



MEDIA RELEASE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SUICIDES IN THE NT

Date: 29 August 2011

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS INQUIRY INTO YOUTH SUICIDES IN THE NT

The Select Committee on Youth Suicides in the NT is calling for submissions to its inquiry into **current and emerging issues on youth suicides in the NT**.

“Too many young people are taking their own lives. For indigenous and rural communities in particular, suicide has had a terrible impact in recent years in lost lives and devastated families. We must turn around this unacceptable trend.” Committee Chair, Ms Marion Scrymgour MLA said today.

“This Committee is seeking public discussion on this subject that is all too often considered ‘private’,” Ms Scrymgour said. “We must learn how to prevent this tragedy occurring in our communities. We need to identify the causes of suicide and address them. We need to hear the stories of the families and communities where this has happened. We need to hear the lessons learnt from those who are working on prevention so we know what is working and what is not. We also need to hear from those that have studied this problem and have insights that can help prevent suicides in our communities.

“What are the current prevention programs available for young people? Are they working? Is the current level of funding adequate? What about the accuracy of reporting? These are some of the questions the Committee is asking.”

The Committee is asking interested people and organisations to write to it with their ideas and stories on what can be done to bring down the rate of youth suicides.

“The Committee welcomes submissions from any interested people and organisations who would like to contribute to the inquiry”, Ms Scrymgour said.

Submissions must be received by 30 September 2011. Please forward submissions and direct enquiries to:

The Secretary, Select Committee on Youth Suicides in the NT, GPO Box 3721, DARWIN NT 0801, Tel: 08 8946 1485, Email: scys@nt.gov.au, Web: <http://www.nt.gov.au/lant/>

ENDS

For Comment Contact : Marion Scrymgour MLA - 8927 0966
