

MEDIA STATEMENT

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

PM's Multi-Million Dollar Suicide Prevention Pledge Applauded

Leading mental health service provider Crisis Support Services Inc (CSS), has applauded Prime Minister Gillard's pledge to invest \$277 million into suicide prevention, upon the re-election of the Labor Government.

CSS CEO, Alyson Miller said she was delighted by Prime Minister Gillard's announcement earlier today.

"This is an extraordinary investment into suicide prevention for Australia that is bound to have an enormous impact on the health and wellbeing of the thousands of Australian at-risk of suicide.

"From our experience in working with people at-risk, and the health professionals who support them, we know there is a huge need for this investment into suicide prevention.

"It's wonderful to see that a re-elected Labor Government would invest in the most critical areas for suicide prevention – frontline services, crisis support, men and young people," she said.

Ms Miller said she eagerly looked forward to working with the new Government on the development of Australia's new Mental Health Plan.

CSS is Australia's leading professional telephone counselling and training provider. It supports thousands of Australians who are at-risk or affected by suicide through its specialised, professional telephone counselling services, like the national **Suicide Call Back Service**, and **MensLine Australia**.

These federally funded services provide people in need with access to professional counselling, information and referrals, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for the cost of a local call.

CSS also works directly with Australia's health professionals who support people at-risk of suicide through the provision of a number of specialised programs, such as:

- The **LIFE Communications** Project (an online resource center for professionals, providing access to the National Framework for Suicide Prevention, and the latest research and evidence from the field - www.livingisforeveryone.com.au).
- The **National ATAPS After Hours Helpline** (a specialised service designed to support psychologists working with people at-risk, by providing clients with access to dedicated professional telephone counseling after-hours).
- Specialised suicide prevention training programs for health professionals and community organizations.

For access to immediate, professional telephone counselling and support contact:

- **Suicide Call Back Service** on 1300 659 467 or visit www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au
- **MensLine Australia** on 1300 78 99 78 or visit www.menslineaus.org.au
- For resources and information on suicide prevention visit: www.livingisforeveryone.com.au

>>>ENDS<<<

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