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:


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Regards,

Wendy Iverson
Research Development Manager
Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention
National Centre of Excellence in Suicide Prevention
W.H.O. Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Suicide Prevention
Level 1, Building M24 Psychology
176 Messines Ridge Road
Mt Gravatt campus, Griffith University QLD 4122
Phone - 61 7 373 53379 Fax - 61 7 373 53450
Email - w.iverson@griffith.edu.au
Twitter - @aisrap
Website - www.griffith.edu.au/health/australian-institute-suicide-research-prevention


