



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Circumnavigating Australia to Save Lives – Jerry Touches Down

## **EXCELLENT PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

*St Kilda Beach (next to Riva - 42b Marine Parade –Melway Ref 58: A, 12)  
Monday, December 15, 2008 at 7:30am*

On Monday, December 15, 2008 at 7:30am, Jerry Farsoun will celebrate a world first, as he touches down on St Kilda Beach, Melbourne, having circumnavigated Australia in a powerchute to raise awareness about tackling depression and preventing suicide.

Jerry Farsoun is the creator of the **OVERDOWNUNDER** project, an awe inspiring journey which has seen him travel more than 12,073kms around Australia by powerchute – a motorised parachute. Making aviation history, his unaided mission has seen him travel through six states, inspiring hundreds of people struggling with depression and suicidal thoughts to seek professional support.

Depression personally touched Jerry in March 2007, when the 38 year old Melbournian attempted to take his own life after suffering from the condition. With professional help and self-determination, he recovered and created **OVERDOWNUNDER** - a personal mission which took flight at Tooradin Airfield (Melbourne) on Sunday, May 4, 2008. The goal of **OVERDOWNUNDER** was to fly solo and unassisted (no ground crew) around Australia to raise awareness of depression and its links to the ever alarming suicide rate.

What followed was an epic journey of 95 towns, over more than seven months. The **OVERDOWNUNDER** project has become known as one of Australian history's most ambitious and successful personal pursuits.

Jerry has appealed to the thousands of Australians suffering from depression to seek help from professional services. Through the **OVERDOWNUNDER** project he has referred people battling depression to the new **Suicide Call Back Service**. With Jerry's support calls to the **Suicide Call Back Service** from Western Australia increased by 500 per cent during September and October 2008.

The **Suicide Call Back Service** provides free specialist telephone counselling to people at risk of suicide, their carers, and people bereaved by suicide. The national service is available on **1300 659 467** and provides ongoing support through up to six professional and anonymous telephone counselling sessions, scheduled to meet your needs. The **Suicide Call Back Service** is ideally suited to support people living in regional or rural areas, or those on waiting lists for other mental health services.



3AW Drive Radio Broadcaster and Patron to the **OVERDOWNUNDER** project, Derryn Hinch talks about his first flight in the powerchute.

[www.overdownunder.com.au](http://www.overdownunder.com.au)

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In the event of inclement weather the landing may be postponed, check [www.overdownunder.com.au](http://www.overdownunder.com.au)