



National suicide prevention framework places Australia as world leader

Media Release

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Today's release of the newly revised *Living Is For Everyone (LIFE) Framework* confirms Australia's role as a world leader in suicide prevention. Developed by the Department of Health and Ageing following community consultation, the *LIFE Framework* is a must-have resource for people involved in suicide and self-harm prevention.

The *LIFE Framework* aims to shape and guide suicide prevention activities in Australia. This resource, based on the latest evidence and research, is designed for academics, policy makers, GPs, health and mental health professionals, and community services. Communities play an important role in suicide and self-harm prevention, and are in a good position to respond to those at risk of suicide.

Australia was one of the first countries to develop a national approach to suicide prevention and the *LIFE Framework* continues to play a significant role in reducing the rate at which people take their life. The latest statistics reveal that a 40 per cent decrease (1997-2006) in the national suicide rate coincides with an increase in National Suicide Prevention Strategy initiatives.¹

Professor Ian Webster AO, physician and Emeritus Professor of Health and Community Medicine at University of New South Wales, says: 'A national approach to suicide prevention builds improved collaboration between governments and communities. Additionally the *LIFE Framework* encourages a more socially inclusive approach to suicide prevention activities for people at risk.'

The newly revised *LIFE Framework* is now available from livingisforeveryone.com.au, a world-class suicide prevention website.

LIFE Communications is a National Suicide Prevention Strategy project, managed by Crisis Support Services on behalf of the Department of Health and Ageing.

For interviews contact Clare Burns at LIFE Communications on 03 8398 8406 or 0419 103 888

Guidelines on reporting suicide and mental illness are available from www.mindframe-media.info

¹ In 1997 suicide rates were 14.7 per 100,000. In 2006 the rate had reduced to 8.7 people per 100,000. Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2008 (33030_2006)