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## **REPORT A BREAKTHROUGH FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Lifeline has today applauded the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs report into Suicide in Australia, calling it a breakthrough in suicide prevention for this country.

The report, which was tabled in the Senate yesterday, outlines a positive approach governments can take to begin to address what is the leading cause of death for Australians under the age of 44.

“Lifeline is absolutely delighted with this report. Suicide is a whole of community health issue and everyone has a role to play in suicide prevention. We believe the recommendations in the report reflect this,” Lifeline’s CEO Dawn O’Neil said today.

“The report contains 42 recommendations, and we hope that all governments consider each and every one of these very carefully. We will be spending the next few days looking closely at the recommendations and the report as a whole and seeing how we can help ensure a real change in this important area.

“For too long, as a country, we have swept suicide under the carpet. Suicide is one of the very last taboos in our community and we hope this report is a new beginning in prevention and saving lives.”

Lifeline would like to point out that a number of recommendations included in its submission to the Inquiry have been reflected in the report, including

- Promoting the vital role that crisis lines play in suicide prevention
- Developing services to follow up and intensively support suicidal people
- Making suicide first aid training widely available in the community
- Providing greater support for people bereaved by suicide, and
- Conducting sustained awareness campaigns on suicide prevention

“I encourage the media and the whole community to follow this one closely and make sure this report doesn’t just disappear without being actioned.”

Lifeline is currently running a television campaign to bring the issue of suicide into the light, to view the CSA online go to - <http://www.youtube.com/lifelineaustralia>

**For further information or comment contact:**

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