

MEDIA RELEASE

RAW WELCOMES TASMANIA'S DECREASING SUICIDE RATES

The CEO of Rural Alive and Well (RAW), Liz Little, has welcomed today's ABS figures that show that the suicide rate in Tasmania decreased in 2017 for both women and men and across Tasmanian rural and non-metropolitan communities.

The information released today shows that Tasmania's suicide rate has decreased in age standardized deaths per 100,000 population from 17 in 2016 to 15.6 in 2017. The Australian national age standardized suicide rate in 2017 was 12.6.

Tasmanian rural and non-metropolitan communities now have a lower suicide rate than that of Greater Hobart where the suicide rate has increased from 15.1 in 2016 to 16.9 in 2017".

Ms Little said "We are particularly pleased that Tasmania has bucked the trend of most of the rest of Australia with a lower comparative suicide rate across Tasmanian rural and non-metropolitan communities where suicide rates reduced from 18.5 suicides per 100,000 in 2016 to 14.4 suicides per 100,000 in 2017.

Ms Little commented "RAW attributes Tasmania's nation leading reduction in rural and non-metropolitan suicide rates to the collaborative contribution of rural communities and services across the state.

Over the last 3 years RAW has worked with 31 rural Tasmanian communities through the Healthy and Resilient Communities program to support the understanding and effort of local people and communities to reduce the incidence of rural suicide.

Tasmania is unique in having a dedicated statewide rural suicide prevention service such as RAW. We and the people we work with across Tasmania thank both the Australian and Tasmanian governments and the individuals, organizations and businesses that have supported us over the last decade - we look forward to these partnerships continuing into the future.

Suicide represents a deep well of personal mental anguish and isolation in our community and unquantifiable personal grief for associated family members, friends and communities. We recognize that a reduced suicide rate across our community represents a fragile achievement subject to the vagaries of natural and economic disasters and other factors that impact on individual and community well-being, but maybe, just maybe, we are seeing a glimpse of light at the end of this long dark tunnel."

TALK TO A MATE - 1300 HELP MATE (1300 4357 6283)
24HR / 7 DAYS - STATEWIDE

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Thursday 26th September 2018

