



COTA NATIONAL SUBMISSION TO SENATE INQUIRY INTO SUICIDE IN AUSTRALIA

On 10 September 2009 the Senate referred the following matter to the Community Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report:

The impact of suicide on the Australian community including high risk groups such as Indigenous youth and rural communities, with particular reference to:

- a. the personal, social and financial costs of suicide in Australia;
- b. the accuracy of suicide reporting in Australia, factors that may impede accurate identification and recording of possible suicides, (and the consequences of any under-reporting on understanding risk factors and providing services to those at risk);
- c. the appropriate role and effectiveness of agencies, such as police, emergency departments, law enforcement and general health services in assisting people at risk of suicide;
- d. the effectiveness, to date, of public awareness programs and their relative success in providing information, encouraging help-seeking and enhancing public discussion of suicide;
- e. the efficacy of suicide prevention training and support for front-line health and community workers providing services to people at risk;
- f. the role of targeted programs and services that address the particular circumstances of high-risk groups;
- g. the adequacy of the current program of research into suicide and suicide prevention, and the manner in which findings are disseminated to practitioners and incorporated into government policy; and
- h. the effectiveness of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy in achieving its aims and objectives, and any barriers to its progress.

COTA National is preparing a submission to this Inquiry to ensure that the issues facing older people, particularly older men who have the second highest rate of suicide, are considered by the Committee. We are interested in hearing from anybody who has a view on the matters raised in the terms of reference. In particular we are keen to collect some individual stories that we can use in the Submission.

If you have a story to share or would like to comment on the terms of reference please send this information to Josephine Root at jroot@cotanational.org.au or 0262823436.