responding to mental health issues in children and young people; and

the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services will report back to the Legislative Assembly by the last sitting day of this Assembly.”