

The Committee Secretary,
Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services, Legislative Assembly for the ACT
Via email: committees@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in response to the Inquiry into Youth Suicide and Self Harm in the ACT.

Child suicide is a major public concern both in Australia and internationally. In Australia, the rates for children younger than 15 years increased by 92% between the 1960's and 1990's. The Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention recently completed a research project, funded by the Australian Research Council, entitled "Trends and Predictors of Suicide in Australian Children", with Chief Investigators being Dr Kairi Kolves and Professor Emeritus Diego De Leo AO.

The overall aim of the project was to obtain a better understanding of factors surrounding child suicide in Australia, focusing on Queensland.

Aggregated and individual level data were used to evaluate the magnitude of the problem, to determine predictive factors and to develop recommendations for suicide prevention among Australian children under the age of 15 years. As the negative impact of the death of a child extends to include parents, an additional component of the project focused on the impact of the child's suicide on the psychosocial functioning of parent survivors.

Please find attached, copies of relevant publications to date, and some details about our Institute.

I hope this will be of assistance in the Committee's Enquiry. Should you wish to discuss further, please contact Dr Kairi Kolves, k.kolves@griffith.edu.au

Papers:

KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2015) Child, adolescent and young adult suicides: A comparison based on the Queensland Suicide Registry. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Behaviour*, 3:3.

KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2015) Adolescent suicide rates in 1990-2009: Analysis of age group 15 to 19 years worldwide. *Journal of Adolescent Health*

SOOLE, R; KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2015) Suicide in children: A systematic review. *Archives of Suicide Research*, 19: 285-304.

KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2014) Suicide rates in children aged 10 to 14 years worldwide: Changes in the last two decades. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 205: 283-85.

KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2014) Regions with the highest suicide rates for children and adolescents – some observations. (editorial) *Journal of Child & Adolescent Behaviour*, 2:2:1000e104.

SOOLE, R; KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2014) Suicides in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children: Analysis of Queensland Suicide Register. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 38: 547-78.

SOOLE, R; KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2014) Factors related to childhood suicides: Analysis of the Queensland Child Death Register. *Crisis*, 35: 292-300.

KÖLVES, K. (2010) Child suicide, family environment and economic crisis (editorial). Crisis, 31(3), 115-17.

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Regards,

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Submission 5 – Links to available attachments.

1. KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2015) Child, adolescent and young adult suicides: A comparison based on the Queensland Suicide Registry. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Behaviour*, 3:3.
<http://www.esciencecentral.org/journals/child-adolescent-and-young-adult-suicides-a-comparison-based-on-thequeensland-suicide-registry-2375-4494-1000209.php?aid=55259>
2. KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2015) Adolescent suicide rates in 1990-2009: Analysis of age group 15 to 19 years worldwide. *Journal of Adolescent Health*
3. SOOLE, R; KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2015) Suicide in children: A systematic review. *Archives of Suicide Research*, 19: 285-304.
4. KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2014) Suicide rates in children aged 10 to 14 years worldwide: Changes in the last two decades. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 205: 283-85.
<http://bjp.rcpsych.org/content/early/2014/07/28/bjp.bp.114.144402>
5. KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2014) Regions with the highest suicide rates for children and adolescents – some observations. (editorial) *Journal of Child & Adolescent Behaviour*, 2:2:1000e104.
<http://www.esciencecentral.org/journals/regions-with-the-highest-suicide-rates-for-children-and-adolescents-some-observations-2375-4494.1000e%20104.php?aid=25570>
6. SOOLE, R; KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2014) Suicides in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children: Analysis of Queensland Suicide Register. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 38: 547-78.
7. SOOLE, R; KÖLVES, K; DE LEO, D. (2014) Factors related to childhood suicides: Analysis of the Queensland Child Death Register. *Crisis*, 35: 292-300.
8. KÖLVES, K. (2010) Child suicide, family environment and economic crisis (editorial). *Crisis*, 31(3), 115-17.