



Submission cover sheet

Inquiry into men's suicide rates

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Submitter: Roses in the Ocean and Australian Men's Health Forum

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Standing Committee of Social Policy
(Legislative Assembly for the ACT)
LACommitteeSP@parliament.act.gov.au.

Re: ACT Inquiry into men's suicide rates

In response to the ACT Inquiry into men's suicide rates, we wish to note our support of the initiative and to bring to the attention of the Standing Committee the National Men's Lived Experience of Suicide Network (NMLESN). The NMLESN is a group of men from across Australia, including members from the ACT, who are connected through their lived experience of suicide and passion to influence system reform through the voices of men. The Network is supported through a partnership between Roses in the Ocean and the Australian Men's Health Forum.

The NMLESN is in a position to provide governments with access to a network of men with lived experience of suicide, who are supported to share their lived experience in contexts such as your Inquiry into men's suicide rates.

The causal factors underlying men's suicidality and suicide deaths are broad, and we encourage you to proactively seek out the accounts of men's experiences across this wide range of factors - including relationship issues; family breakdown; the stressors of fatherhood; experiences of family and domestic violence; male victims/survivors of sexual abuse; financial stressors; work-related stressors; housing issues and homelessness; legal stressors; substance misuse and mental illness.

Where appropriate, we also encourage your Inquiry to consider the lived experience of priority populations of men, in particular the 9 populations of men listed in the National Men's Health Strategy. These are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males; males from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds; males in rural and regional areas; males with a disability; males from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; members of the LGBTI+ community; male veterans; socially isolated males and males who have been in the criminal justice system.

As the only suicide prevention network in Australia with a dedicated focus on men's lived experience of suicide, we strongly recommend you engage with the National Men's Lived Experience of Suicide Network and harness their insights to inform the ACT's ongoing work to prevent suicide in men.

Warm regards



Bronwen Edwards
CEO, Roses in the Ocean



Glen Poole - CEO
Australian Men's Health Forum

In support of NMLESN Co-Chairs Jonathan Bedloe for Australian Men's Health Forum and Tynan Narywonzk for Roses in the Ocean

