



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION  
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Chair), Miss Laura Nuttall MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

### ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE (QTON)

#### Public Hearing - Inquiry into Loneliness and Social Isolation in the ACT

#### Tuesday, 28 May 2024

Asked by Mr Michael Pettersson on 28 May 2024: Rebekah Henricksen, Senior Government Relations Adviser, Suicide Prevention Australia, took on notice the following question:

Ref: *Hansard - Uncorrected Proof Transcript (UPT)*, 28 May 2024, pages 49–50.

In relation to: Suicidal ideation data

**THE CHAIR:** I was wondering if you could provide for the benefit of the committee, but I think mainly for me, what are the rates of suicide and suicidal ideation in the ACT? Do you have that level of data?

**Ms Henricksen:** We have got the rates of suicide, but not the—I would have to take the ideation on notice if that is okay.

**THE CHAIR:** That is okay. Is that a measure that someone has got somewhere? The prevalence of it?

**Ms Henricksen:** Well in 2002 there were 55 deaths from suicide which was down from—sorry, 2022, which was down from 2021 which was 65. That was a significant increase from 10 years ago in 2013 where there were 37. So it is an age-standardised rate of 11.7 per 100,000 people.

**THE CHAIR:** Yeah, and then is there a measure of the prevalence of suicidal ideation in the community?

**Ms Henricksen:** It is irregularly reported, so there is a report that I could actually try to—because of the ACT's population I would have to check whether it is something that is statistically really releasable because of small numbers.

**THE CHAIR:** But maybe not for the ACT then. Nationally, what does that look like?

**Ms Henricksen:** Sorry?

**THE CHAIR:** Nationally then, what does that look like?

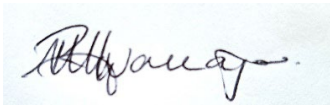
**Ms Henricksen:** There are 55,000 attempts. That is based on data released by the ABS last year. 55,000 attempts in the year. But I would have to extract right there down to ACT so—

Rebekah Henricksen, Senior Government Relations Adviser, Suicide Prevention Australia: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

Numbers for the ACT are not available due to data size, but on a national level, the National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing found there were 16.7% of 16-85 year olds who had experienced suicidal behaviour in their lifetime and 3.3% in the past 12 months. This is a broad figure that may not be suitable to apply to the ACT.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:



Date: 4 June 2024

By Rebekah Henricksen, Senior Government Relations Adviser, Suicide Prevention Australia